

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 2011

SERVICES

2 October	11.15am	The Minister – Harvest Festival
9 October	11.15am	The Minister – <i>Councillor John Byrne will be present to hand over the cheque to representatives from our chosen charity this year which</i> <i>is</i> Bury Cancer Support Group
16 October	11.15am	The Minister
23 October	11.15am	To be announced
30 October	11.15am	To be announced

The Harvest Service on 2 October will be followed by a lunch. Please add your name to the list on the notice board in the lounge if you wish to come.

Harvest gifts may be brought to church on Friday 10.00am to 2.00pm, on Saturday 10.00am to 12 noon.

If you are able to help with distribution of harvest gifts on Sunday or Monday 11.00am to 1.00pm, please see Molly.

CHURCH STEWARDS

2 October	Freda & Derek Worthington
9 October	Margaret & John Fitzpatrick
16 October	Jean Jackson & Beryl Bowden
23 October	Marc & Philip Peters
30 October	Alfred Howson & Roger Mills

If you are unable to fulfil your duties on the date given, please inform Harry so that stand-in steward(s) can be arranged. Thank you.

CHURCH FLOWERS

2 October	In loving memory of Mike & Rachel Hampson
9 October	In loving memory of Margaret Ince
16 October	In loving memory of Doris Houghton
23 October	Mrs June Clarke – in loving memory of Jean
30 October	In loving memory of Mrs Anne Kenyon

Distributors: Anne & Harvey Evitts

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

1 October	Jean Taylor & Harry Taylor
8 October	Freda Worthington & June Clarke
15 October	Vera Stephenson & June Seddon
22 October	Rene Hollos & Alison Hollos
29 October	Molly Ratcliffe & Betty Kenyon

LUNCHEON CIRCLE

The Luncheon Circle will meet on Tuesday 18 October at 12.30pm. The organisers are Anne & Roger Mills. Please inform them if you are unable to attend.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 6 October at 7.30pm – The speaker will be **Mr Les Norris from Summerseat Players**. It will be an Open Meeting and all are welcome. There will be a charge of £1 for non-members.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday 25 October at 7.30pm – Rev. John Allerton will be coming to speak to us. All men cordially invited.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS DURING OCTOBER

Monday 3 October	7.00pm	Communications, Worship & Young People
Monday 10 October	7.30pm	Church Council
Monday 24 October	7.00pm	Charity & Efforts Special Planning Meeting
Tuesday 25 October	7.30pm	Trustees

CALENDAR DEADLINE

The deadline for the November edition of the Calendar is Sunday 23 October.

WHICH CHARITY FOR NEXT YEAR?

Any suggestions for recipients of our charity efforts next year should be written on paper and given to Roger Mills as soon as possible, please.



BAZAAR – NOVEMBER 5 – PREPARATIONS

Please bring items for the Bank Street Bazaar to church on the following Sundays beforehand as follows:

OCTOBER 8 – GOOD AS NEW (BRIC A BRAC)

OCTOBER 15 – TOMBOLA

OCTOBER 22 – GIFTS

OCTOBER 29 – BOOKS - Thank you.

Traidcraft

The stall will be open on October 2nd and 16th. New brochures and Christmas items are now available.

Gorton Monastery

Our visit takes place on Sunday, October 9th, with a tour at 2 p.m. If you are participating, please bring a packed lunch to eat at church; we ought to leave at 1.15 p.m. I will make sure that everyone has travel-instructions, and will organise transport for those who need it.
Anne

Bookings

If you enter a booking in the church-diary, please make sure that Harry Taylor is aware of this, so that there is no possibility of conflicting bookings.

Induction

We have received an invitation from Stand Unitarian Chapel to attend the Induction Service of the Rev. Dr. Vernon Marshall, M.A. as the new minister of the Stand and Unity churches. This will take place on Saturday, November 19th, at 2 p.m. I will put a list on the lounge notice-board so that those who wish to attend may sign up. The last date for signing will be October 16th.
Anne

Fair Trade

The official Declaration of Bury's status as a Fair Trade Town will take place on Thursday, October 6th, at 3 p.m. in the Mayor's Parlour. Representatives of various interested bodies will be invited to attend, and I shall be present as a member of the former Steering Committee. I hope to obtain a copy of Bury's Fair Trade certificate, to join our own certificates in the lounge. Meanwhile, the work of the Committee continues, with attempts to promote Fair Trade in as many areas as possible of the Bury community.
Anne

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Monday 31 October at 7.30pm in the lounge at Bury. The book to be discussed is *The Secret Scripture* by Sebastian Barry. All are welcome. It's not even necessary to have read the book. We share refreshments during the evening and usually finish at around 9.00pm.

Churches Together

The last meeting took place on September 8th, at the United Reformed Church. Much of the current work centres on the new Churches Together group, which will amalgamate the churches of Central, South and North Bury into a group to be known as "Bury Central and District". A draft constitution has been prepared, and this includes both the objectives of the group and practical arrangements. Preparations for Christmas have begun; carol-singing in the Millgate Centre has been proposed again, and each church has been asked to list details of its Christmas services, to be incorporated into one advertisement in "The Bury Times".

Our difficulties within the group remain to be resolved; we shall persevere with our attempts to clarify our position; the future, at present, is uncertain.

Anne.

DON'T FORGET!!!!

HARVEST LUNCH

AFTER THE SERVICE ON SUNDAY 2 OCTOBER

***HOT BACON MUFFINS
AUTUMN FRUIT CRUMBLE
TEA OR COFFEE***

£5.00

***PLEASE PUT YOUR NAME ON THE LIST IN THE LOUNGE
IF YOU ARE COMING.***

Notes from Church Council Meeting: 8-8-11

- 8 members of Dunham Road Unitarian Church, Altrincham, visited us, on 7-7-11, and an enjoyable evening ensued. (Unfortunately, a return visit to Dunham Road had to be postponed because of rioting in Manchester.)
- A visit to Gorton Monastery has been arranged for Sunday, October 9th.
- The Treasurer stressed the importance of live giving, in the light of rising-costs and fewer members. It is hoped that those who participate in the envelope-scheme will pay missed contributions at a later stage.
- Pam Gilbert has agreed to act as Minutes' Secretary to the Communications and Worship Committee until the AGM, next March.
- The Efforts Committee are feeling disenchanted; changes need to be made, and it was suggested that members should meet with the Charity Committee, with a view to both groups working together, for mutual benefit and enjoyment.
- The Bazaar Meeting, on 18-7-11, was very successful; an organising-committee was formed and will next meet on 24-9-11.
- It was agreed that a Congregational Open Meeting would be held on 25-9-11; on that date, there will be a short service, followed immediately by the Meeting.
- There was discussion as to how church-membership was to be defined; the Congregational Rules state clearly that members shall be over 16, have a minimum of 6 months' attendance, be approved by Council, and commit to a regular financial contribution. (This should be equal, at least, to the quota payment, which the G.A. has set at £28.00, this year; this works out at slightly less than 54 pence per week, per head.) Margaret Pollard has agreed to draw up a definitive list of church-members.
- The G.A. AGM's will be held at Keele University, in April, 2012.
- A crèche for some of the younger children has been suggested and will run, on a trial basis, for the time being.
- NELUM is waiting for its new constitution and standing-orders to be approved by the Charity Commissioners; we will receive our copy, in due course.

CHURCH OFFICERS

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078767 16563

Chair of Congregation Anne Mills
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Church Secretary Harry Taylor
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Church Treasurer John Fitzpatrick
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CHURCH INFORMATION

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Charity reg.no. 1078570
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NEWS FROM AINSWORTH UNITARIAN CHAPEL

SUNDAY SERVICES in OCTOBER 2011

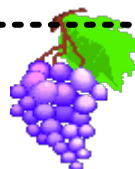
10.00 am 2 October Rev Desmond Porter

10.00 am 16 October Mrs Joyce Ashworth
(Rochdale Unitarian))

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

AINSWORTH OLD FOLKS' PARTY

The annual Ainsworth Community Old Folks' party will take place in the Schoolroom on Saturday 15th October at 12.30 pm.



Harvest Festival 18th September

We were delighted to welcome The Rev Danny Crosby, Minister at Altrincham & Urmston, to conduct our Harvest Festival Service this year.

A special 'Thank you' to Rev Crosby and to everyone who helped in any way, including decorating the Chapel, serving the tea or distributing the Harvest gifts of fruit and flowers. Particular thanks go to Mrs Dorothy Roberts, our Flower Secretary, for organizing the distribution of the many Harvest gifts.

Also, our grateful thanks to our organist, Mr Harry Taylor and members of the Bury Unitarian Church Choir for their delightful Introit and Harvest carol.

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.

Build Your Own Theology Group

On Sunday 9th October members of the group will be conducting the service. During worship they will speak about the various areas covered in the course and will be using material from some of the seminars. The hymns for the service were chosen by members during the session on 'meaning'.

TEN ETHICAL COMMANDMENTS

As part of the 'Build Your Own Theology' seminars participants were asked to write commandments that had an ethical basis. Below are the ten that the group decided on following long discussions. You will notice that all are couched in positive terms unlike the biblical commandments.

1. Be kind.
2. Defend everyone's right to freedom.
3. Treat others as you would wish to be treated.
4. Seek to nurture peace within yourself and the world.
5. Respect and protect all life.
6. Celebrate the riches of diversity.
7. Be just and fair.
8. Be generous of heart
9. Be true to yourself and to others.
10. Accept responsibility for you words and actions.

In the space below perhaps you would like to add something of your own and add it to the list on the board in the lounge.

Christmas is Coming

Saturday 3rd December 7.30pm

Christmas Concert

With 'Minster Brass' & Others

Christmas Music

with some carols for everyone
to round off the evening.

All helped by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

**We are advertising this early so that
you can put the date in your diary
and invite friends and family
before Christmas gets booked up.**

Efforts Committee

Special Planning Meeting

Monday 17th October 7pm.

A programme of events for 2012 will be under discussion at this meeting.

If you are not on the committee but have an idea for an event please speak to
Harry Taylor or Beryl Bowden.

The Interim Minister's last 16 days

It has been both a pleasure and a privilege to minister with you at Bury for the last nine months. I want to thank you for your enthusiasm and encouragement in all I have tried to do. I came home to loving friends and it has been a joy. Thank you.

At the beginning of the interim I said that we had to be in this together if we were to fill the 'gap' with something worthwhile and you have certainly done your bit. The work of the interim was based around 'seven points' we would aim to achieve. The first of these was to keep the church lively and active. I believe this point has been met with trips and lunches and seminars. There have also been some 'different' services, two evening services, a music service when friends were invited and a congregation of a hundred assembled and then had lunch together and finally a peace service.

Questions about the identity of the church and the kind of congregation Bury Unitarian Church is now and aspires to be in the future were tackled during the seminars early in the interim. In the succeeding months I have tried to encourage everyone to think about their church and ministry using some sermons for this purpose. I have done my best to encourage commitment to each other and to the church and, in doing this, create a strong sense of community placing lot of emphasis on being justly proud of this special place. 'Speaking well of each other and of the church.' I said in a sermon.

I have also done the 'normal' work of ministry, visiting, attending meetings and preparing and leading worship. I really knew I had come home when I found myself back in the kitchen (this is not a grumble, I love cooking.) I have organised two series of seminars on 'Spirituality in Everyday Life' and 'Build Your Own Theology' both of which I have found extremely rewarding and I thank those who have taken part. Out of them it seems a monthly discussion group may emerge which will be an excellent legacy.

I hope that the interim has given the stability it was intended to do and that the work of ministry has continued in a satisfactory way and that all our listening and talking with each other has led to a positive vision for the future.

I warned you in January that if you wanted someone just to keep things ticking over until a new minister was appointed then I was probably the wrong person for the job. It has been a busy nine months but I am so glad you invited me along it has been amazing and wonderful. I am very grateful for all you have given to me.

Before I go

Harvest Service and Lunch Sunday 2nd October

A Closing Seminar Tuesday 11th October 7pm
Similar to those at the beginning with the opportunity to talk about where we are now and what next.

Beryl