

## 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](mailto:revkatemckenna@gmail.com)  
Editor's telephone      01706 822651  
Editor's email           [pam\\_gilbert66@btinternet.com](mailto: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 MARCH 2018

---



*Members of the 'Sing A Long' Band at the concert they gave on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February.*

### MINISTER

**REVEREND KATE MCKENNA**

## BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

### CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2018

#### CHURCH SERVICES

4 March	11.15am	The Minister – Our Fairtrade Service
11 March	11;15am	The Minister – Mothering Sunday
18 March	11.15am	The Minister <i>following this shorter service the Church A.G.M. will take place.</i>
25 March	11.15am	Worship Support Group

**Good Friday – 30 March – at 11.0am** – a short, quiet service (readings, recorded music, and reflection - followed by hot cross buns). There will be Communion as part of the service, in which anyone is welcome to participate, but which is optional.

#### CHURCH STEWARDS

4 March	Sue McMullen & Barbara Freemantle
11 March	Jean Brookhouse & Susan Mitchell
18 March	Lois Williams & George Scaife
25 March	Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert

*If the above dates do not suit, please change with another steward(s).*

#### CHURCH FLOWERS

4 March	Beryl Allerton
11 March	Susan Mitchell – In memory of Catherine & Sydney Poole
18 March	Vera Stephenson – In memory of Barbara & Joe Ashworth
25 March	Kathryn Jackson & Sally Broadhurst – In memory of Jean Jackson

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

If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of flowers, there are opportunities in April, May and June. Please speak to Janet Thatcher.

#### SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

3 March	Pam Gilbert & Di Scaife
10 March	Margaret Fitzpatrick & Norah Hickton
17 March	Susan Holt & Kate McKenna
24 March	Betty Kenyon & Barbara Freemantle
31 March	Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard

#### SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

4 March	Anne Mills(M), Beryl Bowden, Barbara Freemantle
11 March	Norah Hickton(M), Barbara Bamford, Peter Whewell
18 March	Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Lois Williams, Di Scaife
25 March	Marian Price(M), Susan Mitchell, Jean Taylor

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS DURING MARCH

**Sunday 4 March** after the service – Social & Fund-raising - a brief meeting to arrange Quiz Night

**Sunday 18 March**, after the service at 12.30pm – Church A.G.M.

**Tuesday 27 March** at 7.0pm                      Worship

## CALENDAR DEADLINE

All items for inclusion in the April edition of The Calendar should be with the editor **by Sunday March 18<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you.

**WOMEN'S LEAGUE - There will be NO MEETING in March.**

## TRAI DCRAFT

The stall will be open on March 4th and 11th; if you need items at other times, please ask Anne or Jean.

On March 4th, the middle Sunday of Fair Trade Fortnight, our service will concentrate on Fair Trade in Bury; there will be speakers from the Bury Group; The Mayor and Leader of the Council have also promised to be present, and we may have visitors from other churches and organisations in Bury. A selection of fairly-traded refreshments will be served after the service, and we hope to have new items and the new Spring and Summer Traidcraft brochure on display. Come and join us!

**BOOK CLUB – will meet on Wednesday 28 March – not sure yet about book to be discussed. Listen for Pulpit announcement and look for poster on notice board. Everyone welcome.**

## LUNCH CIRCLE

The March meeting will be held on the 20th and will be hosted by Anne and Roger. As we shall be holding Music Exams, during that week, we shall assemble upstairs; please use the rear-door, and let us know if you will need the stair-lift. Sign up on the list, as usual.

If you have signed up and then find that you are unable to be present, please let the organisers know, as soon as possible, either at church, on the Tuesday morning, or at home, at other times.

If anyone would like to volunteer to cook, occasionally, please speak to Anne or Susan; we also need help, each month, with clearing away, after the meal; all offers gratefully accepted!

If you wish to drink anything other than water or tea/coffee, at lunch, feel free to bring your own supplies.

## CAMERA CLUB

The members will meet on March 7th, at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome---no previous experience necessary! At present, an exhibition of photographs is in the process of being prepared; this is planned for the middle of the year. Another "Bury: Past and Present" Evening is also promised, probably for next year.

## STEWARDING AND MEETINGS

Those who arrange dates for meetings are requested to try to do so for Wednesday evenings, so that stewarding is made easier. On occasions, if a meeting is not scheduled, we need individuals to help out; if everyone will take a turn, this need not be burdensome; please keep an eye on the list on the notice-board and sign up, if you can help.

**GRAND CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT**  
**IN AID OF MEDICAL DETECTION AND**  
**ASSISTANCE DOGS (a voluntarily-aided charity) and Church**  
**Funds**

**SATURDAY 10 MARCH at 7.30pm**

*(please arrive at 7.15pm)*

**Tickets £8 includes pie and peas but BYOBottle**

*Do join us for this very popular event with our two  
excellent quiz masters*

**MEDICAL DETECTION DOGS**

On Sunday, February 11th, we were visited by Alice, who works for the above charity; she gave a most informative talk about her work for this organisation, and was accompanied by Henry and Peanuts, two of MDD's trained dogs---who really stole the show!

MDD was founded in 2008 and is based in Milton Keynes; its patron is The Duchess of Cornwall, and its CEO is Dr. Claire Guest.

Some of the dogs work with people, to assist them---those who are blind or deaf, or who suffer from conditions such as Type 1 Diabetes, Addison's, or Parkinson's; in these cases, the dogs' presence may save lives, improve quality of life, or give

greater independence to those whose lives have been seriously impaired by their illnesses.

The most ground-breaking work carried out, however, is done in research-labs, where the dogs' acute sense of smell is used to detect odours of disease, present in urine or in breath; dogs can be trained to find very early signs of cancers (particularly prostate cancer) and type 2 diabetes, amongst other illnesses. A dog's sense of smell is so finely-honed that it can detect half a teaspoonful of sugar in the amount of water contained in 3 Olympic-sized swimming-pools! Once it is accepted, after thorough testing, that dogs can help with the diagnosis of diseases, their skills may be used by the NHS, as part of its routine processes; such assistance will be reliable---it achieves 93%, at present; it will avoid invasive and painful surgical-procedures, and it will save time and money.

We have leaflets in the lounge which give information about the above charity; our Quiz, on March 10th, will devote half its proceeds to MDD, and the remainder to church-funds.

**ADVANCE DIARY DATE – SATURDAY 12 MAY – THE TOTTINGTON BRASS BAND  
CONCERT – watch this space!!!**

**PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP**

It is with regret that Howard and Jean Maden have taken the decision to disband the PCSG, which has been meeting on our premises, once a month, for several years now. Numbers of members have dwindled, and support from outside bodies has become non-existent.

Initially, the church Charity Committee set up the group and raised funds for it, and there is still money left in the group's account---just under £700.00, at present.

This matter was discussed at the February Church Council, and it has been decided that the remaining money will be donated to Prostate Cancer UK, via The Women's League National Project for 2017/18.

Council expressed its commiserations to Howard and Jean, and its appreciation of the time and effort they had devoted to running the group, in aid of a most worthwhile cause.

### **GA DELEGATES**

Council has approved the appointment of three delegates to represent the church at the forthcoming GA AGM's: Betty and Neville Kenyon, and Val Chamberlain. Betty will be one of the delegates, and Neville and Val will share the duties of the other. Thank you to all three for agreeing to assume this responsibility.

Sunday, March 25th, after the service, has been reserved for discussion of this year's GA Motions, should that be necessary; at present, we have no information, but we will let everyone know, as soon as we have the details.

### **CONGRATULATIONS.....**

....to Vera and Geoff Stephenson, who celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary, on March 1st. Very best wishes to both of you; enjoy your celebrations with your family! March is a special month for the happy couple, as Geoff will be 90, on the 16th, so they have two momentous occasions to look forward to.

### **CONGREGATIONAL AGM**

**Notice is hereby given that the 49th Annual General Meeting of the Congregation will be held in the worship-area, on Sunday, March 18th, 2018, commencing at 12.30 p.m. The meeting should not last for more than an hour,**

**and coffee and biscuits will be served beforehand, at the end of a slightly shorter service.**

**Nomination-sheets for the election of Officers and Council-members will be posted on the lounge notice-board, in advance of the meeting; we need a full set of officers to serve for one year, four Council-members to serve for three years, and one Council-member to be co-opted for two years.**

**Any items for the agenda relevant to an AGM should be notified to Anne Mills, in writing, no later than Sunday, March 4th.**

**Retiring Council-members, this year, are Jean Maden, Di Scaife and Janet Thatcher; they are not now eligible to serve for a year; thanks to them for all their efforts. Currently on Council, with a further year to serve are Beryl Bowden, June Clarke, Margaret Fitzpatrick and Marian Price; Abi Elliott-McGuffie, Lorraine Maden and Sue McMullen have two years left to serve.**

**Please give thought to nominating people to serve as officers or council-members; nomination-sheets have been posted on the notice-board; if everyone will volunteer to contribute a small amount, we can continue to operate successfully. Thank you.**

*Anne Mills, Church Secretary*

### **FLOWERGATE UNITARIAN CHAPEL, WHITBY**

We have received literature from Flowergate, requesting us to help them with their Refurbishment, Development and Modernisation Project, which is designed to help the chapel remain open for worship.

Council has agreed to donate £100.00 to the chapel's funds, but it was felt that individuals might also wish to contribute; becoming a Friend costs £10.00 per year; the literature is now on the notice-board, and contains full details. Betty and Neville have visited this chapel, know it quite well, and can give information to anyone requiring it.

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear all,

March is one of my favourite months – and not only because it's the month with my birthday in it (partly, to be fair, but not only).

It just feels like once we've reached March, we've done away with the worst of the winter. Obviously, it can still snow well into April (sometimes longer!) but even that doesn't stop that feeling of a burst of energy, and sense of hope. The clocks go forward (and normally someone turns up at church just as we're finishing); we pass the equinox so we know the days are going to be getting longer; and we approach Easter, which – even for the non-religious – acts as proof that the earth has done what it does best and turned on its axis.

And at church it brings our AGM. I've been really impressed at Bury at how willing people are to stand as officers, to join committees, and to act to support the work of the church. In my opening prayers for meetings recently I've been invoking the Quaker tradition of holding 'Meetings for Worship for Business'. Now, I'm not recommending the Quaker way of business: I remember too well being a teenage Quaker and sitting through seemingly endless meetings waiting for a consensus to arise (it's a beautiful way of doing business, but often a slow one), but I am recommending the spirit of that business: Quakers don't see their business meetings as something separate from their meetings for worship – they see them as extension of it. Our church is important to us, and the work we do midweek in the lounge matters.

I do hope there will be a good turnout for the AGM – important decisions are reached, and it's a good opportunity to hear the report of our year. It's amazing how much we've done, how hard we've worked, and how much we've enjoyed, and that isn't always easy to see when we're in the middle of doing it, working, and enjoying it.

We are also welcoming five new members this month, which is very exciting. Membership of a Unitarian church doesn't involve making statements of faith or belief; or pledging money (though we do value your financial contributions); or

agreeing to stay forever; or to have 100% attendance. It involves making a statement that the church is where you have found a spiritual home, and that you feel yourself to be a part of the community.

I use the word 'welcoming' very deliberately. If there's one thing we excel at as a church it is our welcome to visitors. Every time I see someone new in the church, or in the lounge before or after the service, someone is talking to them. And 'to' them, not 'at' them. I know that two of our five new members came because of the welcome of two members when they happened to drop in midweek. And whilst it would be nice, as the minister, to kid myself that it's the sermon that keeps people coming back, it would also be dishonest: it's the welcome shown by everyone in the community that keeps people coming back.

And I'm particularly proud that we don't only do that to those who come on a Sunday morning – I know that people who come on a Saturday for coffee, or to social events, also feel welcome and a part of the community. Whatever else changes within our church – and things always change – I hope that never ever does!

On a practical matter, I am away for three shortish periods during March. I will, obviously, let you know the dates on the orders of services and in notices, but as on those occasions I will not be in reasonable reach of Bury, I will also ask one of my colleagues in the NELUM ministry team to be on hand in case of a pastoral need.

*Love, Kate*

## COMMUNION.

As you probably know, there is an inclusive communion service on the last Sunday of each month. The service is a sacred sharing of bread and wine, in the spirit of community and love. Everyone is welcome, no matter what your religious background or belief. You definitely don't have to have been baptised or confirmed, and nothing magical happens to the bread or the wine.

The services are short, at around 15 minutes, and they are very important to the small but committed group of people who attend regularly.

You are very welcome to join us.

This month there is a slight change: the minister is away on the last Sunday of March, so the communion will take place on Good Friday instead.

**CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP** Kate will be starting a series of contemplative worship sessions on the first Friday of each month, from March 2<sup>nd</sup> onwards. These will start at 6.15 (to allow for easier parking) and last about 45 minutes, followed by tea and cake.

Everyone is very welcome: the sessions will consist of recorded music, readings, and meditative contemplation. They are designed as a quiet thoughtful time to end the busy week gently.

**AFTERNOON TEA AT BOLTON, 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2.30pm.** All women (not just members of the Women's League) in the congregation are invited to afternoon tea with the women of Bank Street Bolton on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30pm.

Bank Street would like to know numbers and dietary requirements – please sign up on the board in the lounge if you would like to come.

There is a very easy and regular bus to Bolton, or car shares can probably be arranged.

**COVER WHILST KATE IS AWAY** Kate is away for a few periods during March, and on most of these she will not be in reasonable reach of Bury. She plans to arrange for one of her NELUM ministry colleagues to be available in case a pastoral need arises.

The dates are:

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March (she will be on retreat in the midlands on these days and only available in an emergency).

Late evening Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March (when she will be in Norwich, turning fifty!).

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March (on a singing course near Carlisle).

**CHILDREN'S WORSHIP** Many of you already know that once a month (normally on the first Sunday) the Junior Church will be staying in the main service with us, rather than leaving us part way through to go up to their own activities.

The hope is that the children will get a better awareness of what we do once they've left us most weeks, and that we will get to know them a bit better too.

There may be some disruption to the orders of service, and the children will be helping with some bits of the service (like the chalice lighting, and receiving the collection).

I know you'll be willing to lean into the changes!

### **MARCH FOOD BANK COLLECTIONS**

Thank you all for your ongoing support of the Food Bank. Our contributions make a real difference. Many of the users of the Food Bank have families, and I have a special request for March: please donate an Easter Egg! This can be instead of your usual contribution or in addition to it. As these are for children, please don't get big or fancy ones – more small eggs is better than fewer large ones.

The Toilet-twinning appeal currently stands at £16.26, which is an average of £2.32 per week. Thank you for contributing to this fund!

