

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2016

WORSHIP SERVICES

7 February	11.15am	The Minister
14 February	11.15am	Special Service – A service of words and music celebrating the many kinds of love – 'ASPECTS OF LOVE' – followed by lunch.
21 February	11.15am	The Minister
28 February	11.15am	The Minister

CHURCH STEWARDS

7 February	Margaret & John Fitzpatrick
14 February	Betty Kenyon & John Allerton
21 February	Lois & Alan Williams
28 February	Marian Price & Di Scaife

If you are unable to fulfil your duties on the given date, please re-arrange with another steward(s).

CHURCH FLOWERS

7 February	Barbara Spencer – In memory of Norah Fletcher
14 February	Susan Holt – In memory of Jack Crabtree
21 February	Beryl Bowden – In memory of Mary Scholes
28 February	Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgetts – In memory of Eda Gerrard

Distributor: Molly Ratcliffe

CHURCH FLOWERS

The list for donations for church flowers is being updated. On the board in the lounge is a copy of the existing list. If you donate for flowers and wish to continue please would you check the list and follow the instructions to confirm your wish to continue. If you do not currently donate but wish to do so please fill in one of the vacant weeks with your name. You can donate, in memory of someone, to celebrate a birthday or anniversary or other occasion, or just because you love having beautiful flowers in the church. The average cost of flowers each week is £20.00 which covers the large display and three small ones for distribution.

Please give your donation to **Janet Thatcher** who will give you a receipt.

Thank you to all who donate for flowers which make the church look beautiful and uplift our spirits.

Thank you to Molly who has arranged the church flowers and administered the fund for over forty years we owe her a huge debt of gratitude. Molly, even though she has been unwell recently, will continue to organise arranging the flowers but we hope to ease her workload by delegating the administration.

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

6 February	Brenda Ainsworth & Jean Taylor
13 February	Margaret Fitzpatrick & Norah Hickton
20 February	Marc Peters & Philip Peters
27 February	Rene Hollos & Alison Hollos

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

7 February	Anne Mills (M), Beryl Bowden, Rene Hollos
14 February	Norah Hickton(M), Peter Whewell, John Allerton

21 February Margaret Fitzpatrick (M), Lois Williams, Di Scaife
28 February Marian Price (M), Brenda Ainsworth, George Scaife

(M) denotes that this person provides the milk.

LUNCHEON CLUB

The February meeting will take place on the 16th, at 12.30 pm; when Susan and Margaret will host the occasion. New members are always welcome. Please watch the notice-board for further details and sign up, as required

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday, 4 February at 7.30pm – Annual General Meeting

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Men's Fellowship has been postponed in January due to members going to sunnier climes. (Lucky chaps)

The next Men's Fellowship will be Wednesday 30th March when Fred Mitchell shall regale us with his anecdotes and words of wisdom. **George Scaife**

100 CLUB

George Scaife is collecting the money for the 100 Club for the next period, which is from March to February 2017.

The cost is £12 per number for the twelve months.

The prizes remain the same: £25 each month drawn on the first Sunday.

There are additional prizes in July (£25) and December (£75).

If you cannot get to church to see George then please ring him on 01706 646016 and he will be pleased to call on you.

Should anyone who is not in the 100 Club and wishes to be so, we have some spare numbers available, so give George a ring.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY

Monday 8 February at 7.00pm Church Council
Thursday 18 February at 2.00pm Ministerial Appointments
Monday 29 February at 7.00pm Trustees

CALENDAR DEADLINE – The last day for items to be included in the March edition of the Calendar will be Sunday 21 February.

THANKS – CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT CHURCH

Many thanks to all who served, and those who helped to clear up after the lunch and those who did the laundry afterwards – and to Susan Holt for standing by and helping on the day. We did make a small profit which went to church funds. **Pam G**

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on WEDNESDAY 24 February at 7pm. The book to be discussed is *Brooklyn* by Colm Toibin. This book is available from the cupboard in the lounge. Please sign if you take a copy. New folk always welcome. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DAY FROM MONDAY TO WEDNESDAY THIS MONTH ONLY.

CALENDAR DISTRIBUTION

Di Scaife has taken over this task, so queries, requests, donations, etc. are now channelled through Di. Contact details below.

Calendar production and distribution costs amount to approximately £10 per year per Calendar and is supported by donations. Contributions, whatever the size, are always welcome and gratefully received.

However, you can also access the Calendar via email if that's more convenient – email details required – or by direct download from the Bury Unitarian Church website.

To change the way you receive your copies and /or make a donation, please contact Di on email: di@georgescaife.plus.com or mobile: 07905 899 586 or at Sunday service.

FUTURE OF THE BAZAAR

We are seeking opinions about the future of the Bazaar---what do you think? Is this still an event we feel we can organise? Do we have the interest, the energy, the goods, the manpower, and the customers, to be successful? Are you personally willing to be involved?

Or is it time to have a rethink, and a change? It has been suggested that we could have 2 or 3 fund-raising events, at different times of the year---that we could try an Afternoon Tea, a themed event (e.g. Forties, or Ascot), a Christmas Draw, a Pampering Day, or a Bake Off. (Please suggest any other events that occur to you.)

There will be a box for suggestions, in the foyer, from mid-January. The deadline for feedback is Sunday, February 7th; Council will consider the response on February 8th. Every comment counts!

TRAI DCRAFT

The stall will be open on February 7th and 21st. Please ask Anne Mills or Jean Brookhouse if you require goods at other times. Thank you to Jean for all her help during the past year.

THE UNITARIAN

We have received a message from Fran Pickering, the new editor of The Unitarian, and a member of our Kendal church, requesting contributions of material for future issues. Please consider writing a short piece, if you can; further details are on the notice-board.

JUNIOR CHURCH

Prize-giving was held on January 10th, when Ashley-Jayde, Eloise and Freddy received their prizes from Margaret Miller, who was herself a Sunday School teacher for more than 50 years; she began at the age of 15, when she helped in the Primary Department at Bank Street, under the watchful eye of Edith Hamer, but later moved to Chesham, where she continued her teaching for many years. It is always a pleasure to witness the children receiving their books, and to have them with us, in church, each Sunday. Beryl presented June with a bouquet to thank her for all the work she undertakes so willingly with the Junior Church members.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

Before Christmas, and on Christmas Day, we held retiring collections for our churches in Germany and Hungary which are supplying humanitarian aid to refugees. The sum of £530.00 was collected and has now been divided between the churches in the two countries; thank you to all our members, families and friends for their generosity---this was a magnificent total!

NEW DUTIES

It was sad to receive several resignations, just before Christmas. Derek and Freda Worthington, Jean Jackson, and Marc Peters have all felt unable to continue with the duties they have been carrying out for many years; as is so often the case, we do not realise how much they do until they are no longer there to do it! To them all, we offer sincere thanks for everything they have done for the church, over a very long period; their efforts have been very much appreciated.

Thanks are also due to those who have volunteered to fill the gaps; they have taken over, with immediate effect, and any queries should be addressed to the relevant people from now on.

Di Scaife will deal with Calendar distribution/donations, and with some restocking;

George Scaife will organise the Yoga Stewarding Rota and The 100 Club;

Val Chamberlain will oversee Gift Aid;

Lois Williams will administer the Music Exams;

Pam Oxley is now in charge of Sunday Coffee arrangements;

Roger Mills will be responsible for setting the heating, each week;

John Fitzpatrick will put out and bring in the bins;

Beryl Allerton will open the church, on Sundays, put out hymnbooks and hymn-numbers, and change microphone-batteries; however, this is only a short-term solution.

It would be appreciated if Wednesday-evening stewards would set out tables and chairs, ready for Saturday-morning coffee.

Offers of help are always welcome; we need people to help with Sunday Coffee and also with stewarding in church; please help if you can.

CHRISTMAS 2015

Before last Christmas becomes a distant memory, just a word of appreciation for all the excellent services we had during December. Christmas Day was well-attended, and it was good to see a large number of church-members, this year, to join with them in worship, and to exchange greetings afterwards. Our Adult Nativity Play was well-received---and different! Children do not have to worry about where to put their glasses, hearing-aids and handbags whilst performing---an extra layer of difficulty! Whether Beryl will feel strong enough to direct another adult play remains to be seen! This service was followed by our traditional, and excellent, Christmas Lunch---thank you, Pam, and helpers! Our Carols By Candlelight was, again, very successful; the atmosphere was wonderful, and the music, carols and readings were all of extremely high quality; the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, Karen Phillips, was in attendance and enjoyed the proceedings immensely; the mulled wine and mince pies added an extra festive touch. Beryl is to be congratulated on devising such impressive services and for working so hard to bring ideas to fruition. Also to be congratulated are Betty, Lois and Val, who created a tranquil and reflective service on the first Sunday in December, based around the theme of "Winter". Thank you to everyone who contributed to all our Christmas services; it is always pleasing to see so much talent on display!

SUNSHINE SMARTIES

For those who are not still dieting, after Christmas, new tubes of Smarties are now available from the Traidcraft table---or see Anne or Brenda, at other times. We raised £270.00 in 2015---let's hope for more sunny days, this year!

MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS GROUP

The group met on 14-01-16. The trustees have agreed that a budget of £500 is to be available; they also considered the possibility of funding our own trainee for the ministry but rejected this, as the proposal was full of uncertainties; if a congregation-member wished to undergo the training, that could be a different matter. We agreed to devise and insert an advertisement in "The inquirer", and

this is in hand. We felt strongly that recruitment within the denomination is uninspired; despite this, it should be carried out nationally, rather than locally. Anne will contact the Principals of the two Unitarian colleges and ask whether any of their students might be interested in our vacancy. Until we have had some interest, it is not appropriate to carry out the Congregational Questionnaire or Rainbow exercises, or to formulate interview-questions. Betty is working hard on pulpit-supply, from June 1st; however, the questions of rites of passage, pastoral care and the organisation of congregational social events remain to be settled, and these matters will be discussed at Church Council. The next meeting will be held on 18-02-16, at 2 pm.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs of church-events and people, taken between 2011 and 2015 have now been collated and labelled up; they are filed in a ring-binder, in the bookcase cupboard. If you wish to look at these, please feel free to do so, but, if you take photographs out, put them back as you found them; please do not remove either the binder or the pictures from the premises.

FROM THE CHARITY COMMITTEE

The Charity Committee met on January 16th to plan the Quiz Evening which will be held on Saturday, February 20th, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets cost £7.00 and are available from committee-members; the cost includes a Pie and Peas supper. Doug and Enid Cathcart will again be our quiz-masters, and tables of 4 or 6 may be pre-booked. Posters and flyers are available at church; please take one and display it, if you can.

There is a list on the notice-board for suggestions as to which charity we will support from the proceeds of the above event; on the evening, all suggestions will be put in a hat, and one will be drawn. Please note that charities put forward should not have been the recipients of our fund-raising previously, and they should all be local ones. The Charity Committee does not propose to organise any further events, during 2016, but will meet, towards the end of the year, to decide whether to continue its efforts in 2017.

STEWARDING

It would be appreciated if groups which are arranging meetings would concentrate on filling up as many Wednesday evenings as possible, from now on, so that the burden of stewarding is eased as much as possible. Also, a reminder that the Chairman and Secretary (or any other person in charge) of a committee are responsible for deciding who will open and close for each meeting; please do not assume that somebody else will do this!

MINISTER'S MONTH

It seems such a long time since Christmas and each year as I write for the February calendar I wonder how much we have already forgotten. I suppose I was more aware than usual because it was my last Christmas as minister but I look back on it as a good time. The services went well and were well attended and there seemed such a great atmosphere throughout. I appealed for people to come on Christmas Day and the response was wonderful, one of the best Christmas Day congregations we have had. Thank you for being there.

On the day itself, after sherry, shortcake, lots of kisses and Merry Christmasing John and I drove up to the Lake District in torrential rain wondering if it would be all lake and no district by the time we arrived. But our cottage in Coniston was warm and dry and we soon had a blazing fire to sit around. Family arrived and we had a few days together before we headed off for Teesdale to spend the New Year with friends in a cottage there. The weather was neither warm or friendly but the company was and we had a great time.

The first service of 2016 looked back at the year just gone and, as always, I am surprised when preparing this service just how much has happened over the year. But what I chose to speak about particularly was the amazing generosity of the Bury congregation who over the course of the year had raised over three thousand pounds for various causes, absolutely amazing.

Already dates are being filled on the calendar for 2016. The Charity Committee, though taking a rest this year, are still organising one event which is the Quiz Night for the benefit a local charity. There is a trip to the Harrogate Spring Flower Show in April with Fish and Chips on the way back. On Valentine's Day we are having a special service on the many aspects of love with a lunch to follow.

There are times when being a minister is a special privilege and so it was when I was able, on your behalf, to thank some of our members, on their retirement, for their long service to the congregation and present them with gifts and good wishes. It is great to report that the posts which were vacant have all been filled and we thank all those who volunteered.

As you all know I am awaiting an operation which is a long time happening. So far, apart from the odd day, I have felt very well and am in no rush to lose part of my anatomy. Thank you for your concern about my health, I feel very cherished. We have had quite a bit of illness over the last few weeks and I know that those people too have received a lot of loving concern which has been much appreciated.

If you know of anyone who is ill or for any reason would like a visit, please let me know. *Love Beryl*

TRIP TO HARROGATE SPRING FLOWER SHOW

THURSDAY 21 APRIL

Leaving church at 9.30am

Returning via Boundary Mill for Fish and Chips

Back at church at approximately 8pm

Tickets for Show with pre-booked discount £16.00

Coach £15.00 (if it is filled)

+ cost of Fish and Chips

**Please put your name on the list if you are interested
by SUNDAY 5 MARCH**

SUNDAY 14 FEBRUARY

'ASPECTS OF LOVE'

A service of words and music celebrating the many kinds of love

Followed by Lunch

MENU

Lamb Hotpot topped with sliced potatoes

Ginger Sponge and Custard

Tea or Coffee

(Please bring wine or soft drinks if you wish.)

£5.00

**Please put your name on the list on the board if you wish to have
lunch.**

GRAND QUIZ AND PIE AND PEA SUPPER

SATURDAY 20 FEBRUARY AT 7.30PM

QUIZMASTERS - DOUG & EDITH CATHCART

**TICKETS £7 FROM MEMBERS OF THE CHARITY
COMMITTEE**

