

## CHURCH SERVICES IN DECEMBER

4 December	11.15am	The Minister
11 December	11.15am	The Minister (last Junior Church until January 2017)
11 December	7.00pm	CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT – The Minister
18 December	11.15am	The Minister –followed by Christmas Lunch
25 December	11.15am	A short festive service – The Minister

*If you need transport to get to the CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT service please speak to Anne Mills.*

*The **GRAND CHRISTMAS RAFFLE** will take place after the morning service on Sunday 11 December.*

*The **Junior Church Outing** will be on **Saturday 10 December**.*

## CHURCH SERVICES IN JANUARY

1 January	11.15am	The Worship Support Group
8 January	11.15am	The Minister – Junior Church Prize-giving
15 January	11.15am	The Minister
22 January	11.15am	The Minister
29 January	11.15am	The Minister

## CHURCH STEWARDS

4 December	Marian Price & Di Scaife
11 December	Beryl Bowden & Janet Thatcher

CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE – 4 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED PLEASE (see Betty Kenyon if you can help)

18 December	June Clarke & Sue McMullen
25 Christmas Day	As available
1 January	Alf Howson & Roger Mills
8 January	Jean Brookhouse & Susan Mitchell
15 January	Lois & Alan Williams
22 January	Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert
29 January	Margaret & John Fitzpatrick

*Please re-arrange with another steward(s) if the date given is difficult for you – thank you.*

## CHURCH FLOWERS

4 December	Margaret Pollard - In memory of David Pollard
11 December	Sandra & Richard – In memory of Jean Kenyon
18 December	Church Flowers
25 December	Pam Oxley – In memory of Harry

*Distributor: Barbara Bamford:*

1 January	Sue McMullen – In memory of Connie & Derek Fitzgerald
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8 January	Di & George Scaife – In memory of Margaret Schofield
15 January	Margaret Pollard – In memory of Jack & Margaret Pollard
22 January	Sybil Poulson
29 January	Church Flowers

*Distributors: Anne & Harvey Evitts*

### **SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA**

3 December	Jean Taylor & Pam Gilbert
10 December	Rene Hollos & Alison Hollos
17 December	Betty Kenyon & Molly Ratcliffe
24 December	CLOSED
31 December	CLOSED
7 January	Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard
14 January	June Clarke, Marc & Philip Peters
21 January	Brenda Ainsworth & Jean Taylor
28 January	Margaret Fitzpatrick & Norah Hickton

### **SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA**

4 December	Anne Mills(M), Beryl Bowden & Rene Hollos
11 December	Norah Hickton(M), Peter Whewell & John Allerton

18 December	No Coffee (Christmas Lunch)
25 December	No Coffee (maybe Sherry & Shortbread!)
1 January	Anne Mills(M), Beryl Bowden & Rene Hollos
8 January	Norah Hickton(M), Peter Whewell & John Allerton
15 January	Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Lois Williams & Di Scaife
22 January	Marian Price(M), Jean Taylor & Susan Mitchell
29 January	Jean Maden(M), Brenda Ainsworth & George Scaife

### **WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December – CHRISTMAS MEAL AT *AUTOMATIC* in Bury**

**Please meet at the restaurant for a prompt 6.30pm start.**

### **MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

The next meeting of the Men's Fellowship will be in March.

### **COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY**

Monday 5 December at 7pm	Church Council
Monday 12 December at 7pm	Trustees
Wednesday 11 January at 7pm	Social & Fund-raising
Wednesday 18 January at 7pm	Communications & Worship, with Young People

## **CALENDAR DEADLINE**

All items for the February edition of The Calendar should be with the editor by Sunday 22 January, please.

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## **LUNCHEON CLUB**

We shall meet for our Christmas Lunch, at 12.30, on December 13th---please note that this is week earlier than usual. In January, we meet on the 17th. Watch the notice-board and listen for announcements, nearer the time, in both cases. All are welcome!

## **TRADCRAFT**

The stall will be open on December 4th, and on January 8th and 22nd. Please ask Anne or Jean, if you would like goods at other times. Thank you to everyone who has supported Traidcraft throughout this year; your support has been much appreciated, as always. Thank you, too, to Jean for all her help with the stall.

## **BOOK CLUB**

The Book Club will meet on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm. We hope to have read a few of Henning Mankell's books but it is not certain we can have these from the library, so watch the web-site or the church notice board for information on the next book(s), Everyone welcome. We usually discuss the book for approximately an hour, then break off to enjoy light refreshments and finish usually before 9pm.

## **MEMBERSHIP DONATIONS**

The Offertory Envelopes for 2017 are available for collection from the table in the foyer. Please destroy any unused envelopes for 2016 at the end of the

year. If you wish to make up any missed contributions, please include them in your first envelope for 2017. Thank you. **Margaret Pollard, Membership Secretary**

## **READERS**

Kate is compiling a list of those who are willing to read in church; there is a list on the board already; please sign up, if you wish to be involved. Thank you.

## **CHRISTMAS RAFFLE**

Tickets are on sale for our Grand Christmas Draw; June Clarke has these, and there should be more on the table where the prizes are displayed, for you to help yourselves. We have some magnificent prizes---and plenty of them---so please buy as many tickets as you can, to support this fund-raising venture. The draw will take place after morning-service on December 11th (not on the 4th, as previously advertised, at June's request).

## **SUNSHINE SMARTIES**

Please let Brenda Ainsworth have your full tubes as soon as possible, and before the end of December. New tubes, full of Smarties, will be available in the New Year, once everyone has recovered from Christmas!

## **ANTIQUES AND VALUATION EVENING**

This event was held on October 28th and, despite a somewhat low turnout, was enjoyed by all present; slightly more than £153.00 was raised, with more to come, when a Worcester bowl, removed by our visiting experts, has been auctioned. Thank you to all who supported this evening.

## "LEST WE FORGET"

Our Remembrance Services, this year, were excellent. On Remembrance Day, the service was quiet and reflective, allowing us to share our thoughts about the horror of war and the importance of remembering the sacrifices made by previous generations so that our lives could be free and peaceful. The reading of a piece written by Michael Morpugo on the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme proved particularly relevant, and this was reinforced by the anthem from War Horse, "Only Remembered for what they have done".

Remembrance Sunday contained many of the traditional elements, including Lawrence Killian playing "The Last Post" and "Reveille", and the laying of the wreath, by Roy Holden; Roy carried out his duties with great dignity, removing his hat as a sign of the utmost respect. The Roll of Honour was read, but, this year, the names of the fallen were linked with our felt poppies, each one named for a former congregation-member whose life had been sacrificed. We were invited to come forward, bearing a poppy, during the reading, and lay it on the communion table. This was a remarkable part of the service---many people picked up and presented the poppies, and extra ones were gathered up and collected, too---an act of worship in which we all participated.

By the end of a poignant service conducted by Kate, we had progressed from images of sorrow, grief and suffering to ideas of justice, freedom and, most important of all, peace. "Our worship is ending---let our service begin". Truly a service of which we may all be proud!

## THANK YOU

Worship Support Group member, Janet Thatcher, conducted a splendid service, on October 30th, and one which proved extremely appropriate for the last Sunday before our new minister arrived. Janet had much to say about the quality of our worship and church-life; what we are able to take from it, by way of benefit, depends largely upon what we are willing to contribute; if we all work together for the good of the church, we foster a healthy community. Taking an analogy with walking, Janet pointed out that we cannot, and should not, expect immediate results when we first plunge into church-attendance; our church-going needs to be gradually built up---it should be an accumulation of a number of quite complex experiences---and success ought to be a long-term aspiration. Philip Larkin's poem,

"Church Going", a familiar piece, explored the deeper purposes of churches, and a wonderful children's story ended with the message that, as with jigsaws, if we can get the people right, we will get the world right. Thank you, Janet, for an inspiring service.

Over the last 5 months, several of our church-members have conducted services for us, and the standard has been extremely high; we are very fortunate to be able to call on so much talent, so freely given, and do appreciate the efforts of those who have preached. We are grateful, too, to all our visiting service-leaders for their contributions and their help during a period of some upheaval and change. **Anne**

## BEANIES

At the time of writing, our competition to guess how many Beanies have been knitted by members of the congregation has just begun. We have collected a huge pile of Beanies, and it costs 50p per guess; the proceeds will cover the cost of postage and an exciting prize for the winner! Feel free to have as many guesses as you like; the winner will be announced on December 4th.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Our Carols By Candlelight Service will be held on Sunday, December 11th, at 7 p.m. The Mayor of Bury and his Consort will be in attendance, and mulled wine and mince pies will be served afterwards. This is always a very pleasant occasion; please make every effort to attend, and bring your family and friends along, too.

\*We estimate that we will require 4 people to steward at this service; if you can help, please speak to Anne Mills. Also, if anyone requires transport to this service, speak to Anne.\*

Services will also take place on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, at the usual time of 11.15 a.m. The Minister will officiate at a short service on December 25th, and the service on January 1st will be conducted by

members of the Worship Support Group. Your presence, on both occasions will be greatly appreciated.

### **CONGRATULATIONS JUNE & FRED**

On Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> December, June Clarke and husband Fred will be celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. 60 years is a very rare thing in this day and age, and June's parents said it wouldn't last and didn't attend the wedding. They met at Bury Palais and married at Bury Register Office. They went on to have 7 children, 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. They are as devoted to each other now as when they first met. They will be celebrating this major event with family and friends on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> December at Fishpool Liberal Club in the afternoon 1pm. – 5pm; anyone wishing to attend is more than welcome.

### **KATE'S FIRST SERVICE**

Sunday November 6th, 2016, was a special day for us, as it marked the first service to be conducted by our new Minister: Rev. Kate McKenna. Kate took up her post on November 1st and was busy from the beginning, moving house and settling in to the Manse, attending meetings, and starting to get to know individual members of the congregation informally. Ade, her partner, also attended the service, in order to support her in her work.

Kate trained at Harris Manchester College, Oxford, and was valedicted in June, this year; this is her first Ministry. Before she moved to Bury, she lived and worked in Norwich, where she attended The Octagon Chapel, and conducted services there, for several years. In her service, Kate commented on expectations of both Minister and congregation; "If people think that everyone who belongs to this church, and everything that happens in it, will be perfect, this will cause disappointment; it is much better to accept limitations and work to improve matters than to feel that improvements are neither necessary nor desirable," she declared.

After the service, congregation-members celebrated their new Minister and her first service; she was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a card, and a toast was drunk, to wish her well in her work. Anne said: "I am very pleased to welcome Kate officially to our congregation; she comes to us highly-recommended, and we are very fortunate that she has chosen to begin her ministerial work amongst us. We all hope that her Ministry at Bury Unitarian Church will be successful, pleasurable and productive---for us all. This has been a very happy service, full of laughter and positive thoughts, and we can build from this excellent beginning with enthusiasm."

Kate summed up her first impressions: "I've been delighted by the welcome Ade and I have received, both to Bury itself and specifically by Bury Unitarians. You couldn't have worked harder to make us feel wanted here, and I hope we'll have many happy and fruitful years working together. I am really excited about the move to Bury, and we're already falling in love with the town and the people. Thank you all."

### **MINISTER'S MONTH**

Firstly, I have to thank you all enormously for the truly lovely welcome you've given to myself and Ade. We've felt truly welcomed to the church, to our new house, and to Bury itself.

There is nothing any of you could have done to make us feel more at home than you have: we know you worked hard to get the house to a nice standard, and that you've been managing to be encouraging about my new start whilst also being protective of me while we settle.

I've been in Bury three weeks at the time I write this, and am still living surrounded by boxes. But the house is warm, and comfortable, and cosy, and it already feels like our home. We've set a target of mid-January to have everything unpacked, and once that's done we're going to invite the congregation round for drinks and nibbles and to meet our dog, who will be joining us before Christmas. It's a busy time of year to start working for a church, but I was particularly honoured to lead the Armistice Day and

Remembrance Sunday services earlier this month. The honour in which you hold members of the community who gave their lives in the two world wars was a lovely thing to witness.

Obviously, we knew we liked the congregation at Bury Unitarians, but until we actually got here we didn't realise how much we'd love Bury itself. I needn't mention I'm in love with the market. We have plans for things we want to do locally (once all those boxes are unpacked) and it certainly looks like we're going to be spoilt for choice!

One of the things I mentioned at my interview was that I want to spend one day a week working in the church building – it's going to take time for this to settle into a pattern, but it seems likely this is going to be Fridays. It means if you want a chat, or even just to pop in for a cup of tea, there'll be someone around. If it's ever not going to be a Friday for some reason, or if the day changes, I'll make sure to let you know through announcements on the previous Sunday.

I'm also planning to spend a couple of hours once a week in a local coffee shop – but I haven't chosen which one yet. I am, however, doing extensive research . . .

This is a very special season for everyone: whatever we think about the upcoming Christmas season and however true we do or don't think the stories are, it's a time at which we can truly put our Unitarian faith and beliefs to the test and gently check with ourselves that we're living out our witness as well as we can.

I hope to see many of you – and your friends and family – at our Christmas services, both the regular Sunday morning ones and the Candlelit Carol Service.

And as this is the December AND January edition of the calendar, I would also like to wish you all a very peaceful and happy Christmas, and a New Year which brings you all the things you hope for.

***With best wishes, Kate***

## **ABI ELLIOTT-MCGUFFIE – PROFILE**

As the newest member of the church, this seems like a great opportunity to give you all an insight in to my route to the doors of Bury Unitarian Church. My journey both physically & spiritually has taken me to many places, so I'll start at the beginning.

I'm a Cheshire lass, born in Chester. I moved out of the family home aged 17 years and after a brief stay with a friend, I moved to Birkenhead. From there I headed 'down south' to Bromley, Kent to start my training as a veterinary nurse (my love of animals has been the constant feature in my life...currently we have 2 dogs, 4 cats, 2 rabbits & 3 chickens!).

I moved back 'up north' and settled in Yorkshire, living in and around Skipton for many years. It was here that Geoff and I met, we married 2 years later in 2007.

We moved over to Bury in July 2014 taking on the cattery business at Walshaw (since veterinary days I have worked as a laboratory analyst in a pharmaceutical company and then a clinical research company, there was also the pet shop too).

My spiritual life has been equally varied, but to be honest there have been more 'rests' along this particular road. Methodists, Evangelicals, Baptists and Quakers have all featured, but somehow never really seemed to fit, or more likely I didn't fit in to them. Sufi mysticism and the Celtic tradition have also been influential along my journey.

I knew nothing about Unitarianism until the day I literally stumbled across this church. As prosaic as it sounds, the timing of the Sunday service fitted with my need to be at the cattery until closing at 11am (the stewards are very used to me sneaking in just as the service is about to start!). So coincidence or serendipity....here I am....and I'm very glad that I am. Does Unitarianism fit, do I fit in to Unitarianism...100% yes.

I seem to have little time for hobbies, but most recently have dabbled in poetry writing, stained glass window making and dry stone walling. Nature & silence are the things that make me tick.

### **FRACKING**

We have recently been contacted by Mark Lichty, a Unitarian from Pennsylvania, who is in the U.K. briefly, to make a film about Fracking. The film may be viewed by accessing the website ... [groundswellrising.com](http://groundswellrising.com)

Mark has pointed out that the issue of fracking raises many environmental questions and is, therefore, of interest to all. He suggests, particularly, that anyone consulting the website should look at the Clips page

### **CONCERTS**

Please be aware that we have three concerts booked by outside parties during December---on Thursday, the 8th, Thursday, the 15th, and Sunday, the 18th; all of these take place between 6 and 8pm., when the premises will not be available to us.

## **CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**

**SUNDAY**

**11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 7PM**

**LED BY REVEREND KATE MCKENNA**

**ORGANIST MR BARRIE BRAILSFORD**

**WITH LAWRENCE KILLIAN – TRUMPET**

**IN THE PRESENCE OF THE MAYOR OF BURY AND  
CONSORT**

After the service you are invited to join us for mulled wine and mince pies.

During refreshments donations for a local charity caring for homeless people will be gratefully accepted.

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

**CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2016**

**SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> December**

**after church**

**MENU**

**Sherry or frash orange juice**

**Homemade cream of broccoli soup**

**Hot beef muffin with mustard**

**(a vegetarian option available)**

**Homemade Christmas cake, coffee or tea**

**Tickets £4 adults, £2 for children**

**From Pam Gilbert after church on Sundays 4th and  
11th of December**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**A SHORT FESTIVE SERVICE**

**FOLLOWED BY SHERRY AND SHORTBREAD**

Church address	1 Bank Street, Bury BL9 0DN
Church telephone	0161 761 3785
Charity Reg. No.	1078570
Church Website	<a href="http://www.bury-unitarian-church.org.uk">http://www.bury-unitarian-church.org.uk</a>
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Chair of Congregation	Anne Mills, 5 Arley Avenue, Bury BL9 5HD	0161 762 0943
Church Secretary	Anne Mills	
Church Treasurer	John Fitzpatrick, 2 Heapy Close, Bury BL8 2HW	0161 764 6374

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**CHURCH INFORMATION**

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