

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH CALENDAR



*Our Minister, the Rev. Kate Brady McKenna,
surrounded by Pride, and wings!*

July 2024

Letter from the Minister

Dear all,

In true English style, I've leapt from last month's whinge about how cold it was, to whinging about how hot it is. By my age (fifty-six), and having always lived in the UK, you might think I'd be used to the chopping and changing of the English weather, but apparently not.

We do have so many ways now, though, to manage how we experience the weather (which is probably just as well given how much the climate is changing), and I do try to remember to be grateful for that. Earlier today we visited our storage unit (I don't like that we have one, and yet we do). The unit is housed in part of an old warehouse connected to a mill building, and it was extremely hot while we were in there, even when we'd opened the big shutters to try to let some air in. But we were there for about fifteen minutes, and pretty much because we'd chosen to be. It made me very mindful firstly that my own grandmother worked in a mill in Keighley, in the 1910s, and that the heat and noise in there must have been absolutely unbearable, and secondly that there are far too many people today still working in those conditions. I still grumbled about the heat, but it was a sharp reminder of how grateful we should be for improved working conditions (and the work unions have done to bring them about) and for modern comforts like fans and air conditioning at this time of year and warm waterproof clothing and well insulated buildings at other times.

It's okay to grumble when we're uncomfortable, but it's good to remind ourselves every so often of all the ways in which we know privilege.

This last month at church has been – as life often is – a mix of joys and frustrations.

It was a deep joy to be involved in the Bury Pride Parade. We were actually represented in the parade by members of the Cross Street congregation (and it was lovely to welcome them back to our church) but Ade and I stood outside church with Manchester's "Unitarians marry for love" banner, and attracted a lovely amount of positive attention. One man in the parade

paused, turned back to us, and called out “thank you”, and my heart nearly broke: we shouldn’t need to be thanked for loving people! And that’s why it’s so important that not only do we know that we love and affirm our LGBTQIA+ siblings and cousins, but that we make that love and affirmation clear and visible. As a member of the LGBTQIA+ community myself, I know how important it is to people.

So it made me incredibly sad (and, I’ll be honest, angry) that someone chose to pull down the Progress Flag banner from the outside of our building. I’d like to believe that it was random, but there’s almost no doubt that it was pulled down because of what it stands for, and what it stands for is support, love, and affirmation for a community which still faces discrimination and, in many places, persecution. That someone took against it so strongly that they felt it needed to be put in the bin speaks volumes for how important it still is that we continue to display it.

But as is so often the case, good things have already come out of the incident. We learned how quickly our sign-makers can act, for one thing, and thanks to their speedy work and Ade’s ability to go up a ladder, the banner was back by mid-afternoon the day after it was removed. And I’ve had some lovely responses from the congregation.

But perhaps more important in some ways is that there were a couple of really heart-warming comments on the local LGBTQIA+ forum on Facebook: someone (who isn’t a church member) said “the Unitarian church is a beacon of inclusivity and love”.

We should be really proud to be seen in that way. And as someone from church said “they can’t bin our thoughts and our beliefs”.

So as we move further into the summer – and as the light starts to fade – I hope we can all remember that we’re seen as beacons of inclusivity and love, and work to live up to it.

As ever, I send you my love.

Kate.

News of our community

Rene Hollos has recently moved into a nursing home in Bolton, where she is apparently happy and comfortable. She'd enjoy visits from her friends, and I've asked her daughter to give her our love.

Anne Mills – NELUM Secretary

With apologies to Anne for what my fingers typed while my brain was obviously not paying attention: Anne is *secretary* of NELUM, not treasurer, which is what I mistakenly said in the last *Calendar*.

Minister's schedule, July 2024

I'm preaching in Norwich on **Sunday 7th July**, and will be staying over for a couple of days either side of that. I'm also going to be at a short overnight gathering at Great Hucklow for the night of the **11th and 12th July**. Other than that, I don't have any plans to be away during July.

I try to take Thursday as a Sabbath, and sometimes take another day off in the week as well: please listen out in notices for details of my days off.

Church Council

The next meeting of the Church Council will be on **Tuesday 9th July at 7pm**.

Worship

The service on **Sunday 7th July** will be led by Hannah Stephenson.

All the other services during July will be led by the minister.

Communion

This month's Inclusive Communion will take place on **Sunday 28th July**, at around **12.30 or 12.45**. Everyone is welcome.

Ainsworth

Sunday 7th July, 10.30am: Service to be led by Janine Sim

Mid-month mid-week meditations

I'll be offering an online meditation on **Tuesday 16th July at 7pm**: the session will last between half an hour and forty minutes, and everyone is very welcome. Please let me know by Monday teatime if you'd like to attend.

This is a week later than normal, to avoid a clash with the Church Council meeting, and at the request of some of the regular attendees, it's an hour later than it has been in the past.

Vestry Days: most Fridays, and one Saturday a month

I plan to be in the vestry between **10am and 3pm** on **Saturday 13th** and **Fridays 19th, and 26th July**. I may try to add an extra Vestry Day on a different weekday this month, so please watch out for notices about that.

It's worth bearing in mind that people are often in and out on a Friday (which is the point of the vestry days), so if you want a more in-depth or confidential and uninterrupted chat, it would be better to arrange this on a different day.

Please remember that these vestry days aren't instead of meeting up with me either at your home or in a coffee shop somewhere, or in the vestry on a different day. They're an addition to all those ways of catching up with me!

Second Sunday lunch

Kate will be going to the Art Picture House for her lunch after the service on **Sunday 14th July**.

There are normally between two and five of us, and we each pay for whatever we're having, but please don't let money be a reason not to come: have a quiet word with Kate and we'll sort it out.

Regular Social Events

Book Club

Our book club is now meeting in the evening, with plenty of parking available. We next meet on **Wednesday, 31st July at 7.00pm**. The book to be discussed is *The News Where You Are*, by Catherine O'Flynn.

There is no need to buy the book: the library supplies us with copies. They only have eight copies of this month's book, so we may have to share them around a bit to make sure that people who are at the meeting get a chance to read it first!

Refreshments are available, as are lifts home if required.

Pam Gilbert

Camera Club

The Camera Club will meet on **Monday 8th July at 7pm** in person, and on **Monday 22nd July at 7pm** on Zoom. Everyone is welcome to join the group: please speak to one of the members for details (if you don't know who is in the Camera Club, Kate can tell you!).

Social Gatherings

The next gathering will take place from **11am on Saturday 27th July**: you are really welcome to join us, whether you'd like to get involved with collating the next edition of the Calendar, or just fancy joining us for a cup of tea, coffee, or hot chocolate and some friendly companionship.

Notes from the building.

Holebottom is positively glowing at the moment. The growth has been tremendous. So tremendous has it been that following a full cut back of the growth along the road last month, this coming month will require another, or we won't be able to access the road at all.

There are many, many reasons for this rise in growth, but mostly it's been the weather, we have had a very wet summer, which hasn't been all that great for us, but the plants, in particular, have loved it. I always feel a little bit grumpy when I do a job and wind up needing to do it again for whatever reason, particularly if that job takes me more than a few hours and I feel like I've done a really good job on it the first time; but if there is one thing you can't fight, it's nature.

But it's times like these, when Holebottom is overgrown, or when we have water ingress in the church building (another constant source of my generally grumpy demeanour) that I remember the words of the song 'Reclaimed' by Steeleye Span.

*It all starts with the weed between the paves.
Roots and time will move concrete and iron.
And ivy and water will loosen any mortar.
All that man has built will crumble down to silt.
And all of this will again be green space.
This too shall be reclaimed.*

In regards to the road and the building we have to accept some contentment with fighting and winning those battles while we can, and perhaps taking a little pride in that, because eventually, we will lose the war. It will all be reclaimed, that's only natural I'm afraid.

Ade Brady

August 2024 Calendar:

The deadline for entries for the August edition of the Calendar will be teatime on **Tuesday 23rd July**, and we'll collate it on **Saturday 27th July**.

Website update

We have recently been given the first view of our new website: it looks and 'feels' really good, though there are still some changes to be made before it goes live, and the planning team (Ewen Sim, Janine Sim, Kate Brady McKenna, Neville Kenyon, and Roger Mills) will be looking at it very carefully in the next couple of weeks.

Even once it's gone live, it will be easy for us to update and amend it, so if there are any changes later on, it should be a relatively straightforward thing to do.

"Soul Deep"

I still plan to facilitate a 'Soul Deep' course later in the summer or early in autumn, but because some of the people who are keen to attend have had things happen in their own lives, there may be a bit of a delay.

Watch this space!

Advance notice



Bury Unitarian Church

**Summer
Afternoon Tea**

**Saturday 15th August,
2pm - 4pm**

**Tickets £5 per person
Please invite your friends,
family, and neighbours:
everyone is welcome**

There will be a raffle
all profits will go to the Unitarian
Ministerial Students Fund

**Tickets available from
Susan Holt**

Stewards for Sunday services July 2024

Sunday 7 th July	Faye Casey and Susan Mitchell
Sunday 14 th July	Barbara Bamford and Jean Brookhouse
Sunday 21 st July	Howard Maden and Jean Maden
Sunday 28 th July	Damion Langford and Ade Brady

I think I've spoken to everyone affected by this: the stewarding rota has been amended for the rest of the year, so your dates will not be as they were. I hope it doesn't cause too much confusion or too much extra work: remember that there will always be someone on hand to do the job if the people on the rota can't make it for some reason.

Without naming names (because I don't have consent to do so) I want to thank the two pairs of stewards who have recently stepped down from the rota: your work in the past is hugely appreciated, and I also know that it takes courage, sometimes, to say that a particular role is no longer one which you feel able to continue to do.

Tea and coffee rota, July 2024

Sunday 7 th July	Howard Maden and Jean Maden
Sunday 14 th July	Lois Williams and Pam Gilbert
Sunday 21 st July	Marian Price and Susan Holt
Sunday 28 th July	Rita Boardall and Susan Mitchell

Amended stewarding rota July – December 2024

July		October	
Jul 7th	Faye Casey Susan Mitchell	Oct 6th	Damion Langford (and Ade)
Jul 14th	Barbara Bamford Jean Brookhouse	Oct 13th	Beryl Bowden Marian Price
Jul 21st	Howard Maden Jean Maden	Oct 20th	Faye Casey Susan Mitchell
Jul 28th	Damion Langford (and Ade)	Oct 27th	Barbara Bamford Jean Brookhouse
August		November	
Aug 4th	Beryl Bowden Marian Price	Nov 3rd	Howard Maden Jean Maden
Aug 11th	Faye Casey Susan Mitchell	Nov 10th	Damion Langford (and Ade)
Aug 18th	Barbara Bamford Jean Brookhouse	Nov 17th	Beryl Bowden Marian Price
Aug 25th	Howard Maden Jean Maden	Nov 24th	Faye Casey Susan Mitchell
September		December	
Sep 1st	Damion Langford (and Ade)	Dec 8th	Barbara Bamford Jean Brookhouse
Sep 8th	Beryl Bowden Marian Price	Dec 15th	Howard Maden Jean Maden
Sep 15th	Faye Casey Susan Mitchell	Dec 22nd	Damion Langford (and Ade)
Sep 22nd	Barbara Bamford Jean Brookhouse	Dec 29th	Beryl Bowden Marian Price
Sep 29th	Howard Maden Jean Maden		

News from around the District and around the Denomination

Clover Street, Rochdale, Anniversary Service

Rochdale Unitarians are holding their 50th Anniversary Service on **Sunday 7th July at 3pm**. The deadline to join them for tea has passed, but I know they would love to see some of us there.

We send our congratulations to Clover Street on their anniversary, and wish them many more years of happy and nourishing ministry.

NELUM meeting

The next NELUM General Council meeting will be at Ansdell Unitarian Chapel on **Saturday 20th July at 2pm**

There will be a buffet lunch at 1pm, which needs to be prebooked (with Anne Mills) by **Saturday 13th July**.

Next Cross St Chapel Manchester concert: Friday 5th July

(please note that this is much earlier in the month than normal)

FRI 5 JULY, 1 PM

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

FREE PIANO RECITAL

IDA PELLICCIOLI



“A force of nature, Ida Pelliccioli has her own style.”

~ Massimiliano Cerrito - Founder/President of the Festival Barocco Napoletano

SCARLATTI | MOZART | BLASCO DE NEBRA | SCHUBERT

CROSS ST CHAPEL, Mcr, M2 1NL | #CrossStMusic

Music@CrossStChapel.org.uk | 07511 205 220

By-Gone Times by Betty Kenyon: Number 48.

Rev Charles William Townsend at Bury 1922-1926

Some of the following information was given to me by retired minister Rev Andrew Hill.

C. W. Townsend was educated at the Metropolitan Baptist College, 1904-8; then minister

(Baptist), 1908-18;

(Unitarian), Longsight, Manchester 1919-22;

Bury, Bank St., 1922-26;

B.F.U.A. Home Missionary Minister, 1926-29;

Minister Manchester Cross Street 1929-42, with Sale 1941-42;

Torquay 1942-51.

He died May 1952.

British and Foreign Unitarian Association (BFUA): the major Unitarian body in Britain from 1825.

The BFUA was founded as an amalgamation of three older societies: the Unitarian Book Society for literature (1791), The Unitarian Fund for mission work (1806), and the Unitarian Association for civil rights (1818 or 1819).

Its offices were shared with the Sunday School Association at Essex Hall, London on the site of England's first Unitarian church.

In 1928 the BFUA became part of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, whose headquarters continue to be based at Essex Hall in London.

Unitarian Home Missionary College, Summerville, Manchester.

Summerville was the home of Lt Col Sir Harry Smith between 1857 and 1858, among his other roles in life he was Governor of the Cape of Good Hope. The city of Ladysmith in South Africa is named after his wife.

In 1859 William Kessler, a prominent Manchester Merchant was the occupant until 1904. After the Kesslers left, Summerville was converted into Unitarian College Manchester.



Summerville now contains fully furnished apartments.

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 recently taken possession of a new 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 Monday (in person) and Fourth Monday (online) of the month:

7pm: Camera Club

Second Tuesday of the month:

7pm: Online meditation

Last Wednesday of the month:

7pm (summer): Book club

Most Fridays:

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

Second Saturday of the month:

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

What's on: July 2024

Monday 1st July	9.30 – 2.30: BRC booking (entire building)
Wednesday 3rd July	1.30-3.30: Downstairs lounge booking (U3A)
Wednesday 3rd July	2-3 pm: boiler servicing
Friday 5th July	1pm: Cross Street Chapel Manchester free concert series

Sunday 7th July	
10.30am Ainsworth	Morning service, led by Janine Sim
11.15am Bury	Morning Service, led by Hannah Stephenson
3pm Rochdale	50 th Anniversary service

Monday 8th July	9.30 – 2.30: BRC booking (entire building)
Monday 8th July	7pm: Camera Club, meeting in person
Tuesday 9th July	7pm: Church Council Meeting
Wednesday 10th July	11-1: Downstairs lounge booking (Bury VCFA)
Saturday 13th July	10-3: Minister's Vestry Saturday

Sunday 14th July	
11.15am Bury	Morning service
12.30 approx.	Second Sunday Lunch

Monday 15th July	9.30 – 2.30: BRC booking (entire building)
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Tuesday 16th July 7pm: Zoom meditation (link to follow)

Friday 19th July 10-3: Minister's Vestry Day

Saturday 20th July 2pm: NELUM general council meeting, Ansdell Chapel

Sunday 21st July 11.15am Bury:	Morning service
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Monday 22nd July 9.30 – 2.30: BRC booking (entire building)

Monday 22nd July 7pm: Camera Club, **meeting on Zoom**

Tuesday 23rd July Teatime: deadline for entries for the August Calendar

Friday 26th July 10-3: Minister's Vestry Day

Saturday 27th July 11am onwards: Saturday Social Gathering and Calendar Collation party

Sunday 28th July 11.15am Bury: 12.30pm approx.:	Morning service Inclusive Communion
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Monday 29th July 9.30 – 2.30: BRC booking (entire building)

Wednesday 31st July 7pm: Book club meeting in person to discuss *The News Where You Are* by Catherine O'Flynn

Church Information:

Minister:

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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

Church secretary: Karen Hampson 0161 766 2283

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: 107857



Primroses - a summertime splash of colour



White & Red Amaryllis Flower



Blackbird



Honey Bee



Cactus Flower