

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH
CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 2015

CHURCH SERVICES

4 October 11.15am Harvest Service followed by lunch – coffee will not be available after the service on this day.

11 October 11.15am The Minister

18 October 11.15am The Minister

25 October 11.15am The Minister

CHURCH STEWARDS

4 October Betty Kenyon & John Allerton

11 October Marion Price & Di Scaife

18 October Beryl Bowden & Jean Jackson

25 October Sue McMullen & Marc Peters

If you are unable to fulfil your duties on the date given, please re-arrange with another steward(s).

CHURCH FLOWERS

4 October Sandra & Gordon – In loving memory of Jean Kenyon

11 October Mrs Marion Price – In loving memory of Margaret Ince

18 October Miss Sheila Houghton – In loving memory of Mrs Doris Houghton

25 October Mrs June Clarke – In loving memory of Jean

Distributors: Barbara Bamford & Jean Brookhouse

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

3 October Marc Peters & Philip Peters

10 October Margaret Fitzpatrick & Jean Jackson

17 October Beryl Allerton & Norah Hickton

24 October Brenda Ainsworth & Jean Taylor

31 October Bazaar

LUNCHEON CLUB

This will be held on October 20th, at 12.30 p.m. Beryl will act as host; please sign on the list, when it is available, if you wish to attend. All are welcome, whether as occasional visitors or on a more permanent basis---come and join us!

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 8 October at 7.30pm – COFFEE EVENING – home-made cakes, scones. Raffle, Bring & Buy – to support the National Charity Project – Unitarian College Manchester

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We had an excellent meeting again in August when Roy Wilkinson related to us some of his experiences as a wireless operator in the RAF - very enlightening. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 28 October at 11am with lunch as usual. Unfortunately, as yet, we do not have a speaker. Can anyone help, please. **Derek Worthington**

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Saturday 3 October at 10.30am	Charity
Monday 5 October at 7pm	Church Council
Thursday 8 October at 10.30am	Ministerial Appointments Group
Monday 19 October at 7pm	Trustees.

CALENDAR DEADLINE

All contributions to the November edition of the Calendar should be handed in by Sunday 18 October, please

BOOK CLUB

The book club will meet on Monday 26 October at 7pm. The book to be discussed – *Northanger Abbey* by Jane Austen, will be in the lounge cupboard by Thursday 1st October – all being well. We're now beginning our ninth year and welcome new faces. If you feel you may be interested come along and see – you don't need to have read the book.

TRAI DCRAFT

The stall will be open on October 11th and 25th. The new Autumn brochure is now available, and orders for Christmas can be accepted at any time.

OUR CLEANER

Our new cleaner, Aggie, has been with us for several weeks now and is keeping the premises spick and span. Aggie usually works on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, between 8 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. approximately. At those times, her car, a red mini, will be parked in one of the church parking-spaces. If

you arrange a meeting at the times when Aggie would normally be in the building, please let her know; her contact-details are on the front of the church-diary; she is very flexible and will adjust her cleaning-schedule to fit our events.

STEWARDING

We have regular lettings on Monday and Wednesday evenings, and offers to steward are always welcome. Please speak to Derek Worthington about Yoga Stewarding and to Margaret Fitzpatrick about AA Stewarding. It would be appreciated if stewards would check the relevant rotas to remind themselves of the dates when they are on duty.

MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS GROUP

The group met on September 3rd; we are now on the Ministerial Vacancies List but, as yet, there is no progress to report. We are preparing the literature that will be sent out to interested parties, and this should be ready soon. Our next meeting will include Beryl, so that she may assist us in the work we have to do during the next few months. After that, we will be arranging a meeting of the congregation, so that full information may be given, and everyone will have the opportunity to comment on what is being done. The members of the group are Robin Ainsworth, Susan Holt, Betty Kenyon, Anne Mills, Janet Thatcher and Lois Williams; please feel free to speak to any of them, at any time, if you have questions or require information.

BURY LIGHT NIGHT

This takes place on Friday, October 16th, between 5.30 and 9 p.m. Our building will be open to the public, and we shall be serving hot drinks, hotpot, black peas and home-made cakes; if you are able to bake a cake for the occasion, please speak to Beryl or Anne. Various stalls will be set up---for Traidcraft, second-hand books, and a selection of cards. We would appreciate help with serving refreshments and with manning the stalls; there will be a list on the notice-board for volunteers to sign. In The Church Gardens, The

Handlebards will present a humorous version of "A Midsummer Night's Dream"; if the weather is poor, this make take place inside our building. In previous years, we have welcomed over 100 visitors to the church, on the evening, and this is a good opportunity for us to be involved with the local community. Please come along and take part in the evening's activities.

CONTACT DETAILS

Just a reminder to everyone: if you change your telephone number, mobile number, address, or email, please let Beryl and Anne know. This information is never made public but is used for church-business purposes only.

CHARITY COMMITTEE

The last fund-raising event of this year took place on September 25th, with the Wine and Pudding Evening, at which George gave an illustrated talk about his bike-ride along the Caledonian Canal. The committee would like to take this opportunity to thank George, and James (Derek and Freda's grandson), for their generosity in carrying out their sponsored rides, both of which have boosted the amount raised in total. If you have not yet handed in your collecting-boxes, please let Jean Maden have them as soon as possible. The money raised, this year, will be handed over to a representative of the Bury Prostate Cancer Support Group at our Harvest Festival Service; the group is now fully independent, and we wish the members every success in the future.

Our thoughts are now turning to next year's charity, and there is a list on the notice-board if anyone wishes to make suggestions as to which group we should support; we generally prefer to support a local charity which is in need of funds. During this month, the list of suggestions will be considered, and church-members will be asked to indicate their preferences.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our efforts, this year.

BAZAAR 2015

Hallowe'een---October 31st---is the date of this year's Bazaar; we start at 10 a.m. Hot lunches will be served, upstairs, from 11.30 a.m; and coffee and cakes will be available from 10 a.m.

There is a notice on the board with full details of stalls, competitions and staff, and June is busy collecting items promised for the food hamper. Please make sure that all goods reach her as soon as possible now, so that the hamper can be assembled and displayed, and raffle-tickets can start to be sold. If you are able to help with the Bazaar, in any way, please speak to Beryl, Betty or Anne---no reasonable offer refused!

The following stalls will operate and will accept the following goods:

Books---please do not bring toys, DVD's, or games;

Tombola---good-quality items preferred, including sweets and chocolate;

Cakes and Home-made Produce---all goods should be wrapped and priced;

Bottles---large and small bottles of all kinds, and not necessarily alcoholic;

Rainbow---accessories of all kinds, including jewellery, scarves, and handbags;

Christmas---fancy, festive goods, in green, gold, red or silver;

Good as New---good-quality items of all kinds; be imaginative!

Please note that we cannot accept items brought in on the day, with the exception of cream cakes, which may be brought on the Saturday morning; other cakes should be brought on the Friday.

Goods should be brought for the following stalls on the following dates:

Christmas items---October 11th;

Rainbow Stall---October 18th;

Tombola items---October 25th.

Goods for all other stalls may be brought in at any time; these should be placed under the stairs, in the boxes provided; please label items with the name of the stall for which they are destined.

Stalls and signs will be erected on Thursday, October 29th, and stalls will be set out on the following day, preferably from 6 p.m. onwards. In addition to the above stalls, there will be competitions, as well as a card stall and the Traidcraft stall. Chris Price will be playing the piano in the worship-area, at set times during the morning.

Money from Sunshine Smarties may be given to Brenda Ainsworth at any time.

This is our major fund-raising event of the year---please support us in as many ways as possible.

ELIZABETH GASKELL'S HOUSE

'We've got a house...it certainly is a beauty...I must try and make the house give as much pleasure to others as I can.'

Elizabeth Gaskell, in a letter to her friend Eliza Fox in 1850.

A group of members and friends visited Elizabeth Gaskell's House in Manchester at the end of August. Some had visited in years gone by and had memories of a rather dilapidated gloomy building in need of plenty of TLC. As soon as our coach pulled up in front of an elegant mellow stone Victorian villa, we could see that a renaissance on some considerable scale had taken place!

The house is situated in what is now a built-up area of south Manchester, but contemporary paintings showed that in the time of the Gaskells it was a leafy suburb with views across fields, well away from the smoky city centre. We learned that the restoration had been funded largely by a generous Lottery Fund grant. The house has been painstakingly restored with great attention to detail in order to recreate the Gaskells' home as it would have been in the mid-19th century. Studies had been made of similar homes of the time as well as Elizabeth's letters which commented on her purchase of fabrics and furnishings. The fact that most of the furniture had not actually been owned by the family had an unexpected advantage as we were able to sit on the chairs and make ourselves truly at home whilst listening to the very knowledgeable guides. (Indeed one of our number felt so much at home that she tried out William Gaskell's desk in his study as the cover picture shows!) There were highlights in each room: Elizabeth's wedding veil, passed down and worn in turn by her four daughters; an excellent portrait of William given to him by his appreciative congregation and chosen by him as a less expensive alternative to a commemorative bust, and the luxurious decor in the sitting room where Dickens, Ruskin and Charlotte Bronte had once been entertained.

After delicious refreshments in the café, we left feeling that we had been privileged visitors to a family home rather than to a museum. All agreed that this was an example of Lottery Funds well-spent and that Elizabeth's aim certainly had been achieved.

(Elizabeth Gaskell's House, 84 Plymouth Grove, Manchester, M13 9LW is open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, 11.00am to 4.30pm.)

Val Chamberlain

NEPAL IN NEED – letter received by Val Chamberlain after our fundraising efforts from Dr. David Ellis – when Gift Aid is included our efforts raised £645.

Dear Val, on behalf of Nepal in Need I want to say thank you to Bury Unitarian Church for the very generous donation to Nepal in Need.

In addition to our general fund raising for providing health care and educational support for the people of Nepal, the need now is for relief following the earthquake in April. So many communities have lost their homes, their schools and their livelihoods and their needs are greater than ever.

Your donations will help us to provide funds for rebuilding homes, schools and health posts in the worst affected villages in Nepal. You can be assured that any money you have raised will be well spent to improve the lives of some of the most disadvantaged people in our world.

With thanks and best wishes, **David**

Minister's Month

Doesn't time go quickly these days? I have just put together the Harvest Festival Service and last week at a meeting we discussed arrangements for Christmas. But what happened to the lazy, hazy days of summer? Maybe it is because I am doing things for the last time as Minister that I am very aware of signposts of the year passing and how busily we travel from one to the next.

It had been thought, that this year, we may have a different harvest celebration but when this was mentioned a number of people expressed disappointment saying how much they enjoy traditional harvest services. I too enjoy traditional harvest celebrations, in fact it is my favourite 'special' service of the year. The church looks so colourful and beautiful, the hymns are joyful, the readings paint pictures of the countryside, and there is a thanksgiving that has echoed through centuries. The majority of us may no longer plough the fields and scatter but that doesn't matter

because it is not the particular but the whole abundance of nature that we celebrate.

Forgive me if this year I indulge us with some well-loved, favourite hymns and readings. As we give thanks for the harvest I will be giving thanks for the whole harvest of such services I have enjoyed year after year.

John and I had promised our grandson, Bobby, that he could go outdoor climbing during the summer holidays. Again time flew by and suddenly it was the week before he was due to return to school so we quickly organised a trip to Derbyshire. Picnic and climbing gear packed we struggled through traffic hold-ups to north Derbyshire. At a small crag aptly named, Windgather, we emerged from the car into a freezing gale force wind. This was after we had waited some time for the torrential rain to stop. I had thought that I was there just to hold ropes but instead I did my first (very easy) rock climb for almost twenty years. Two climbs in and the rain returned, we retreated to the indoor climbing wall at Stockport. Since it seems that I can still manage to get up a climb John is talking in terms of new rock boots, maybe retirement is going to be harder than I thought.

I am going to miss the Wine and Pudding Evening at the end of September as I will be away in Cornwall. Why is it that I miss the evening with my two favourite things on the menu? But I am going to sample Rick Stein's restaurant while I am away which I am really looking forward to.

Once again the church is going to be open for Bury Light Night and our premises may be used by some of those taking part. We will be serving hot-pot and black peas again

and will need help with that, please sign up if you can be around. Having just caught our breath we will be in a Bazaar mood at the end of the month. This has had to be brought forward because of Remembrance weekend. I hope that on Remembrance Sunday I will be able to hand over the book containing details of those named on our war memorial. The book will have taken about two years to complete.

Wednesday 16th September, a walk up Pendle Hill under a clear blue sky with amazing views in all directions, magic.

Beryl

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Seven members from Bury attended Bank Street Bolton's celebration of its Women's League 95th Birthday. In all, 60 people (men, and ladies!) were present, and a pleasant afternoon, in beautiful, autumn sunshine, ensued. The service was conducted by the Women's League National President, who took "Gratitude" as her theme; she reminded us that we always have much for which to be thankful, and acknowledging this brings great blessings. We should rejoice in our personal lives, as well as appreciating the strength and fellowship we derive from our churches and their members. An excellent buffet tea, and an opportunity to chat to friends, especially those from other churches, completed the afternoon. Chairman of Bank Street, Bolton, Janet Poole, who is the National Women's League Vice-President (and President-Elect), welcomed everyone, thanked us all for contributing to the celebrations, and assisted Joy Foster with the cutting of the birthday cake. A good time was had by all!

"A TIME TO REMEMBER"

This was a most beautiful, tranquil service, which those who attended appreciated to the full. Many thanks to Beryl, whose inspiration this was, and who devised an act of worship which encouraged remembrance, in a positive way, of those we have loved and lost, who are still linked to us by the happy memories of them that we possess.

Everyone present had been asked to bring a flower; these were gathered together, in a large basket, and looked truly amazing---roses, lilies, hydrangeas, amongst others, in a colourful display---the focus for our memories during the service. The readings centred on the love and affection inspired in us by those we have lost, and the music---hymns, choir-offerings, organ-pieces, and recorded music---offered not only a sense of peace, but comfort, too. We each took a different flower away with us---a symbol of the sharing of emotions during a memorable service.

GRAND BAZAAR

SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER

From 10am onwards

Hot lunches from 11.30am

Coffee and cakes from 10am

**Books, Cakes & home-made produce, Rainbow accessories,
Christmas, Good-as-new stalls Raffle, Tombola, Bottles and
Competitions**

Come along with friends and family and join the fun!!!!

