



BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH



**CALENDAR
OCTOBER 2024**

Letter from the Minister

Dear all,

By the time most of you read this, Ade and I will be on our way down to Somerset (via an overnight in Dorset with his parents) for a short but much looked-forward-to holiday. As many of you will know, we haven't had an easy summer, with Ade's health crisis and other family things going on, and we don't know what's coming next, so we're really hoping that we're able to make the most of this break.

Three years ago we decided to "scratch an itch" and book a chalet at Butlins, which might seem a bit out of character to those of you who know us. But when I was a child I always wanted to go to a holiday camp, so we decided to act on that childhood dream. We pretty much expected to hate it, and had all sorts of contingency plans in place, but when we got there we loved it, and this will be our third trip, staying in the same chalet.

We're not very sociable, so we don't take advantage of all the entertainment there is on offer, and we actually both find that the break feels like a retreat, even though that's a word normally used for deliberately spiritual or religious breaks. In a very real way it gives us the chance to 'retreat' from our normal lives, and spend time in a different space, with different light, and few of the distractions that 'real life' brings.

I think that kind of intentional break is really important for us all spiritually and emotionally, whether it's a silent week in a remote place, a few days quietly hidden away in a holiday camp, or just a few minutes alone to breathe gently before we start our day.

I don't want you to think we spend the whole time quietly contemplating life: we've already got two outings planned and we've been looking forward all year to having dinner in a really spectacular pizza place we found the first year. It is a holiday as well as a retreat, and your minister will have a magnificent tantrum if we come home without having spent a little while in the amusement arcades.

One thing we always do at Butlins, at least once, is visit the tiny chapel on site. It's a very basic building, and we were very surprised to find it there. But it's beautiful, with a real sense of the sacred about it, and reading the simple but heartfelt messages people leave in the visitors' book tends to make me cry: something about that sanctuary in the middle of a secular space devoted purely to enjoyment obviously moves people to share deep feelings of joy, sorrow, gratitude and sadness. I think spaces in which people have prayed and had spiritual moments pick up on that air of sanctity, and the Butlins chapel certainly has that feeling about it.

Before we head off, we'll have had a busy Harvest Sunday at church: we'll be starting the morning with an informal "fifth Sunday breakfast", then celebrating our Harvest Festival, and then we'll be sharing our Harvest Lunch after the service. I love days like that at church: I know that the service is very important, but so are all the things which go on around and alongside it. Some Sundays the 'buzz' in the lounge is an absolute delight, and although I pretend (badly) to be all stern when I'm suggesting people might like to leave the lounge and join us for the service itself (it does happen occasionally!) I'm actually really delighted that people get so involved in conversation and friendship that they forget the time.

We're really lucky to have the lounge as a space to socialise: I know a lot of people like to move into the worship area early, and having a place set aside for chatting means that the sanctuary can be kept as a place for quiet reflection before and during the service. I love the different textures we have in our building and in our community.

By the time I'm back from my annual leave, we'll be well into autumn, and the clocks will be nearly ready to change.

I hope that you have a good October, and I will see you all soon.

As ever, I send you my love.

Kate

News of our community

Peter Whewell

Peter has recently returned home after a month's respite care, and he is continuing to recover. He has care at home, and he's waiting for some adaptations to the house. I know that he misses us all, just as we miss him, and he will be back with us when he's well enough.

Ade Brady

We are still awaiting hospital consultations for Ade, so that we can have a better idea of just what we're facing: in the meantime he is managing well, and is very pleased that he's able to continue in his role as the property manager. The church building, and the church community, mean a great deal to him.

Terry Brady

We are hoping that Ade's father Terry will soon be able to go home so that he can spend the end of his life with Marguerite.

Although neither Terry nor Marguerite are members of our church, I know that they feel very loved, supported, and prayed-for by us all, and Ade and I also very much appreciate this support.

Please understand that I don't give updates of everyone on this page: it wouldn't be possible, and as you all know, I only give news about people when I have their consent to do so.

Bill Drayton

Anne and Roger visited Blackpool Unitarian Church, recently, and happened to meet Bill Drayton there; he asked them to pass on his love and best wishes to everybody at Bury; he is well, and happy, and still playing the piano! He has, however, decided not to continue to attend Blackpool Unitarian Church, any longer, although he still goes to the Saturday coffee-mornings, and to social events. He has become a member of a local Baptist Church and feels secure and supported in that environment.

On Sunday, October 26th, 2024, at 6 pm; Bill is to be baptised at his new church; this is Blackpool Baptist Tabernacle, on Springfield Road, FY1 1QL, which is very central, and close to the Central Library. He would be very pleased to see Bury members there, and everybody is invited; there will be refreshments, afterwards, but numbers will be needed beforehand. Anne can supply further details, if required.

Bill has happy memories of Bury, and his time at Bury Unitarian Church, and he misses the contacts he had there, but his life has taken a different direction, these days, and he feels that he has now chosen the right path to follow. We wish him well.

Anne Mills

Worship in October

Kate will be away for the first two weeks in October, but we are in very safe hands. The October services will be as follows:

Sunday 6th October: The Worship Support Group

Sunday 13th October: Rev Laura Dobson

Sundays 20th and 27th October: The Minister.

I am very grateful to everyone who's worked so hard to make sure that services are covered while I'm off: I know that they're in very good hands, and I'm only sorry that I can't be there!

Communion

This month's Inclusive Communion will take place on **Sunday 27th October at 12.30**. Everyone is welcome.

Mid-month mid-week meditations

There won't be a mid-week meditation this month, as Kate will be on leave. They will resume in November, and we'll work out a date nearer the time.

Ainsworth

Sunday 6th October, 3pm: Service to be led by Rev John D Allerton

Please note that this service is in the afternoon.

The wedding of Andrew Shepherd and Julia Hose

Julia and Andrew will be marrying on Saturday 26th October, at 2pm, and they've invited the whole congregation.

It's always especially delightful when members of our own community get married, and I know that a lot of us will love to join them.



(Please don't park in any of the church spaces after 12 noon on that day)

Music for Julia and Andrew's wedding

Andrew and Julia are hoping that those of us who are familiar with hymns and hymn-singing will be at their wedding, and that we'll be able to support the rest of the congregation in hymns that might be unfamiliar to them.

The hymns will be:

Come, sing a song with me
I dream of a church
We laugh, we cry, we live, we die

and a hymn I don't think we've done at church, sung to the tune of 'The Skye Boat Song':

*Refrain: Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,
Gentle as is the dove;
Teach us the truth and help us believe,
Show us the Saviour's love!*

You spoke to us – long, long ago –
Gave us the written word;
We read it still, needing its truth,
Through it God's voice is heard.

Refrain

Without your help we fail our Lord,
We cannot live his way;
We need your power, we need your strength,
Following Christ each day.

Refrain.

Minister's schedule, October 2024

I will be on leave from after the service on Sunday 29th September until the morning of Thursday 17th October.

For the first 10 days, I will be trying not to look at emails or my phone. After that, if there is an emergency, please leave me a message and I'll try to call you back.

I will probably be busy at home most of the first day I'm back, catching up on emails and other admin!

I will be arranging for a colleague to provide pastoral care in my absence.

Vestry Days: most Fridays, and one Saturday a month

Because of my leave, I will only be holding Vestry Days on Fridays 18th and 25th October.

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 Sunday lunch

I won't be around on the second Sunday of October (Sunday 13th), but there is absolutely no reason you can't wander over to the Art Picture House (or anywhere else) for lunch without me!

October 2024 Calendar

The deadline for entries for the November edition of the Calendar will be teatime on **Tuesday 22nd October**, and we'll collate it on **Saturday 26th October** (this is a little early, but it's just one of those months where the dates fall awkwardly!). We'll start early on Saturday 26th so we can be clear of the building in time for the wedding in the afternoon.

“Soul Deep”

The first session of the “Soul Deep” series of discussions will take place on **Monday 4th November**, in the afternoon. Further details to follow.

British Red Cross

After the end of September, the British Red Cross will no longer be using our building. They will be moving to the Polish Social Centre on Back East Street from Monday 11th October.

It has been a real pleasure to host the group for their vital work with refugees and asylum seekers, and we wish them every success in the future.

Regular Social Events

Book Club

The Book Club will meet at **2pm** on **Wednesday 30th October**. The book to be discussed is *Autobiography of a Geisha*, by Sayo Masuda

All are welcome. No need to have read the book! We must be a unique book club!

Pam Gilbert

Camera Club

The Camera Club will meet on **Monday 14th and Monday 28th October, at 7pm**. Both meetings will be 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 **10am on Saturday 26th October**: (please note the earlier time). 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.

Tiny little jobs: our lives are filled with tiny little jobs. We all have them, and often we have too many tiny little jobs to count. They tend to grow more in number every day. Sometimes it seems that we have too many tiny little jobs to get done in anything like a lifetime.

There are many things offered, usually sold, as a solution, something that treats this simple fact of life as a problem, but we actually don't need to treat this as a problem, tiny little jobs accrue as quickly as breaths but are rarely as important.

Many of those tiny little jobs do need doing, they do need planning out and organising, along with every other kind of job on our plate; and it's this reason that makes them so bothersome. Those tiny little jobs frequently need as much work to achieve a result as the much bigger jobs do, finding the right tools and materials can be just as important for a tiny little job as a much, much, bigger one.

The problem is not of tiny little jobs in themselves, but of concerning yourself overly with them. List them and you may even feel bad about how many you still have to do, or for somehow failing to have achieved so many of them. We have so many ways of making ourselves feel bad for not getting around to all of the tiny little jobs. We shouldn't, but when we do, we should stop, take a few breaths and remember that the significance of those tiny little jobs is nothing in comparison to what we just achieved.

Ade Brady

Ade will be away from the afternoon of Sunday 29th September until the afternoon of Monday 7th October.

Church Council

Church council met on **Tuesday 3rd September**. The minutes of the meeting are on the notice board in the lounge.

The next meeting is on **Tuesday 15th October**.

Membership secretary and NELUM representative

We are looking for someone to take on the role of Membership Secretary, and for a second representative to NELUM. If you're interested in what NELUM is and what it does but don't want to commit to being a formal representative, it would also be great if you wanted to attend meetings on an ad-hoc basis and report back to us.

Thank you to Val Chamberlain, who will be attending the next NELUM meeting on our behalf, along with our representative, Ewen Sim.

Website update

We're still awaiting the next 'draft' of the website. Thanks to the hard work of Roger Mills, our own website will be available to us for quite some time, so although we are really keen to get the new version launched, we're not at risk of losing our site.

Stewards for Sunday services September 2024

Sunday 6 th October	Ade Brady and Damion Langford
Sunday 13 th October	Beryl Bowden and Marian Price
Sunday 20 th October	Faye Casey and Susan Mitchell
Sunday 27 th October	Barbara Bamford and Jean Brookhouse

Tea and coffee rota, September 2024

Sunday 6 th October	Howard Maden and Jean Maden
Sunday 13 th October	Lois Williams and Pam Gilbert
Sunday 20 th October	Marian Price and Susan Holt
Sunday 27 th October	Rita Boardall and Susan Mitchell

News from around the District and around the Denomination

NELUM

The next NELUM meeting will be at Bury on **Monday 7th October at 7pm**. We will be represented by Ewen Sim and Val Chamberlain.

UNITE FOR JUSTICE!

SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK



The **Social Justice Network** is inviting Unitarians and allies who are passionate about making the world a fairer place to come together and inspire each other our ideas, examples, and vision for the future. How deeply can we live our values?

DATE AND TIME

5 OCTOBER 2024
FROM 11:00 - 15:00

LOCATION

KENSINGTON UNITARIANS
112 PALACE GARDENS TERRACE,
LONDON W8 4RT

THE EVENT IS FREE AND TRANSPORTATION BURSARIES ARE AVAILABLE.

TO REGISTER EMAIL: [AHOWELL@UNITARIAN.ORG.UK](mailto:ahowell@unitarian.org.uk)

EXPLORING SAFETY, RISK, AND TRUST IN UNITARIAN SPACES

A UNITARIAN RENEWAL GROUP GATHERING

SATURDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2024

11:00 AM - 3:30 PM, COFFEE FROM 10.30

**CHANNING HALL AT UPPER CHAPEL,
SHEFFIELD**

45 SURREY ST, SHEFFIELD S1 2LG



**Maud
Robinson:**
Inclusion of those
with a criminal
record



**Aleks
Zglińska:**
Inclusion of those
with disabilities



**Robin
Hanford:**
Neurodiversity
and worship



**Gavin
Howell:**
Safeguarding

All are welcome

Attendance is free but donations will be much appreciated.

Refreshments provided but please bring your own lunch.

RSVP

Please confirm your attendance by emailing:

christina.a.smith@gmail.com

on or before 20th October

FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC

Clover Street Unitarians

Simeon Wood

Friday 11th October 7.30pm



Simeon's performance is an uplifting and entertaining show filled with inspiration and great music. A real mixture of styles to suit all tastes. Anecdotes and yarns weave their way through this relaxed and informal evening packed with imaginative and beautiful arrangements, stunning musicianship and the odd surprise.



£10 (inc. refreshments)

bring your own bottle (or two?)

Tickets QR code or 01706 649015
Clover Street, Rochdale, OL12 6TP
www.rochdaleunitarians.org.uk

Further ahead

PADIHAM UNITARIAN CHAPEL BB12 8JH



LARGE



**MODEL RAIL
EXHIBITION**

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

2nd Nov. 10am-4pm

**Admission £4
Children £1.50**

**Home Made
Refreshments**

By Gone Times no 51, October 2024, by Betty Kenyon

From the Calendar November 1889

Boys' Reading Room and Social Union

Open to teachers and the adult and first classes. Supplied with newspapers, periodicals, chess, draughts, and dominoes. Week evenings, 7-9.45. Subscription 10d per quarter. Annual meeting on Wednesday, November 6th, at 9pm.

From then on there are reports each month on Chess and Draught matches. They played against Ainsworth units, Rochdale Unitarians, Bolton Unitarians, and Brunswick.



From the Calendar November 1890

The young men decided to go ahead with an application for 2 rooms. Their number of members at this time was over 60. Unfortunately, the request was refused. However, a chess and draught league were started.

The Girls' Social Club From the Calendar November 1889

Is this institution really wanted by those for whom it is intended? The room has been open on Wednesday and Saturday evenings, and newspapers and magazines have been supplied to it; but the attendance has been poor, that the question has been forced upon us—Do the elder girls want the club kept up, or do they not? Given a few weeks and they must decide.

The subscription is 6d a quarter and the secretaries are Mrs Walmsley and Miss Dearden.

From the Calendar October 1890

In a former Calendar the question was asked pointedly about the desirability of a social club for the girls. The interest was confined to a few, it was on the right lines, so another attempt will be made to establish it.

What do they want? A room they can have as their own and can make comfortable and have to themselves any evening of the week except Sundays. The intention being to make the Bank Street Girls' Social Club useful, pleasant and popular. The committee obtained the sanction of the teachers to their idea. The club would be open every evening from 7 to 9.



A later Calendar reports: The club is getting on famously and has over 50 members. Thus, the Girls' Club continued.

It was still going in 1958, I remember Neville's mother, Anne Kenyon, being a member.

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 sel know yourvice 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: October 2024

Monday 30th September *Church building in use all day.*

Saturday 5th October 11am (LONDON): Unite for Justice event

Sunday 6th October

11.15am Bury

Morning Service, led by the Worship Support Group

3pm Ainsworth

Harvest Festival, led by Rev John Allerton

Monday 7th October 7pm: NELUM meeting

Wednesday 9th October *11am Bury Older People's Network, lounge*

Friday 11th October 7.30pm: Rochdale Concert Series.

Sunday 13th October

11.15am Bury

Morning service, led by Rev Laura Dobson

12.30 approx.

Second Sunday Lunch (in Kate's absence!)

Monday 14th October 7pm: Camera Club, **meeting on Zoom**

Tuesday 15th October 7pm: Church Council meeting

Friday 18th October 10-3: Minister's Vestry Day

Saturday 19th October *Manchester Modernists visiting the building*

Sunday 20th October

11.15am Bury

Morning service, led by the minister

Tuesday 22nd October Deadline for entries for the November *Calendar*

Friday 25th October 10-3: Minister's Vestry Day

Saturday 26th October 10am onwards: Saturday Social Gathering and Calendar Collation Party

Saturday 26th October 11am (SHEFFIELD): Unitarian Renewal Group Gathering

Saturday 26th October	2pm: the wedding of Julia Hose and Andrew Shepherd.
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Sunday 27th October

11.15am Bury:	Morning service, led by the minister
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12.30pm:	Inclusive Communion
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Monday 28th October 7pm: Camera Club, **meeting on Zoom**

Wednesday 30th October 2pm: Book club meeting to discuss *Autobiography of a Geisha*, by Sayo Masuda.

Friday 1st November 10-3: Minister's Vestry Day

Sunday 3rd November 11.15am Bury: service to be led by Professor Geoff Levermore.

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 07562 925352

Church secretary:

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

