

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
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

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2017



Norah & Peter preparing Sunday morning coffee.

MINISTER
REVEREND K MCKENNA

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2017

CHURCH SERVICES

5 February	11.15am	The Minister
12 February	11.15am	The Minister
19 February	11.15am	The Minister
26 February	11.15am	The Minister

CHURCH STEWARDS

5 February	Betty & Neville Kenyon
12 February	Marian Price & Di Scaife
19 February	Beryl Bowden & Janet Thatcher
26 February	Sue McMullen & Marc Peters

If any of these dates is difficult for you, please rearrange with another steward(s).

CHURCH FLOWERS

5 February	Mr & Mrs Bentley – In memory of Mrs Davenport
12 February	Church Flowers

19 February Church Flowers

26 February Beryl Bowden – In memory of Mary Scholes

Distributors as available – Barbara Bamford, Jean Brookhouse, Anne Evitts, Sue McMullen

If you would like to make a donation towards the church flowers, either in memory of someone or just because you enjoy seeing the lovely arrangements in church on Sunday, please speak to Janet Thatcher.

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

4 February	Di Scaife & Pam Gilbert
11 February	Rene Hollos & Alison Hollos
18 February	Betty Kenyon & Molly Ratcliffe
25 February	Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

5 February	Anne Mills(M), Beryl Bowden, Rene Hollos
12 February	Norah Hickton(M), Peter Whewell
19 February	Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Lois Williams, Di Scaife
26 February	Marian Price(M), Jean Taylor, Susan Mitchell

LUNCHEON CLUB

We meet on February 21st, at 12.30 pm; when Susan and Margaret will host the occasion. Please watch the notice-board and listen for pulpit-announcements for further information. New members are always welcome; come and see what is on offer---good food, excellent company, and pleasant surroundings, for a mere £3.00, once a month.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 2nd February at 7.30pm Annual General Meeting

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

There will not be a meeting in February. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 29th March – Bill Hargreaves will be giving a presentation and hopefully, an expose, of the newspaper industry. This will be followed by lunch at the Trackside if it is open for food or at another suitable establishment of our choosing. The Men's Fellowship is open to all men of the church and anyone else who has a good story to tell. (Yes, we liked *Listen With Mother*.)

Allan Hodgert gave an interesting insight into table tennis competitions and the rigours of refereeing the matches, at our last meeting, which was followed by lunch and drinks afterwards, provided by Di Scaife and Pam Gilbert ably assisted by David Gilbert. Our grateful thanks to all three for an enjoyable lunch.

100 CLUB

George Scaife will be collecting for the 100 Club – that is £12 per draw number for the year. The prize money remains at £25 on the first Sunday of the month with extra draws in July (£25), and December. (£75) There is a guarantee this year that someone will get lucky each month!!!

MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY

Wednesday 1st February at 7pm Finance & General Purposes

Friday 3rd February at 10.30am Ministerial Support Group

Saturday 4th February Women's League District AGM

Wednesday 15th February at 7pm Church Council

Wednesday 22nd February at 7pm Trustees

CALENDAR DEADLINE

The last day for items to be included in the March edition of the Calendar will be Sunday 19th February.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT CHURCH

Many thanks to all who rallied round and helped on 18th December. We made a small profit which we are adding to a donation to *Streetwise*.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Monday 27th February at 7pm. The book to be discussed is *Snowflower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See.

We usually chat about the designated book and share a little food and wine or soft drinks. If you enjoy reading come and join us.

TRAIDCRAFT

The stall will be open on February 5th and February 26th. If you need items at other times, please speak to Anne Mills or Jean Brookhouse. Fairtrade Fortnight runs between February 27th and March 12th, this year.

HELP!

We are short of one person to help Peter and Norah with coffee, on the second Sunday of each month; if you can help, even if you can't manage every month, please speak to Anne Mills.

GA DELEGATES

Our delegates, this year, will be Abi Elliott-McGuffie, Susan Mitchell, and Val Chamberlain. As Val will also be attending the Meetings in order to report on her Findhorn experience, she and Susan will share the duties of one delegate. Neville and Betty will also attend, as they are Associate Members, and Susan Holt, who is The Women's League National Treasurer, will also be there. Our Minister, Kate, will be present at the Meetings, and her attendance will include the Ministers' pre-conference meeting, on April

9th. It is good to see that so many people are willing to represent our church, and we thank them for their interest.

PULPIT-ANNOUNCEMENTS

With effect from the end of January, the notices will be given by the Minister, each week. If you have announcements to be made, you should continue to write them in the notebook on the lounge bookcase, as before, doing this as early as possible. Thank you to Anne, Susan, Lois and Betty, who have carried out this duty since June, last year.

QUIZ EVENING

On Saturday, February 25th, at 7.30 pm; we shall be holding our annual Quiz and Pie and Peas Supper. Tickets are already available, at a cost of £7.50 each. Please feel free to bring your own drinks; jugs of water will be supplied, free of charge! As usual, Doug and Enid Cathcart will act as our Quizmasters, so come along and pit your wits against them! Tickets are available from Roger, Susan (Mitchell), Rene, June, Peter, and Betty; **let** them know if you are bringing along a team, so that tables can be arranged. A Raffle will be held, on the evening, and all proceeds from the event will go to the charity *STREETWISE*. We will need volunteers to help, on the day, and there will be a list on the notice-board to sign, for those who are willing to do so. Please come along and give us your support!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Two advance notices: on **Sunday, March 12th**, we will be holding a discussion, after a slightly shorter service, to assess Kate's Ministry. We shall meet in the lounge, over coffee (and, possibly, biscuits!) to speak informally; the first part of the meeting will not include Kate, but she will join us for the second part; the session will last for between an hour and an hour and a half. If you are unable to be present, on the day, but have views to express, please speak to Anne Mills.

On **Sunday, March 19th**, again after a shorter service, our Congregational AGM is to take place. There will be further details about this in the March calendar, as well as information on the notice-board; please be vigilant!

INDUCTION SERVICE

Kate's Induction will take place on **Saturday, March 4th, 2017, at 2 p.m.** Church-members should, by now, have received an invitation; if this is not the case, please contact Anne Mills. The service will be conducted by Rev. Cody Coyne, of Cross Street, Manchester, and the sermon is to be preached by Rev. Jim Corrigan, of Padiham, Rawtenstall, and The Lancashire Collaborative Ministry. A friend of Kate's will be the organist. The GA President is to be present, as is our MP, and the Mayor of Bury and his Consort have been invited, in addition to various dignitaries, representatives of other Unitarian churches, and representatives of local churches. The service will be followed by a buffet tea. If you are attending, for the service, and/or the tea, please sign the list on the notice-board, by **February 17th**, at the latest, so that we have an indication of numbers.

As we are to be the hosts, on this occasion, could we all please make a special effort to welcome our visitors. The Induction of a Minister represents a statement of good intent---an acknowledgement that we endorse and support the work of that Minister in our church. The Ministerial Appointments Group felt it important to mark Kate's service, thus far, even---and especially---at this early stage of her time with us.

PASTORAL CARE

Anne and Kate have had some discussions regarding pastoral care, at present. It is Kate's intention to visit every person in the congregation, at least once, before the end of April, just to spend time informally with everyone and come to know them better. However, those who are ill, or otherwise in need, must take priority, and we hope that people will understand this. Also, as Kate does not drive, at present, it may take her a little longer to travel about, especially to the further-flung posts of her empire!

If you feel the need of a visit, or you know of somebody who would appreciate one, please speak to Kate.

Once Kate and Ade are feeling settled in the Manse, they will be holding an At Home day, to which everyone will be invited---watch this space!

NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE

Many thanks to Abi, Betty, Marian and Susan (Mitchell) for an excellent service, at the very beginning of 2017; it proved very appropriate to the occasion, and a timely reminder that the New Year provides a good opportunity to take stock, assess our own situations, and plan ahead.

Marian's reading conveyed, through its humour, the futility of New Year's resolutions, unless they are taken seriously and reinforced by a genuine desire for action and improvement. Also, the analogy of life as a canvas, full of colour and texture, which can be created, and recreated, as life proceeds, and which reflects the quality of each individual's achievements, was impressive.

It was obvious that all four ladies had worked hard, both singly and together, to devise their service, and we all appreciate the effort involved. Every time congregation-members conduct a service, we are impressed anew by the talent, expertise, and imagination involved, as well as the willingness to stand up and deliver personal and private ideas and thoughts.

We thank them all, congratulate them on their success, and wish them a very Happy New Year, in the full knowledge of all that this entails!

PROFILE ~ VERA STEPHENSON

I was baptised and brought up at Chesham Church where I was awarded prizes for regular attendance at morning and afternoon Sunday School. I attended Chesham Junior School and East Ward Secondary School where I was in the first group to stay at school until the age of fifteen.

I'd always wanted to be a nurse, but realised I was not tall enough for general nursing so decided to opt for children's nursing. At 19 I went on holiday to London to stay with my aunt. Whilst there I visited Tite Street Children's Hospital in Chelsea and was seen by the Assistant Matron. She commented that I was not very tall, but then added nor was she, and invited me to start in the Preliminary Training School.

On my arrival at the hospital I was greeted by the Matron with the words "If I'd interviewed you, I would not have started you – you're too small, but you are here now so go to the sewing room and collect your uniform and join the other nurses!"

4 nurses from Tite Street joined 40 from St George's at the nursing school in Earls Court. Our salary was £200 a year with £100 deducted for board and lodgings. We queued up on Monday mornings for our weekly ration of ½ lb sugar in a cocoa tin, 2oz butter and 4oz margarine.

I enjoyed working at Earls Court except for my time on the medical ward. It was very strict and I was terrified of the sister, who insisted on no first names and definitely no chatting.

I came home for Christmas and didn't want to go back. However, I was told to go back and see the Matron. On the way I called at my aunt's who suggested that I might like to be a nanny. I became a nanny to 3 little girls and lived in Colchester for a while. To pay my way while I was waiting to start, I cleared tables in Joe Lyons tea shop in Trafalgar Square, which I didn't enjoy very much at all.

After 3 years I returned home and worked at Kendal Milnes in the gifts department. We were a very busy department as we were located in the prime spot on the ground floor near the lifts. We served many stars of the day who were appearing at the Opera House such as Sally Ann Howes of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang fame. Judith Chalmers was also a regular customer. I worked there until I married and was expecting my first child. I finished my working life at Bury Public Library in the schools' section.

I have always enjoyed working with children and young people from the days when I was Tawny Owl with the Brownies at Chesham. I was involved with Junior Church from the opening of the new Bury church in 1974, helping with the group for younger teenagers, and then with the younger

children in the primary section for another 10 years. I also stapled the Calendar for 24 years! Fortunately I still have some fingers left as I enjoy knitting for my 6 great grandchildren!

UNITARIAN EARTH SPIRIT NETWORK

The Unitarian Earth Spirit Network (UESN) is a society within the Unitarian Movement. There are other groups and societies within the Unitarian spectrum including amongst others a Christian Association, a Music Society and a Meditation Fellowship. As the Network's web site explains, "The Unitarian spectrum is wider than any one religion or belief system. The Earth Spirit Network is for those who find in nature a sense of wonder and mystery, that every living thing is part of something greater."

There is a group which holds meetings and outings in Bolton. The meetings are open to both Unitarians and non-Unitarians. Other groups meet in London Hampstead, Southampton, Bradford and Bridport. The Bolton group celebrates eight festivals which mark the changing seasons and the turning of the year.

Samhein 31st October, Remembering Ancestors and a New Year begins

Yule 21st December, Winter Solstice

Imbolc 2nd February, Preparing for spring at winter's end

Ostara 21st March, The Spring Equinox

Beltane 1st May, A celebration of life

Lithia 21st June, The Summer Solstice

Lammas 1st August, The grain harvest

Mabon 21st September, The Autumn Equinox

The next meeting of the Bolton group will be on Saturday 28th January 12-2pm at Bolton Unity Chapel (opposite Bolton School on Chorley Road). Participants are invited to bring a contribution to a 'bring and share' lunch. The meeting will celebrate *Imbolc* "the mid point between the winter solstice and the vernal equinox. It is a time of awakening, marking the transition from winter to spring. The ground is becoming warmer. Some seeds can be put in the soil. The ewes start to lactate in preparation for the birth of their lambs. Birds too begin searching for a mate and start the task of building their nests". Participants are invited to make a small contribution to the hire of the room.

For further information speak to Val Chamberlain or visit the website <https://unitarianearthspiritnetworkandfile.wordpress.com/> or send a request to become a friend of the group on Facebook.

CALENDAR DONATIONS

The portal for donations towards Calendar production and distribution for 2017 is now OPEN. Contributions, whatever size, will be gratefully received by Di Scaife, either at church, or by post to: Twenty Pen'orth, Whitworth Rake, Whitworth, Rochdale OL12 8PQ. Cheques should be made payable to Bury Unitarian Church. Thank you.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Welcome to 2017, everyone: I hope it's going well for you so far!

Adrian and I are continuing to settle into the manse (one floor is organised so far), and falling more and more in love with Bury. We've finally made it onto the steam railway, and by the time you read this I'm hoping we'll have visited the cheese restaurant in Ramsbottom.

Now that I've been here a couple of months, and now that Christmas is out of the way, I want to start getting to visit people (or having you visit me, or meeting up in town). Tea and coffee after the service is lovely, but there's not really time for a proper talk! So, please don't be surprised if I contact you and invite myself round for a cup of tea (white, no sugar, please).

If you want to talk to me - whether it's about something serious and pastoral or you just fancy a chat - please don't hesitate to contact me.

I try to work in the vestry at least one day each week, and it's normally a Friday. If you're in town, please pop in and I'll put the kettle on (if it's ever going to be a different day, I'll make sure it's mentioned in the notices). I'm also going to start spending a couple of hours, once a week, in the tea rooms at the Art Gallery - at the moment it looks like this will normally be a Tuesday, but again, please listen out for notices.

Over the next few months I'm hoping to run a series of workshops. We've yet to decide whether these will be weekend or evenings, because that depends on what people prefer. Some of the topics I'm hoping to cover are: Julian of Norwich, prayer, sacred

listening, and death and dying. Please let me have your comments about which of those interest you and what times you'd prefer.

I normally have a day off once a week (sometimes two) but what's important is that you know that if there is an emergency I really want you to contact me, day off or not. If you're not sure if what's going on is an emergency and worth bothering me with, then bother me with it!

And this month's encouragement: In East Anglia there is a tradition that Valentine's Day is the first day of the year where you can have your tea in the light. And that's quite near now!

With love, Kate

GRAND QUIZ AND PIE AND PEA SUPPER

SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY AT 7.30PM

ENID & DOUG CATHCART WILL BE OUR QUIZMASTERS

THERE WILL BE A RAFFLE

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THIS EVENT WILL BE DONATED TO THE
CHARITY *STREETWISE*

TICKETS £7.50 EACH - FROM ROGER, SUSAN (M), RENE, JUNE, PETER
OR BETTY.

PLEASE COME ALONG AND GIVE US YOUR SUPPORT!!!

