

## BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

### CALENDAR FOR JUNE 2011

#### SERVICES

5 June	11.15am	Neville Kenyon	
12 June	11.15am	Bronwen Taylor	
of shrewsbury			
19 June	11.15am	Harry Taylor	
26 June	11.15am	the minister – GA sunday – there	

will be a retiring  
lection at the end  
service

col-  
of this

#### CHURCH STEWARDS

5 June	Rebecca Warburton & Olive Westhead
12 June	Sue McMullen & Sybil Fryer
19 June	Lois & Alan Williams
26 June	Miriam Murphy & June Seddon

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO FULFIL YOUR DUTIES ON THE DATE GIVEN, PLEASE INFORM HARRY SO THAT STAND-IN STEWARD(S) CAN BE ARRANGED. THANK YOU.

#### CHURCH FLOWERS

5 June	In loving memory of Mr & Mrs C Burnside carolyn, Melanie & families
12 June	In loving memory of Jim Pollitt carolyn, melanie & families
19 June	In loving memory of William & Marjorie Healey, parents of Angela, Rachel & Vivien
26 June	Barbara Chadwick In loving memory of Joe

Distributors: Anne & Harvey Evitts

#### COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN JUNE

6 June	7.30pm	Finance & General Purposes
13 June	7.30pm	Church Council
21 June	7.30pm	Trustees

#### SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

4 June	Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard
11 June	Margaret Fitzpatrick & Jean Jackson
18 June	Jean Taylor & Harry Taylor
25 June	Freda Worthington & June Clarke

#### Volunteer needed please!!

After many years of service to Saturday Morning Coffee, Barbara Ashworth is retiring. We need one new person to work alongside Vera as a replacement for Barbara. If you can help, please have a word with Jean Taylor. Vera's first commitment is on 2 July and after that it only comes round once every eight weeks.

#### LUNCHEON CIRCLE

The Luncheon Circle will meet on Tuesday 21st June at 12.30pm. The organisers are Anne & Roger Mills. Please inform them if you are unable to attend.

#### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

For information, please refer to the notices given out at church on Sunday mornings. Thank you.

#### WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The last meeting of the summer 9 June will be A Meal at the Verona. We meet at church at 6.30pm. Please note there will be no meetings of the Women's League in July and August. The next meeting will be on the first Thursday in September.

## **BOOK CLUB**

The Book Club will meet on Monday 27 June at 7.30pm in the lounge. The book to be discussed is *restless* by William Boyd. All are welcome. It is not necessary to have read the book!! This book should be available from the cupboard in the lounge from Wednesday 25 May if all goes well!!

## **CALENDAR DEADLINE**

All contributions to the July Calendar should be in the yellow folder by Sunday 19 June, please.

## **TEA AT MOLLY'S**

### **A TRADITIONAL AFTERNOON TEA**

#### **FEATURING 'CHARITY RECIPE BOOK' LAUNCH**

**Saturday 2 July between 2.00pm and 4.00pm**

**Tickets £2.50 from members of the Charity Group  
Proceeds to....BURY CANCER SUPPORT CENTRE  
Please get your tickets early for catering purposes.**

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE ABOVE EVENT WHICH IS TO BE  
HELD IN BLAZING SUNSHINE ON MOLLY'S LAWN. ON OF-  
FER WILL BE A DELICIOUS SELECTION OF SANDWICHES,  
CREAM SCONES, TEA, COFFEE AND SOFT DRINKS.**

**There will be a raffle and parson's Pimms will be available to  
purchase, to add even more spice to the occasion.**

As if this were not enough, this year we will feature the launch of our long-awaited 'recipe book'.

## **CHARITY RECIPE BOOK LAUNCH**

**AT MOLLY'S TEA ON 2 JULY**

**THE BOOK CONTAINS MORE THAN 60 FAVOURITE RECIPES  
COMPILED FROM MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION**

As an additional incentive, a lucky copy, sold only at molly's, will contain a hidden 'star'. The holder of the star copy will receive an appropriate and valuable prize!!

These 'first editions' are sure to become collector's items in the future, so multiple purchases are recommended (discounts for 10 or more.)

This useful book and investment opportunity is available at a modest cost of £3 per copy.

## **WORKING-GROUP REPORT**

The group met, with Beryl, on May 4th, and spent a good two hours in wide-ranging and productive discussion. The achievements of the first half of our Interim Ministry were considered; Beryl's energy, enthusiasm and sense of commitment were praised; Beryl, in turn, had received much positive feedback and felt that what had been achieved so far was very worthwhile. It is likely that our Interim Ministry will last somewhat longer than the six months we at first envisaged, and Beryl has agreed to stay on, for a short time, in order to wind up and close down the process.

We have now entered a settled, middle period, which will be followed by the final phase, during which a further three seminars will be held; we shall consider how fulfilling our worship is; what we should prefer to achieve through our social life; and what sort of ministry---and minister---might suit us best. By the time all three seminars have been held, we shall have achieved what amounts to a congregational audit, and we should be in a position to advertise for a new minister. It is very important not to rush this part of the process. Since pastoral care is a most valuable element of ministry, Beryl plans to revisit everyone, in July, for final feedback.

The possibility of combining with another congregation, in a joint ministry, was given great consideration; after discussion, it was agreed that we should approach the congregation at Ainsworth to establish how interested they might be.

We shall continue to keep everyone at Bury informed of our progress, and a further open congregational meeting is envisaged. So far, a great deal has been achieved; areas not yet covered will be addressed specifically, in the next three months. We need to work towards moving on and moving forward! If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to speak to me or to Janet Thatcher.  
Anne.

## **TRAI DCRAFT**

The Traidcraft Stall will be open, this month, on June 5th and June 19th.

## **VISIT FROM DUNHAM ROAD UNITARIANS**

On July 7th, from 7.30 p.m; we are to be visited by members of the congregation of Dunham Road, Altrincham. They have asked to tour the building, learn about the history of our church, and meet some of our members. Please make a note of the date and join our visitors, if you can. Refreshments will be served during the evening.

## **CHURCHES TOGETHER**

A small contingent from our church participated in the Good Friday Walk of Witness. Unfortunately, parts of the proposed service did not coincide with Unitarian beliefs, particularly with reference to the non-divinity of Jesus, and the differences were not able to be resolved before the event. This meant that we did not stop outside our church; nor did Beryl read the intended lesson or prayer.

It is my hope that further discussion within the Churches Together forum will enable the various churches to reach a better understanding of Unitarianism, so that we can all unite in what we share, rather than being divided by our differences. I shall report back, after the next Churches Together meeting.

Anne

## **UNITARIAN FAITH AND PRACTICE**

Adapted from a piece which was published in 'The Guardian' written by Catherine Robinson of Oxford

Unitarians sometimes describe themselves as 'Quakers with hymns'. Although close in religious ethos unlike the Friends we worship in a structured manner. Unlike the mainstream churches, however, our liturgy varies from week to week, and our sources of inspiration are not necessarily Christian; they may be from other traditions or philosophy or poetry or even a newspaper article.

The most crucial difference between Unitarian congregations and mainstream churches is that we do not recite a creed. To pay lip service to dimly understood or privately rejected religious formulae is the antithesis of Unitarian faith.

Unitarians believe in the absolute humanity of Jesus while revering him as a great soul and moral guide. We do not accept the doctrines of the trinity, original sin or atonement, believing instead, in all human beings' innate worth and potential for good, and affirming individual responsibility for one's own spiritual journey. Moreover, the final authority for one's religious beliefs lie within one's own conscience.

## **MINISTER'S MONTH**

I thought that almost six months into my interim ministry would be a good time to look at where we are. I think things are going well. I hope you do too. People tell me they are enjoying the services and feel very positive about church life. Seminars about church life went well and there will be more of these later in the summer. The seminars on 'Spirituality in Everyday Life' have been 'inspirational' thanks to the contributions of those who have taken part. In answer to requests, I hope to run a 'Building Your Own Theology' course after my holidays.

When we began this interim together, there were seven important reference points that we agreed we would keep in mind. How are we doing?

Keep the church lively, involved, confident and active. I think it has been lively and active with trips and special services and lunches. I hope I am not alone in having a feeling of confidence.

Resolve feelings of anger, hurt and bewilderment. I think many of these feelings have receded and are no longer causing major problems.

Re-envision the work and ministry of the congregation. I hope that through seminars and sermons this is being adequately addressed.

Clarify the identity of the church. Help the congregation determine what kind of church they want to create and belong to. This is a work part done, with three seminars looking at where we are, and more to come, looking at where we want to be.

Emphasise fellowship and commitment to one another.  
I think that we all know that we need to work together if we are to have a successful church.

Emphasise commitment to the church.  
Congregational numbers have been good and we have some new people. The Music Service was really well-supported.

Encourage people to move on and look positively to the future.  
This is the next stage of the work we need to do together.

I feel very optimistic about what we have achieved so far, I hope you do too.  
Beryl

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#### **CHURCH OFFICERS**

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#### **CHURCH INFORMATION**

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Charity reg.no.	1078570
Church website	<a href="http://www.bury-unitarian-church.org.uk">http://www.bury-unitarian-church.org.uk</a>

## News from Ainsworth Unitarian Chapel

### **SUNDAY SERVICES in JUNE 2011**

10.00 am 5<sup>th</sup> June Mrs Jean Longworth  
*(Halliwell Rd Church)*

10.00 am 19<sup>th</sup> June Rev Desmond Porter  
***Fathers Day***

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*Services normally take place twice a month  
( 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays) with visiting preachers.*

*Visitors are always welcome*

### **TREE MAINTENANCE**

An extensive programme of tree maintenance in both Chapel yards has recently been completed. Dangerous trees were removed and many others pruned. A large number of overgrown shrubs were also removed, resulting in more open and attractive grounds.

### **CHAPEL RECORDS**

We are most grateful to members of the Family History Society for their detailed recording of all the headstone inscriptions in both Chapel yards. This complements and completes their significant efforts last year in compiling comprehensive and accurate indexes of Baptisms, Marriages, Burials and Interment of Ashes.

We send our kind thoughts and best wishes to any member or friend of The Chapel who is not well at the moment