

CHURCH INFORMATION

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BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2018 and JANUARY



2019

MINISTER - REVEREND K MCKENNA

CHURCH SERVICES IN DECEMBER

Sunday December 2nd, 11.15am:

Christingle Service: the world is one, and the world needs light and sweetness. Join us for this Unitarian adaptation of the Christingle service. Children are particularly welcome.

Sunday December 9th, 11.15am:

Blue Christmas. A service allowing us to acknowledge the painful bits of what is sold to us as a joyous occasion.

Sunday December 9th, 4.00pm:

Annual Candle-lit Carol Service. Everyone is very welcome to join us for carols, readings, and fellowship.

Sunday December 16th, 11.15am:

Teddies of comfort and joy: bring your teddy bears to church to introduce them to the congregation. Your bear will go home with you, obviously!

Sunday December 23rd, 11.15am

How far are we from Bethlehem? Reflections on the Unitarian relationship with the Christmas story.

Tuesday December 25th, 11.15am:

Christmas morning worship. Please join us from 10.30am for a simple but filling breakfast, and at 11.15 for worship, followed by sherry and mince pies.

Sunday December 30th, 11.15am

A Service of Readings and Hymns - led by Anne Mills

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Followed by a short Christmas film

SUNDAY 16th December

Cost will be £5 - please sign the list on the notice-board.

CHURCH SERVICES IN JANUARY 2019

6 January	11.15am	The Minister -Junior church prize-giving
13 January	11.15am	The Minister
20 January	11.15am	The Minister
27 January	11.15am	The Minister

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP SERVICES:

You are welcome to join us for intimate contemplative worship, with readings, recorded music, and time to share our own thoughts and feelings.

Tuesday 11th December, 2.30pm: Things that are worth waiting for.

Tuesday 8th January, 7pm: New beginnings.

COMMUNION

Our December communion service will be at 12.45 on Sunday 23rd. Everyone is very welcome to this sharing of bread and wine.

ADVENT CALENDARS: THANK YOU!

Thank you all very much for your generosity to the Advent Calendar collection. We have taken 61 chocolate calendars, 4 classic calendars, and three other chocolate gifts to Father Frances over at St Marie's church. He will pass them on to Sister Joan, who will ensure they get to the Food Bank before advent begins.

I know your gifts will be much appreciated by the children whose families rely on the Food Bank.

SOCKS APPEAL

Thank you as well for the contributions which you have already started to make to the appeal for socks to pass on to the Bury Homeless Project. Every pair of socks will make a difference to someone.

CHURCH STEWARDS

2 December	Beryl Bowden & Janet Thatcher
9 December	Sue McMullen and Ashley-Jade Clarke
16 December	Jean Brookhouse & Susan Mitchell
23 December	Lois Williams & George Scaife
30 December	Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert
6 January	Roger Mills & Susan Holt
13 January	Betty & Neville Kenyon
20 January	Marian Price & Di Scaife
27 January	Beryl Bowden & Janet Thatcher

CHURCH FLOWERS

6 January	Di & George Scaife	In memory of Margaret & Arthur Schofield
13 January	Margaret Pollard	In memory of Margaret & Jack Pollard
20 January	Church Flowers	
27 January	Church Flowers	

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

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

1 December	Pam Gilbert & Di Scaife
8 December	Margaret Fitzpatrick & Norah Hickton
15 December	Betty Kenyon & Kate McKenna
22 December	Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard
29 December	June Clarke & Sue McMullen
5 January	Brenda Ainsworth & Susan Holt
12 January	Pam Gilbert & Di Scaife
19 January	Margaret Fitzpatrick & Norah Hickton
26 January	Betty Kenyon & Kate McKenna

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

2 December	Anne Mills(M), Beryl Bowden, Damion Langford
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9 December	Norah Hickton(M), Peter Whewell, Barbara Bamford
16 December	Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Lois Williams, Di Scaife
23 December	Marian Price(M), Susan Mitchell, Fred Mitchell
30 December	Jean Maden(M), Brenda Ainsworth, George Scaife
6 January	Anne Mills(M), Beryl Bowden, Damion Langford
13 January	Norah Hickton(M), Peter Whewell, Barbara Bamford
20 January	Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Lois Williams, Di Scaife
27 January	Marian Price(M), Susan Mitchell, Fred Mitchell

FOLDED STARS WORKSHOP

On Saturday 8th December, Kate will run a short workshop on making woven paper stars. Everyone is welcome, and no great skill is called for. The workshop will start around 12.30, and you're welcome from 12 with your sandwiches. All equipment will be provided, but if you have a Pritt Stick that would be handy! Tea, coffee, and cakes will be available.

CHRISTMAS SINGSONG

Following a successful singalong of wartime favourites in November, we are holding a traditional sing-song around the piano on Saturday 15th December. There will be a selection of carols and secular songs – if you have any requests please get them to Kate after the service on the 2nd December so that she can make up the booklets.

rites of passage

It is very important to everyone at Bury Unitarian Church that rites of passage (baby namings, weddings, and funerals) meet the needs and

wishes of the people most closely involved. There is a new protocol for how to make sure this happens: please ask if you would like to see a copy.

SAFEGUARDING

We have produced a new Safeguarding policy for children and vulnerable adults. This will be posted on the notice board in the lounge, and we would ask that everyone in church reads at least the summary. If you would like to see a copy, they can be emailed or given to you in paper form.

CHILDREN'S PRIZEGIVING:

The children's prizes will be presented on the second Sunday of January: which, for 2019, will be Sunday 13th.

Like last year, I am very keen for the prizes to represent an attribute or achievement specific to each child, rather than just awarding them for attendance. Please give some thought to what has impressed you about each of our young people, and let me know – the more people we hear from, the more we can reflect that child's strengths in their prizes.

BURY STREET KITCHEN

As you may well know, the Ministry Support Group and the church officers agreed that, for a trial period, the Bury Street Kitchen could use the church lounge one evening a week. This was initially on a Thursday, but it was rightly pointed out that we have several events on occasional Thursday evenings, so it has now changed to a Tuesday.

The group has met in the church three times now, and it has been a great privilege to open our church home for them. It makes all the difference for people to meet indoors, in the warm, and to have the chance to talk properly.

This arrangement will be discussed further at the next Church Council, and Kate very much hopes that we can continue to provide this much appreciated service at least one evening a week, and at least while the weather is so cold.

THE MINISTER'S 'WEEKLY PLANS'

As you will know, the minister publishes her weekly plans in the Order of Service each week. Just to clarify, these plans are a very rough idea of what she is doing. A day which is down as 'working from home,' for instance, will often involve a pastoral visit or phone calls instead, and her plans often change according to the needs of the congregation. This includes days off: if a need arises when the plan says the minister is on a day off (and assuming she is in Bury), she is always happy to change those plans. Please always err on the side of contacting her rather than not contacting her.

If you're not sure about this (or, indeed, about anything the minister does or doesn't do) please talk to her directly.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Wednesday 5 December at 7pm	Church Council
Wednesday 12 December at 7pm	Trustees
Monday 7 January at 7pm	Finance & General Purposes
Wednesday 23 January at 7pm	Worship

CALENDAR DEADLINE

The last day for handing in items for the February edition of *The Calendar* will be **Sunday 20th January**.

TRAIDCRAFT

The stall will be open on December 9th, and on January 6th and 20th; please ask Anne or Jean, if you need goods at any other times. Many thanks to Jean for her help in running the stall, this year, and also to those who have supported fair trade; your efforts help so many people in developing countries to lead somewhat better lives, and every item purchased makes a difference.

Traidcraft has recently announced that it will be continuing to trade, after all; an independent assessment has advised that its operation should be considerably scaled down, and, at present, it seems that the company is to concentrate on selling basic foodstuffs, plus a few crafts; staff-numbers at headquarters, in Gateshead, will be reduced from 67 to 12. Our stall will certainly continue, although some lines may become unavailable; time will tell, but there could well be changes in store. Please continue to support fair trade, as this is the best way in which to help.

LUNCH CIRCLE

Please note that there will not be a meeting in December.

The January meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 15th, at 12.30; when Anne and Roger will act as hosts. There will be a list on the board to be signed, in due course. All are welcome to join us, on that occasion.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

There will be no meeting in December. Our Annual Christmas Meal will be on Thursday, 17th January at ***Automatic***. Details will be confirmed nearer the time. ***Sue McMullen***

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will not meet in December. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 30 January at 7pm. Because we do not meet in December the library have allowed us to have two books for the longer period. The books are: ***An Officer and a Spy*** by Robert Harris and ***Death Comes to Pemberley*** by P.D.James.

We chat about the books for about an hour, then share light refreshments and continue the chatting. Everyone welcome – you needn't have read the book!!!

CAMERA CLUB

The members will meet on December 10th and, again, on January 14th; the December meeting will be a planning-session, when decisions will be taken about next year's programme: another exhibition, an away day, and a Camera Club website, amongst other matters. In January, the lounge is already booked for a meeting, so the Camera Club meeting will probably take place in the vestry. New members will be welcome---just come along and join in the fun!

SUNSHINE SMARTIES

Please bring your filled Smartie tubes in, during December, and hand them over to Brenda Ainsworth. New tubes, full of sweets, will be available, after Christmas; it is not, however, obligatory to eat the Smarties!

GRAND CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Tickets are now on sale and going well; there are still plenty left, so don't forget to buy yours soon---or even take a few more. Tickets cost £1.00 each, and a book of 5 costs £5.00. We have some wonderful prizes, this

year, and lots of them! The draw will be held on December 8th, under the watchful eye of the Minister, to ensure fair play!

DONATIONS

We have recently received a legacy of £1,000.00 from the estate of Robert (Bob) Alker, who died earlier this year. He was, for some years, a member at Bury, and, particularly, of our Men's Fellowship. Church Council will discuss what we might purchase, in memory of Bob, at its December meeting, on the 5th; if you have any suggestions for consideration, please speak to Betty or Anne beforehand. In the meantime, a plaque, in memory of Bob and his late wife, Joyce, has been bought and fixed to one of the worship-area chairs, in appreciation of this generous gift.

THE FUTURE OF FAITH

Rev. Jim Corrigan is organising a series of lectures on this theme, on behalf of the Lancashire Collaborative Ministry; there is a poster on the board, with full details, and there are also leaflets on the lounge-tables. All the sessions will be held at Rawtenstall Unitarian Church; dates and speakers are as follows:

December 1st, 2018: Matt Carmichael: Rekindling the Spirit of Community--Restoring Depth in an age of Screens;

March 23rd, 2019: Alastair McIntosh: Towards Third Millennium Christianity: Activism, Non-violence and the Mystical Imperative. All sessions begin at 11a.m. and end at 3.15 p.m. Lunch is on a bring-and-share basis.

GREETINGS.....

...are sent by Philip Peters; sadly, for health-reasons, Philip is unable to join us in worship as often as he would wish, but, as he celebrates 25 years

of membership of Bury Unitarian Church, in December, he felt that it would be appropriate to convey his very best wishes to everyone. Thank you, Philip---come and see us soon!

THANKS

Thank you to Val Chamberlain for leading our service on 28th October on the theme of **Words: losing and finding.**

Words are integral to our perception, understanding and appreciation of the world in which we live. For words to 'no longer exist' which we may have grown up with, yet current generations of children don't have access to (through the deletion of them from the junior dictionary) alters awareness and therefore alters appreciation. Val asked the question – without the words can we really care; a challenging thought! We were also prompted to think about how words help us to identify with our feelings both good and bad; and to consider the impact that not having access to this form of expression can have on mental wellbeing. The examples taken from the psalms and the poem *Pied Beauty* highlighted the depth of feeling that words can express. A thing or feeling exists before we label it with a word, but maybe we were being asked to consider that without the word, can we really relate to it? Well done Val for a stimulating and professionally-delivered service. (and that was with the added pressure of being assessed as part of her worship studies course).

So.....**CONGRATULATIONS VAL** – Val has recently heard that she has successfully completed all elements of the Foundation Level of The Worship Studies Course. An excellent achievement for which she thanks us for our encouragement and interest.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY: LEST WE FORGET:

We commemorated the centenary of the end of World War 1, on three separate occasions, this year.

On November 10th, a small but enthusiastic group gathered to sing popular wartime songs. Aply accompanied on the piano by Steven Ramsay, we sang heartily---although we seemed to know choruses much better than verses! Anne's rendition of "Sam, Sam, pick up thy musket" was well-received. This was a light-hearted session, but none the less sincere in terms of the memories evoked.

Morning-service, the next day, began at our Cenotaph, on an extremely wet day. George read the familiar verses from Laurence Binyon's poem, "To the Fallen"; we listened to the strains of "The Last Post" and "Réveille"; we observed the Two Minutes' silence; and Roy Wilkinson, our oldest veteran, and Hope Maden-Hunter, our youngest and most aptly-named member, laid the wreath together, in a most touching ceremony. Once in church, we resumed our worship, which culminated in the reading out of our Roll of Honour---always an emotional moment. As the names were read, we were invited to collect a named poppy, each one representing a war-casualty from one of our constituent churches, and place it on the communion table, beside our Book of Remembrance. The poignancy of this ceremony seems to increase in intensity, each year, as we acknowledge what we owe to those who fought so that future generations might live in freedom and peace.

Later in the morning, a group of us gathered at our cemetery at Holebottom, to pay tribute to the two soldiers whose war-graves are to be found there: Arthur Ashworth and Harry Greenhalgh; their details are also recorded in our Book of Remembrance. We remembered the contribution of each man, as part of our quiet, personal observations, and each planted an individual poppy at both graves, during a brief period of silence.

To Kate, we express our thanks for both services; each was moving, yet dignified, as we united past memories and hopes for the future: those who lost their lives in wartime did not perish in vain.

INTERMENT

On Saturday, 24th November the ashes of Edna Wilkinson were interred at the Garden of Remembrance at Ainsworth Unitarian Chapel. Reverend Beryl Allerton officiated.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear all,

I don't think I'm alone in thinking December has come early this year - certainly, it only seems yesterday we were complaining about the stifling summer weather and wondering if things would ever cool down.

But it is here: so first of all, I wish you all a very happy Christmas, and blessings into the new year.

Last month I was very proud to be with this community as we marked Remembrance Sunday in November: special thanks are due to Roy Wilkinson and Hope Maden-Hunter for their roles in laying the wreath at the war memorial. It was also an honour to visit Holebottom cemetery after the main service, where a group of a dozen or so of us laid poppies on the two war graves which are there, and, through those young men, remembered all of the thousands whose lives were ended or altered beyond all recognition during the wars. Having started this ceremony to mark the 100th anniversary of the armistice, it will now continue as an annual event.

Looking ahead, we are, of course, about to plunge into the advent and Christmas season. Details of Sunday services, and of some of the special events, are elsewhere in the calendar, so I only need to say here that Christmas is always glorious (and

tiring) in a church community, and that we have some exciting plans ahead. We will, of course, continue to worship together every Sunday at 11.15am: during this season of busyness and rushing, it's good to have something steady and reliable to lean on.

It's at periods like Christmas that you realise how hard people work in our community. So much goes on in church which couldn't happen without people giving up their time and efforts: without people's generosity the church would not be decorated, there would be no refreshments, no one would welcome people into the church, there would be no raffles, Fair Trade stall, 100 club draw, hymn numbers, and very little administration would get done. please know that the minister is very grateful for this - and for the jobs she's sure she's forgotten.

This last year has brought us our share of sadness and loss. We have lost beloved friends, and we mourn their absence and offer our love to their loved ones, particularly at this time of year. We have known illness and bereavement in our circle, and again, we pray for healing for everyone who is ill or grieving.

But we have also watched our young people grow and develop. We have welcomed new members into our numbers, and seen people take on new responsibilities. Like the rest of life, church life is a mixture of sadness and joy. But together we can support and hold each other through whatever comes to us.

As we mark the ending of 2018 and move into 2019, I hope that we will continue to be the loving and supportive community I know we can be, and I look forward to increasing and strengthening our community.

With love, Kate

