

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR

DECEMBER 2011 & JANUARY 2012

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 3rd December
The Christmas Tree Service
The Mayor Councillor Yvonne Cresswell
Will attend the service

Sunday 11th December
Children's Christmas Service
With Nativity Play and Children's Carol

Sunday 18th December
Service of Readings and Carols
Followed by Christmas Lunch

Sunday 25th December
Short Festive Christmas Day Service
Followed by Sherry and Shortbread

JANUARY SERVICES

Sunday 1st January
New Years Day Service
Commencing at 10.30am.
(no coffee but there may be sherry)

Sunday 8th January
Junior Church Prize Giving
Conducted by Reverend John Allerton BA BD MTh
Retiring collection for the 50th Anniversary Appeal of the Send a Child to Hucklow Fund

15th January The Minister

22nd January to be announced (unless Betty has booked someone)

29th January The Minister.

The service on the 8th January will include items from worship material provided by the Send a Child to Hucklow Fund Trustees. John, a founding Trustee of the fund, will speak about the work it does and his experience leading holiday weeks.

CHURCH STEWARDS - DECEMBER

4 December	Miriam Murphy & June Seddon
11 December	Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert
18 December	Freda & Derek Worthington
25 December	Marc Peters

CHURCH STEWARDS – JANUARY

1 January	John & Margaret Fitzpatrick
8 January	Jean Jackson & Beryl Bowden
15 January	Marc & Philip Peters
22 January	Alfred Howson & Roger Mills
29 January	Barbara & Joe Ashworth

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

CHURCH FLOWERS - DECEMBER

4 December	In loving memory of David H Pollard
11 December	Church Flowers
18 December	In loving memory of Joan & Ted Sharples
25 December	Church Flowers

Distributors: Edna Wilkinson & Margaret Pollard

CHURCH FLOWERS – JANUARY

1 January	In loving memory of Jack Entwistle
8 January	Mrs Shirley Healey – in loving memory of my husband and friend David
15 January	Church Flowers
22 January	In loving memory of Mr & Mrs J Pollard
29 January	In memory of Mr & Mrs Jack Lord

Distributors: Barbara Ashworth & Vera Stephenson

Thank you for the response to donations. They are due in January, please.

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA - DECEMBER

3 December Jean Taylor & Harry Taylor
10 December Freda Worthington & June Clarke
17 December Vera Stephenson & June Seddon
24 CLOSED
31 CLOSED

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA – JANUARY

7 January Rene Hollos & Alison Hollos
14 January Betty Kenyon & Molly Ratcliffe
21 January Anne & Roger Mills
28 January Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard

LUNCHEON CIRCLE - DECEMBER

We shall meet a week earlier than usual on

Tuesday 13 December at 12.30pm

for our **Christmas Lunch**. Please let Harry know if you are unable to attend.

LUNCHEON CIRCLE – JANUARY

The Luncheon Circle will meet on Tuesday 17 January at 12.30pm.

The organisers are Susan & Margaret. Please let Susan know if you are unable to attend.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE – DECEMBER AND JANUARY

There will be no meeting in either month.

The AGM of the Women's League will be held on Thursday 2 February at 7.00pm

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

There will be **no meetings of the Men's Fellowship until March 2012**.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN DECEMBER

Saturday 3 December	11.30am	Charity
Monday 5 December	7.30pm	Finance & G. Purposes
Monday 12 December	7.30pm	Church Council
Tuesday 13 December	7.30pm	Trustees

COMMITTEE MEETING IN JANUARY 2012

Monday 23 January 7.00pm Communications, Worship & Young People

CHARITY COMMITTEE – OUR CHOSEN CHARITY 2012

Please note that on Sunday 29 January a representative from Bury Samaritans (our chosen charity for 2012) will come to our morning service to tell us about their work.

CALENDAR DEADLINE

Please have all contributions for the February edition of the Calendar in the yellow folder by **Sunday 22 January**. Thank you.

BOOK CLUB

There will be no meeting of the Book Club in December. The January meeting will be on Monday 30th January at 7.30pm in the lounge. The book to be discussed is *WOLF HALL* by Hilary Mantel. This book should be available from the lounge cupboard after 30 December. All are welcome. We share light refreshments during the evening and usually finish around 9.00pm.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER AT 7.30PM

**MINSTER BRASS
NOTABILITY CHOIR
FLUTE AND PIANO**

MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIES

TICKETS £6 FROM MEMBERS OF EFFORTS COMMITTEE

CHRISTMAS LUNCH – Sunday 18 December

Menu – Sherry or fresh orange juice

Homemade soup

Hot A.A. Beef muffin & mustard

Christmas cake, coffee, tea

TICKETS £4 children under 12 £2 from Pam 01706 822651 and after the morning service on 4 and 11 December.

SEND A CHILD TO HUCKLOW

The service on Sunday 8 January will include items from worship material provided by the Send a Child to Hucklow Fund Trustees. John, a founding Trustee of the fund, will speak about the work it does and his experience leading holiday weeks.

LIGHTING A CANDLE

Like many people I thought I knew what poverty was. Knew about people living in poor housing on notorious estates, having low paid or no work, struggling with too little money and too much debt. Then I went, as a helper, on my first 'Send a Child' week and realised I knew nothing about real poverty. Yes, it was those obvious things that I have mentioned but they were in many ways the lesser problems of poverty and the easiest to solve if the will was there.

Poverty has many faces. As well as poverty in living standards there is emotional poverty where children live in a family where members have lost the capacity to care about themselves much less each other. The children may not suffer actual abuse, though sometimes they do, but they suffer emotional neglect, and so live in emotional poverty. Often the care they receive is far less than they need and so they do not learn good parenting skills, meaning that their experience of emotional poverty will probably blight the next generation as well.

There is also educational poverty. Often the children have parents who do not see the value of education and so do not encourage their children to learn. They live in homes without books and no one bothers if they truant from school. There are still today children who cannot go to school because they have no shoes to wear.

These children are like all children, acutely aware, sensitive, and inquisitive and they are all too conscious of the difference between other children's lives and their own. Too often they encounter prejudice because of their poverty and are treated as children of a lesser God and their sense of self-worth drops below the poverty line.

Finally and perhaps the most terrible poverty of all, is the poverty of hope. All their experience tells them not to hope for a good job, a nice house, a car, or holidays when they grow up. Finding a way out of poverty is extremely difficult and requires huge effort and determination. Statistics suggest the most likely scenario for these children is that they too will spend their lives without the things that most people see as essential.

What does the 'Send a Child to Hucklow Fund' do? It provides children from deprived circumstances with a holiday, five days away from the day to day grind of living without many of the things that our children and grandchildren take for granted. It provides a warm clean bed for each child, hot showers (these are not always appreciated). There is good food and plenty of it. They meet adults who are kind and they do things they could only dream about such as ice skating and horse riding. They have a glimpse of life that is not stunted by poverty. It may be that it is only a holiday or it could be that those five days give the children more than just respite in a nice place with caring people, it could lift them above the poverty line of hope. And if it only inspires one or two with the determination to break out of the trap of poverty then it has achieved a great success.

So often when faced with a huge problem, such as poverty, people throw up their hands and say 'what can I do?'

There is a saying, 'better to light a candle than curse the darkness'. The 'Send a Child to Hucklow Fund' lights a candle for hundreds of children.

Help them to continue to do so.

This year is the 50th Anniversary of the 'Send a Child to Hucklow Fund' They are trying to raise £50,000 in their anniversary year. Like all organisations their returns on trust monies has been affected by the financial crisis. They have launched this special appeal to protect capital investments and bolster income so that they do not need to turn away children. £50,000 represents a donation of about £10 for each person in the denomination.

There will be a retiring collection for the appeal after the Children's Prize Giving Service on 8th January 2011

COFFEE MORNING AND AFTERNOON TEA

On Wednesday 11th January there will be Morning Coffee 10.30am to Noon and Afternoon Tea 2pm to 4pm at the Parson's house for the Send A Child to Hucklow 50th Year Appeal. Please see the notice on the board for details

MINISTER'S MONTH

In my diary it appears that there have been three important events over the last month. The first of these was the Bank Street Bazaar. A great deal of hard work by everyone brought about an excellent financial result and as this is our major fund-raiser we should be very pleased. It also and perhaps more importantly brings everyone together in a common cause and binds us as a community working together.

Though I am putting them together there were actually two services of remembrance. On Armistice Day itself a short, simple act of Remembrance was held, led by Anne Mills. It is the first time this has happened but judging by the response will probably become an annual event. The Remembrance Sunday service itself brought many tears as the stories of servicemen from conflicts spanning almost a century were read. For me this is always an important and moving service and I find myself struggling with the lump in my throat when reading the long list of those who died from our three churches.

The after the service we gathered for a congregational photograph in the worship area. It is sixteen years since the last photograph of this kind was taken, a copy of which is in the vestry. As I write this we are still waiting to see what we look like sixteen years on.

This time last year we had just agreed to becoming interim minister for six months. I did not know what 2011 would bring and approached it with both hope and apprehension. Looking back it has been the best of years and I have to thank each and every one of you for that. This year of ministry has been, for me, challenging and rewarding and a true joy. I hope I have managed to be something of the minister you wanted. If I were younger you would need a corkscrew to lever me out of your pulpit.

Now may I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a New Year that is all you hope for.

Beryl

SEMINARS BASED ON THE 'ETHICS' COURSE

Beginning in January I hope to run a series of seminars for which the official title is Ethics but which has the unofficial title, 'Sharing thoughts on moral dilemmas using personal moral principles'.

Each week a different ethical problem will be discussed and explored. These problems do not have 'right' answers but a number of possible solutions with ethical implications.

The day for the meetings will be decided with members of the group.

If you wish to take part please sign the list on the board.

Beryl

TRADCRAFT

The stall will be open on December 4th, 11th and 18th, and on January 15th and 30th. Because of Christmas and New Year, this means quite a long gap between mid-December and mid-January. During this time, please ask me if you need any items.

Anne

DELEGATES FOR THE G.A. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS IN 2012

At the time of writing, we have not yet received many details from Essex Hall about next year's Annual General Meetings. However, we will need to appoint 2 delegates, fairly soon, as application-forms need to be returned by the end of January. If you are interested in representing our church, please speak to Anne Mills.

Next year's Meetings will be held at the University of Keele, between April 3rd and 6th.

FISH AND CHIP BABIES

Roger and I visited Kendal, on October 30th, when the service was conducted by members of the Build Your Own Theology Group. It was quite different in content from our own BYOT service, but just as interesting to learn of members' ideas, feelings and aspirations.

We were intrigued to note that one section of the pews was covered in brightly-coloured knitted items. When we asked about these, we were told that they were vests for the Fish and Chip babies. These are babies, in Africa, often born HIV+ or suffering from Aids; there is nothing to wrap them in, except newspaper, hence the name. The vests had been knitted by church-members, in a variety of bright colours---necessary because these garments will probably never be washed!

I have a pattern, for a very simple, one-piece vest, and can supply copies, if anyone is interested. In the New Year, we hope to arrange an evening to launch our Fish and Chip vest initiative, with a view to sending out a consignment, in due course. If you feel able to participate, watch this space!

Anne

INDUCTION OF THE REV. DR. VERNON MARSHALL

This took place, at Stand Unitarian Chapel, on November 19th, 2011, and was attended by a small group from our church. The Presiding Minister was Rev. Celia Cartwright, and Rev. Dr. Ann Peart, the current President, brought greetings from the General Assembly.

Rev. Lynne Readett gave the Charge to the Congregations of Stand and Unity, reminding the whole congregation that all ministers must maintain a fine balance in the work they do, between the various demands made of them. These sentiments were endorsed by Rev. Ernest Baker, who, in giving the Charge to the Minister, reminded everyone of the difficulty of conducting a successful ministry, yet stressed how worthwhile such a ministry would be. The Ceremony of Induction was then completed by Vernon and the two Chairs of the Congregations shaking hands, in Fellowship and Greetings; the Congregations pledged their support, whilst Vernon promised to serve them with integrity and truth.

The afternoon ended with an excellent tea and an opportunity to exchange greetings with fellow-Unitarians from many other churches and areas.

Anne

SUNSHINE PENNIES

Please could Brenda Ainsworth receive Sunshine Pennies by Sunday 11th December. THANK YOU.

THE FUTURE.....!!!

Starting next year (January 1st 2012) Sunshine Pennies will become **Sunshine Smarties**. Please collect your free tube of Smarties from Brenda Ainsworth and sign the pledge to donate a 20p piece every time we have a sunny day. Return the tubes to Brenda when the tubes are filled with 20p pieces and collect another free tube. For each full tube returned, the children will colour and add another sun to a chart on the wall in the primary.

I hope as many people as possible will take a free Smartie tube because we need to raise as much money as possible during 2012 to support our church. Our aim is to collect 40 filled tubes in order to raise about £600.

Brenda Ainsworth

CONDOLENCES

The congregation extends sincere condolences to Les and Doreen on the death of Les's son Paul. You are both in our thoughts and prayers.

THANKS

It's once again time to express our appreciation for the generous gifts and support given for Raffle Prizes at the Bazaar and events held during the past year. A very sincere 'thank you' from Muriel Smith and June Clark.

NOTICE FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

The Subscription Envelopes for 2012 will be available for collection from the table in the foyer from Sunday, 4 December. As your Membership Number may have changed, please destroy any unused envelopes for 2011 at the end of the year. If you wish to make up any contributions please include them in your first envelope for 2012, Thank you.

Margaret Pollard

100 CLUB

We have had a successful year again with prizes well-spread out. The draw for the extra Christmas Prize of £75 will take place on December 4 and the monthly draw for £25 on Sunday 18 December. The list of lucky winners during 2011 will appear in the February Calendar.

The bad news is that the yearly subscription becomes due in January 2012. Please let me have your donation of £12 per number sometime during January or February. The new year will begin with the March Draw. Half of your subscription goes to Church Funds and if you have elected for the 'Gift Aid' scheme the £6 rises to £9.36!!

We still have plenty of blank numbers, so if you could choose an extra number or persuade your friends to take a number it would be greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the church I thank you for your continued support.

Derek Worthington

Grand Competition

open to children and adults of bury unitarian church

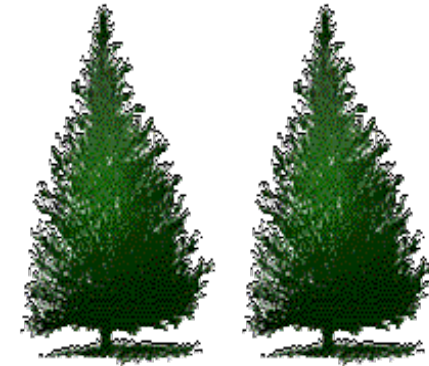
design a new cover for the church calendar

**Hand your completed design to a member of the communications and worship committee or to anne, pam Or beryl, by december 31
GO ON, HAVE A GO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Our friends at Bank Street Unitarian Chapel, Bolton, have invited us to join them for a reading of "A Christmas Carol", on Sunday, December 4th, at 2.30 p.m. The reading will be given by Gordon and Veronica Walker, chapel-members and also members of the Dickens Fellowship. The chapel will be decorated in true Victorian style, and seasonal refreshments will be served.

There is no charge for attending, but donations to Combat Stress will be requested. Gordon and Veronica are very keen to promote stronger links between Unitarian churches in our area; if you are able to support this event, you can be assured of a very warm welcome and excellent entertainment.



CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS TREES

Once again we are holding the Christmas Tree Festival.

Opening times are:

Friday 2 December - 1.00pm until 5.00pm

Saturday 3 December - 10.00am until 4.00pm

Sunday 4 December - 1.00pm until 4.00pm

The mayor and her consort are to attend the Sunday church service at 11.15am.

Admission free

Refreshments available in the lounge

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS

Stewards are required please for the church and for the kitchen (provisions are provided). See notice board in the lounge.

AINSWORTH UNITARIAN CHAPEL

December 2011 & January 2012

SUNDAY SERVICES in DECEMBER 2011

10.00am 4 December Mrs Jean Longworth
(Halliwell Road Church, Bolton)

6.30pm Sunday 18 December Rev Desmond Porter
'Carols by Candlelight'

SUNDAY SERVICES in JANUARY 2012

10.00am 1 January Mrs Joyce Ashworth
(Rochdale Unitarian Church)

10.00am 15 January Preacher to be announced

Normal Services take place twice a month
(1st and 3rd Sundays) with visiting preachers



'CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT'

6.30 pm Sunday 18th December

Everyone is very welcome at this special, seasonal service led by Guest Preacher, The Rev Desmond Porter.

Please join us for tea, coffee and mince pies in the Schoolroom following the service

CHAPEL FLOWERS FOR 2012

The Flower List for 2012 is in Chapel. If you would like to commemorate a particular date, please put your name down or see our Flower Secretary, Mrs Dorothy Roberts.

Our grateful thanks go to all the visiting Preachers who have supported us during 2011 and we look forward to seeing you again in 2012.

Also, a special 'Thank You' to our organist, Mr Harry Taylor.

We wish all members and friends of the Chapel
A Very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year