

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2016



*WEeping WINDOW from the installation BLOOD SWEEPt LAND AND SEAS OF RED at the Tower of London in 2014. Poppies and original concept by artist Paul Cummins; installation designed by Tom Piper at Balhousie Castle in Scotland.
Photo – Anne & Roger Mills*

MINISTER – REVEREND K. MCKENNA

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH – NOVEMBER 2016

CHURCH SERVICES

6 November	11.15am	The Minister
11 November	10.50am	A short service – The Minister
13 November	10.55am	The Minister- Remembrance Sunday
20 November	11.15am	The Minister
27 November	11.15am	The Minister

CHURCH STEWARDS

6 November	Lois & Alan Williams
13 November	Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert
20 November	Margaret & John Fitzpatrick
27 November	Betty Kenyon & John Allerton

Please re-arrange with another steward(s) if the given date is difficult.

CHURCH FLOWERS

6 November	Jean Brookhouse
13 November	Church Flowers
20 November	Edna & Roy Wilkinson – in loving memory of Joshua
27 November	Barbara Bentley – in memory of Mr & Mrs Davenport

Distributors: Anne & Harvey Evitts

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

5 November	Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard
12 November	June Clarke & Sue McMullen
19 November	Brenda Ainsworth & Jean Taylor
26 November	Margaret Fitzpatrick & Norah Hickton

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

6 November	Anne Mills(M), Beryl Bowden, Rene Hollos
13 November	Norah Hickton(M), Peter Whewell, John Allerton
20 November	Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Lois Williams, Di Scaife
27 November	Marian Price(M), Susan Mitchell, Jean Taylor

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER

Tuesday, 1 November at 7pm	Communications & Worship with Young People
Wednesday, 16 November at 7pm	Worship Support Group
Wednesday, 30 November at 7pm	Finance & General Purposes

CALENDAR DEADLINE

The next Calendar will be a December & January edition. The last day for items to be included will be Sunday 20 November. Thank you.

RED CROSS CLARA BARTON HAITI APPEAL

The Retiring Collection which was donated to the above charity raised the sum of £110 – thank you for your generosity.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thank you to everyone who supported our Indian Evening. Many thanks to Anne for her interesting talk about her holiday. We raised £230 to send to the League Project *The National Deaf Children's Society*.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday, 3 November at 7.30pm**. Our speaker is from STREETWISE. This is the charity to which the Church Charity Group made a donation at the beginning of the year. **THIS IS AN OPEN EVENING – EVERYONE WELCOME.**

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The next Men's Fellowship will be on **Wednesday 16 November**. The speaker will be Allan Hodgert who will be talking about his time as a Table Tennis Referee. The meeting will be at **11am with lunch afterwards**.

In September, Helen Read gave a very interesting account as a cycle racing fanatic. This apparently started when she viewed, as a spectator, a section of the Tour de France. All of 40 seconds and then they were gone. With helicopters carrying film camera operators we are able to see virtually the whole race but if you were standing at the side of the road, they pass out of sight in seconds. This led her to volunteer to steward at the Yorkshire section of the Tour de France several years ago. A very enthusiastic talk but I don't think I shall be entering my bike on the tour. I might be able to do it but I don't think the bike is quite up to it!!!!!!

The meeting next year will be in March when we hope to encourage Bill Hargreaves to talk about the newspaper business. **George**

LUNCHEON CLUB

We meet in November, on the 15th, at 12.30pm; when Susan and Margaret will host. Please watch for a notice on the board, and sign up if you are attending. Please note that the December meeting will be a week earlier than usual, on the 13th.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will have their last meeting this year on Monday 28 November at 7pm. The book to be discussed is: *Can Any Mother Help Me?* By Jenna Bailey and it should be in the lounge cupboard by Thursday 3 November, all being well.

TRAIDCRAFT

The stall will be open on November 6th and 13th. Christmas cards are still in plentiful supply---come and browse! If you require items at other times, please speak to Anne Mills or Jean Brookhouse.

HARVEST 2016

Congratulations to Abi, one of our Worship Support Group members, on conducting a wonderful Harvest Festival, on October 2nd. Abi's theme was "Familiarity with a Difference", and her service proved to be impressive and inspiring. Her different slant on a traditional service began with thoughts on sowing and reaping and led on to an analogy with seeds of another kind---the seeds of love, which we should all endeavour to spread around, wherever we are, and whatever we're doing. The highlight of the service, for me, was the children's story; Abi produced seeds for various vegetables, fruit and flowers, which the children were invited to examine; they were then given the corresponding produce and asked to pass each item to a member of the congregation; despite considerable inclination to hand everything to Grandma, they made a good and fair attempt at distributing their gifts. Then came the challenge of the seeds of love, which

couldn't be seen or touched, so how could they be represented? Obviously, bubbles were the answer! Grown-ups and children alike were fascinated! Abi commented on how we had all reacted during the story---smiling and welcoming the Harvest gifts, and marvelling afresh over the bubbles. Well done, Abi---we look forward to more services from you!

The service contained items by the choir, which were appreciated, and Molly, Rene and their team were thanked for decorating the worship-area so beautifully---they set a very high standard!

Anne

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Our Grand Christmas Draw is under way! Raffle-tickets are on sale, at £1.00 each, or £5.00 for a book of 5, and June Clarke can supply them in quantity; see her on Saturday or Sunday mornings. Completed stubs and money should be handed to June, too. The major prizes are already on display, in the lounge, and there will be several smaller ones on offer, as well. The draw will take place on Sunday, December 4th, after the service.

BEANIES

All completed beanies should reach Brenda Ainsworth by the end of October. During this month, they will all be displayed, and we will be running a competition to guess how many there are---50p per guess may win you a major prize! The proceeds will go towards the postage and the prize.

PARKING

We have been asked, by The Exchange, not to use their parking-spaces, at any time, as their staff are working different hours nowadays and require access to their spaces at all times. Similarly, the businesses which have their parking on Back St. Mary's Place have asked us not to use their parking. The spaces on our own car-park are rented out on weekdays, but they can be used in the evening and over the weekend. Please use your parking-permits whenever you use the church car-park. Thank you.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICES

This year, Remembrance Day occurs before Remembrance Sunday; we will be holding two services: one on Friday, November 11th, at 10.50 (for half-an-hour), and a full service on Sunday, November 13th, starting at 10.55, by our War Memorial. Please support both acts of worship.

GRANT

Church Council has approved a grant of £400.00 to be made in favour of Val Chamberlain, who is to attend a week's course at Findhorn, in Scotland, in January, 2017. The theme of the course will be "Leadership and Change"; there will, in addition, be a substantial spiritual dimension to the proceedings. We feel sure that Val will derive considerable benefit from her course, and she has promised to share what she learns and experiences with the congregation. Val has expressed her immense gratitude to our members for their generosity.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

This service will take place on Sunday, December 11th, at 7pm. The service will be conducted by our Minister, Chris Price will play the organ, and Lawrence Killian will play the trumpet. The Mayor of Bury and his Consort will be in attendance. Please make a note of the date in your diaries, come along, and bring your families and friends.

BURY LIGHT NIGHT

This will take place, this year, between November 18th and 20th---a change from previous years. Council has decided that it will not be practical to offer refreshments throughout the weekend; however, Saturday Coffee will be served, as usual, on November 19th, and Susan Holt has offered to organise refreshments on the evening of November 18th; this will involve the premises being open between 5.30 and 9.00 p.m; approximately. If you can help, either with serving refreshments or by baking a cake, please speak to Susan, in the first instance.

SAME-SEX WEDDINGS

In 2014, following changes in legislation, we discussed whether we were willing to hold Same-Sex Weddings in our church; members were then balloted, and the result of this was that more than 74% were in favour. Since then, we have not received any requests to conduct such ceremonies, and Council feels that the subject should now be re-visited. Further information will follow. To date, 51 Unitarian congregations have obtained licences to conduct Same-sex Weddings.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MINISTER!

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Rev. Kate McKenna to Bury Unitarian Church; she takes up her duties with us on November 1st. She is due to move into the Manse on that day, also. Kate joins us at a very busy time of year for ministers: Remembrance Services are quickly followed by all the Christmas ones, and this involves a great deal of preparation. Kate has been very clear from the start that Bury Unitarian Church was where she wished to be, and to serve, and she has no doubts about having chosen us. Let's make Kate feel at home and help her to settle in; it will take her some time to get to know us, and our little foibles, and to feel comfortable in her new life, so we will all need to be patient. After Kate's first service, on November 6th, we will celebrate her presence, with true BUC hospitality!

GA AGM QUESTIONNAIRE

On Sunday, October 30th, after the service, at 12.30pm; there will be a short meeting to discuss a consultative document and complete a questionnaire sent to us by Essex Hall. These contain recommendations about changing the format of the Annual Meetings, to make them shorter and less expensive, and we are encouraged to send in our views. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

FUNERAL

On Friday 21st October, at the East Lancashire Crematorium, Reverend Beryl Allerton conducted the funeral service for Mrs Audrey Williams, mother of Alan and Colin, mother-in-law of Lois.

To Alan and Lois and their family we offer sincere condolences.

BAPTISM

On Saturday 29th October Reverend Beryl Allerton baptised Isabelle daughter of Richard and Justine Boardman and sister of Harry.

For Isabelle and her family we wish a happy future.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

After the service on Sunday 18th December we will be having our traditional ***Christmas Lunch***. A menu will appear on the notice board in November and tickets will be on sale on Sunday 4 December after the service - £4 for adults, £2 for children under 12. If you cannot get to church on 4 December and would like a ticket, please phone Pam Gilbert 01706 822651, leave a message, and she will get back to you.

PROFILE –ROBIN AINSWORTH

I was born at 'The Nurseries', Leigh Lane, Walshaw in Bury ..looking back, a perfect beginning for someone who spent their life working as a nurseryman, seedsman and florist! My parents' inspiration for my first name (Oliver Robin) came from Oliver Slocock, of Knaphill Nurseries in Surrey, then the major supplier of rhododendrons in England.

My early education took place at Elton Junior School where I was taught by Mary Warburton who started her career as a teacher on the same day as I

started school. I particularly remember her lessons on 'cleanliness' and wonder if this is still a topic on the curriculum today. This was followed by Bury Grammar School, and then a course in Horticulture and Nursery Practice at Lancashire Agricultural College. This in turn was followed by a course in floristry at the London Academy of Floral Art where customers included a Duchess who liked to 'dress down' to do her shopping! I returned home proudly bearing a wedding bouquet balanced on my knee on the train– the first of many I ever made.

I married Brenda in 1959 at Bank Street Unitarian Chapel and adopted a girl and a boy. We are now blessed with 6 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren and still counting. (It's a good job Brenda enjoys knitting!)

My connections with Bank Street go back a long way. I served on a lot of chapel committees and was pleased to be invited to become a Trustee of Bank Street Chapel in 1963 and continue as such for the Church today. Over the years I have enjoyed collecting various bits and pieces which document the history of the Chapel/Church and have some details which other members might find interesting. These include the journey of the stained glass windows from the former chapel to ITV studios and regular exposure on TV, which can still be seen on Utube! Do ask me if you'd like to know more!

An experience which I found particularly interesting was involvement in the promotion of tourism in Bury and the setting up of a tourist office when I was president of the Chamber of Trade. I like to think that such important developments as Bury's Premier Inn and The Village leisure facility owe their existence to the imagination and vision of those involved in the early stages of planning for the town's future growth.

One of the things I enjoy most in life is holidaying in the Lleyen Peninsular where we are fortunate to spend at least one month a year.

Thank you Robin

REMEMBERING: FLANDERS AND PICARDY SEPTEMBER 2016

I have always been profoundly moved by the Remembrance Sunday commemoration at our church. The silence, the laying of wreaths and latterly Lawrence Killian's magnificent trumpet playing, in the company of church members with direct personal experience of WW1 and 2, through family connections or their own service at home or abroad, touch me deeply.

Like many other members of the church, if we find ourselves holidaying in France, we often go to pay our respects at the cemeteries or extend our understanding by visiting excellent museums such as those in Caen and Bayeux in France, and the Resistance Museums in Norway and Amsterdam. Neil and I are fortunate that none of our immediate family members lost their lives in either of the World Wars and so, up to this year, our respects have been paid to the fallen as a whole.

However, this year, thanks to the research carried out by Beryl Allerton, we were able to feel much more closely connected to the places we visited and the history lessons we learned. For instance, after reading that so many of our members were involved with the Lancashire Fusiliers we decided to focus on an area that had particular significance in their history. We made a special journey to the Beaumont – Hamel /Auchonvillers area on the Somme and specifically to the Sunken Road from which the 1st Lancashire Fusiliers went 'over the top' and were so tragically killed. We were very proud, as we read the memorial stone to the Fusiliers in the banking of the trench of the Sunken Road*, to tell those around us that we were from Bury, which they all appreciated was 'the home' of the Lancashire Fusiliers.

As we made our way into Belgium and towards Ypres, I wished I had done more research before we set off so that I could look for specific names of those connected with our church. It was then that I remembered the power of the internet! From my mobile phone I was able to access our web site and search as many of the records as I could before my battery went flat. Had I thought of this earlier we may have been able to pay our respects to more individuals. However, I was drawn to the entry on John Percival

Hutchinson, who unlike many of the other entries in the book had only the briefest of outline details, which noted that he died on the 11/11/17 and had a memorial at Tyne Cot cemetery near Ypres. We made the short journey to the cemetery and learned more about the horrific battle during which Private Hutchinson and so many others lost their lives. As Hutchinson's was one of many whose body had not been recovered, we searched for his name on the memorial panes at the rear of the cemetery rather than for one of the immaculately kept gravestones. It was a very moving moment when we found his name; I was very conscious of representing 'our church' as I said a silent prayer and signed the visitors' book.

I realise that many other members have completed similar journeys and, like Vera Stephenson for instance, whose close relative, Private Alfred William Smith, is also buried in Tyne Cot cemetery, have far more personal ties to these places and greater knowledge of the history. However, on my return I simply wanted to write this piece as a tribute and 'thank you' to Beryl for her hard work compiling the Book of Remembrance and Roger Mills for making it so readily available on our web site. Their hard work added so much meaning and depth not only to our travels this autumn, but for me, to the moment when the names will be read out once again on Remembrance Sunday. John Percival Hutchinson and our other members are not forgotten.

Val Chamberlain

* We hope to make some photographs of the places mentioned available on the web site.
