

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2010

WORSHIP SERVICES

5 September	11.15am	The Minister
12 September	11.15am	The Minister
19 September	11.15am	The Minister
26 September	11.15am	Service for the 200 th anniversary of the birth of Elizabeth Gaskell

CHURCH STEWARDS

5 September	Freda and Derek Worthington
12 September	Margaret and John Fitzpatrick
19 September	Jean Jackson and Beryl Bowden
26 September	Marc and Philip Peters

If you are unable to fulfil your duties on the date given, please inform Harry so that a stand-in steward can be allocated to that date. Thank you.

STEWARDS' SUPPORT

New **Guidelines** for church members who act as stewards at Sunday services have been compiled for the benefit of all people who wish to contribute to the life of the congregation in this special role. Please see the Chair of the Worship and Communications Committee, Betty Kenyon, who will be pleased to provide you with a copy of this document.

CHURCH FLOWERS

5 September	In loving memory of Fred Moore
12 September	Church Flowers
19 September	Church Flowers
26 September	Church Flowers

Distributors: Barbara Bamford and Sue McMullen

MEDITATION GROUP

The Meditation Group will meet next on Thursday evening, 30 September, from 7.30 to 8.30 p.m. in the church lounge. This meeting will follow the pattern of meditation that is inspired by the World Community for Christian Meditation (www.christian-meditation.org.uk). Light refreshments are served at the end of the gathering.

CHURCH OFFICERS

Chair of Trustees	Susan Holt 078767 16563
Chair of Congregation	Neville Kenyon 0120488 7222
Church Secretary	Marian Price 24 Swinnel Brook Park, Grane Road, Haslingden, Rossendale BB4 4FN 01706 211981
Church Treasurer	John Fitzpatrick 2 Heapy Close, Bury BL8 2HW 0161 764 6374

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
Minister's mobile no:	07989 858963
Minister's e-mail:	jeffreylanegould@btinternet.com
Minister's postal code	BL8 1NU
Editor's e-mail:	pam_gilbert66@btinternet.com
Editor's telephone	01706 822651

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

4 September	Barbara Ashworth and Vera Stephenson
11 September	Rene Hollos and Alison Hollos
18 September	Molly Ratcliffe and Betty Kenyon
25 September	Anne and Roger Mills

VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED

Volunteers are still required for the Saturday morning coffee rota. Please will men or women of the congregation speak with Jean Taylor if they can help. Homemade cakes are not a necessity; bought cakes are acceptable, as are toast, crumpets, etc. Turns come round every 8 weeks.

LUNCH CIRCLE

The Lunch Circle meets on Tuesday 21st September at 12.30pm. The organisers are Harry, June, Marc and Michael. Please let Harry know if you are unable to attend.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 2 September at 7.30pm Heather Slater will speak on her experiences as a nanny in Saudi Arabia

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We are holding our Annual Coffee Evening on Wednesday 29 September at 7.30pm. **Admission by bottle(s)** for the **Bottle Stall** at the Bazaar in November. Everyone invited. There will also be a **Raffle**.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monday 6 September	7.00pm	Communications, Worship and Young People
Tuesday 14 September	7.30pm	Special Congregational Meeting
Monday 20 September	7.30pm	Efforts

CALENDAR DEADLINE

All items for the October Calendar should be in the yellow folder by Sunday 19th September, Please.

ANOTHER ANNIVERSARY?

The famous English novelist, Elizabeth Gaskell (29 September 1810--12 November 1865) was the daughter of a Unitarian minister and the wife of a Unitarian minister. 2010 marks the bicentenary of the birth of this great figure in our tradition's history. She is known as the author of many novels and short stories, and is remembered for having written a remarkable biography of her friend, Charlotte Bronte. The British public has become familiar with her works through

recent BBC adaptations: *Wives and Daughters*; *North and South*; and most recently, *Cranford*.

Unitarians are pleased to be associated with the extensive bicentennial celebrations that are taking place across the United Kingdom this year. Featured in these commemorative events is the Cheshire market town of Knutsford (the real Cranford!) and the city of Manchester. A number of events will take place at the 300-year-old Brook Street Chapel in Knutsford, where Mrs Gaskell's body lies. For further information, consult their website: www.brookstreetchapel.org. There is a memorial plaque to Elizabeth Gaskell in the recently rebuilt Cross Street Chapel, Manchester (www.cross-street-chapel.org.uk).

The worship service on Sunday, 26 September will mark the bicentenary of her birth, and highlight the influence that her Unitarian faith had on her writings. I would be grateful if members and friends of the congregation would volunteer to take part in the service, so that a variety of voices might contribute to the occasion. It would be particularly helpful if female voices were able to read some of her journal entries and excerpts from her correspondence in the course of the service. This will be an excellent opportunity to affirm our faith's rich heritage through the celebration of a woman whose life and work have attained such a high profile in recent years. I look forward to marking the day with you all.

JEFF

All members of the congregation are cordially invited to attend

A
SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
on
TUESDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER
at
7.30 pm

To discuss Ministerial issues

CONGREGATIONAL OUTING TO CONISHEAD PRIORY

On Wednesday, 8 September, members and friends of the congregation will travel to Ulverston for a visit to the Manjushri Kadampa Buddhist Centre at the Conishead Priory in Ulverston. Travelling in a car-pool arrangement (to be confirmed by the minister on his return from holiday), the group will meet for lunch at the World Peace Café and Meditation Centre in Ulverston at twelve noon [5 Cavendish Street, Ulverston, LA12 7AD]. We will then drive to the priory in time for a tour of the premises at two o'clock that afternoon. The visit will end with tea and cakes, to be served at 3.30 p.m. Those taking part may wish to explore the local area further, at the discretion of each driver. The total cost of visiting the priory is £3.75, which includes refreshments. For further information, please speak with Jeff Gould (tel. 0161 764 4925). More details about the priory may be found on the website: www.manjushri.org

JOE ASHWORTH

Part of the service on Sunday, 18 July was devoted to giving a formal thank you to Joe who has recently retired as Sunday School Superintendent. Neville Kenyon, on behalf of the congregation, thanked Joe for all his efforts on our behalf over many years; initially with the Chesham congregation and later with Bury Unitarians. Reminiscences related to Whit Walks, pantomimes, camping with cubs, and also the more mundane; dealing with wheelie bins, soap, towels and coffee for the minister after the service. We reiterate the grateful thanks of the congregation and wish Joe well for the future.

Points of Interest following the Council Meeting held on 9th August, 2010

Thanks were given to Roger and Ron for their excellent work on cleaning the **stained-glass window** at the front of the Church.

It has been decided that the **retiring collection** for the 'Send-a-Child-to-Hucklow' fund will be re-instated to the day of the Christmas Carol Service. As the collection has been taken for this year, the next collection will be in December 2011. All **retiring collections** will be notified by an announcement in the calendar and a pulpit notice in the week prior to the collection.

It has been decided **not** to hold a Sunday morning service on **Boxing Day** (26th December) this year.

It has been agreed that the **chosen charity** for next year will be **Bury Cancer Support Group** which meets at St. James' Church, Walshaw, which offers friendship, support and complementary therapies for cancer patients and their carers.

As you will see from the announcement made in this calendar, it has been decided to hold a **Special Congregational Meeting** for all members of this Church, at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 14th September, to discuss ministerial issues affecting this congregation.

INDUCTION

The Induction of the Rev Bob Pounder will take place at Oldham Unitarian Chapel, on October 23, 2010. The provisional timetable is as follows: the service will begin at 5.00pm or 5.30pm, followed by a meal at 6pm, after which a social event will be held from 7pm onwards. Further details should be available in the October Calendar. Bob would be delighted to see any friends from Bury who are able to attend.

MINISTERS' PLAQUE

The ministers' plaque is now situated in the vestibule so the donations box may now be found at the rear of the worship area.

CHURCHES TOGETHER

A meeting of Churches Together took place on July 27th, at Bury Unitarian Church; 5 churches were represented, and Rev. Jeff Gould, Anne Mills and Molly Ratcliffe represented our church.

There was much discussion about the new housing in The Rock Triangle and Townside. When this is ready for occupation, we should be able to send out information about the various Bury town-centre churches, including the times of services at every church, the name of each minister, and details of additional church-activities. This will be an on-going project.

A joint Carol Service will be held, on the morning of Saturday, December 11th, in The Rock Triangle, and all are welcome to join in. The exact venue has not yet been agreed but will be announced as soon as possible.

An "Ambassadors" scheme for The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which begins on January 23rd, 2011, is still being explored. More members are required for the Millgate/Market Chaplaincy team. All Christmas services, for all the town-centre churches, will be advertised in "The Bury Times" again, this year, as this was felt to have been good publicity, last year

The next meeting of the Council for Churches Together in Bury (Town Centre South) will take place in the church lounge on Tuesday, 28 September, from 7.30 p.m.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet next on Monday 27 September at 7.30pm in the coffee lounge. The book to be discussed is: ***The Road to Nab End*** by William Woodruff. Copies of the book are available from the book cupboard in the lounge. Please sign for the book. All are welcome – it's not even necessary to have read the book. We share light refreshments during the evening and finish at 9.00pm.

The next two meetings of the Book Club have been arranged.

Monday 25th October ***The Voyage Home*** by Jane Rogers

Monday 29 November ***Case Histories*** by Kate Atkinson

Library copies of these two books will be available in due course.

TRAIDCRAFT

This year's Christmas launch will take place on Sunday, September 12th, when the new season's brochures will be available, and a range of Christmas cards and other Christmas items will be on display. This year, Traidcraft will be selling mince pies, as a new venture. Feel free to visit the stall to see what's on offer.

Please note that, on October 3rd, because of the Rice Challenge, the Traidcraft stall will not operate; however, please speak to me if you need items on that date.

On June 30th, I attended a meeting of the Steering Committee for Bury's bid for Fair Trade status; if the bid is successful, Bury should become a Fair Trade town sometime next year. The Committee needs to show that Bury has at least 19 catering outlets and 37 retail outlets, each of which must sell a minimum of 2 different fairly-traded products. I have successfully argued that Bury Unitarian Church qualifies both as a retail outlet (because of our Traidcraft stall on Sundays) and as a catering establishment (because we serve fairly-traded tea and coffee at all times and, quite often, use fairly-traded biscuits, cakes, sugar and other ingredients for refreshments). We have, therefore, been included on both lists and are making our contribution towards Fair Trade status.

RICE CHALLENGE

We shall be attempting to sell 90 kilograms of rice during our Harvest Festival Weekend. Rice will be on sale during Saturday-morning coffee and before the Harvest Supper, on October 2nd, and after the Harvest Service, on October 3rd. A one-kilogram bag of rice costs £2.50.

Kilombero rice is an aromatic long-grain rice, virtually unknown in the UK; it cooks well as an accompaniment to stews and curries and is ideal for risottos and paellas, but it is also suitable for rice puddings.

I have already received a number of advance orders and can accept more now, at any time. Please note that, if you require brown rice, this must be specially ordered---by Sunday, September 19th, at the latest.

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world. It is landlocked, densely-populated, has limited natural resources, suffers from severe environmental degradation and is being ravaged by HIV/AIDS. However, unlike many other developing countries, Malawi is a functioning multi-party democracy, with strong civil society institutions, a free press and a tradition of peace. The bulk of the country's foreign debt was forgiven by international donors in 2006, thereby greatly improving prospects for economic growth and development.

Malawi is a small country, which produces high-quality rice, nuts, pulses, teas and coffees. More than 85% of Malawi's population lives as smallholder farmers, and the country is highly-dependent on agriculture for its livelihood. Rice is grown as a cash crop---mainly for export, and to fund necessary projects, such as housing, health care and education. Only 1 in 3 children in Malawi attends high school; a year's fees for one child cost the equivalent of 90 kilograms of rice. In Malawi, rice is

planted, harvested and prepared by hand which makes it a very labour-intensive crop.

Just Trading Scotland, who have issued the Rice Challenge, have sent us this message: "By selling 90 kilograms of rice, you have eaten someone out of poverty; education is one of the most effective ways of escaping poverty---you have made a difference!" Please support this very important venture!
Anne.

REQUEST FOR JAM JARS

In hopes of a bumper damson crop Barbara Ashworth needs lots of jam jars – preferably of the 1lb size. Can you help?

THANKS

Betty and Neville wish to thank all those who helped and attended the Summer Tea at Meadow Head. A grand total of £165 was made.

Diary Dates

A Dancing Display

By the pupils of the Gillian Garvey School

**Saturday 18th September at Ainsworth Unitarian
School**

At 7.15pm

**Tickets: £4 and £2 - proceeds to our Speakeasy
Appeal**

HARVEST SUPPER

SATURDAY OCTOBER 2 AT 6.30PM

**POTATO HASH AND PEAS
FRUIT PIE AND CREAM**

**FOLLOWED AT 7.30PM BY
SONGS, TUNES AND STORIES FROM
ONE ACCORD**

**TICKETS £5.50 FROM MARGARET FITZPATRICK AND COLIN
SMITH**

BRING YOUR OWN WINE/SOFT DRINKS

Article by Rev Gordon Joyce on the town centre chaplaincy team in Bury town centre

My original brief in coming to Bury four years ago was to 'do something' in the town centre. I didn't have a clue what to do. I believed that God is wherever people are, and that he wants to communicate his love to everybody, and I was keen to help do that, but I didn't know how. I didn't see myself wondering around Bury with a sandwich board or accosting people with the Gospel. So what was I to do? Fortunately I was put in touch with a town centre chaplaincy in Bolton. I was impressed. It was part of the town centre, part of the furniture. It wasn't under suspicion. It was accepted. That's what I wanted to be, so I could operate from within the town rather than as an interloper.

So I persuaded the Millgate manager to appoint me chaplain to the shopping precinct, and then set about forming a team. It became obvious fairly early on that my clientele would be the shop staff. With customers it would be hit and miss. But the staff were there all the time so it would be possible to build relationships with them, and in time, building trust, there might be opportunities to listen and share the faith. I knew I couldn't do the job on my own. There were too many shops to visit, and apart from the town centre role, I had other jobs. And there would be people around who had gifts that I needed for the chaplaincy, and no doubt people who were better at it than me.

One of the exciting things about the chaplaincy is the sense, at times, that God is in this. Very quickly we went from one – me – to four of us. A great bunch of people, gifted and committed. I felt very lucky to have people like that to work and pray with. The second Christmas there I asked the manager if he had a shop to spare, vacant. There was, and we were allowed to have it at the peak period running up to Christmas. We turned it into a number of zones – different ways in which people could pray, or talk about any problems, or just a place for people to calm down from the stresses of Christmas. About 240 people came in to the shop in a week – not a huge number considering the 1000's that come to the Millgate, but enough to make it worth doing.

Soon after, I asked the manager of Bury Markets if I could do the same there, set up a chaplaincy. He was, surprisingly, very pleased with the idea. And then the team quickly reduced to just one. One member went to be a minister in Liverpool. Another went to college to train for

the ministry. The other had to retire because of illness. So I had to start again, and again God was at work. Now we have four of us in the

Millgate and three of us in the market. And we're all sorts! – a Unitarian minister, a Pentecostal minister, another Pentecostal, a member of the URC church, and a Methodist, and me, an Anglican – which is great because I think ecumenicism is most authentic when we're working together, doing something in the cause of the Gospel.

What are we trying to do? To be available to people, to listen, to be supportive, to pray for them, and when it's appropriate, to share our experience of God. We're very much learners at all of this, and sometimes it's scary, walking into a shop, on their territory, and trying to build relationships. But then that's what the Gospel is partly about – meeting people where they are, stepping out of the boat, out of our comfort zones, taking a risk.

Interested in helping? What qualities are needed? I think a mixture of confidence and sensitivity – confidence to try and start relationships, and not get too discouraged when we don't seem to get a response from the other person, and sensitivity, a willingness to listen and remember that trust and sharing the Gospel have to be earned.

And the next step? The new development on the Rock in Bury has recently opened. We need to get a toe hold in there, and also more members of our team, since they are all, apart from me, volunteers with busy lives of their own. If you're interested, let me know. You're not committing yourself to anything. In any case, I'd give you time to have a go, and at the end of that time, if the job isn't for you, I will tell you, or you'll realise it yourself. So remember us in your prayers, and remember that God sometimes answers our prayers through ourselves!

Rev Gordon Joyce 0161 764 1157

BURY UNITARIANS VISIT KENDAL – JULY 2010



A full coach-load of us set off for Kendal eyeing the weather with trepidation. Although we passed through clouds, rain, etc. by the time we left the coach in Kendal, the sun was shining and we remained dry all day.

We joined the Kendal congregation at their coffee morning in the Victorian Schoolroom and enjoyed home-baked scones, etc. with our coffee. The Kendal church is located centrally in the market place within a pedestrianised area. Set amidst well-planted gardens it includes a multi-faith garden of remembrance – all very peaceful and lovely to look at with the summer flowers in full bloom and trees in full leaf. Also, we were very interested to see the new mural, a 12ft long artwork entitled ‘Spirit of Life’ created for the Kendal congregation by Katie Hall. This colourful artwork portrays ‘Unitarian values in a unique form’ and is indeed stunning.

After a look round the town, we met in the church for a short service and were welcomed warmly by the minister Rev. Celia Cartwright. The service included a few favourite hymns from the purple hymn book, a reading, by Jeff, a prayer and a short address by Celia. The church it-

self is square-shaped with pews, lots of windows, etc and interesting light-fittings.

Then, packed lunches were eaten and we chatted to members of the Kendal congregation. During the afternoon most of us went to see the Quaker Tapestry in a specially-designed museum. The tapestry was composed of a series of embroideries depicting significant moments in Quaker history and has been made by Quaker groups from all over the world. Now located in Kendal because Quaker, George Fox had begun his preaching on a local fell.

After enjoying tea and cakes in the Quaker Tearoom and/or the Chocolate Café, we set off to explore Kendal; shops were good, varied and conveniently concentrated around the town centre; the castle a little further away. The farmers’ market was popular and many plastic bags containing goodies were secreted onto the homeward-bound coach.

We had a very pleasant visit and thank the Kendal congregation for their warm welcome and Anne Mills for her excellent organisation and preliminary reconnaissance which made all run smoothly.

**NEWS FROM AINSWORTH UNITARIAN CHAPEL
SEPTEMBER 2010**

SUNDAY SERVICES in SEPTEMBER 2010

10.00 am 5 Sept. Mr Granville Leather
(Bank St Chapel, Bolton)

**3.00 pm 19 September HARVEST
FESTIVAL**

Rev John D. Allerton

Please note: No morning service this day

Normal Services take place twice a month

VISIT BY THE WOMEN'S LEAGUE, BOLTON

We were delighted to welcome members of the Women's League from Bank St Chapel, Bolton on a recent visit. The weather stayed fine and, following a tour around the Chapel and grounds, an afternoon tea was enjoyed by all. A big 'Thank you' to everyone who helped to make the event such a success.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness'

3.00 pm Sunday 19 September

The Rev John D. Allerton will be conducting our Harvest Festival on Sunday 19 September. Following the service, everyone is welcome to join us for Tea and cakes in the schoolroom.

NEWS OF PEOPLE

- * **Mrs Dorothy Roberts** wishes to thank everyone for their cards and good wishes on the occasion of her recent special birthday.
- * **Mr Harry Taylor** is now having some new treatment on his leg and we wish him well.

*We send our kind thoughts and best wishes to
any member or friend of The Chapel who is not well at the moment.*

“Bury Unitarian Church is an intentionally diverse religious community.”