

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH CALENDAR



Our splendidly-refurbished War Memorial

July 2025

Letter from the Minister

Dear all,

You might remember that last month I responded to someone's post on Facebook and was able to give her mother the chance to play on our church's beautiful grand piano.

This month has also involved us being noticed on social media. I posted a before-and-after picture of the war memorial out in our garden, on a group called Bury Olden Days (if you're on Facebook you might enjoy the group), and over five hundred people have now clicked the 'like' or 'love' button: that's social media speak for appreciating something and showing approval of it. There were lots of comments, as well, overwhelmingly expressing delight that it had been done. There was one "about time too" comment, but that's to be expected on Facebook, and someone had commented with "*great: how about the art gallery next*". I just pointed out that that would be something to take up with the council, rather than the church. I feel like our resources won't stretch to cleaning up every bit of stonework in Bury!

It's great that it's been done, and it really does look much better, but I'll leave it to the Property Manager to tell you more about it.

Any week now, I very much hope, our new website will be going live, and I hope that this will be another way to make our presence known. Unitarians have always been really bad at making ourselves known (I think many of you know that the first thing Ade said after I took him to a Unitarian service back in Norwich was "That was amazing. Why haven't I heard about this?"). A couple of people have recently found us by looking at our website, and we're working on giving ourselves a more obvious presence from the street, as well.

As Unitarians we have something really special to offer people, and if they don't know how to find us I think we're letting them down. It's an age-old problem, of course, and I think it springs from the days when Unitarianism was illegal and we had to be hidden from public view. That's no longer the case, though, and it's great that we're now able to show ourselves off. We just need to get used to that and start fighting our impulse to be too humble about ourselves!

You don't need me to tell you that the weather recently has been extremely mixed! We marked the Solstice with friends a few days ago, in blistering heat which made our bonfire impractical (though still delightful) and which meant it was far too hot to cook, so our Solstice feast came from the excellent Chinese takeaway about a minute's walk from our front door. In contrast, as I write this I'm about to head off to Manchester to lead the mid-week worship at Cross Street, and I'm taking both a cardigan and a raincoat.

Regardless of what the weather's doing, though, the earth is continuing to wheel beautifully through its annual cycle. We're past the longest day now, but the days are still long and light. Holebottom is still working its magic, and what's been most noticeable up there in the last week or so has been the blackberry flowers, which promise some good jam in a few weeks' time, and also the fact that although we're not yet out of June, the hawthorn berries are already forming, and it looks as though they're going to be pretty abundant this year.

And so, as we head into the height of summer, with whatever that may bring us, I send you blessings that it may bring us more of what nourishes us, and less of what exhausts us.

As ever, I send you my love

Kate.

News of our community

June Clarke

June died peacefully in hospital, after a short illness, on 14th April, five days before her 85th birthday.

June was very much loved at church, and particularly loved her involvement with Junior Church. She was one of our florists for many years, served on several committees, and was always in charge of raffles.

We send our love and prayers to her surviving children Dave, Roy, Gary, Bee, Mags, and Fred, and to her eleven grandchildren and twenty two great grandchildren.

June's funeral will take place in church on **Tuesday 1st July at 11am**, followed by a committal at the East Lancashire Crematorium at **12.30pm**. The family has invited everyone to a reception at the Fishpool Liberal Club (Nelson Street, BL8 9HX) afterwards.

Family flowers only, please.

Molly Ratcliffe

I heard from Molly's daughter Lis recently, who said "Jon (Molly's son) and I took mum's ashes up to Holebottom and scattered them in amongst the trees in the middle. It's such a lovely spot and just behind where her and dad first lived. Now I know where she is".

Molly joins many former members of the church, and family members of current church members, in lying in peace in our beautiful space at Holebottom.

Ade Brady

Many of you will know that Ade had another emergency admission to hospital during June. He had a peritoneal infection, and was home within a few days.

He has recently had an appointment with his gastroenterology consultant, who is referring him to the liver unit at St James's Hospital in Leeds. It could be several months before he has an appointment.

Ade and Kate are both hugely grateful, once again, for the calm and efficient way in which everyone at church simply picked up the reins when a crisis hit on a Saturday night. Particular thanks go to Marian, who took the service with no fuss whatsoever, and did an excellent job, by all accounts.

Church flowers

If you would like to make a donation for church flowers for a specific reason (or even 'just because'), please speak to Jean Maden or Rita Boardall. You can do this privately or it can be announced in notices or in the Calendar.

Please remember that I'm always happy to put personal news in the Calendar (so long as the news comes from the person concerned or I know you've got their consent!).

***We offer our prayers and our love to everyone, within our community
and outside it, who is in need of them.***

Roderick Lloyd

On May 19th, 2025, Anne and Roger attended the funeral of Rod Lloyd, the younger brother of Dave, our part-time photographer and film-maker. The funeral was held at St. Peter's Church, Bury; the Mayor and Mayoress were in attendance, and Scout-Leaders from around the Bury Area formed a Guard of Honour, as the coffin entered the church, and at the end of the service. The church was full of relatives, friends, and supporters of Rod, and The Mayoral presence, and the splendid Guard of Honour, paid tribute to the great esteem in which Rod was held, in the area.

You will probably never have heard the name of Rod Lloyd, and you may not be aware of his link with Bury Unitarian Church, but Rod was the person who delivered our Remembrance Day Service wreath, on behalf of The British Legion, for many years, as part of his voluntary duties; he also delivered wreaths to many churches, and other organisations, throughout the Bury area. Latterly, after the death of Lieutenant-Colonel Eric Davidson, MBE, Rod became responsible for the overall organisation of Bury's Remembrance Sunday commemorations. His voluntary activities, for The British Legion, and for The Scouting Groups in our area, were many and varied, and his was a huge time-commitment to the organisations he supported, in the long-term.

It was a privilege to know Rod, and to be present at his funeral. He gave freely of himself, and of his time, and these are qualities which we should all appreciate and remember. We hope that, as November 11th draws nearer, we will not forget Rod, especially on Remembrance Sunday, and everything he represented. He was truly an unsung hero. May he rest in peace.

Anne Mills

Worship in July

Kate will be leading worship on **Sundays 6th, 20th, and 27th July.**

The service on **Sunday 13th July**, when Kate will be on leave, will be led by Val Chamberlain and Ros Connolly.

There will be an Inclusive Communion after the service on **Sunday 27th July**: everyone is very welcome.

Ainsworth

Sunday 6th July 10.30am: Worship to be led by Christine Leather

Sunday 3rd August, 10.30am: Worship to be led by Rev Helen Mills

Upcoming meetings

Tuesday 1st July, 7pm: Church council

Tuesday 29th July, 7pm: Trustees

Saturday 19th July, 2pm, Padiham: NELUM finance group

Minister's schedule, July 2025

I will be taking time off from after the service on **Sunday 6th July** until the morning of **Saturday 19th July**. If there's an emergency, then of course I want you to contact me, but if it's something that can wait until I'm back, then please make a note of it and contact me after the 19th!

Vestry Days

It's possible that my only Vestry day this month will be on **Friday 25th July**, though I may also be in on **Friday 4th July**.

I will try to arrange another midweek vestry day at some point: please watch out for notices or emails. If you want to see me (and if I'm not on leave) please just contact me. Remember that Vestry Days are far from the only time I can see you: most of the time I see people in their homes!

My vestry days do sometimes change, so it's worth checking before making a special trip to see me, but when I'm in the kettle is always on and I'm always glad of the chance for a chat. Vestry days aren't great for private or very in-depth conversations and I'm happy to have those at different times.

August 2025 Calendar, and Calendar deadline dates

The deadline for entries for the August 2025 edition of the *Calendar* will be teatime on **Tuesday 29th July**, and we'll collate it on **Saturday 2nd August**.

We normally collate the Calendar on the last Saturday of the month, but this very occasionally moves to the first Saturday. The deadline for entries is always round about teatime on the Tuesday before that, so that I can start putting it together on Wednesday.

I do love getting things earlier than that, but most months I can be a little bit flexible: if you know you've got something to go in but it's not ready, and if you can let me know how long it is (half a page or a few lines or a whole page or more) then I can save space for it til about Wednesday teatime.

I can't change anything at all after about 10am on Friday, because that's normally when I press the 'print' button!

Regular Social Events

The Book Club will meet on **Wednesday, 30th July at 7pm**. The book for July is *How the Trouble Started*, by Robert Williams.

“An unnerving read which raises questions about innocence and culpability”: The Guardian.

Everyone is welcome, plenty of parking, drinks and nibbles.

Pam Gilbert

Camera Club

The Camera Club will meet on **Monday 7th July**, in person at church and **on Monday 21st July**, on Zoom, when the task at hand will be to select the photographs for the August *Calendar*. Janet Thatcher can supply Zoom link details.

All are welcome.

Second Sunday lunch

Kate will be away on 13th July, but there is absolutely nothing to stop you going to the pub for lunch without her.

In August we will probably go to the Robert Peel instead of the Art Picture House.

Social Gatherings

The next Saturday Social Gathering (and Calendar collation party) will be on **Saturday 2nd August** from 11am. You're very welcome just to join us for chat and something to eat; to join in with collating the Calendar (which is honestly more fun than it sounds); or to bring along a craft, a book, or a group of friends.

A trip to Croft Burial Ground, Monday 30th June

A group of us will be visiting the burial ground at Croft on **Monday 30th June**.

We're meeting at Kenyon Hall Farm for a cup of tea and maybe something to eat at 1.30 and then heading to Croft at 2.30, where we'll be shown around the burial ground by local historian Cheyenne Bower.

If you'd like to join us, please speak to Kate. There are two spaces available in Kate's car and we may be able to arrange other lifts.

The website

We are very close to the end of the process of moving to a new website, and I hope that by the time we're putting the August *Calendar* together we'll be able to include full details and even some pictures.

Gift Aid for 2024-25

Thank you for your generous financial donations to Bury Unitarian Church.

We have been able to claim Gift Aid on all these donations whether they are made through online banking, weekly envelopes, visitor envelopes or general donations on Sundays at coffee time. The total amount this year is £1835.62 which is a pleasing increase of £230.00 over last year.

These amounts are made possible by the accurate records we are able to keep – so if you know anyone (often visitors) who use the Gift Aid envelopes available in the back of the Sanctuary chairs, please encourage them to fill in the all information on the back of the envelope so we can include their donations in our claim.

Thank you to Susan Holt and our treasurer Lynda Arthur for keeping clear and helpful records.

If you have any questions about Gift Aid please do have a word...I can talk for hours on the subject if pressed but promise I'll keep my answers brief!

Val Chamberlain

Gift Aid Administrator.

'Private' bookings

You will sometimes see something in the what's on pages listed as a "private booking", and I know that this has caused some confusion.

Just to clarify, these bookings aren't in any way secret, and the full details are always in the church diary which is available for anyone to look at.

A 'private' booking just means that a group or individual has booked the space, and it isn't a church event, and therefore it's not appropriate for the Calendar (which is quite public) to give the details.

Notes from the building

We carve their names in stone we do, the names we shan't forget. For those who fell for love of us, we carve their names in stone.

The act of carving into stone is an extremely difficult process, and it has an incredibly significant outcome. From a Judeo-Christian perspective, stone carving is significant because Moses, is presented with the ten commandments inscribed by God's finger, on two blue stone slabs taken from the pavement at the Father's feet. Given this knowledge of import, for those we shall remember, we shall carve their names in stone.

According to one of the early communications theorists, philosopher Harold Innis, stone is a cold medium, a method of sending a message that is difficult, or impossible to physically move, and is very durable. This makes it 'time-biased', because it's difficult to move over distance and it lasts a long time. Innis compares such cold medium to hot medium, like paper; which is space-biased, that is something easy to move over distance but does not last a particularly long time. Given this gift of permanence, for those we shall remember, we shall carve their names in stone.

The names on our war memorial have these properties, they are important, and they must last. We must remember them, we owe them that, so we carved their names in stone.

It has been a special and wonderful gift to be able to organise, on your behalf, the repair and cleaning of our beautiful war memorial. It has genuinely been a privilege, and I would like to thank the trustees, and ask you to thank them too, for their help throughout this process. Without them, and their diligent use of funds, and pushing for the project's completion (over at least two years), we couldn't have got this done.

So we can see them clearly now, those names we carved in Stone, all those who fell for love of us, those names are carved in stone.

Ade Brady

Stewards for Sunday services July 2025

Sunday 6 th July	Barbara B and Jean B
Sunday 13 th July	Jean Maden with Eloise and Max
Sunday 20 th July	Ade Brady and Damion Langford
Sunday 27 th July	Beryl Bowden and Marian Price

Tea and coffee rota, June 2025

Sunday 6 th July	Jean Maden et al
Sunday 13 th July	Lois Williams and Pam Gilbert
Sunday 20 th July	Marian Price and Susan Holt
Sunday 27 th July	Janet Thatcher and Susan Mitchell

If you're on either the tea-and-coffee rota or the stewarding rota (or if you have any other church 'jobs'), please don't ever let that get in the way of your home or family life! Make church plans around your family plans, not vice-versa: there will always be someone who can cover for you!

If you would like to make a donation to cover the cost of tea and coffee on any given Sunday (perhaps to celebrate a birthday or an anniversary), please let Marian Price know. The usual donation is £10.

As with the church flowers, this can be done privately and anonymously, or I can make an announcement in notices or in the Calendar.

When there are five Sundays in a month, we provide a light breakfast before the service, and the after-service tea and coffee is on a help-yourself basis.

Looking ahead: VJ day service, 17th August

A reminder that I'd love your contributions to a VJ day service on Sunday 17th August: what we'd love to hear about is your memories of living during the war, or the stories your parents told you, and particularly your memories of VJ Day itself.

Later in August, on Sunday 31st, we'll be having our now-traditional Favourite Hymns and Readings service, so while you're thinking ahead you might like to start thinking about requests for that, as well!

Who would like a trip to Gorton Monastery?

Rod Boardall has recently visited Gorton Monastery, and has come back and enthused some of us about having a trip to visit it.

We haven't made any plans yet, but if you'd be interested, have a word with Kate, Rita, or Rod, and we'll see about planning a church outing.

It will probably be on a Tuesday so we can have a guided tour, and it's not likely to take place before September.

News and events from round the district and the denomination

Lancashire Collaborative Ministry: employment opportunities

The LCM is advertising two part-time posts, which could be combined into one, for its Rawtenstall site (the Unitarian Church, on Bank Street, Rawtenstall). This Unitarian Church has set out to use its superb building, and facilities, to support the local community. It currently runs a Food Bank, a Cookery Class and Cafe, and hosts several groups which are pleased to make use of its excellent amenities.

The LCM wishes to employ a Development Officer, to further its social action and support of the local community. This will be a half-time post, approximately, and the person appointed will report directly to The LCM Trustees; the appointee will be responsible for the second appointee (the Administrator). The Development Officer's proposed salary will be £1,200, per month.

The Administrator will be responsible for the care of the building; for bookings for the hire and use of rooms; and for paying building-expenses from church-funds. The salary proposed is £1,000, per month.

Both posts will qualify for normal holiday-allowance, appropriate to a half-time post, and for pension-contribution payments. The work, in both cases, allows for considerable flexibility in the way in which the jobs are carried out. Applicants should be sympathetic to the social action objectives of the church.

Applications by email will be welcome; these should be sent to carole.fahy@cannco.co.uk who can provide further information.

Anne Mills

Upcoming Cross Street concert

FRIDAY
25 JULY
1 pm



<<ello & piano

FREE RECITAL

A CONVERSATION
with/about home

Featuring **SCHUBERT's**
"ARPEGGIONE" SONATA

Cross St Chapel
Mcr City Centre, M2 1NL

BOOKING
Music@CrossStChapel.org.uk
ONLINE: tinyurl.com/TicketsCSC
TEXT: 077 2760 2768

 [@crossstmusic](#)



Aaron Breeze



Daria Fussl

Upcoming Bury Council event





GREATER MANCHESTER EMERGENCY SERVICES PRESENTS

FREE EVENT

Bringing communities together

Collabor8

BURY

Wednesday 30th July

The Derby High School, Radcliffe Road, Bury, BL9 9NH

12-4pm

Communities celebrating multiculturalism, faith and diversity, various stalls - food, faith, volunteer organisations. Come and see emergency vehicles police, fire, army and ambulances, Sikh martial arts demonstration Gatka, entertainment - Carol Godbys Theatre workshop - live performances, Live broadcasting by Roch Valley Radio, Foundation 92 bus (mobile youth club) and many more.

#Collabor8Bury

The Unitarian Christian Association

I am writing to you as Chairperson of the Unitarian Christian Officer group, to let you know about our Zoom Worship and our Zoom Bible Discussion group.

We hold our Worship services regularly on Sunday evenings at 6pm and our Bible Discussion group on Mondays at 6.30pm

We have many and varied Ministers and Lay people conducting the worship and there is also time after the service for those attending to have friendly conversations before closing.

The Bible discussion is often led by those who are regular attenders and offer a wide range of topics from diverse points of view. The subjects range from aspects of the Bible both new and old. Sometimes looking at specific characters or stories, or simply looking at one bible quote and discussing what it might mean to the group.

If you have any queries about attending either of our zoom sessions or think you may feel that you have something to contribute, please contact me. I will be happy to get you in touch with the appropriate organiser of each group.

My husband Alex and I attend both Zoom events most weeks and look forward to seeing new faces. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Jean Bradley

Retired Unitarian Minister. Chairperson of the UCA and Pastoral Officer

Ambulance Classes from The Calendar November 1890

The aim is to empower individuals to act effectively in emergencies, rather than being helpless bystanders.

The Ambulance Classes will begin work on Tuesday, November 4th, the young women's class will be under the care of Dr Handel Greenhalgh and the young men's class under Dr William Nuttall.

We are constantly hearing of new instances in which the "little knowledge" which may be gained from such classes as we are forming at Bank Street has been, not "a dangerous thing" but a decidedly and helpful and saving thing.

We are informed now that the life of one of our own scholars was saved, the other day, by a youth who knew what to do in order to stop the profuse flow of blood from a severed artery, and who had gained his knowledge at an ambulance class in the town.

Excellent and greatly to be desired is even so much knowledge as will help us, in sudden and alarming emergencies, to "keep our wits about us" and act with promptitude and the sure knowledge that, though we may not be able to do much, the little that we do is right.

The fee for the class is 2/- which will cover the expenses of the examination.



The history of the ambulance begins in ancient times, with the use of carts to transport patients. Ambulances were first used for emergency transport in 1487 by the Spanish forces.



In 1884, a horse-drawn ambulance for Liverpool ambulance service was created. It was the first in Britain.

Do you find this easier to read?

Almost everything we provide in print at church (including services, Calendars, letters, reports, and the minutes of most meetings) is available in a large-print format, and a recorded version of the Calendar is available on CD and on memory disk.

Accessibility

We want our church and our community to be as accessible to everyone as it possibly can be. As well as providing everything in large print, we have a hearing loop, wheelchair access at the back of the building, and an accessible toilet.

Our services and other events are fidget-friendly!

We have also have a lightweight, easily collapsible, sturdy wheelchair. The wheelchair lives in the cupboard under the front stairs, and you are free to use it at any time it would be useful in church.

If you have a short-term need at home and would like to borrow it, please speak to one of the church officers.

We know that there will be needs we haven't accounted for: if there is anything which would make it easier for you to engage with what we do, please do tell us!

Regular Events (all social events are subject to change)

Sundays:

11.15am: Morning service at Bury

First Sunday of the month:

10.30am: Morning service at Ainsworth

Second Sunday of the month:

12.30 (approx.): Second Sunday Lunch. Please join Kate at a local pub for lunch, a coffee, or a drink.

Fourth Sunday of the month:

12.30pm: Inclusive Communion Service at Bury

Fifth Sunday of the month (when there is one!)

10am: Fifth Sunday breakfast

Second and fourth Mondays of the month:

Camera Club

Last Wednesday of the month:

7pm (summer): Book club

Most Fridays:

10am-3pm (approx.): Minister's Vestry Day

Second Saturday of the month (very flexible!)

10am-3pm (approx.): Minister's Vestry Saturday

Last Saturday of the month (this sometimes moves to the first Saturday of the following month):

11am-1pm (approx.): Saturday Social Gathering

Variable dates, generally once a month:

7pm: Online meditation

What's on: July 2025

Unless specified, all these events are at Bury Unitarian Church

Sunday 29th June	10.15am: Fifth Sunday breakfast
Monday 30th June	1.30pm: Trip to Croft Burial Ground
Tuesday 1st July	11am: The funeral of June Clarke, followed by a committal at 12.30pm, and then a reception at the Fishpool Liberal Club
Tuesday 1st July	7pm: Church Council meeting
Friday 4th July (provisional)	10am – 3pm: Minister's Vestry Day
Saturday 5th July	3pm – 8pm: Private concert booking, sanctuary and lounge

Sunday 6th July

10.30am Ainsworth	Morning service, led by Christine Leather
11.15am Bury	Morning service, led by the minister

Monday 7th July	7pm: Camera Club meeting in person at church
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Wednesday 9th July	11am – 2pm: Private booking, lounge.
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Sunday 13th July

11.15am	Morning service, led by Val Chamberlain and Ros Connolly
12.30pm	Second Sunday lunch (Kate won't be here)

Saturday 19th July

2pm Padiham: NELUM finance group

Sunday 20th July

11.15am

Morning service, led by the minister

Monday 21st July

7pm: Camera Club, meeting on Zoom

Friday 25th July

10am-3pm: Minister's Vestry Day

Friday 25th July

1pm Cross Street Manchester: free recital

Sunday 27th July

11.15am

Morning service, led by the minister

12.30pm

Inclusive communion

Tuesday 29th July

Teatime: deadline for entries for the August *Calendar*.

Tuesday 29th July

7pm: Trustees' meeting

Wednesday 30th July

12-4 Derby High School: Collabor8

Wednesday 30th July

7pm: Book club meeting to discuss *How the Trouble Started*, by Robert Williams

Saturday 2nd August

11am: Saturday Social Gathering and Calendar Collation Party

Sunday 3rd August

10.30am Ainsworth

Morning service, led by Rev Helen Mills

11.15am Bury

Morning service, led by the minister

Church Information:

Minister:

Rev. Kate Brady McKenna

0161 460 3363 / 07751 240886

revkatemckenna@gmail.com

Church address: 1 Bank Street, Bury, BL9 0DN

Church phone: 0161 761 3785

Website: www.bury-unitarian-church.org.uk

Facebook: Bury Unitarian Church

Church officers

Chair of trustees: Janet Thatcher 01204 846573

Chair of church council: Jean Maden 07562 925352

Church secretary: Damion Langford 07443 578593

Chair of congregation: Betty Kenyon 01204 887222

Church treasurer: Lynda Arthur

Contact for room bookings and building maintenance

Property Manager Adrian Brady 07736 107143

Charity reg no: 10785



Meandering River Yare in Norfolk



Castlefield gardens in the centre of Manchester



Japanese Garden



Red Roses - in a garden



Beautiful Dahlia



Wooden owl – also in a garden!