

# **BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH CALENDAR**



*“At the going-down of the sun  
and in the morning,  
we will remember them!”*

## **November 2024**

## Letter from the Minister

Dear all,

This last month has brought us too much bad news, with the deaths of three of our beloved friends in short succession. A death in the community is always hard to bear, of course, but this month has rocked us all. Each of our friends who has died was loved and valued by us all, and I know that our church was very important to all of them, and so it's right that we mourn them and that we acknowledge and honour our shared sadness.

I say 'honour' deliberately: sadness is an important emotion, and grieving for those we've lost is one of the ways in which we continue to love them once their life has ended.

CS Lewis, in *The Magician's Boy*, has Aslan saying "I know grief is great. Let us be good to each other", and I know that we are being good to each other as we go through this period of loss.

Being in community together means experiencing everything that life has for us, and sharing it with one another. And so, as we acknowledge our grief, we also continue to find joy. I always love the buzz of conversation in the lounge before and after services, and that exchange of news and stories that goes on. As with all lives, some of the news and stories are sad, and much of it is happy. I catch snippets of people talking about loss, of course, and ill-health, and also about new great grandchildren and successful repotting of plants in the garden, and what's going on over at the market and how their holiday was and what they're watching on the telly. Some of it is huge, and some of it is tiny, and all of it is what makes the world continue to be the glorious fascinating place it is, and what makes people the glorious fascinating creatures we are.

It is very special that we have a community of faith where, of course, we can talk about lofty spiritual matters, but where we also know that day-to-day life is to be cherished and honoured.

Round about the time you'll be reading this, the clocks will either be about to change or will have just changed. This is the clock change where, if you get it wrong, you turn up at church an hour early, rather than an hour late, so it's always a little bit safer in that respect, although the first few dark evenings can come as a bit of a shock.

It was about this time of year that Ade and I first arrived in Bury: we moved here on Halloween in 2016, and I started work the following day. I think there may be some boxes in the loft that we haven't fully gone through yet, but maybe they can wait until the tenth anniversary.

Before we moved to Bury, we had no real idea what to expect, but we certainly didn't expect to fall in love with it in the way we have. One thing I love about living here is that when you're away, and you bump into someone who used to live here but has moved away, their face almost always lights up as they tell you how much they miss it and how they love visiting. It really is a special place. Whenever we're away, and we go to Norfolk and Dorset regularly, both of which are better known as beauty spots than East Lancashire, we're always just so relieved and pleased to be coming home. That first sight of the word 'Bury' on the motorway signs always makes us both go "yay, Bury!".

Of course, a huge part of feeling so at home here is the congregation at our church: I've said before that you have a reputation for being a congregation who always extends a really warm welcome and makes visitors and new people feel seen and wanted and included, and you certainly did that for us, eight years ago. If you could all just stop thinking that this East Anglian comes from the south, it would be perfect!

I hope that these next weeks, with all that November brings, also bring you peace and nourishment, and that we continue to honour Aslan, and "let us be good to each other".

As ever, I send you my love.

*Kate*

## News of our community

### **Nancy Chadwick**

Nancy died peacefully in hospital, after a short illness, on 24<sup>th</sup> September, aged 103. Nancy had been attending our church for very many years, and loved our openness, our hymns, and the freedom to debate and discuss religious and other matters. She remained independent until very near the end of her life, and was able to take her annual holiday to Devon with her stepdaughter in the summer.

Nancy's funeral will take place on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November** at 12 noon in church, followed by a committal at the East Lancashire Crematorium.

### **Molly Ratcliffe**

Molly died peacefully at her nursing home in Cumbria on 4<sup>th</sup> October, aged 91. Molly was a lifelong member of Chesham and then Bury Unitarian churches, and was always active in church life, including serving for many years as a trustee. Many of the current congregation remember Molly teaching them in Sunday school, and for her hard and tireless work in all sorts of areas of church life. Molly moved into residential care in Cumbria four years ago, but remained a much loved member of our community.

Molly's funeral took place on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Ian Barlow**

Ian died suddenly and unexpectedly on 6<sup>th</sup> October, aged 61. Ian had been a member of our church since his childhood, and returned (and became a member again) following some time living overseas. He was always a cheerful and helpful presence in church, and was always willing to help with anything which needed to be done. His friendly smile will be much missed.

Ian's funeral will take place on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November** at 12.30pm at the East Lancashire Crematorium.

### **Peter Whewell**

Peter has returned home following a stay in residential care, and is recovering well. It's been a joy to see him back at church again recently.

### **Ade Brady**

Following months of uncertainty since his health crisis in the summer, Ade has recently been told that his condition is chronic, rather than terminal, and that although there will be difficult times and he will eventually deteriorate, this shouldn't be for many years yet.

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

## **Worship in November**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November</b>  | Professor Geoff Levermore, GA President |
| <b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November</b> | <b>10.55am:</b> The Minister            |
| <b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November</b> | Marian Price                            |
| <b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November</b> | Damion Langford                         |

### **Remembrance Observations.**

Our service on **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November** (Remembrance Sunday) will begin at 10.55 so that we are able to observe the two-minutes' silence at 11am, as Roger Mills lays our wreath on the war memorial in our garden.

We will then make our way indoors, where we will remember all of those from Bury, Chesham and Heywood who died during the two world wars.

If it would be better for your health to observe the silence from inside the sanctuary, we absolutely welcome and respect that choice.

After the service Kate and Ade will be laying poppies at the war graves at Holebottom. You are very welcome to join them.

On **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November** I will be observing the silence over at the Gallipoli Gardens, and you are very welcome to join me. Let's meet in church at 10.45 and walk over together, and then you are invited back for hot drinks and biscuits.

Poppies (red and white) will be available in church on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October and Sundays 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> November.

*We respect any choices people make about the wearing of poppies of any colour, or not wearing a poppy at all. You are welcome, no matter what.*

## **Communion**

As Kate will be on leave, there will be no communion during November: if anyone else would like to lead a communion (and as Unitarians, anyone who wishes to can do so), Kate can provide anything which is needed.

## **Mid-month mid-week meditations**

Kate will be offering a midweek Zoom meditation on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November** at 7pm: please let her know by the Monday teatime if you'd like to attend.

## **Ainsworth**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 10.30am:** Remembrance Service, led by Shirley Horrocks. You are invited to say a few words, or to do a short reading if you would like to.

## Minister's schedule, November 2024

I will be on leave from **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November** until **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November**.

I was due to be on retreat during the first week of November, but work needs have taken priority, so I will be at work as normal.

### **Vestry Days: most Fridays, and one Saturday a month**

I will be holding Vestry Days on **Fridays 1<sup>st</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> November**, and on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>** (on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> I will be taking part in Cross St. Chapel's 'Anthems for Advent' event).

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.

### **Second First Sunday lunch**

On **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November** I will be going to the Art Picture House after the service, and I would love it if you could join me for a drink, a coffee, or your lunch. Please don't let money be a reason not to come: have a quiet word with me and we will sort it out.

## **December 2024 / January 2025 Calendar**

The deadline for entries for the December 2024 and January 2025 edition of the Calendar will be teatime on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November**, and we'll collate it on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

As this is the last Saturday Social Gathering before Christmas, the snacks will be appropriately festive, despite the fact that Advent won't start until the next day.



## “Soul Deep”: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November

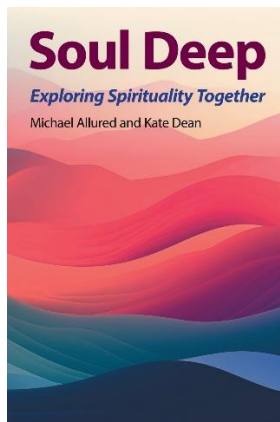
“Soul Deep” is an eight-session course devised by Unitarian ministers Rev Kate Dean and Rev Michael Allured, and is described as

*a course of spiritual exploration for small groups, designed to encourage personal reflection and shared insights. Each session plan includes suggested readings and activities, with detailed practical guidance for facilitators, to help participants find meaning and spiritual fulfilment in their daily lives.*

We will be running this course on various dates (we’ll choose the date for each session at the end of the previous one), starting in the afternoon of **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November**, at 2pm at church.

It will be very helpful to get hold of a copy of the book before the first session, and to read the first chapter. The book is available from retailers for £10, but if you would like to take part and are unable to purchase a copy, please speak to Kate. Money should never be a reason not to be involved in a church activity.

Please let Kate know if you’d like to join us. And please bring snacks: the kettle will be on!



## Regular Social Events

### Book Club

The Book Club will meet on **Wednesday 27th November** at 2pm in the church lounge. The book to be discussed is: *The Fortunate Brother* by Donna Morrissey. This story is set in Newfoundland. Family conflict, crime, neighbourhood help, resolution - look it up on the internet!

We welcome new readers, come along and join us for a session! No need to have read the current book.

Coffee/ tea and biscuits but very little parking at church.

*Pam Gilbert*

### Camera Club

The Camera Club will meet on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November** (in person) and **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November** (on Zoom) , at 7pm.

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 30<sup>th</sup> November**: 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.**

There is an awful lot going on with the building right now, and with my recent health crisis one of the major jobs has meant yet another rise in that dreaded word... 'paperwork'.

What my health crisis has shown is that we need to have absolutely everything to do with running the church written down; because at the moment far too much of 'how to manage our building' is locked inside my long-term memory.

While it is now unlikely that I'm going to have to pass my work off to someone else very soon, it is always a possibility, so everything needs to be put together in a series of manuals that show how to do everything from running basic building checks to setting up and programming the heating.

It might sound easy to just pick up things like this; because we all have heating in our homes, and we all know to check our doors are locked at night, but that's where a lot of our problems come from; a commercial building is both legally and functionally very, very different from a domestic property; not only are they built differently, they run differently (no-one has a home with five heating settings over four separate heating control units for instance), and we can't be held liable for not checking our homes for asbestos, or not getting PAT tests done, and for the vast majority of us, lift servicing and certification isn't a fairly regular occurrence.

There's an awful lot that just happens in the background of the church that no-one gets to see, and God willing I'll be around to do it all for quite some time; but if the worst happens and I'm not, that work cannot just stop happening while someone new figures everything out from scratch.

*Ade Brady*

## **Church Council**

Church council met on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October, and the minutes of that meeting will be available on the board soon.

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**.

## **Trustees**

The Trustees meet on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November** at 7pm in the lounge.

## **Website update**

This is still underway: recent events within our community (and my time off) have pushed it lower down the list of things than I'd like, but it is very much still on the radar.

## Stewards for Sunday services November 2024

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November  | Howard Maden and Jean Maden   |
| Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> November | Ade Brady and Damion Langford<br><b>The service will start at 10.55 am.</b> |
| Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> November | Beryl Bowden and Marian Price   |
| Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> November | Faye Casey and Susan Mitchell   |
| Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> December  | Barbara Bamford and Jean Brookhouse   |

## Tea and coffee rota, September 2024

|                                  |                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November  | Howard Maden and Jean Maden      |
| Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> November | Lois Williams                    |
| Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> November | Marian Price and Susan Holt      |
| Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> November | Rita Boardall and Susan Mitchell |
| Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> December  | Howard Maden and Jean Maden      |

If you'd like to help Lois with refreshments on the second Sunday of the month (or just occasionally as a one-off), I know she'd really appreciate that!

## **Looking ahead to Advent and Christmas (other events may be added!)**

### **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November: Paper Flower workshop**

Jean Maden will be teaching us how to make paper flowers. Time to be confirmed.

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December: Chalice Circle**

Hannah will be leading us in a Chalice Circle at 11.15am. This is a quiet, reflective service, in which everyone is invited to participate. You're welcome to bring along a poem, reading, or an item which puts you in mind of the festive season.

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December: Carols by Candlelight**

One of the highlights of our year: please join us for Carols by Candlelight at 3pm. During the service we will be collecting toys to donate to the Wood Street Mission, who will distribute them to underprivileged children and young people. After the service there will be a chance to do some Fair Trade shopping, with a stall from Justicia in Bolton.

### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

Morning worship, 11.15am, followed by a third Sunday lunch.

### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

Morning worship, 11.15am

### **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Eve Communion**

A communion for Christmas Eve (time to be decided when I know if there's a wish for this).

### **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December: Worship for Christmas morning**

Before the service you're welcome to join us for a light breakfast

## **Christmas greetings in the December Calendar**

If you would like to send a Christmas message in the December Calendar, please let Kate have the wording (on a note in the box which will be on the table at the back of the room, or by email) by **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November**.

## **Music and Readings for Carols by Candlelight**

Please let Kate know your requests for carols or readings, and your offers to read, by the end of November.

## **Singers and performers**

Kate will be contacting people very soon to see if we can gather a group to sing at the carol service, and if so, to decide on what we'll be singing! If you have a solo you'd like to share with us, please let her know.

## **Wood Street Mission Toy Collection**

If you'd like to donate to the Wood Street Mission Toy Appeal, please either bring your contribution to the Carol Service, or drop it off at church any time from now onwards if that's easier.

The request is for new, unwrapped toys, gifts, or books, for children from birth to 14. They would also love gifts of wrapping paper, tags, or Sellotape.

If you'd like to donate but would find it awkward to shop, Kate will accept cash to spend on your behalf: please let her have any cash donations by Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December.

## **News from around the District and around the Denomination**

### **Annual Meetings**

Details of the 2025 Annual Meetings have been announced: the meetings will take place from Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> to Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April, at the Birmingham Airport Hilton Hotel. Please consider whether you might be able to be one of our delegates (fully funded by the church).

### **NELUM**

The last General Meeting of NELUM was held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October, and was attended by 31 people including five members from Bury, in various capacities.

The next meeting will be on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025 at Bolton Unity.



PADIHAM UNITARIAN CHAPEL BB12 8JH



**LARGE**

**21<sup>st</sup>** **MODEL RAIL  
EXHIBITION**

**Live steam, Large  
& Small scales  
Demonstrations**

**2nd Nov. 10am-4pm**

**Admission £4  
Children £1.50**

**Home Made  
Refreshments**

**UNITARIAN COLLEGE MINISTRY STUDENTS  
& CZECH UNITARIAN SOCIETY INVITE YOU TO**

# **WORSHIP WITH US**



**7PM, FRIDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER**

**SERVICE WILL BE MOSTLY IN ENGLISH.**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89111432160?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89111432160?pwd=MyAaatb5lQprpzhd4vmPFgNd97Pg8g.1)  
[pwd=MyAaatb5lQprpzhd4vmPFgNd97Pg8g.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89111432160?pwd=MyAaatb5lQprpzhd4vmPFgNd97Pg8g.1)

**Meeting ID: 891 1143 2160**  
**Passcode: 226499**

**Unitarian College**  
Growing our faith from the inside



## An event for new Unitarians: Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November, online



Are you new to Unitarianism? Would you like to find out more? Maybe ask questions and meet other newbies? If you're nodding your head, then here's an opportunity that might just be what you're looking for.

You are warmly invited to an open zoom call for anyone who feels intrigued, excited or even a little bemused by our inclusive, free-thinking and welcoming movement, or if you feel you want to simply learn more and connect with others who have questions

The zoom call will be hosted by Kieren and Lizzie who were once new Unitarians themselves and are now training for ministry. They will be available to answer your queries, share their personal journeys, and help facilitate discussions within the group.

As with all our groups, the invitation is to show up exactly as you are, and to simply be. Whatever you are feeling and whatever you are thinking, you will be warmly welcomed and valued. There's no obligation to share—unless you feel comfortable doing so. Your thoughts, your feelings, and your story are respected in the safe space we create together.

We look forward to welcoming you and embarking on this journey together.

## Cross Street Chapel: Anthems for Advent

Two members of Bury Unitarian Church (Kate and Marian) will be taking part in this concert, and it's always a hugely enjoyable and high quality event with professional and amateur performers and congregational carols.

# ANTHEMS FOR ADVENT

## FRI 29 NOV, 1 pm

Cross Street Unitarian Chapel

Mcr City Centre, M2 1NL

#CrossStMusic



DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?

**ENTRY FREE** Donations in aid of

*Mince Pies & Wine*  
After the Performance



[Music@CrossStChapel.org.uk](mailto:Music@CrossStChapel.org.uk)

Text: 07 511 20 522 0 | Book: [tinyurl.com/TicketsCSC](https://tinyurl.com/TicketsCSC)

**By Gone Times no 52, November 2024 by Betty Kenyon**

**A Debating Society**

from The Calendar of December 1891

A Debating Society has been formed in connection with the Boys' Newsroom, but membership is open to all adult members of the school and congregation, ladies or gentlemen.

The society meets every Monday evening, in the lecture room, at 8 o'clock. Discussions have already been held on

technical education,  
smoking,  
socialism  
capital punishment.

On Monday evening next, Mr John Lord opens a debate on education.

If time permits, the members engage in what is known as "sharp practice,"—prompt, unprepared speaking on subjects given to each speaker then and there. We wish the society all success.

*I have searched after 1891 in the Calendars but no further mention is made of the Debating Society. Was it "sharp practice" I wonder, that caused its downfall?\**

Institutions that did flourish:

The Library,  
Dorcas Society,  
The Benevolent Society,  
Natural History Society,  
Industrial School,  
Day Schools,  
Sunday School,  
The Ladies Committee, B  
Bury League of Unitarian Women.

*\*there are mixed opinions on this in the manse. The minister would have left after the first mention of 'sharp practice' and the minister's spouse says "I could do that all day long"!*

## 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 (very variable!):

7pm: Online meditation

### Last Wednesday of the month:

2pm (winter): 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: November 2024

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November** 10-3: Minister's Vestry Day

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 10.30 am Ainsworth: | Remembrance Service, led by Shirley Horrocks.     |
| 11.15am Bury        | Morning Service, led by Professor Geoff Levermore |
| 12.30 approx.       | <i>First Sunday lunch</i>                         |

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November** 2pm: "Soul Deep" session one

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November** 12.30pm: The funeral of Ian Barlow (East Lancashire Crematorium)

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November** 10-3: Minister's Vestry Day

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November** 10-3 Minister's Vestry Saturday

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November** Time TBC: Zoom session for new Unitarians

### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November**

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 10.55am Bury | Remembrance service, led by the minister       |
| 12.45        | Laying of poppies at Holebottom Burial Ground. |

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November** 10.45am: gather at church to join the Remembrance Observation at the Fusiliers Garden. Tea and coffee will be available afterwards.

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November** 2pm: Camera Club, **meeting in person**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November** 7pm: Trustees meeting

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November** 12 noon: The funeral of Nancy Chadwick, followed by an interment at the East Lancashire Crematorium

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November** 7pm: Zoom meditation. Please let Kate know by Monday teatime if you'd like to attend.

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November** 11-1: *downstairs lounge booking*

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November** 7pm: Online "worship with us" event.

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November**

11.15am Bury

Morning service, led by Marian Price

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November**

11.15am Bury

Morning service, led by Damion Langford

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November**

7pm: Camera Club, **meeting on Zoom**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November**

Deadline for entries for the December and January *Calendar*

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November**

2pm: Book club meeting to discuss *The Fortunate Brother* by Donna Morrissey.

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November**

1pm: Cross Street Manchester: Anthems for Advent.

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

11am onwards: Saturday Social Gathering and Calendar Collation Party

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

Time TBC: paper flower workshop

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

11.15am Bury

Chalice Circle worship, led by Hannah Stephenson



## Church Information:

### Minister:

Rev. Kate Brady McKenna

0161 460 3363 / 07751 240886

[revkatemckenna@gmail.com](mailto:revkatemckenna@gmail.com)

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

Church phone: 0161 761 3785

Website: [www.bury-unitarian-church.org.uk](http://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

Acting church secretary: Damion Langford

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



***Serene swans and autumn leaves***

