

CHURCH INFORMATION

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BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH CALENDAR FOR MAY 2017



Flowers by Molly Ratcliffe

Photograph by Janet Thatcher

MINISTER

REVEREND K MCKENNA

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR MAY 2017

CHURCH SERVICES

7 May	11.15am	The Minister
14 May	11.15am	The Minister
21 May	11.15am	The Minister
28 May	11.15am	The Minister

CHURCH STEWARDS

7 May	Alf Howson & Roger Mills
14 May	Jean Brookhouse & Susan Mitchell
21 May	Lois & Alan Williams
28 May	Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert

If you are not available on the above days please re-arrange with another steward(s) – thank you.

CHURCH FLOWERS

7 May	Pam & David Gilbert – in memory of Peter
14 May	Susan Mitchell – in memory of Sydney & Catherine Poole
21 May	Beryl Allerton

28 May Pam Oxley – in memory of Harry J. Farnill

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

If you would like to donate to the church flower fund in memory of someone, the following Sundays are available in the next three months – June 11th and 18th, July 2nd and 9th and August 27th. To donate, please see Janet Thatcher.

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

6 May	Margaret Fitzpatrick & Pam Gilbert
13 May	Norah Hickton & Di Scaife
20 May	Rene Hollos & Alison Hollos
27 May	Betty Kenyon & Molly Ratcliffe

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

7 May	Anne Mills(M), Beryl Bowden & Rene Hollos
14 May	Norah Hickton(M), Peter Whewell & Barbara Bamford
21 May	Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Di Scaife & Lois Williams
28 May	Marian Price(M), Jean Taylor & Susan Mitchell

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN MAY

Wednesday 10 May at 7pm	Social & Fund Raising Meeting
Wednesday 17 May at 7pm	Communications & Worship, with Young People
Wednesday 31 May at 7pm	Finance & General Purposes

CALENDAR DEADLINE

The last day for items to be included in the **June edition of The Calendar** will be Sunday 21 May.

TRAIDCRAFT

The stall will be open on May 7th and 21st. If you need items, at other times, please speak to Anne or Jean. If there are items you would like, which aren't available, we will try to obtain them, if you let us know your requirements.

LUNCHEON CLUB

We will meet, this month, on May 16th, at 12.30 pm; when Anne and Roger will act as hosts. Please sign up on the list, if you wish to attend. New members are always welcome, so please come along and join us!

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday, 4 May at 7.30pm – Kate will talk about visits to Transylvania

CAMERA CLUB

This will take place, provisionally, on Wednesday, May 3rd, at 7 p.m., but do please check! If you are interested in attending, please have a word with Howard or Ade, who will be happy to give you details.

Huge technical knowledge is not necessary---just an interest in taking great photographs! Come and see what's on offer! This is a new venture; please support it.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Monday 29 May at 7pm. The book to be discussed is: ***The Thread*** by Victoria Hislop and it is available from the lounge cupboard. New members are always welcome - come and join us – it's not necessary to have read the book!!

FIRST AID COURSE

This has been arranged for the afternoon of Saturday, May 13th, starting at 1.00 p.m. The session will be conducted by Judith Jones, of The British Red Cross, and will last for approximately two and a half hours, with a short break, halfway through, for tea or coffee. The course is free of charge. Please sign up on the notice-board, if you wish to attend; the deadline for signing is Sunday, May 7th.

PAT MCKENNA

Pat died on March 25th, after suffering a fall and being admitted to hospital. Kate and members of her family were with her and able to offer her comfort and support. To Kate, Ade, and Pat's immediate family, we offer our deepest sympathies and sincerest condolences. Although we did not have the opportunity to get to know Pat well, we had met her, at Christmas, and at Kate's Induction; she was a lovely lady---very proud of her daughter's achievements and supportive of her efforts. She will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her. A

minute's silence, in memory of Pat, was observed before the service, on March 26th, and at the start of the Church Council Meeting, on March 29th.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Because of Kate's absence, the Mothering Sunday service, on March 26th, was delivered by Anne Mills; the words were mainly Kate's, to which Anne added various extras, including the children's story; posies of daffodils were distributed to everyone present, whilst an arrangement of "Memories", performed by three of Derek Worthington's grandchildren and first heard at his funeral, was played; fruit cake---a last-minute substitute for Simnel---was served with the coffee, afterwards. Kate's sermon dwelled on the conflicting feelings experienced on Mothering Sunday; this day is not necessarily one of unalloyed happiness; for all sorts of reasons, it can provoke sadness and pain, which must be managed. Kate also drew parallels between the actual family and the church family; many of the situations which arise and the emotions experienced are similar, whether positive or negative. Many thanks to Anne for stepping into the breach at such short notice and for conducting the service so ably.

THANKS

Grateful thanks to Marian and Abi who so ably lead our Sunday Services on 9th and 23rd April. We all appreciate that we are very fortunate to have such good people amongst us, able and willing to lead us in worship.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Firstly, and I always seem to be starting these with thanks to the congregation, I want to thank you all for the concern and compassion (shall we call it love?) that you've shown to me and Adrian following my mother's death in March, and for your understanding about the disruption it's caused to my work with you.

We will have finished clearing out her house by the end of the month at the latest, and I won't have to be trailing up and down the country any more, and I do promise that at that point I will be back to being in Bury full time and providing you with what you deserve in the way of presence and pastoral care.

I am very glad that my mum got to know some of you in the last few months - she commented several times on how lovely you all are and what a good ministry I'd found. I have to agree!

April did have a couple of highlights, in between the travelling and the house clearing: it was a real treat to see so many Bury people at the General Assembly in Birmingham. I only made it for two days, by which time everyone looked much more tired than me, but it's great that more and more people are getting to know what goes on in the denomination and in the

wider world. Quite a few of my friends made comments like "oh, I was talking to one of your congregation in the lift - aren't you lucky there?". Yup, I am. I know that some of the people who attended the meetings will be doing a service to talk about their experiences, and hopefully other people might be encouraged to join in.

I also loved sharing Easter with the congregation, and I was particularly pleased to finally get round to holding a communion service. Nine of us attended on Good Friday, and shared bread and grape juice. I can't think of anything more sacred than sharing food and drink together, and the occasion managed to be holy, significant, and - just as importantly - convivial and chatty afterwards.

Following that success, I'm going to start holding monthly communion services in the church, on the first Sunday of the month - so the first one will be on Sunday 7th May. They'll take place after the main service and after coffee, so those who wish to take part can join in with the coffee and fellowship and then make their way into the sanctuary for 1245.

Unitarian communion isn't like other communion services: it is open to everyone, regardless of whether you've been baptised, or confirmed, or whatever your religious beliefs are. It is a symbolic and sacred

sharing of food, drink, and company. If you're reluctant to join in, you're very welcome to come along and see what we're doing. The services will take a variety of forms, but will all have the sharing of physical and spiritual food together at their core.

Plans are still underway to have an open house at the Manse at some point soon - obviously recent events have got in the way. But you're always welcome to call and invite yourself round for a cuppa. And, of course, I'm generally in the vestry one day a week (almost always Friday). This might increase once the vestry is rearranged and once I've set up a small computer in there. And once things are calmer I'm going to go back to spending a morning in the tea rooms at the museum - probably a Wednesday (because it's market day and people are in town). But watch this space - and just at the moment it's probably wise to give me a quick call before heading out to see me!

Spring can't seem to make up its mind whether it's here or not - yesterday we drove over the Cat and Fiddle in snow, and today is bright and fresh, so I don't know where it's going yet! But I'm loving watching the slightly different way seasons happen up here in the North West.

With best wishes, **Kate**

