

## BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

### CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 2010

#### SERVICES

3 October	11.15am	Harvest Festival	
10 October	11.15am	The minister – the Parsons'	
Plaque will be dedicated			during
this service			
17 October	11.15am	Granville Leather from Bolton	
24 October	11.15am	Rev Beryl Allerton	
31 October	11.15am	Ken Johnson of Macclesfield	

**At the Harvest service on 3 October** the deputy mayor, Mrs Sheila Magnall, will present the charity fund-raising cheque to a representative of SPEAKEASY.

**Harvest 3 October – gifts** may be brought to church on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October 10.00am until 4.00pm and on Saturday 10.00am until 12.00pm.

**Help** in delivering harvest gifts would be appreciated on Monday 4 October between 11.00am and 12.00 noon. Please see Molly Ratcliffe.

**Jeff's last service** will be on 10 October. There is a list on the notice board for hosting visiting service leaders; please sign if you can help with this on the given days.

#### CHURCH STEWARDS

3 October	Alfred Howson and Roger Mills
10 October	Joe and Barbara Ashworth
17 October	Rebecca Warburton and Olive Westhead
24 October	Sue McMullen and Pat Haworth
31 October	Lois and Alan Williams

*If you are unable to fulfil your duties on the date given, please inform Harry so that stand in steward(s) can be allocated to that date – thank you.*

#### CHURCH FLOWERS

3 October	In loving memory of Mike and Rachel Hampson
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10 October	In memory of Margaret Ince
17 October	In loving memory of Doris Houghton
24 October	In loving memory of Anne Kenyon
31 October	Church Flowers

*Distributors: Anne and Harvey Evitt*

#### SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

2 October	Anne & Roger Mills
9 October	Margaret Fitzpatrick and Jean Jackson
16 October	Barbara Ashworth and Vera Stephenson
23 October	Pat Haworth and Jean Taylor
30 October	Freda Worthington and June Clarke

#### LUNCH CIRCLE

The Lunch Circle will meet on Tuesday 19 October at 12.30pm. The organisers are Anne & Roger Mills. Please inform them if you are unable to attend.

#### WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 7 October	7.30pm	Derek Worthington will
		talk about his trip up the Nile.

#### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday 27 October	7.30pm	Speaker to be announced.
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#### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monday 4 October	7.30pm	Finance & General
Purposes		
Monday 11 October	7.00pm	Church Council
Monday 18 October	7.30pm	Trustees

#### JUNIOR CHURCH

Leaders are needed to assist June with the Junior Church. The Primary Room has been refurbished and is now very splendid; please take a look at it.

## **DEPARTURES**

As I am writing this, my final monthly letter to the congregation, I do so having just received the news of my father's death. He had been living in a nursing home in Massachusetts, USA since 1998, suffering from Alzheimers. Owing to extenuating circumstances within my family, there will not be a funeral service in the coming week, but instead, there will be a memorial service early in November, at which his cremated remains will be present, held in a special container that he chose many years ago for this purpose. It will be my honour to officiate at the service and then commit his ashes to the family grave.

My father's death challenges me to reflect on many things—my own mortality, the meaning of the many relationships I have in my life, and the purpose of existence. His life was seriously marred by a severe mental illness, and by an overwhelming sense of his own inadequacy. There are good memories of his personality and accomplishments as well, and they are what I must focus on in my own words of tribute to him. His death serves as a potent caution to me not to allow negative experiences to diminish the positive events, people and aspirations that have entered my own life.

It is with very mixed feelings that I leave the service of the Bury congregation, as I have come to love the people of the place, and have genuinely enjoyed being part of the wider community here. Equally, I am looking forward to serving another congregation, where I am assured my ministry will be valued, and which I am confident shares my vision of faith and service. As I end my ministry with the people of the Bury Unitarian Church and prepare to move to Padiham, I want to thank everyone who has shared their kindest and most private selves with me over the past three-and-a-half years for their generosity of spirit. For my shortcomings and failures, I ask your forgiveness. I will remember fondly my introduction to life in Lancashire, and hope to serve you in appropriate ways for many yeas to come.

Gratefully

**JEFF**

## **CRADLE ROLL**

Paul and Zilpha Lang brought their son, Freddy John, to church on Sunday 5 September to receive the sacrament of infant baptism in the context of the morning service. The baby was born on 16 March 2010, and is the grandson of the late Fred Bowden, former member of the congregation. Church members, Lois and Alan Williams, were acknowledged as god-parents and contributed one reading each to the act of worship. The congregation was swelled by about 60 guests, and the service benefited from a true sense of family worship. Our warmest good wishes go to the parents and to the extended family.

## **PASTORAL VISITS**

There is a list on the notice board relating to pastoral visits. Please sign if you can help with this. Janet Thatcher has kindly agreed to oversee this.

## **CALENDAR DEADLINE**

All items for the November edition of the Calendar should be in the yellow folder by Sunday 24 October, please.

## **IN MEMORIAM**

**The congregation of Bury Unitarian Church was saddened by the loss of two long-stand members in the month of August.**

Mildred Watkins died on Thursday, 12 August at the age of 91. She had been living in the Millfield Nursing Home in Heywood for the past two years. A service of thanksgiving for her life took place at the church on Thursday, 19 August, and was followed by a committal at the Rochdale

Crematorium. The minister officiated at both services. Mildred had been born in Bury, and was originally a member of the Chesham Unitarian congregation. Her life was an example of devoted service to her family and to her community. She was married to John ("Jack") for 52 years, and was the proud mother of her son, Andrew. Mildred was grateful that when Andrew married Diane, she became a grandmother to Paula, and eventually became a great-grandmother to Madalyn and Morgan. Her career had been as a felter at the Kenyon Mill on Derby Street. Mildred was a valued member of the congregation, and she gave of her talents freely.

Irene Rogers died on Saturday, 14 August at her home on Harcles Drive in Holcombe Brook. A service of remembrance was held in her honour at the church on Tuesday, 31 August, and was followed by a committal at the East Lancashire Crematorium in Radcliffe that same day. The minister officiated at both services. Irene had originally been a member of the Bank Street congregation, and served both it and the newly-formed congregation since 1974 in a great variety of roles and offices. She was a Trustee at the time of her death. She trained at Progress College, and was employed as the Personal Secretary to the Managing Director of Walmsley's. In 1965 she married Alex ("Alec") Rogers, who pre-deceased her in 1973. Her many friends will remember Irene for her smart appearance, loyalty, and great skill in arts and crafts.

***"Blessed are they that die in the Lord, for they rest from their labours and their works do follow them."***

### **The Congregational General Meeting**

The General Meeting of the congregation held on 14<sup>th</sup> September, provided an opportunity for members to express some sharply contrasting reactions to the resignation of Jeff Gould as our minister. There were expressions of sadness and some bewilderment at the manner of his going.

Looking to the future, it was agreed that we would investigate the possibility of an interim minister, investigate various options for a joint ministry

and seek advice from the General Assembly Congregational Assessment Process which offers confidential facilitation.

A temporary sub-group of six was appointed to guide us through the next stages. Plans were announced for how pastoral care would be offered and also the hosting of visiting service leaders. Please see the details on the notice board in the lounge.

It was stressed that at each stage in the process, all members of the congregation will be kept informed and will have the opportunity to discuss all significant options.

Neville Kenyon

### **General Assembly President's Notes**

It is now six months into my presidential year of office and I have been asked by various Bury members what the position entails. Those who read *The Inquirer* will have seen reports on my activities and here is a brief summary.

By the end of my year of office I will have visited all 16 of our Unitarian Districts which cover the whole of the British Isles. To date I have conducted services (or visited for other celebrations) our congregations at Plymouth, Bradford, Altrincham, Kendal, Rochdale, Ainsworth, Evesham, Urmston, Warrington, Portsmouth, Bridgwater, Taunton, Newcastle – (under Lyme and upon Tyne), Chowbent, Cambridge, Knutsford, Edinburgh, Wakefield, York, Norwich, Gt Yarmouth, Birmingham, Warwick, Chorley, Sheffield and several in London. I am pleased that Betty has been able to accompany me on most of these visits.

Prior to Christmas I have engagements at a further eighteen of our chapels and Districts including South Wales where, in a small area of Ceredigion, there are no less than thirteen Unitarian chapels – all Welsh speaking. I have been asked to address them in the village pub in Talgarreg – they will allow me to speak English as a special concession! This area of rural Wales is known as the Black Spot – a name coined by other denominations whose members were unhappy that such a large Unitarian

presence had been established! The following day I am due to lead a service for the South East Wales District at Nottage.

Each visit has a wonderful story connected with it and the cordial reception I receive throughout the country reflects the true nature of our loving, caring Unitarian community, nationwide.

It is a pity that due to all this activity I have to miss many services at Bury. However the honour of being GA president reflects on our own congregation and I take your collective greetings with me wherever I go!

Neville Kenyon

### **INDUCTION**

The induction of the Reverend Bob Pounder will take place at Oldham Unitarian Chapel, on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The service will begin at 5.00 p.m; the Presiding Minister will be the Reverend Doctor David Doel; also present will be the Reverend Jeff Gould and the Reverend Alex Bradley. The Reverend Doctor Ann Peart, this year's Vice-President, will represent The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches. Bob will be very pleased to see any friends from Bury who feel able to attend.

### **SINGERS WANTED**

David Dawson is planning to record further hymns from the purple hymn-book, and a session has been arranged, at Cross Street Chapel, Manchester, on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>; coffee will be served at 10.00 a.m; the singing will begin at 10.30 a.m. and will continue until 4.00 p.m. All singers will be welcome; anyone attending should take a packed lunch.

### **RICE CHALLENGE**

This will take place during our Harvest Weekend. Rice will be on sale during Saturday-morning coffee, as well as before the Harvest Supper, on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, and after the Harvest Service, on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. A one-kilogram bag of rice costs £2.50, and we hope to sell 90 kilograms of rice during the weekend.

The Traidcraft Stall will not be open on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, but let me know if you need items on that day.

If we can sell all our rice, we shall have raised £225.00---sufficient to send a young person in Malawi to high school for a year. A few people have indicated that they would prefer to donate the price of a bag of rice, rather than buying it; if others wish to do so, I will ensure that donations are forwarded separately to Just Trading Scotland, for the high-school scheme in Malawi.

Please support this venture and ensure its success by buying a bag or two of rice for yourselves, your families and your friends. It will be an achievement of which we can be proud, and one which will make a significant difference to the education of youngsters in Malawi.

Anne.

### **SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES**

| 3/4/5 December – Christmas Tree Festival

| 12 December – Christmas Music Service led by Betty Kenyon

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19 December - Christmas Carol Service led by Rev John Allerton, retired minister of Bury Unitarian Church, followed by the Christmas Lunch

24 December - Christmas eve Communion Service led by Rev Bob Pounder, former Trade Union Officer and of Oldham Unitarian Church

| 25 December – Carols on Christmas Day\_

### **BANK STREET BAZAAR – NOVEMBER 6**

We are asking for donations for the stalls for the bazaar throughout October:

- Derek Worthington would like bottles for the Tombola any time in October
- Barbara Ashworth and Vera Stephenson would like items for a *Good as New bric a brac stall – early in October. Please give all donations to them personally.*
- *Beryl Bowden would like books for the book stall any time in October.*

- *A list for donations to the Raffle Hamper will go up in the lounge in October for Muriel Smith*
- *Sunday 10 October – Tombola prizes to Joe Ashworth*
- *Sunday 17 October – Christmas Colour items to Molly Ratcliffe*
- *Sunday 24 October – chocolates for the Chocolate Tombola to June Seddon and Edna Wilkinson*
- *Rene Hollos and Jean Taylor would like cakes on Friday evening or Saturday morning.*

Any and all donations will be much appreciated.

**HARVEST SUPPER**  
**SATURDAY OCTOBER 2**  
**6.30PM**  
**POTATO HASH AND PEAS**  
**FRUIT PIE AND CREAM**

FOLLOWED AT 7.30PM BY  
 SONGS, TUNES AND STORIES FROM  
**ONE ACCORD**

TICKETS £5.50 FROM MARGARET FITZPATRICK  
 AND COLIN SMITH  
*BRING YOUR OWN WINE/SOFT DRINKS*

#### **THANKS**

Our grateful thanks are due to John Fitzpatrick for his renovation of the table in the worship area that now holds the donations box.

#### **BOOK CLUB**

Monday 25 October at 7.30pm in the coffee lounge.  
 The book to be discussed is: ***The Voyage Home*** by Jane Rogers. Copies of this book should be available from the cupboard in the coffee lounge after 27<sup>th</sup> September – please sign up if you borrow a copy.

All are welcome. It is not even necessary to have read the book. We share light refreshments during the evening and finish at 9.00pm.

#### **BURY LIBRARY EVENT**

#### **TO CELEBRATE Elizabeth Gaskell's Bicentenary**

Tuesday 26 October 2010 at 7.30pm at **Ramsbottom Library, Carr Street, Ramsbottom – telephone 0161 253 5352 or Email:ramsbottom.lib@bury.gov.uk**

With a presentation by Elizabeth Williams of the Gaskell Society  
 Tickets £3 to library members £4 for non-members (includes refreshments)

Call in to book your place.

#### **ULVERSTON VISIT**

Three cars, eleven members of the church and Jeff set off for a visit to Ulverston to have a guided tour of the Majushri Kadampa Meditation Centre at Conishead Priory. Our first port of call was the World Peace Café in the centre of Ulverston for an excellent vegetarian lunch. This café had been set up in 2002 as a sort of outpost of the Buddhist Centre.

After lunch we made our way to Conishead Priory which was a mile or two south, along the estuary. The Priory is a gothic building set in lovely grounds and, with the glorious sun shining down on us, made an idyllic setting. Our tour included watching a film that told the story of the house from 12<sup>th</sup> century priory, through to a country house, and more recently as a miners' convalescent home and a wartime hospital. It showed the terrible state of the building when it was first bought as a Buddhist centre and chronicled the work they have done so far to restore it to its former glory. We were also told about the Buddhist group led by the Venerable Geshe Kelsang Gyatso that established the centre in the priory. After the film we were given a short tour of some of the areas of the Priory in which restoration work had been done and then visited the wonderful modern Buddhist temple in the grounds. This was a beautiful building and felt very bright and serene. Finally we had tea and cakes in the café.

The weather remained beautiful the whole time we were there; clearly all the gods were smiling on us to make our visit such a great experience. Before setting off for Bury we explored the extensive grounds and walked out to the estuary.

It was a great day out and a very interesting trip. Our thanks go to Val and Jeff for organising the visit.

#### **CHURCH OFFICERS**

Chair of Trustees	Susan Holt 078767 16563
Chair of Congregation	Neville Kenyon 0120488 7222
Church Secretary	Marian Price 24 Swinell Brook Park, Grane Road, Haslingden, Rossendale BB4 4FN 01706 211981
Church Treasurer	John Fitzpatrick 2 Heapy Close, Bury BL8 2HW 0161 764 6374

#### **CHURCH INFORMATION**

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Church telephone	0161 761 3785
Charity reg.no.	1078570
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01706 822651	

#### **Ainsworth Unitarian Chapel - October 2010**

##### **SUNDAY SERVICES in OCTOBER 2010**

10.00 am 3 October Rev Beryl Allerton

10.00 am 17 October Mrs Jean Longworth  
(Halliwell Road Church, Bolton)

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*Normal Services take place twice a month  
( 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays) with visiting preachers*

#### **AINSWORTH Old Folks' Party**

The annual Ainsworth Community Old Folks' party will take place in the Schoolroom on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 12.30 pm



#### ***Harvest Festival 19<sup>th</sup> September***

*We were delighted to welcome The Rev John D. Allerton to conduct our Harvest Festival Service this year.*

*A big 'Thank you' to John and to everyone who helped in any way, including decorating the Chapel, serving the tea or distributing the Harvest fruit and flowers.*

*Also grateful thanks to our organist, Harry Taylor and members of the Bury Unitarian Church Choir for their lovely singing.*

***As always, we send our kind thoughts and best wishes to any member or friend of The Chapel who is not well at the moment.***