

CHURCH INFORMATION

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BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 2017

Harvest Service last year



MINISTER

REVEREND K MCKENNA

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 2017

CHURCH SERVICES

1 October	11.15am	The Minister - Harvest Service
8 October	11.15am	The Minister – Pets' Service
15 October	11.15am	The Minister
22 October	11.15am	The Minister
29 October	11.15am	The Minister

*On **Sunday 29 October** Barbara & Brian Freemantle will be renewing their wedding vows in church, and the entire congregation is very cordially invited to the service, and to lunch of cottage-pie beforehand. Please join us for what we are sure will be a very happy, sacred and important ceremony..*

CHURCH STEWARDS

1 October	Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert
8 October	Alf Howson & Roger Mills
15 October	Betty & Neville Kenyon
22 October	Marian Price & Di Scaife
29 October	Beryl Bowden & Janet Thatcher

If the date given is not convenient for you, please re-arrange with another steward(s) – thank you.

CHURCH FLOWERS

1 October	Flowers supplied by the church
8 October	Marian Price – In memory of Margaret Ince
15 October	Margaret & John Fitzpatrick – In memory of Lottie and Jack Fitzpatrick
22 October	Margaret Pollard – In memory of David Pollard
29 October	Flowers supplied by the church

Distributors: Barbara Bamford, Jean Brookhouse, Anne Evitts, Su McMullen

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

7 October	Pam Gilbert & Di Scaife
14 October	Margaret Fitzpatrick & Norah Hickton
21 October	Rene Hollos & Alison Hollos
28 October	Barbara Freemantle & Betty Kenyon

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

1 October	Anne Mills(M), Beryl Bowden, Rene Hollos
8 October	Norah Hickton(M), Peter Whewell, Barbara Bamford
15 October	Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Lois Williams, Di Scaife
22 October	Marian Price(M), Jean Taylor, Susan Mitchell
29 October	Jean Maden(M), Brenda Ainsworth, George Scaife

LUNCH CIRCLE

Susan and Margaret will host, this month, on Tuesday, October 17th, at 12.30 pm. Please sign up, on the board, once the list is available. It has been good, during the last two months, to welcome several new members; we can cope with more, if others wish to join; everyone is welcome. Lunch costs £3.00 per head---a positive bargain! If you sign up and are subsequently unable to attend, please let the hosts know, as soon as possible, so that this can be taken into account when lunch-preparations are being planned; thank you.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Please note that there will not be a meeting on Thursday, October 5th, because of the event on the 6th; see details below.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE/MEN'S FELLOWSHIP/CAMERA CLUB

This month, a joint meeting will be held on Friday, October 6th, at 7.30 p.m. The members of the Camera Club have very kindly offered to present an evening entitled "Bury: Past and Present", the proceeds from which will be forwarded to this year's National Women's League Project: Prostate Cancer UK.

The evening will consist of a light-hearted yet nostalgic look at our town and its changes, over the years; there will be photographs to look at, a short film to watch, Lancashire music to listen to, and a chance to share memories---all at a very reasonable cost---a suggested donation of £5.00 per head; this will include a Pie and Peas supper; a raffle will also be held; Women's League members are reminded that prizes will be needed. There will be a list on the notice-board; please sign up, if you are able to attend.

This is to be an Open Meeting---a very pleasing joint venture---and all are welcome. Come along and join the fun!

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Wednesday 25 October at 7pm. The book to be discussed is: *Secrets of the Sea House* by Elizabeth Gifford. It should be available from the cupboard in the lounge from Thursday 28 September all being well.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN OCTOBER

Monday 2 October at 7pm	Finance & General Purposes
Monday 9 October at 7pm	Social & Fund-raising
Wednesday 11 October at 7pm	Church Council
Monday 16 October at 7pm	Trustees

CALENDAR DEADLINE

The last day for items to be included in the November edition of **The Calendar will be Sunday 22 October.**

If you are unable to get to church and would like to have a copy of The Calendar posted to you each month, please either 'phone or email the editor – see details on last page of this edition and she will arrange for it to be done. You may also like to know that you can read each edition of The Calendar on the church website.

TRAI DCRAFT

The stall will be open on October 1st and 15th. The new Autumn/Christmas brochures are now available, and Christmas cards will be on sale soon. If

you wish to order goods for Christmas, it is usually best to do this earlier rather than later, as items sell out very quickly.

CONCERT BY THE MANCUNIAN SINGERS

This will take place on Saturday, September 30th, at 7.30 p.m; the doors will open at 7 o' clock. The choir will perform an informal entertainment of easy-listening music, which ought to appeal to all tastes. Tickets cost £6.00 per head, including refreshments, and can be obtained from members of the Social and Fund Raising Committee.

Come along and join in the fun!

BURY LIGHT NIGHT

This year, the event takes place during the weekend of October 20th-22nd; in the evenings, a sound and light presentation based on the achievements of The East Lancashire Railway will be held in The Church Gardens. It is our intention to open the church and serve refreshments, on Friday, October 20th---hopefully, the weather will keep fine! If you are willing to help with refreshments, at any stage between 5.30 and 9.30 pm. please speak to Kate or Anne. Alternatively, come and enjoy a cuppa and a chat, for a while.

A request was made to use our upstairs room for musical events, throughout the weekend; this was discussed by the Minister and the Church-Officers, in detail, before the decision was taken not to grant permission, as the demands of stewarding were felt to be too great.

SUNDAY COFFEE

If you wish to treat the congregation to coffee, on a Sunday morning---to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or other happy occasion---the suggested

cost remains at £10.00. To select your date, please speak to Barbara Freemantle, who will sort out the details, as well as relieving you of your money!

FORTHCOMING COURSES

There are several posters on the notice-board, each containing details of courses to be held this autumn, or early next year. They include a Worship Studies Course, in Kendal; a Holocaust Memorial Day Workshop, on October 10th; the Unitarian Theology Conference, at Mill Hill Chapel, on October 13th and 14th; and the Findhorn Experience, next January. Why not consider attending one or more of these courses?

NOMINATIONS

We have been asked by Essex Hall if we wish to make nominations for the posts of General Assembly President and Vice-President; those elected will serve from the G.A. AGM's, 2018, for a year. Please give serious thought to nominating suitable people. There is a notice on the board which gives further details.

INVITATION

We have been invited to attend Dukinfield Chapel's Service of Harvest and Thanksgiving, on Sunday, October 1st, at 2 p.m. Full details are on the notice-board; if you wish to attend, and, especially, if you wish to stay for afternoon tea, please contact Bronwen Lowe with the information. Dukinfield Chapel has been closed for some considerable time, whilst much refurbishment has been carried out, and this will be the first service after all the work has been completed---hence the thanksgiving!

THANKS.....

.....to Betty Kenyon for devising and conducting the service on September 17th. Betty chose as her theme "The Spiritual Quest"; using many analogies with gardens and gardening, she explored the idea that we all need to develop our inner being, in the same way as we would care for our flowers and plants, and for nature in general. In order to do so, we need to live in the present, as much as is practicable, and to learn to approach, carefully and respectfully, what is often hidden and intangible, even though this might present difficulties and cast us into despair, at times. We must persevere in our appreciation of all aspects of life: through nature, art, music, literature---and through our approach to religion and spirituality; we must aim to create and preserve love, peace and encouragement in our daily lives. Betty was inspired by visits, this summer, to several gardens and, in particular, by a quotation she discovered at Montacute House: "The divine presence is more likely to be found in the small moments of wonder."

Susan Mitchell supported Betty by reading "Only the Seed", a piece which reminded us that we should not expect rewards without working hard to earn them; we can be supplied with the basic essentials for a healthy spiritual life (the seeds), but it is our responsibility to nurture these and produce the best life we can from them (the fruits).

Betty's service revealed her innermost thoughts and feelings---a difficult task, indeed--- but in such a way as to inspire all of us to emulate her thoughts and attitudes. Once again, we were brought to realise how lucky we are to be able to call upon church-members to lead our worship in such an impressive manner; to Betty, and to Susan, we owe our appreciation and gratitude.

PROFILE - MOLLY RATCLIFFE

I was educated at Chesham School before attending a private secretarial school in Bury called Progress College. One of my earliest hobbies was dancing and I attended Olywyn Blake's dancing school in my spare time. My love of singing and dancing led me to persuade my parents to allow me to go to the Sunday School at Chesham as I had heard they did super pantomimes. I was delighted to soon take part in these pantomimes and

ended up as principal boy in several productions such as Dick Whittington. I was also a member of the Chesham Minstrels, a well-known concert party in the 1940s. Who knows, perhaps that was the start of my love of singing with others as I still do today in our church choir.

When I left college I worked in the offices of local firms including Ashworth Slipper Works and Spencer and Curedale as a 'Jack (or Jill) of all trades'. I loved the variety of the many tasks such as answering the phone, taking shorthand dictation, typing letters and of course having contact with lots of people over the years.

I met Terry when he was a student at University. We were married at the former Bank Street Chapel. When we were first married we lived in a cottage at Holebottom owned by the church and paid 10 shillings a week rent. We had four children, Mark, Jonathon, and twins, Elizabeth and Nicholas and I have six grandchildren. I have turned my hand to many jobs over the years, including opening a shop in Bury selling seconds of well-known makes of china which closed in the 1970s after 14 years.

I have always enjoyed joining in and playing an active role in organisations. I was Chair of Bury Ladies' Circle (an organisation of wives of Round Table members) but had to give this up as retirement was compulsory at 40. I have been a member of Soroptomists International Bury Branch and feel most appreciative of the opportunities I have had to travel to their conferences in Europe, the USA and Australia. I have been a member of Summerseat Players for many years and I am a member of Bury Women's Lecture Luncheon Club.

One of my other loves is flower arranging. I took a course on this some years ago which enabled me to arrange flowers in church for over 40 years.

A year ago I moved from a large house where we lived for over fifty years to a top floor apartment, just round the corner in Holcombe Brook.

I continue to enjoy a full and interesting retirement.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

September was, and October will be, typically busy months for us here at Bury Unitarians. I think it's fair to say that barely a month goes by without some social event, or a gathering, or a business meeting taking place - and that's all very good news: it means our church is busy and vibrant and active. What we do on a Sunday morning is really important, and it's lovely that we all gather in community, but there's so much more to church life than that.

I'm writing this before some of the events I'm writing about, so I'm going to take a gamble and say that my holiday in Cornwall was delicious, that we probably spent too much time relaxing in the hot tub, and that the Eden Project was as marvellous and St Michael's Mount glorious. I won't make predictions about the weather.

I know that the services I didn't lead were in very capable hands, so it's no gamble at all to say thank you to Betty and Anne for holding the fort. The only problem with other people doing services while I'm away is that I never get to be there, and I'm very confident I'm missing out on some great worship.

One event I did attend before going on holiday was the Ministers' Conference at Hucklow. Around 40 of us gathered for business, training, discussions, and fellowship for four days. These events are always hugely beneficial, they remind us that we're not alone in Ministry, and personally I always come home from them feeling strengthened and supported. And with a few service ideas, as well.

In October we're looking forward to the Bury Past and Present exhibition, which I understand comes with a competition to identify old Bury buildings. I shall take comfort in the fact that I won the quiz earlier in the year, and not mind that I'm bound to do supremely badly in this one!

We also have a pet service on the 8th: we've decided not to invite real pets along, but you are encouraged to bring pictures with you, or stories, or something that represents your current or past pets, or animals who've been important to you during your life.

Our services in October will also cover Michael Servetus, Human Rights, and All Saints.

Another very exciting event at the end of the month is the renewal of wedding vows for Barbara and Brian Freemantle, on 29th October. Further details are elsewhere in the calendar.

Unbelievably, Ade and I will have been living in Bury for a year on the 31st October - it seems unbelievable firstly that it's such a short time and secondly that it's such a long time. But we're still loving it - and I'm increasingly proud when I tell people in the Unitarian movement where it is I minister.

Perhaps next month's newsletter will be a personal annual report from the year!

With love,

Kate

HARVEST SERVICE

SUNDAY 1st OCTOBER

AT 11.15am

WE WELCOME:

**DONATIONS OF TINS OR PACKETS OF FOOD
(NO FRESH FOOD)**

**ALSO TOILETRIES i.e. SOAP, TOOTHPASTE,
TOOTHBRUSHES, HAND CREAM, SHAVING
CREAM, SHOWER GEL, etc.**

**ALL WILL BE DONATED TO A LOCAL FOOD
BANK**

**Do come and join us and help to make this year's
Harvest Service a real community effort.**

MANCUNIAN SINGERS

A friendly choir, singing easy-listening music

SATURDAY 30th SEPTEMBER

AT 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm)

RAFFLE

**TICKETS £6 including refreshments from
Susan Mitchell 01204 880484**

**Please come along and support this church
fund-raising concert organised by the Social
and Fund-raising Committee**