

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2012

SERVICES

2 September	11.15am	The Minister
9 September	11.15am	Rev Phil Silk, retired minister from USA
16 September	11.15am	The Minister – Tree Planting
23 September	11.15am	The Minister
30 September	11.15am	The Minister

CHURCH STEWARDS

2 September	Lois & Alan Williams
9 September	June Seddon & Alfred Howson
16 September	Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert
23 September	Freda & Derek Worthington
30 September	Margaret & John Fitzpatrick

If you cannot fulfil your duties on the given date, please change with another steward. Thank you.

CHURCH FLOWERS

2 September	In memory of Bill Tracy In loving memory of Fred Moore
9 September	Anne & Roger Mills In memoriam
16 September	Jean Jackson In loving memory of Irene Rogers
23 September	In memory of Pat Haworth
30 September	In loving memory of Mike and Rachel Hampson

Distributors: Barbara Ashworth & Vera Stephenson

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

1 September	Betty Kenyon & Molly Ratcliffe
8 September	Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard
15 September	Brenda Ainsworth & Jean Taylor
22 September	Margaret Fitzpatrick & Jean Jackson
29 September	June Clarke & Freda Worthington

LUNCHEON CLUB

The Luncheon Club meets on Tuesday 18 September at 12.30pm. The organisers are June and Harry. Please let Harry know if you are unable to attend.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 18 September at 7.00pm	Communications, Worship & Young People
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** Monday 1 **October** at 7.00pm Finance and General Purposes

BOOK CLUB

Monday 24 September at 7.00pm
The book we are hoping to talk about is *One Good Turn* by Kate Atkinson. We should have had this book for the August meeting but it was not available, so we obtained a substitute which was on our list for later. Please be aware that the library copies in the cupboard may not relate to the announcements in the Calendar but ARE the CURRENT READ. We will aim to amend the notice on the lounge notice board in cases of change.

CALENDAR DEADLINE

All items for the **October** edition of **The Calendar** should be in the yellow folder by **Sunday 23 September, please.**

WOMEN'S LEAGUE – COFFEE EVENING

Thursday 13 September at 7.30pm

In aid of the national project – SEND A CHILD TO HUCKLOW

**BINGO, A SHORT QUIZ, A BRING & BUY STALL, RAFFLE,
COFFEE & CAKES**

TICKETS £2.50 from members of the Women's League

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Men's Fellowship will be holding their annual:

BOTTLE EVENING

WEDNESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER AT 7.30PM

**ADMISSION IS BY BOTTLE OR BOTTLES WHICH WILL BE
FOR THE BOTTLE STALL AT THE NOVEMBER BAZAAR**

**You will be provided with a GOOD SUPPER and we will have
a QUIZ during the evening.**

**Please bring a friend as well as a bottle.
We hope to make it a memorable evening.**

MINISTER'S MONTH

After what has been one of the wettest summers on record it was a worry that the trip to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire would be ruined by the weather. Instead summer happened just in time and the day was warm, in fact very warm and sunny. This was perfect weather because the site is large and open and this meant there was a gentle, cooling breeze that made strolling and sitting comfortable. There are now over two hundred memorials on the site and each time I go, new ones have been constructed. Many are impressive, some are heart-rending, I always find myself in tears at some time during a visit. On this visit I was moved by two things, firstly the memorial to those 'shot at dawn'. Three hundred and six British soldiers killed by firing squad for cowardice. It would emerge later that many were accused erroneously and should not have died. The second thing was a bunch of lilies freshly laid on the reconstruction of the Sumatra railway. The arboretum is not just made up of military memorials many other groups have spaces there. Among these is one for the stillbirth and neonatal baby deaths. In the past parents often did not get the chance to see stillborn babies let alone hold funeral services and so had nowhere to go to remember their child. I am sure this memorial has given parents a place to remember and has brought comfort to them. Over 300,000 people visit the arboretum each year and it costs over a million pounds each year to maintain it. Yet there is no admission charge all costs are met by personal and corporate donations. The site was originally part of a large gravel pit and was gifted by the owners Lafarge for the purpose of creating the memorial.

As autumn looms committees are gearing up for forthcoming events. Meetings for the Bazaar have already been held and details agreed. There are people who have offered to run stalls but extra volunteers are always welcome. Arrangements for the concert by Tony Berry at the Harvest Weekend are almost complete. And those taking part in the Christmas concert are booked. All these things happen because willing volunteers give their time, without this gift the church would be much poorer both in friendship and financially.

Unfortunately we have not been so fortunate in the administration of the church. We are still without a Church Secretary despite a number of appeals. Our very grateful thanks goes to Anne Evitts who has acted as the Secretary for the last three meetings. The workload has been reduced by others taking on various tasks that used to be done by the Secretary and it was hoped that this would lead to someone feeling they could volunteer. The Secretary plays an important part in the smooth running of the church and is an essential position, please help if you can.

I am taking the first week in September as my week off during which I am going, with a friend, to Dublin. I am hoping to go to service at Stephen's Green where Rev Bill Darlison had such a successful Ministry. Their congregation is well in excess of a hundred each week and I will be looking for tips and inspiration.

Beryl

Sunday 16th September – Tree Planting at Holebottom

As part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year, the Sunday School children are going to plant three trees at Holebottom. It is hoped to have a picnic (please bring your own) then the planting of the trees, followed by a short dedication. If the weather is unkind the picnic will be at church and then we will go to Holebottom to plant the trees.

AUTUMN SEMINARS

Once again I am offering a series of seminars during autumn. These are entitled '**Home and Away**' and they will explore what holds us and what sets us free, place and pilgrimage, in the context of our inner selves and the world. This will be a course of six sessions and I would ask that if you sign up, you make every attempt to attend all sessions. Some of the experiences may be moving and personal and because of this the group size will be limited. Depending how many people wish to take part there may be more than one group. Details will be on the notice board.

Beryl

NOTES FROM AUGUST CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: 13-08-12

The minutes of the June meeting were amended to include the decision to hold a Bazaar, again, this year. An open meeting to discuss preliminary matters was held on 23-07-12; a copy of the meeting-notes is on the notice-board

.Nominations are sought for the post of G.A. Vice-President for 2013-14; this will be a lay-person.

It was agreed to donate two panes of glass to the Frenchay Chapel, Bristol, who had requested help with their repair-work.

Finance: Permission has been given, by the local authority, for us to relocate the outside notice-board; this is work in progress. Risk Analysis work is also ongoing; PJ Fire Risk Assessments Limited have submitted a comprehensive document to help us, and this needs to be read and actioned.

GO Organs have assessed the church-organ; written documentation is awaited.

A grant from The Millenium Fund, for an additional loop system, has been requested.

The Treasurer reported that we are on target, so far; income from Yoga is lower, but higher from the Music Exams. We may have to pay for jobs which arise as a result of Risk Analysis work. The budget forecast he has prepared is valuable, as it gives a clear picture of the situation.

Efforts: The Barbecue was very successful and enjoyable, despite the hard work involved. Publicity-materials for the Tony Berry Concert have been collected. The Christmas Concert will take place on December 1.

Communications and Worship, with Young People: Roger would welcome help with administering the church-website; Facebook and Twitter feeds should be considered. The Mayor and her consort will attend for the Harvest Service and on the first Sunday in December. Thanks were expressed to John Allerton for conducting the service **and** playing the piano, on August 5. Commemorative tree-planting by the members of the Junior Church, and a picnic at Holebottom, are planned for September 16, after the service.

The Minister reported a quieter period since the Jubilee Weekend. She commented on the tremendous amount of work involved in booking musicians for services, in which both she and Anne have been, and continue to be, concerned. Beryl intends to organise a series of seminars in the autumn, on the theme of Journeying; a service focussing on the purple hymnbook is also planned.

Charity: The next event will be a Murder Mystery Evening, with Cheese and Wine, on September 1; arrangements are in hand.

The Membership Secretary gave her report, and discussion followed; it was felt that a Membership Book, rather than forms, would be useful; the process of membership needs to be less formal and more gradual. An up-to-date address-list for the members of the congregation would be desirable.

The Chairman expressed her thanks to Anne Evitts for acting as Minutes' Secretary for the last 3 Council Meetings; volunteers are sought for the next 3.

The lounge is in need of re-decorating, and this will be put in hand; the question of either cleaning or decorating the worship-area was also considered.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 8 at 7 pm.

TRAI DCRAFT

The stall will be open on September 2 and 16; from September 2, Christmas items and the new brochures will be available. If anyone wishes to place an order, please give the details to Anne or June. Thank you.

MURDER MYSTERY EVENING

Tickets are now on sale for this not-to-be-missed event. The date is **Saturday, September 1, at 7 p.m. for a prompt 7.30 start**; tickets cost £5.00 and are available from members of the Charity Committee. Cheese and Wine refreshments will be provided, and the ticket-price includes a glass of wine; additional glasses of wine and Pimms will be available, for a small donation, and there will be a **raffle**. This is our last event in aid of **Bury Samaritans**; The Samaritans have been extremely enthusiastic, this year, and supportive of our events; let's make the finale a resounding success!

SECURITY

Following incidents previously reported, another occurred on August 5, when a young woman entered the foyer, partway through a service, claiming to be looking for the toilets. We must **all** be vigilant, and this applies, especially, to the stewards at each service; to this end, I hope that stewards will sit right at the back of the worship-area, in order to keep an eye on what is happening in the foyer. If you see people entering the building, during a service---which is easier for the Minister and choir-members - please go and ask if they need assistance, or alert someone else to do so. It is possible that the Traidcraft stall is attracting attention, so the nearest curtain will be closed during services.

Anne

FROM THE CHARITY COMMITTEE

As we are nearing the end of our events for this year, collecting-boxes should be brought in, as soon as possible, and given to Colin Smith. A cheque will be presented to Bury Samaritans, at our Harvest Festival, so please ensure that money is handed in well before then.

We will soon be choosing next year's charity; if you wish to suggest a suitable cause, please speak to Roger Mills, before October 20.

STEWADING ARRANGEMENTS

The question of general security and stewarding was discussed during the August Council Meeting. It was felt that the list of stewards for Sunday services needed updating, and this is to be put in hand. The current rota is due to run until the end of September, and present arrangements will continue until the end of the year. After that, a new system will be in place; it is proposed to include the names of all church-members on that list, so that everyone takes a turn; however, if you feel unable to do so, or would prefer not to, please speak to Anne Mills or Harry Taylor, who will make sure that your name is not included. Thank you. **Anne**

VISIT TO BANK STREET CHAPEL, BOLTON

We have received an invitation from our sister-church in the centre of Bolton to visit them, and this will take place on Thursday, October 11. Travel will be by private car or bus, and people should make their own arrangements.

The purpose of this trip is to become better acquainted with Bank Street Chapel, Bolton; during our visit, we will share a short service, learn a little about the church and its congregation, and enjoy a fish and chip lunch at The Olympus (which is approximately 5 minutes' walk from the church). Please sign on the list on the notice-board, if you wish to go.

BAZAAR

The Organising Committee met on 15-08-12, and arrangements are now in hand for **the Bazaar, on November 3**. If you wish to help on a stall and haven't yet volunteered, please speak to Beryl or Anne about this; all offers will be very welcome! There will shortly be a list on the notice-board requesting items for the Hamper; sign up, if you are able to donate. Good-As-New articles should be of good quality and in clean condition. Please do not bring items for any stall at the last minute; they cannot be dealt with and may not be used. The following Sundays have been designated for bringing specific donations:

September 30	Good As New
October 7	Books
October 14	Tombola
October 21	Christmas Items; Jewellery, Scarves, Accessories
October 28	Chocolate Tombola

Cakes should be brought on the evening of Friday, November 2 (rather than on the Saturday morning).

TRAI DCRAFT ALERT

The stall will be open on October 7 and 21; please place orders for Christmas items as soon as possible, as Traincraft stocks quickly become exhausted.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES – please keep it free

SATURDAY 6 OCTOBER AT 7.30PM

**A CONCERT BY TONY BERRY
(don't mention the Houghton Weavers)**

TICKETS £8 inc. refreshments

**will be on sale from beginning of September from members of the
Efforts Committee
Tony is a well-known and popular folk singer and story-teller and
this promises to be an excellent concert.**

NEWS FROM AINSWORTH UNITARIAN CHAPEL

SUNDAY SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER 2012

2 September	10.00am	Rev Helen Mills
16 September	3.00pm	Rev John Midgley HARVEST FESTIVAL Tea and cakes following the service. No need to book. Just come along. All welcome.

WARNING

We are all aware that we should never give bank details to anyone who contacts you by phone. Please be aware that there is a very clever scam being carried out –

On being contacted by the Fraud Department of your Bank, telling you that an attempt is being made to withdraw money from your account, you would obviously be concerned but would still not give out any of your bank details. Knowing this, the Fraud Department will ask you to ring them back on the number you will find on the reverse of your credit/debit card. **DON'T DO IT!!!**

The 'Fraud Department' do not disconnect the call and when you dial through to your bank you think you are speaking to a genuine bank official, but you are actually still speaking to real fraudsters! Having been supposedly validated, and having gained your confidence, you can imagine the possibilities. If you can, ring your bank on a different land line or on a mobile phone.

(This has happened to one of your congregation and it was a traumatic, and costly, experience.)