

CHURCH INFORMATION

Church address 1 Bank Street, Bury BL9 0DN
Church telephone 0161 761 3785
Charity Reg. No. 1078570
Church Website <http://www.bury-unitarian-church.org.uk>
Minister's telephone 0161 460 3363 , 07751 240 886 (mobile)
Minister's Email revkatemckenna@gmail.com
Editor's telephone 01706 822651
Editor's email pam_gilbert66@btinternet.com

CHURCH OFFICERS

Chair of Trustees Susan Holt 078767 16563
Chair of Church Council Betty Kenyon 01204887222
Chair of Congregation Anne Mills, 5 Arley Avenue, Bury
 BL9 5HD 0161 762 0943
Church Secretary Anne Mills
Church Treasurer John Fitzpatrick 0161 764 6374
Lettings Secretary Margaret Fitzpatrick 0161 764 6374

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2017 and JANUARY 2018



Children's Nativity – last year

MINISTER

REVEREND K MCKENNA

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2017 AND JANUARY 2018

CHURCH SERVICES IN DECEMBER

SUNDAY DECEMBER 3rd at 11.15am

Oh, Christmas Tree! A service to decorate and bless our Christmas trees, and to open the advent season.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 10th at 11.15am The Minister

AND AT 4pm.

ANNUAL CANDLE-LIT CAROL SERVICE. Everyone is very welcome to join us for carols, readings and fellowship..

SUNDAY DECEMBER 17th at 11.15am - The Minister - followed by lunch and - A *Christmas Carol* performed by Veronica & Gordon

SUNDAY DECEMBER 24th at 11.15am

A service marking the eve of the big day, followed by an inclusive communion service at 12.30.

MONDAY DECEMBER 25th at 11.15am

Christmas morning worship. Please join us from 10.15am for a simple but filling breakfast, and at 11.15am for worship, followed by sherry and mince pies.

31 December 11.15am The Minister

Sunday December 10th – after the morning service we need help to prepare for the Candle-lit Carol Service so please volunteer.

CHURCH SERVICES IN JANUARY

**7 January 11.15am The Minister – Junior Church
Prizegiving**

14 January 11.15am The Minister

21 January 11.15am The Minister

28 January 11.15am The Minister

CHURCH STEWARDS

3 December Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert

10 December Alf Howson & Roger Mills

17 December Betty & Neville Kenyon

24 December Marian Price & Di Scaife

31 December Beryl Bowden & Janet Thatcher

7 January Sue McMullen & Barbara Freemantle

14 January Jean Brookhouse & Susan Mitchell

21 January Lois Williams & George Scaife

28 January Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert

If the given date is difficult for you, please re-arrange with another steward(s).

CHURCH FLOWERS

3 December Betty & Neville Kenyon – In memory of George &
Anne Kenyon

10 December	Anonymous donor – To the mother of a loving husband
17 December	Church Flowers
24 December	Church Flowers
31 December	Church Flowers
7 January	Di & George Scaife – In memory of Margaret & Arthur Schofield
14 January	Church Flowers
21 January	Margaret Pollard – In memory of Margaret & Jack Pollard
28 January	Barbara Freemantle – for Brian's birthday

Distributors: Barbara Bamford, Jean Brookhouse, Anne Evitts, Sue McMullen

DONATIONS TO THE FLOWER FUND

Thank you to those who have made donations towards church flowers in 2017. These donations have covered about 80% of the cost of the flowers.

It is now time to start thinking about donations to the Flower Fund for next year and particularly the months of January, February and March. If you wish to make a donation, forms and envelopes will be available in the lobby and from Janet Thatcher.

I shall start 2018 with a blank calendar. If there is a date you would like to mark, please tell me this date on the form and I will pick the nearest available Sunday. I shall do my best to ensure that as many people as possible are able to pay for flowers on their preferred date.

Janet Thatcher

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

2 December	Margaret Fitzpatrick & Norah Hickton
9 December	Susan Holt & Kate McKenna
16 December	Barbara Freemantle & Betty Kenyon
23 December	Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard
30 December	June Clarke & Sue Mullen
6 January	Jean Taylor & Brenda Ainsworth
13 January	Pam Gilbert & Di Scaife
20 January	Margaret Fitzpatrick & Norah Hickton
27 January	Susan Holt & Kate McKenna

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

3 December	Anne Mills(M), Beryl Bowden, Rene Hollos
10 December	Norah Hickton(M), Peter Whewell, Barbara Bamford
17 December	Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Lois Williams, Di Scaife
24 December	Marian Price(M), Barbara Freemantle, Susan Mitchell
31 December	Jean Maden(M), Brenda Ainsworth, George Scaife
7 January	Anne Mills(M), Beryl Bowden, Rene Hollos
14 January	Norah Hickton(M), Peter Whewell, Barbara Bamford
21 January	Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Lois Williams, Di Scaife
28 January	Marian Price(M), Barbara Freemantle, Susan Mitchell

MEETINGS IN DECEMBER and JANUARY

Monday 4 th December at 7pm	Social & Fund-raising committee
Monday 11 th December at 7pm	Church Council
Monday 18 th December at 7pm	Trustees
Weds.10 th January at 7pm	Worship, Communications, Young People's Committee

CALENDAR DEADLINE

Items for the February edition of The Calendar should be with the editor by Sunday 21st January, please.

JUNIOR CHURCH

The children's Christmas Outing will be to the cinema to see **PADDINGTON 2** on Saturday 16th December. Please see **June Clarke** for times, etc.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The Christmas meal will be at **AUTOMATIC** on Thursday 7th December at 6.30pm. A deposit is required the week before. Please see Sue McMullen for details.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Men's Fellowship will meet at the church on **WEDNESDAY 13th DECEMBER at 11.30am. LUNCH WILL BE SERVED at approx midday.**

There will be no meetings of the Women's League or the Men's Fellowship in January.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Firstly, Happy Christmas!

Or, at least, happy advent, then happy Christmas, and then a very happy new year.

This is my second Christmas in Bury, and the first when everything hasn't been new and shiny and strange. It's still shiny, but not so new anymore, and definitely much less strange. And the church plans for the advent and Christmas period are well underway and very exciting.

On the 2nd December eighteen of us are going to The Nightingale Centre in Hucklow for a Christmas lunch. Some of the group have never been to Hucklow before, and many have been, but not for a very long time.

On the 3rd the service will concentrate on decorating Christmas trees - the big one will already be up and, I'm sure, splendid, but we will be decorating two or three others. I am also adapting an old Bury Unitarians tradition, and placing a memorial tree in the vestibule. You are invited to use this tree to place a bauble and a label in memory of a loved one: everyone remembered on the tree will also be remembered in our prayers.

On the 10th we have our glorious candlelit carol service at 4pm, and on the 17th we are joining together for lunch and a costumed reading of A Christmas Carol.

There will be a service and then a communion on Christmas Eve, and on Christmas Day our normal

Christmas service will be preceded by bacon sandwiches for anyone who would care to join us for that.

Full details of the December services are elsewhere in the calendar.

And church life will continue as normal. I will continue making visits, and I hope people will continue to make use of my vestry days when that feels more appropriate to them: Christmas is a glorious time of year but it can also be a hard one. Please let me know if you'd like to see me at church, at my home, or at yours. If you know of anyone else who'd like a visit, please tell me that as well.

On the subject of telling me things, I know that some of you haven't liked some of the changes that have happened in services. When that's the case, please tell me. Also, please tell me if you do like them. I'll continue to try new things (if we don't change we die), and some of them won't work. But please tell me, not someone else. I'm very happy to receive criticism, but much less happy when it comes second-hand. My dream church is one in which people communicate clearly and directly and honestly and with love, and we can all play a part in making that happen.

As for 2018, I predict more change, more glories, and more challenges. And I give thanks in advance for all of those things!

With love, Kate

TRAI DCRAFT

The stall will be open on December 10th, and again on January 7th. Please speak to Anne Mills or Jean Brookhouse if you require goods at other times. Thank you to everyone who has supported Traidcraft during 2017.

LUNCH CIRCLE

There will not be a meeting in December. In January, we shall meet on Tuesday, the 16th, at 12.30 pm. Please watch the notice-board and listen for pulpit-announcements for further details.

BOOK CLUB

Weds. 31 January at 7pm – *Elizabeth & Mary, Cousins, Rivals, Queens* by Jane Dunn – will be the book for discussion. All welcome!!

We have just received a current Library List of books available for Readers' Groups. When I have edited it (we have been going for more than 10 years), I will send it out so that we can select more books for our Request List – at our January meeting if possible. If you would like a list and are NOT on email, please speak to Pam Gilbert.

There will not be a meeting of the Book Club in December.

CHRISTMAS DRAW

Tickets are now on sale, in the lounge, for our Grand Christmas Raffle. They cost £1.00 each, or £5.00 for a book of 5. The Raffle will be drawn during the morning of Saturday, December 9th, and the prizes will be distributed over the course of the next few days. Prizes include bottles of brandy, whisky and wine; a Christmas Cake; a box of chocolates; toiletries; and a food hamper, all of which are on display in the lounge. Thank you to

all those who have donated prizes, to Rene for creating the display of prizes and arranging the hamper artistically, and to June for organising ticket-sales.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

The Young People's Committee feel that the children might like to have their own bookstall; this will run from January 7th, onwards, when books will be arranged on the shelf to the right of the hatch; books will be exchanged, rather than sold. If anyone has books suitable for children aged between 3 and 13, please bring them in and give them to June, initially; later, they can be added to existing stocks. This could be a good opportunity to donate surplus books, after Christmas. Please ask children in your families if they could find a book or two to spare!

NELUM MINISTERS' GROUP

Rev. Jim Corrigan has sent news of the next event to be organised by the above group; their first event was the Julian of Norwich workshop, held at Bury, and led by Kate. On Saturday, February 24th, 2018, there is to be a Taizé session, led by Rev. Jeff Gould, at Cross Street Chapel, Manchester. The session will be held between 2.30 and 4.00 pm; refreshments will be served, at the end of the afternoon. The music selected will have a Lenten theme. Please put this date in your diaries and come along, if you can.

SUNSHINE SMARTIES

Tubes full of 20p pieces should reach Brenda Ainsworth before the end of the year and may be handed to her, at any time. There will surely be more sunshine still to come in 2017, so have your money at the ready!

CHRISTMAS LUNCH AND ENTERTAINMENT

On Sunday, December 17th, the morning-service will be followed by a Soup and Sandwich Lunch, after which Gordon and Veronica Walker, from Bank Street Bolton, will perform their reading, in costume, of "A Christmas Carol", by Charles Dickens. The reading will be in two parts, and coffee and Christmas Cake will be served during the interval. Gordon and Veronica have very generously declined a fee, but will be requesting donations for Prostate Cancer UK and Fortis (a charity which offers support for abused women and children) ---two charities which are very important to them. The cost of lunch will be £4.00 per head, plus whatever donation to charity you wish to give; if the lunch makes a profit, this will be donated to the above charities, too. There will be a list on the board to be signed, for those who wish to attend.

Please support this event; it is a new venture, but one which promises to be highly enjoyable. Gordon and Veronica are extremely talented, and their performances are always most accomplished and polished.

SPECIAL GA_BURSARY

Essex Hall has announced that a Bursary is to be offered, in respect of the 2018 GA Annual Meetings, which are to be held at Staverton Estate, on April 4th to 7th. Thirty such bursaries will be available for those aged between 22 and 50, who have not attended the Meetings before, and who have been members of a congregation for between one and five years. If anyone wishes to apply, please speak to Kate; the deadline for applications is December 8th. Full details are on the notice-board.

RAWTENSTALL

Our church at Rawtenstall has recently undergone massive refurbishment and is now open for services, once more. These take place on the first and third Sundays of each month, at 3.00 pm; additional gatherings of a

spiritual nature take place at 7.30 pm on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month; and, on the last Friday of the month, at 7 pm Letting Go Celebrations are held.

The Formal Opening of the new-look church will be held on Saturday, December 16th, when the building will be open to the public, between 10.30 and 12.30 pm; coffee and mince pies will be served then, and a Special Service is planned for 2.30 pm, to be followed by a simple buffet; there will be time, after the buffet, to look round the premises. Invitations for the Opening will be sent out shortly, and attendance is by ticket only. Further details will be available, in due course.

Mark Hutchinson, now in his second year of ministry-training at Unitarian College, Manchester, will take much of the responsibility for events at Rawtenstall, during the next few months, as part of his student-pastoracy. The congregation at Rawtenstall would be delighted to welcome visitors from Bury---and the premises are most impressive---well worth a visit!

INVITATION MANCHESTER DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

The MDA has issued an invitation to us to join them for a Celebratory Dinner, in honour of Rev. Charles VanDenBroeder's Presidency of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches. This is to be held on Saturday, March 24th, 2018, at The Chancellors Hotel, Fallowfield; the evening will begin at 7.00 pm; dinner will cost £21.00 per head. If you wish to attend, Kate can supply booking-forms; these must be completed (one per person, please!) and returned to Rev. Penny Johnson, by December 10th. Full details are on the notice-board.

CAMERA CLUB

This meets on some Wednesdays, each month. The December meeting will be on Wednesday 13th. All are welcome but if you are considering attending, please check with Roger, Howard, or Ade on timing.

THANKS TO THE CAMERA CLUB

The editor of The Calendar is most grateful for the excellent photographs now appearing regularly on the covers of The Calendar.

A MESSAGE FROM ABI

Unfortunately my application for ministry training didn't progress to the interview panel due to not having met the criteria for a full three years membership with you in Bury.

However, every cloud does have a silver lining! Rochdale Unitarians have accepted my offer to support them as a congregation. As of early next year, I will be taking their services on a regular basis, and in time, helping with pastoral visits (and anything else I can be of use with!). This does mean you will see a little less of me next year, but I do hope to be able to balance everything (and in case you are wondering, yes I can juggle – seriously, I can!).

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your encouragement and support this past year. I have no doubt that it will continue as I further my experience in the coming year.

In love, Abi

FLOWER-BASKETS

Sue and June are running short of baskets; if you have any at home, please return them, as soon as possible; they may be left under the front stairs. Thank you.

