

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2013

SERVICES

1 September	11.15am	The Minister
8 September	11.15am	The Minister
15 September	11.15am	Peter Sampson
22 September	11.15am	Rev Alex Bradley, Principal of Unitarian College, Manchester
29 September	11.15am	The Minister
6 October	11.15am	The Minister
13 October	11.15am	The Minister
20 October	11.15am	The Minister
27 October	11.15am	The Minister

CHURCH STEWARDS

1 September	S Mitchell and M Peters
8 September	A Howson and R Mills
15 September	F & D Worthington
22 September	L & A Williams
29 September	S McMullen and S Mitchell
6 October	B Bamford and A Hodgert
13 October	M & J Fitzpatrick

20 October B Kenyon and J Allerton

27 October M Price and J Taylor

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

1 September	In memory of Bill Tracy
8 September	In loving memory of Fred Moore
15 September	Anne & Roger Mills – In Memoriam
22 September	In memory of Pat Haworth
29 September	In loving memory of Mike and Rachel Hampson

Distributors: Barbara Bamford and Molly Ratcliffe

6 October	In loving memory of Margaret Ince
13 October	In loving memory of Doris Houghton
20 October	Church Flowers
27 October	Mrs June Clarke – In loving memory of Jean

Distributors: Anne & Harvey Evitts

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

7 September	Margaret Fitzpatrick & Jean Jackson
14 September	June Clarke & Freda Worthington
21 September	Beryl Allerton & Nora Hickson

28 September	Anne & Roger Mills
5 October	Philip Peters & Marc Peters
12 October	Rene Hollos & Alison Hollos
19 October	Betty Kenyon & Molly Ratcliffe
26 October	Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard

LUNCHEON CLUB

Members will meet on September 17th, at 12.30pm when Susan and Margaret will be the hosts. The October meeting will take place on the 15th, again at 12.30; the hosts will be announced later. If you usually attend and are unable to do so, please inform the organisers.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 5 September 7.30pm Speaker to be announced.

Thursday 17 October 7.30pm Coffee Evening for the national charity **Lymphoedema Support Network** – all welcome.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 25 September at 11.00am. We are to have a talk by Mr Gordon Walker on his experiences as a Bomb Disposal Expert, which should be very interesting. Following the talk we need to have a short business meeting which will be considered our AGM. After this we will move into the 'Trackside' pub/restaurant again. This venue proved to be popular at our last meeting for a pint and lunch.

The meeting after this will be on November 27 at the usual time of 11.00am. We will have a talk from Mr David Wright who is the present chairman of the East Lancs Railway Society. This can be changed if members feel it is necessary. **Derek Worthington**

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Monday 30 September at 7.00pm. The book to be discussed at this meeting will be available from the lounge cupboard from 29th August onwards.

The Book Club will meet on Monday 28 October at 7.00pm. The book to be discussed will be available from the cupboard in the lounge from 3 October

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

Wednesday 9 October	7.00pm	Finance & General Purposes
Monday 14 October	7.00pm	Church Council
Saturday 19 October	11.00am	Charity
Monday 21 October	7.00pm	Bazaar Meeting

CALENDAR DEADLINE

The last day for items to be included in the November edition of the Calendar will be Sunday 20 October.

TRADCRAFT

The stall will be open on September 1st and 22nd, and on October 6th and 20th; at other times, if you require items, please ask Anne.

A member of Brandlesholme Methodist Church, Rosemary Lehan, has compiled a "Be Fair Baking Book"; there will be copies available on the stall; the book costs £3.00, and proceeds go to the Bury Fair Trade Group.

The new Autumn/Winter Traidcraft catalogue, plus Christmas items, will be available from early September.

The Tatton Park Flower Show, in July, contained a trade stall of fairly-traded furniture, suitable for conservatory and garden use; it was smart,

well-made, and reasonably-priced. The name of the furniture is Tsantai; it is made in Indonesia and imported by The Fair Trade Furniture Company, in Salisbury. Their leaflet is displayed on the notice-board.

Harvest Weekend

Saturday 5th October at 7.30pm.

A concert by

Philharmonic Brass

A big band sound from Yorkshire

Tickets £8.50 Inc. Refreshments

Please give your support

Philharmonic Brass is the band who played at the Jubilee Concert for the Last Night of the Proms. They are a professional band and as those who heard them before will know they are excellent. Please give your support to this event which is an enjoyable way to raise money to help with the cost of running the church.

BURY LIGHT NIGHT

This will take place on Friday, October 11th, from approximately 5.30 to 9.30 p.m. An event is scheduled to be held in our church-gardens, and Diana Hamilton, the project manager for the event, is to hold discussions with us about the nature of the entertainment. We are hoping to open the church-premises, on that evening, and serve tea and coffee to visitors to the event; if you are able to help for any part of the evening, please speak to Anne

SUNSHINE SMARTIES

Full tubes (of 20p pieces!) may be brought in, at any time, and given to Brenda Ainsworth. There are a few tubes of Smarties left; see Anne, if you would like one.

STEWARDING

Just a reminder that we need stewards each Monday and Wednesday evening; if you are available and can help, please sign up on the lists on the lounge notice-board. Our regular lettings provide us with a valuable source of income during the year, but we do rely on the willingness of church-members to open and close for such sessions. Thank you.

CHARITY COMMITTEE

Please remember the Table Top Sale, on August 31st, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. There are still a few tables available to rent, at £10 each; speak to Jean Maden to reserve one. Proceeds will go to the North West Air Ambulance. Coffee and cakes will be served, and the Traidcraft Stall will be open; the proceeds from these will go to the church.

Collection-boxes, and/or contents, may be handed to Barbara Bamford, at any time; the last date for this is September 30th. A cheque in favour of the North West Air Ambulance will be handed over by the Mayor of Bury, at our Harvest Festival on October 6th. Thank you for your support.

The committee will meet next on October 19th, to consider next year's charity; if you would like to suggest a charity that we could support, please speak to Roger or to Roy Holden; ideally, the charity we choose should be a small, local one, within the borough, which will appreciate the money we raise on its behalf. More committee-members would also be appreciated; if you can help, please speak to Molly.

BANK STREET BAZAAR

This will be held on Saturday, November 2nd, starting at 10.30 a.m. Please keep the date free in your diary.

Books can be brought in at any time from now on and should be handed to Beryl Bowden; books should be in good, clean condition; please note that we will not be selling toys, videos, CD's or DVD's, this year.

Scarves, jewellery, handbags and other accessories can also be brought in at any time and given to Betty Kenyon. Please start to save good-quality items for the Good As New Stall but remember that we cannot accept any electrical items.

If anyone is making jam, marmalade or chutney, jars of these can be contributed to the Cake Stall. Pies will also be sold, this year.

If you wish to contribute items for the food hamper (the main raffle prize), there will be a list to sign on the notice-board, and contributions will need to be brought in by September 29th, at the latest, and given to June Clarke. Raffle tickets will be sold in advance of the Bazaar.

The Bottle Stall will need a good quantity of small bottles (as well as a few large ones!) so start collecting now. The Christmas Stall will display items in gold, silver, green and red.

Some items will be collected on specific dates:

Christmas Stall: October 13th;

Tombola: October 20th;

Cakes: November 1st---or 2nd for fresh cream cakes.

Tables will be set up on the evening of Thursday, October 31st, and stalls will be arranged on the following evening.

Further information will be available, nearer the time; please listen for pulpit-announcements and watch the notice-board; if you are willing to help with the Bazaar, in any way, speak to Beryl or Anne.

40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Next year is our 40th Anniversary, and we are already starting to plan various events. It has been proposed that a small committee should be formed, initially, to set matters in motion; if you are interested in joining this

group, please speak to Anne; alternatively, let her know if you have any suggestions about what we might do.

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

An article and photographs of our Reunion Service appeared in the August issue of "The Inquirer".

The lounge will be decorated between October 7th and 9th.

The visit from Unity chapel-members was very successful, and a repeat is planned.

Finance

All work on the new church notice-board has now been completed and paid for from a bequest from the late Irene Rogers.

A Fire Prevention Course is to be arranged; this will include information about fire-extinguisher operations.

Performance Lighting will be hired for the Harvest Weekend.

Live giving needs a boost if it is to keep pace with regular running-costs.

Stewarding is still proving problematic; we may need to give out keys to regular hirers or to consider appointing a caretaker; this will be further discussed by this committee.

Gift Aid contributions are slightly down but generally doing well.

The floor of the upstairs hall may need to be sanded and polished; quotations will be sought.

Further discussion about the cleaning of the premises is required before the October Council Meeting.

The Treasurer reported the half-yearly figures; we are on track, although we may suffer a slight loss at the year-end.

We now have a new electricity and gas contract with Scottish Power.

The Efforts Committee met to discuss the Brass Band Concert, on October 5th; HD Brass and the Notability Choir will give a concert on the first Saturday in December.

Communications and Worship with Young People

The G.A. President, Rev. Bill Darlison, will conduct our service on December 8th.

Members of the Rochdale congregation will join us for worship, on November 24th.

Ideas for the Memorial Garden at Holebottom have been revised, and a simpler, cheaper plan has been agreed.

Two members of the Junior Church, plus a leader, are to attend a Junior Weekend at Hucklow.

It is hoped to arrange Safeguarding Training for Adults soon.

The Minister reported that extra help with the Junior Church is still required.

She proposed the setting-up of interest-groups, perhaps with taster-sessions for a few different ones, to begin in October.

She hopes to arrange a Retreat, next spring, at Rydal Hall, Ambleside.

We need to give thought to attracting new members to the church.

The Charity Committee will present the money raised for NWAAs at the Harvest Festival. Suggestions for next year are to be sought.

Arrangements for the Bazaar are in hand; a copy of the minutes of the meeting held on 22-07-13 is on the notice-board.

The next meeting will be held on 14 October at 7 pm.

NOTICES

There will be a short meeting of the Efforts Committee at the back of church on Sunday 29th October at 12.30pm.

DECORATING IN LOUNGE

It is intended to paint the lounge at church between

Monday 7th and Wednesday 9th October.

Offers of help would be most welcome – see Roger or Beryl.

Painters – Shifters – Tea Brewers, needed

MINISTER'S MONTH

It is a measure of the inquiring and accepting spirit within the Bury congregation that changing the format of Sunday worship, quite radically

and with little warning, does not cause problems. The recent service, on the theme of bullying, when members of the congregation were invited to come forward and speak without forward planning was one of these occasions. No one grumbled about the change, rather the opposite, there was much positive comment about the opening up of the service and the contribution from those who spoke. Thank you to those who came forward and shared their thoughts and experiences. I know that having a number of people do this emphasised how widespread and diverse the problem of bullying is. A follow-up discussion evening has been requested and I will try to organise this in the next few weeks.

There are some people who just make you smile and, for me, one of these is Reverend Jim McClelland. He is one of the most smiley people I know and always greets you with a loud and friendly 'Well, Hello there'. Even when I speak to him on the telephone, as I did a few days ago, I find myself smiling as I imagine him beaming at me down the phone. What a lovely quality to have. He sends best wishes to us all.

I recently read about the life of country parsons in the 19th century and thought how different it was from my life. It appears that a country parson could expect to earn £500 per year, the equivalent today of at least two hundred thousand pounds. Jane Austen, who complained about the poverty she suffered as a parson's daughter, grew up in a house with seven bedrooms and servants! The book says that being a parson provided a very good living with little required in return. The role of the clergy was a loose one, piety was not a requirement or even an expectation. Most ministers studied classics not theology. They had no training in how to preach, provide inspiration or comfort or otherwise offer meaningful ministry. Many didn't bother composing sermons but just bought books of prepared sermons and read one out each week. One vicar in Yorkshire had such poor attendance at his services that he converted half his church into a henhouse. One Reverend Hawker of Cornwall wore a pink fez, which makes my shoes look very tame. In March 1851 there was a survey to see how many people actually attended church. We tend to think that, at this time, everyone went to church but we would be wrong, the survey revealed that less than half the population did so.

I don't think the hens would be a good idea but I might consider a pink fez. **Beryl**

I will be on holiday from 14th – 28th September.

GRAND BAZAAR

AT BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER

From 10.30am.onwards

Lots of stalls:

**Tombola, Cakes, Books, Nearly New, Christmas,
Bottles, Jewellery, Scarves, Accessories, etc.**

Hot and Cold Meals

Raffle

AINSWORTH UNITARIAN CHAPEL

Sunday Services in SEPTEMBER 2013

10.00 am Sunday 1st September Rev Desmond Porter

**3.00 pm Sunday 15th September Rev Dr Vernon Marshall
'HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE'**

Note: 3.00 pm Service

Services (which last 45 minutes) are normally held on the
1st and 3rd Sunday of each month with visiting preachers.

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

*Various members and friends of The Chapel are not well at the moment
and we send them all our kind thoughts and best wishes.*

CHURCH INFORMATION

Church address	1 Bank Street, Bury BL9 0DN
Church telephone	0161 761 3785
Charity Reg. No.	1078570
Church Website	http://www.bury-unitarian-church.org.uk
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CHURCH OFFICERS

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Church Secretary	Anne Mills	
Church Treasurer	John Fitzpatrick, 2 Heapy Close, Bury BL8 2HW	0161 764 6374