

CHURCH INFORMATION

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BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 2018



HERITAGE WEEKEND – Damion Langford, Anne Mills, The Mayor and her Consort, Jane & Mark Black, Betty Kenyon and our Minister Kate McKenna

MINISTER

REVEREND K MCKENNA

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH – CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 2018

CHURCH SERVICES

7 October	11.15am	The Minister – HARVEST FESTIVAL
14 October	11.15am	The Minister
21 October	11.15am	The Minister
28 October	11.15am	The Minister

HARVEST FESTIVAL- *We are holding our Harvest Festival on 7th October. Everyone is very warmly welcome. If you would like to bring a harvest offering, please consider bringing something tinned or in a packet so that it can be added to our Foodbank donations. If you would also like to bring something decorative, autumnal, or harvest-themed (be that flowers, a decoration, or a more traditional harvest offering of vegetables or fruit), that would also be warmly welcomed, and any food will either be made into soup for the congregation to share at a future event or donated to the Bury Homeless Project.*

CHURCH STEWARDS

7 October	Beryl Bowden & Janet Thatcher
14 October	Sue McMullen & Ashley-Jayde
21 October	Jean Brookhouse and Susan Mitchell
28 October	Lois Williams & George Scaife

CHURCH FLOWERS

7 October	Marian Price – In memory of Margaret Ince
14 October	Margaret & John Fitzpatrick – In memory of Lottie and Jack Fitzpatrick
21 October	Margaret Pollard – In memory of David Pollard
28 October	June Clarke – In memory of Jean and Gary Clarke

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

CELEBRATORY RETROSPECTIVE

9 September – Flowers were donated by Anne & Roger Mills to celebrate the arrival of Lyla Rose, their great granddaughter.

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

6 October	June Clarke and Sue McMullen
13 October	Susan Holt and Brenda Ainsworth
20 October	Pam Gilbert & Di Scaife
27 October	Margaret Fitzpatrick & Norah Hickton

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

7 October	Anne Mills(M), Beryl Bowden, Damion Langford
14 October	Norah Hickton(M), Peter Whewell, Barbara Bamford
21 October	Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Lois Williams, Di Scaife
28 October	Marian Price(M), Susan Mitchell, Fred Mitchell

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN OCTOBER

Monday 1 October at 7pm Finance & General Purposes

Weds. 10 October at 7pm Church Council

Sunday 14 October after the service – Social & Fund-raising

Monday 22 October at 7pm Social & Fund-raising

*****CALENDAR DEADLINE*****

Items for inclusion in the November Calendar should be with the editor by Sunday 21st October.- at the latest. As I'll be away during that week I'd appreciate early contributions if possible, please.

LUNCH CIRCLE

This month, we will meet on October 16th, at 12.30 p.m; when Anne and Roger will act as hosts. Please sign up on the list on the notice-board if you wish to attend.

CAMERA CLUB

This month's meeting will be held on October 8th, at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend. The exhibition has now been dismantled, but it has attracted much appreciation and admiration from members and visitors. Congratulations to those who submitted their pictures; we hope that this exhibition will be the first of many!

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The October Meeting will take place on Thursday, October 4th, at 7.30 pm. **Anne Mills will speak about "Rudyard". Intrigued? Want to know more?** Then come along, on the night, and find out! This will be an open meeting; all will be welcome---men, as well as women!

The November meeting of the Women's League will take place on Thursday, 1st November at 7pm. There will be a talk by Sister Joan from the Food Bank to which we donate goods. This is an open meeting and all are welcome. Come along and find out what happens to the items we donate.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Wednesday 31 October at 7pm. The book to be discussed is: _____ and should be in the lounge cupboard by Friday 28 September. All welcome – you don't need to have read the book!!!!

TRAI DCRAFT

The Stall will be open on October 7th and October 21st. Christmas Cards and fancy goods will be on sale, by then, and the new Traidcraft brochures should have been available from mid-September; if you wish to order from these for Christmas, please remember that items soon sell out, so it's better to order sooner than later.

When the Bury Fair Trade Group met, in September, its treasurer announced his intention of resigning which means that a new treasurer is being sought; the duties are not onerous, as there is only a small amount of money in the funds, and yearly transactions are few; if you are interested in

applying, please speak to Anne Mills, who will contact the Group, on your behalf.

UNITARIAN COLLEGE MANCHESTER

We have recently received a detailed letter from Rev. Lynne Readett, the College's President, outlining the current situation there. Those on email should already have received a copy; please speak to Anne Mills, if you would like one. There will be a meeting to discuss what is happening at UCM on Thursday, October 25th, at 11 am; at Luther King House.

MURDER MYSTERY EVENING

“TALKED TO DEATH”

BY THE LEVENSHULME PLAYERS

COME ON YOUR OWN OR WITH FRIENDS.

JOIN TEAMS OF 4 – 6 AND SOLVE THE CRIME!!

SATURDAY 20TH OCTOBER AT 7.00 – 9.30PM

TICKETS - £6.00 INCLUSIVE OF TEA/COFFEE & BISCUITS.

BYOB AND NIBBLES IF YOU WISH.

AN EVENING WITH PAUL KENYON

Many thanks to all who helped to make this event a great success – more in the next Calendar. *The Book Club*

325TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AT STAND

We have received an invitation from Stand Unitarian Chapel to a Special Service, to be held at Stand, on Saturday, October 27th, at 2 p.m. All are welcome to attend, and full details are on the board. Please note that, if you wish to stay for refreshments afterwards, you must let Geoff Waywell know, in advance; contact-details are also on the board.

FILMS AT ROCHDALE

The next Film Evening at Rochdale takes place on Saturday, November 17th, at 7 p.m. Please watch the notice-board for further details.

THE FUTURE OF FAITH

Rev. Jim Corrigall is organising a series of lectures on this theme, on behalf of the Lancashire Collaborative Ministry; there is a poster on the board, with full details, and there are also leaflets on the lounge-tables. All the sessions will be held at Rawtenstall Unitarian Church; dates and speakers are as follows:

October 6th, 2018: Paul Razor: The Challenge of Liberal Theology in a time of declining liberalism;

December 1st, 2018: Matt Carmichael: Rekindling the Spirit of Community--Restoring Depth in an age of Screens;

March 23rd, 2019: Alastair McIntosh: Towards Third Millennium Christianity: Activism, Nonviolence and the Mystical Imperative.

All sessions begin at 11a.m. and end at 3.15 p.m.

GRAND CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Arrangements are now well under way. Tickets, price £1.00 each or £5.00 for a book of 5, will be available from October 13th and 14th, every Saturday and Sunday, until December 8th, when the draw will be made. We already have promises of all items for the Food Hamper, the first prize; please bring in your items by the last Sunday in September and give them to June Clarke. Offers of other prizes, such as boxes of chocolates, tins of biscuits, toiletries, and bottles of spirits, will be gratefully accepted. All donations should be of good quality, and the dates of perishable items should be checked. Thank you.

VISITORS

From time to time, some of our visitors may prove somewhat demanding, as happened at the end of August. Please be aware that our policy is not to give money to those who ask for it; we can supply food, hot drinks, and a variety of other useful goods, instead, however. Stewards and Church Officers will be on hand, during services and at other times, to assist and support, if necessary.

ABSENT MEMBERS

Alf Howson is slowly settling in at Bankfield Care Home, on Gigg Lane. He can now receive visitors, but the staff ask that they should be consulted beforehand.

Harry Taylor has had a short spell in hospital but was discharged mid-September; he remains under medical supervision; he would welcome visitors, now that he is home, but it would be good to check before visiting, in case he has appointments to keep.

We will keep everyone informed about the progress of anyone who is under the weather.

PRINTING

Please be aware that Roger is not the official printer of church-literature, such as posters, tickets and flyers. Whilst he is usually very willing to assist, he tends to become over-burdened, at times. If anyone is interested in helping with the above task, he is prepared to advise, but it would be helpful if others would take on such tasks, too! If he does agree to print material, he must be supplied with the exact details required.

HERITAGE WEEKEND

Our two Open Days, on September 7th and 8th were very successful, thanks to the efforts of Betty Kenyon, the instigator and main organiser of the event; Betty was ably assisted by Kate, Damion, and a host of church-members. Despite very wet weather on both days, we attracted a steady flow of visitors, all of whom were impressed by the amount of interesting material and memorabilia on display, as well as by the warm, friendly welcome and atmosphere at the church. Our M.P; James Frith, visited on

the first day, and the Mayor and her Consort, Jane and Mark Black, came along on the second day; it was our pleasure to receive them, and they have all agreed to return, at Christmas. This was well-worth doing, and an excellent rehearsal for next year, when we celebrate our 300th Anniversary.

Contemplative Worship

Our quiet contemplative worship service is currently held on the first Friday of every month, from 6.15pm (this timing is being re-evaluated!)

The service lasts around 45 minutes, and is followed by refreshments and fellowship.

Listen to music, hear and join in with readings, and share a time of reflection and meditation

Everyone is welcome no matter your religious background or belief system.

*Our next meeting is on
Friday 5th October 2018,
and our theme is
'Gathering in'.*

Contemplative worship.

If you are interested in taking part in the contemplative worship sessions which currently take place monthly, please see the notice on the board and make a note of what days and times would be convenient for you. The list will be up until the middle of the month.

Communion.

There will be a communion service on 30th September. Everyone is welcome to attend this sacred but non-magical sharing of bread and wine.

Kate is on Annual Leave on the 28th October when the next communion would be due: if anyone would like to volunteer to lead the service (which can be in any form you wish it to be and generally lasts 15-20 minutes) she would be very happy to provide guidance.

Afternoon service on 16th September

Thank you to everyone who shifted their day around and attended the afternoon service on Sunday 16th September: special thanks to those who stewarded and provided refreshments.

Around 24 people turned up: although that's not our entire congregation we should bear in mind that many congregations would be delighted with that turnout at any time.

Church notices.

You may have noticed that Kate has started emailing round each Sunday's notices at some point on Sunday afternoon, and putting them (with any personal details anonymised) on Facebook. They're also now pinned on the notice board, with the idea being that they stay there until they're superseded the following week.

There have been several positive comments about this from people who've missed a particular service but would still like to know what's going on, so it's going to continue. If you'd rather not receive them, please let Kate know and she'll take you off the mailing list (it's either off or on though – it's far too complicated to do it on a weekly basis!).

GDPR:

Thank you to everyone (and that's most people) who have got their forms completed and returned. We will start compiling the details soon.

Generosity:

Since we started collecting for the Foodbank at the beginning of October last year, we have donated very nearly 1,000 items between us: possibly by the time you're reading this we'll have topped 1,000. Thank you very much for your generosity: the food you bring in makes a very real difference to the people who receive it.

*We have also twinned **fourteen** toilets since January. Twelve of them were twinned due to the supreme efforts Damion and George put into their abseil, and the other two were twinned from loose change collected in the*

toilets. The toilet-collections will continue, and it would be lovely to think we might be able to twin one toilet a year after this one.

Kate's time off in October

Kate has two weeks' annual leave in October – from after the service on the 14th to Monday 29th. She will be away for part of that time, but (as always), if there is an emergency she can be contacted.

Nearer the time she will arrange for one of her district colleagues to be on hand for non-emergency pastoral cover.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear all,

Well, September was a gloriously busy month for us. The first full week of the month boasted a meeting or gathering every single day, and the church was then open over the weekend for Heritage Open Days.

It's easy to feel a bit alarmed by a busy week in church, and let's not pretend that we don't all sometimes groan at the thought of another committee meeting. But a busy church diary is a sign of an active and thriving church: it's proof that we have a church we love and cherish and that we know it takes work to keep it rolling. I read an article somewhere suggesting that instead of going "ugh, I've got to go to another church meeting" we try

and re-frame it as "oh, I get to go to another church meeting." Being involved in the running of our glorious community (and the longer I'm here the more glorious I find it) is a blessing as well as a responsibility. Those of you who are on various committees, and perhaps particularly those of you who are officers, I do hope you know the work is not only important but also appreciated.

The Heritage Open Days weekend was, I think, a huge success. We had several visitors who have never been in the church before and they were all, so far as I could tell, hugely impressed. We have to accept we're not in the best physical position - hidden behind the job-centre and a bit towered over by the Exchange Building - but people had clearly made an effort to come and admire our building, and it was lovely to be able to show off just how beautiful it really is, as well as how refreshing and radical our faith is. As usual, we were blessed with volunteers to show people round and to service the all-important refreshments, and our visitors almost all commented on the friendly atmosphere and the sense of community that they found here. Proud though I was of the building over those two days, I was even prouder that people who just walk in can feel our sense of community and friendliness: they were, as I keep saying and will keep

saying, what most attracted me to the church in the first place.

Massive thanks are due to Betty and Damion - although everyone worked hard over that weekend it was Betty and Damion who set the whole thing up and did all the liaising with the national organisers.

I very much hope we can repeat the exercise next year.

I don't know if it was a direct response to heritage weekend or a co-incidence, but at the coffee morning a couple of weeks after the open days we had two sets of visitors who wanted to see the building. One of them described it as his 'favourite building in Bury', and his young sons were particularly impressed with the new steps up to the glory hole. It's lovely to know other people see some of the glory of our building.

I am taking a two-week holiday at the end of this month (some of it at home and some of it at a cottage in North Wales). I'll arrange for a colleague to provide pastoral cover while I'm off, but as always I'm contactable in an emergency.

With love,

Kate

NEPAL

On September 6th, The Women's League enjoyed an excellent talk by Maureen Hawksworth, who is involved with a group called Emmanuel Crafts; the women who belong to the group have set themselves the difficult task of feeding and educating their children; women in Nepal are of lowly status and in need of great support. Maureen brought with her a selection of goods to sell, including some beautiful yak's wool blankets. We have asked Maureen to come and speak to us again, so that we can do what we can to help---watch this space

OKTOBERFEST IN GERMANY

Just a few facts and figures about last year's festival in Germany, from Avalon's Bavarian Cruise records:

7.2 million participants; a 420,000 square metre surface area; 6.9 million litres of beer; 94,000 litres of wine; 111,000 souvenir mugs confiscated from bags; 4,500 lost items handed in, including 950 identity cards, 570 wallets, 2 French horns, 2 wedding rings, 1 table tennis bat, and 1 dog.

Anne

It's not quite like that at the Edinburgh Festival, honestly!! Pam G.
