

## BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

### CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2014

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#### SERVICES

7 September	11.15am	The Minister
14 September	11.15am	The Minister
21 September	11.15am	Larry Bode from Hale Barns/Dean Row
28 September	11.15am	The Minister

#### CHURCH STEWARDS

7 September	Jean Brookhouse & Susan Mitchell
14 September	Lois & Alan Williams
21 September	Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert
28 September	Margaret & John Fitzpatrick

*If the date given is not possible for you, please re-arrange with another steward.*

#### CHURCH FLOWERS

7 September	Dorothy – In loving memory of Mr & Mrs Stanley Warburton
14 September	Anne & Roger Mills – ‘In Memoriam’
21 September	In memory of Bernard & Marian Houghton
28 September	In loving memory of Mike & Rachel Hampson

*Distributors: Anne & Harvey Evitts & Molly Ratcliffe*

#### SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

6 September	Betty Kenyon & Molly Ratcliffe
13 September	Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard
20 September	June Clark & Jean Taylor
27 September	Brenda Ainsworth & Pam Gilbert

#### LUNCHEON CLUB

The Luncheon Club meets on Tuesday 16 September at 12.30pm. Beryl will be host and there will be a list to sign, in due course. Come and join us – all are welcome.

#### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

I missed the last meeting but from all accounts Gordon Walker delivered an interesting talk on his Bomb Disposal Exploits. No speaker has yet been arranged for the next meeting but I will notify you when I have arranged a speaker. I suggest we hold our next meeting on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> October. If anyone considers this date inappropriate, please let me know. Kind regards, Derek Worthington

#### WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 4 September at 7.30pm	Mrs Barbara Harding will speak about Craftwork and Patchwork
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#### COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER

Monday 15 September at 7.00pm	Communications, Junior Church & Worship
Wednesday 17 September at 7.00pm	Finance & General Purposes
Monday 22 September at 7.00pm	Bazaar

#### CALENDAR DEADLINE

SUNDAY 21 SEPTEMBER PLEASE

#### BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Monday 29 September at 7.00pm. The book to be discussed is *The Political Animal* by Jeremy Paxman:

### **TRAIDCRAFT**

The stall will be open on 14 and 28 September; please ask Anne Mills or Jean Brookhouse if you require goods at other times.

Bury now has its own Fair Trade Garden, thanks to the efforts of the Bury Fair Trade Group: it is in front of the Town Hall, at the far right and worth a look; there is a photograph in our lounge, but the garden looks better viewed live!!

### **UNITARIAN RENEWAL GROUP**

The Unitarian Renewal Group is to hold a Day Gathering at our church on Saturday, 27 September. The session is entitled “**GROWING OUR FAITH: reflection and future vision**”, and involves worship, discussion and good speakers. The speakers are: John Allerton (Minister for many years), Danny Crosbie (4 years into ministry), Anna Jarvis (on the brink of first ministry), and Marian Baker (President of the G.A.) The event will last from 11.00am to 4.00pm, and those attending are asked to bring a packed lunch. The cost is £8 or £6 for concessions. Places may be booked by emailing David Dawson on : [dcdawson@hotmail.com](mailto:dcdawson@hotmail.com)

As we are to begin our own discussions on Growth in the autumn, and as we are the hosts, it would be good if there was a reasonable attendance from Bury. If you are unable to email but wish to book, please speak to Anne.

### **CONGRATULATIONS.....**

.....to Beryl and John on the occasion of their Pearl Wedding Anniversary, 11 August. To mark this achievement the happy couple were presented, the day before, with a card, an orchid and a bottle of port, with best wishes, from the congregation. On the

following Saturday Beryl and John treated us to a buffet supper and concert; thank you to Beryl and John for their generosity and hospitality, and for a splendid evening.

### **THANKS....**

.....to Peter Whewell (with help from Roger), who has power-washed all the flagstones around the exterior of our premises. This is a wet, messy, time-consuming job, and Peter has undertaken it willingly. As a result, our flags are positively gleaming – a great improvement.

## **BURY ART SOCIETY EXHIBITION FRIDAY 5 AND SATURDAY 6 SEPTEMBER**

**10AM TO 4PM**

**ADMISSION FREE**

***This event will be held in our church. Tea/coffee will be available.***

### **MINISTER'S MONTH**

It was with some uncertainty that in March I began to plan a service of commemoration on 4<sup>th</sup> August to mark the beginning of World War 1. I was uncertain if anyone would come as I planned to hold it at the actual time war was declared 11pm. I decided I

would go ahead even if I was on my own and it would be a bonus if someone else turned up. On the evening itself lots of people came and as the sky darkened we gathered in the candlelight. At 11 o'clock candles were extinguished and we sat in silence. I found it a very moving occasion and particularly sitting in the darkness with the single poppy candle burning in the church and another on the War Memorial in the gardens. In no way was this a glorification of war, in fact the atmosphere was one of sadness and regret at the futility of war. While we recognised the courage of those who fought there was also an acknowledgment of the terrible cost of conflict. So it is with a heightened awareness of the inability of war to

settle differences that I watch the terrible events being played out in Iraq, Gaza, Syria and the Ukraine and wonder will we never learn.

A lot has happened since the last issue of the Calendar, I have been on holiday to Scotland about which I preached a sermon so most of you know that it was warm and wonderful. The United Reformed congregation welcomed us for worship with them at the beginning of July and the following week they came to us, as I said at the time a tradition that is now entering a fifth decade. I went along to Rochdale Unitarian Church to the service marking their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in their Clover Street building, good gathering led by the GA President.

It appears that the books on growth which I put out for people to read have been well used which holds great promise for the meetings to be held at the beginning of October. I have preached a sermon around the topic and hope to do something else in September, maybe with input from others.

I am glad to say that the plastering we were having done at home has been finished and the bedroom painted, carpet cleaned and relayed, and furniture put back into place, in fact it was all looking very good until the curtain pole fell off the wall. Then the shelf in the fridge broke and we had a butter avalanche. John is in the process of sorting out both and I am being helpful by staying out of the way.

Oh, and before I close the little matter of a wedding anniversary, we enjoyed it, we hope you did too. Many, many thanks to those who helped prepare the room and the buffet and those who reversed the process the day after. And for all your cards and presents, for which we are very inebriated thank you.

Love **Beryl**

## **PLEA FOR A TELEVISION**

It would be very useful if we could have a television set at the church. It could be used for showing pictures when people come to give talks and it could also be used by those people who steward meetings enabling them to watch a DVD. If you have a spare TV which you do not need and you are willing to donate it to the church please see Roger Mills.

## **MEETINGS ON GROWTH**

Two Meetings will be held on the 1 and 8 of October from 7 – 9 pm.

Please come if you can these are important meetings for our future.

## **FIRST WORLD WAR COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE**

On August 4<sup>th</sup>, towards 11pm we gathered to mark the centenary of the outbreak of World War One; it was heartening to see such a good attendance. And what a moving, humbling service this was! The readings reminded us of the patriotic attitudes of the time and of the thousands of young men who would volunteer as soldiers during the next four years, many of whom were not destined to return, or returned damaged in some way. We sang patriotic hymns, too, and found that the recording of “Keep the Home Fires Burning” brought a lump to the throat.

The church was illuminated by candles, all of which were extinguished at 11 p.m, leaving only a candle of peace burning; at this point in the service, and following the campaign mounted by the British Legion, we observed silence and lights out--- an amazingly profound and concentrated shared period.

Beryl had left a candle burning on our War Memorial; just as she reached to put it out, after the service, it went out by itself, despite the fact that the evening was completely still!

Thanks to Beryl for conceiving and executing this service, and to all who contributed, especially Barrie Brailsford, whose organ-music added gravitas to a memorable occasion. **Anne**

## **ANNIVERSARY LUNCH**

Lunch has been booked at Park Farm, on Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, at 1 p.m; as part of our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations. If you have not yet booked but wish to attend, please speak to Anne; a £5.00 deposit is required to secure your booking, and deposits should be paid as soon as possible, preferably before the end of August. Park Farm are to let us have menus, in advance, and these will be posted on the notice-board, once they are available. Please keep eyes and ears open for notices and pulpit-announcements about this event, nearer the time.

## **BAZAAR**

Please make a note of the date in your diary: Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, from 10 a.m. A meeting was held, in July, to sort out arrangements, and a positive discussion ensued. There is a full copy of the meeting-notes on the notice-board. Stalls have been decided upon, and stall-holders provisionally arranged; there will be competitions, and a raffle, as well, and refreshments will be available, both upstairs and downstairs.

Items for stalls can be brought in from now on; please see details of this on the notice-board. Helpers are needed in all areas; if you feel able to help, please speak to Beryl, Betty or Anne; we need, especially, fit people to help with the upstairs and downstairs cafés. A further meeting has been arranged for Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 7 p.m.

## **NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: 13 August 2014**

Susan and Fred Mitchell will represent us at Dunham Road's bi-centenary celebrations, on 7 September; they have space in the car for two more people.

**GlastonBURY** will not be using Bank Street for their Festival, on August 25, owing to an objection from Butcher and Barlow.

**Holebottom Memorial Garden** Following queries from the trustees, a letter to Rawson's has been sent, in order to clarify that instructions can only be taken

from church-authorities, and not from individual members; also, ashes are buried, not scattered.

**Finance:** Peter Whewell has now been appointed Church Council Property Steward; he will work with Roger Mills, the Trustee Property Steward. Hire-charges have been revised to clarify that organists' fees of £45 will be paid, whenever applicable, and that Beryl will appoint stewards, as required, for funerals; the fee for this is £30.00. If our upstairs room is used for refreshments, after funerals, responsibility for all arrangements must be under-taken, and all work carried out, by the caterers, and not by church-members. It is proposed that an advertising-budget would benefit the church as a whole, as well as the specific groups that organise events; Communications and Worship have been asked to progress this.

**The Treasurer** reported a healthy bank balance; we should be much on target at the year-end. Gift Aid has done very well, so far, this year.

**Communications and Worship with Young People:** Several people from Bury attended Rochdale's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, in July; a card of congratulations was sent. We are hoping to set up our own Facebook page; it will be suggested to NELUM that a social media training course could be organised, and hosted at Bury. Bury Light Night takes place on Friday, October 10, between 6 and 9 pm. Its theme will be Eastern Nights. We intend to open the church and offer refreshments; Chris Price will play piano music in the church, during the evening. We are still waiting for the local authority to make progress on bolting down benches in the gardens and erecting signage to the church; they say they are short of manpower; possibly, they will give us permission to do these jobs ourselves. Betty has offered to do an archive-display for the foyer, when the Art Exhibition takes place; it was suggested that information about current events and activities should be included.

**The Minister** continues to be very busy. A series of seminars ("Heart to Heart") will be held in October/November. We have been thanked by the British Legion for participating in the Lights Out initiative, on August 4<sup>th</sup>. Sessions on Growth

have been arranged for October 1st and 8<sup>th</sup>, both at 7 p.m. Please note these dates.

**Charity:** The Afternoon Tea raised £370.90 and was very successful. A group visit to Bleakholt may still be possible. The cheque for Bleakholt will be handed over at the Harvest; arrangements are in hand for the Mayor to be present.

**Lettings and Keys:** Our Wednesday hirers over-run their time, on occasion; after discussion, it was agreed that the Church Secretary would write to them. A suggestion that the Music Exam Stewards should be issued with keys was debated and a vote taken; it was decided not to proceed.

**Correspondence:** We are asked to give thought to nominating the next G.A. President and Vice-President. Places are still available on the RE-volution course; details on the notice-board. Bury's Localities Division had sent two letters: the proposed development of 26 Silver Street, to include a restaurant and offices, and a part-retrospective proposal to re-erect the canopy over the Trackside bar at the East Lancashire Railway; it was agreed that no action need be taken as regards the latter; an objection had been sent about the former, on the grounds of parking, noise and litter problems it might cause us; also the necessity for more restaurants was queried.

**Any Other Business:** Those who use the water-heaters, and stewards for lettings, are asked to make sure that the two water-heaters are switched off when not in use.

**The next meeting will be held** on Monday, October 13, at 7 p.m.

## DANCING DISPLAY

SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER AT 7PM

AINSWORTH UNITARIAN CHURCH HALL

BY

THE GILLIAN GARVEY SCHOOL OF DANCING  
TICKETS ARE £5 for adults, £2.50 for children

PROCEEDS ARE IN AID OF THE BLEAKHOLT ANIMAL  
SANCTUARY our church charity for 2014

### NOTES FROM 1974 (9)

At the end of the summer holidays, church-life was returning to normal---although there were more holidays on the horizon; the September Wakes Week, during the third week of the month, meant that many folk were away again, and, as a result, there were no services on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1974. Nowadays, when holiday-time is more flexible, cancelling services is less likely to achieve the same result, and we accept that there will always be a certain number of people on holiday (including me!)

The regular church-groups resumed their monthly meetings, although, judging by the lack of detail in the calendar, not all of them were fully-organised at this point; presumably, the editor waited as long as she could and then went to press regardless! The Men's Fellowship, though, were sorted out; they had a Special Trip to Granada Studios planned for the 26<sup>th</sup>---but disaster struck when the actor they were due to meet went down with 'flu, and the trip was cancelled; instead, at very short notice, they enjoyed an excellent quiz, and a good time was had by all.

(Is there a moral in this, somewhere?) The Women's League did manage their outing---all the way to Broad Street, to a Cookery Demonstration at the Gas Showrooms; alas, gas showrooms anywhere in Bury are well and truly consigned to the past!

The young people of the church feature large in the September Calendar; a Parade Service was held on the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup> (when members from Altrincham Unitarian Church also visited), and, in the evening, the Youth Club recommenced

its meetings; on this occasion, elections for the committee were held, and new members, of secondary school age, were invited to join the club. During the September holidays, an Activities Week was organised; this should have taken place during the summer, and an alternative session had had to be planned; all went well, and the week was a great success, despite the hard work involved and a particularly cold day spent at Heaton Park. A proposal by the Youth Club members that they might use the storage-loft as a sitting-room was, at first, received doubtfully, as fire-regulations and insurance factors were considered; two representatives were invited to attend a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, and the matter was subsequently resolved to the satisfaction of the Youth Club.

The oil painting of Bank Street Chapel, which still hangs in the lounge, required an inscription so that everyone would be aware that it had been donated by the late Alex Rogers. The painting had been much admired, and the artist, Mr. W. Makin, let it be known that he had a smaller copy for sale; his contact-details were provided; I wonder whether this was eventually purchased, and, if so, by whom?

The Minister's Month makes reference to the Closing Proceedings, held the previous June, at Unitarian College, Manchester; only two students were valedicted, and only two more were expected to complete their courses the following summer; this lack of newly-trained ministers was---and remains---a cause for concern. On a more positive note, the sermons preached by the graduating ministers were judged to be excellent, so there was quality, if not quantity, at least. **Anne Mills**

Thanks to Howard Maden for photograph of Beryl & John.