

CHURCH INFORMATION

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CHURCH OFFICERS

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BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2016



Delectable treats provided by members of the congregation for our recent Strawberry Tea!!

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH
CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2016

CHURCH SERVICES

4 September	11.15am	Marian Price, Seminar Group
11 September	11.15am	Dot Hewerdine, National President
18 September	12.15pm	Professor Geoffrey Levermore, Nobel Prize winner from Styal
25 September	11.15am	Rev Tony McNeile

Please note that on Sunday 18 September our service will begin at 12.15pm due to the closure of Silver Street between 8am and noon.

CHURCH STEWARDS

4 September	Lois & Alan Williams
11 September	Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert
18 September	Margaret & John Fitzpatrick
25 September	Betty Kenyon & John Allerton

If the above dates are not possible for you, please re-arrange with another steward(s). Thank you.

CHURCH FLOWERS

4 September	Dorothy Nortley – In memory of Mary Warburton
11 September	Sandra & Richard – In memory of Fred Moore
18 September	Anne & Roger Mills – In memoriam
25 September	Karen Hampson – In memory of Mike and Rachel Hampson

Distributors: Anne & Harvey Evitts

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

3 September	Rene Hollos & Alison Hollos
10 September	Betty Kenyon & Molly Ratcliffe
17 September	Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard
24 September	June Clarke & Marc & Philip Peters

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

4 September	Anne Mills(M), Beryl Bowden, Rene Hollos
11 September	Norah Hickton(M), Peter Whewell, John Allerton
18 September	Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Lois Williams, Di Scaife
25 September	Marian Price(M), Susan Mitchell, Jean Taylor

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER & Early October

Tuesday 6 September at 7pm	Communications & Worship with Young People
Tuesday 4 October at 7pm	Finance & General Purposes
Wednesday 5 October at 7pm	Social & Fund-Raising

WOMEN'S LEAGUE – SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

Thursday 1 September at 7.30pm A talk about her holiday in Cuba by Sue McMullen

Thursday 6 October at 7.30pm **INDIAN EVENING – Fund-raising for the League Project – The National Dead Children's Society – A talk by Anne Mills about her holiday in India and "Indian Nibbles".**

BRING AND BUY STALL, RAFFLE – ALL WELCOME AT THIS EVENT

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

On Wednesday 28th September 2016 at 11am **Helen Read** will be regaling the Members of the Mens Fellowship with "**Anecdotes of a Cycle Racing Fanatic**".

Afterwards we will enjoy some refreshment at the Trackside.

This year we have had some interesting talks.

Roy Wilkinson talked about his exploits in the RAF during WW2, in which he was forced to parachute out over Belgium and was later informed by the Americans that he had landed in a mine field.

Fred Mitchell Gave us an insight into playing Cricket in the Lancashire League, and the cricketing personalities he met along the way.

George Scaife (oh that's me) talked about how he got into bell ringing and showed a video on the manufacture of Church bells.

We have many people who have led interesting lives attending Bury Unitarian Church. All with stories to tell (providing it does not extend beyond 45 minutes).

FUTURE EVENTS

Alan Hodgert is scheduled to talk about refereeing table tennis matches. **Roger Mills** and **Howard Maden** will be showing photos about the changes to Bury over the years.

This is a small group of men that enjoy each other's company in a relaxed atmosphere. If anyone would like to join with us you would be most welcome.

George H Scaife

CALENDAR DEADLINE

All items for inclusion in the October Calendar should be with the editor by Sunday 18 September, please.

GRAND CONCERT

'SINGALONG BAND'

SATURDAY 3 SEPTEMBER AT 7.30PM

INCLUDES TEA, COFFEE, BISCUITS AND NIBBLES

YOU ARE INVITED TO BRING YOUR OWN WINE.

TICKETS £6 from members of the Social & Fund-raising Committee

**A light-hearted, audience participation, cafe-style evening.
Music from the 60's, 70's and 80's.**

LUNCHEON CLUB

This will be held on Tuesday, September 20th, at 12.30 p.m. Susan will organise lunch; please watch the notice-board for details and sign up, if you wish to attend. All welcome!

BOOK CLUB

Our successful Book Club has been in action for the past nine years. We meet each month (not December!) for a friendly discussion of a book we've all been reading and to choose future books. Most of the books we read come, free of charge, from Bury Library. It has a large collection of sets of books which are loaned. Occasionally we choose a book from another source. During the nine years we must have read ninety-nine books, the titles of which appear on our website. Membership of the Bookclub is open to all – it's not necessary to belong to Bury Unitarian Church. The discussion is frank and honest – there are always varied opinions on the book in question. Some, we have loved, some hated, some we've enjoyed or not – but we all enjoy the opportunity to read books we

would not necessarily have chosen to read ourselves. If you would like to have a taste of this – do come along to one of our evenings. We usually help the discussion along with some wine or juice and nibbles!!!

Monday 26 September at 7pm – The book to be discussed is *Past Imperfect* by Julian Fellowes and it will be in the lounge cupboard by Thursday 1st September, all being well.

SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER – OUR SERVICE WILL START AT 12.15PM DUE TO THE CLOSURE OF SILVER STREET BETWEEN 8.00AM AND 12 NOON. THE VISITING SERVICE LEADER IS PROFESSOR GEOFFREY LEVERMORE, NOBEL PRIZE WINNER, FROM OUR STYAL CONGREGATION.

TRAIIDCRAFT

The stall will be open, on just one occasion, in September, on the 11th. The new autumn/winter brochures will be available then, as will a selection of Christmas cards. At other times, if you need goods, please speak to Anne Mills or Jean Brookhouse.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

This year, we intend to hold a Grand Christmas Draw, and tickets should be on sale from October onwards. The main prize is to be a hamper, and there is now a list on the notice-board of items we would like to collect; if you are willing to donate goods, please sign up. Donated items must reach June Clarke by the end of September, at the latest. Thank you.

SMARTIES AND BEANIES

This is not some exotic new recipe! It is a reminder that Brenda Ainsworth is happy to receive Smartie-tubes full of 20p pieces, at any time; completed beanie

hats for premature babies may also be handed to Brenda, who will despatch them on our behalf.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Minutes from the Congregational Meeting, held on August 14th, at which Rev, Kate McKenna was invited to become our new minister, will be on the notice-board for two or three weeks after the event; thereafter, they will be transferred to the wallet in the bookcase cupboard in which Council and AGM Minutes are kept. If anyone would like a personal copy, please speak to Anne Mills. The result of the voting was 43 in favour of Kate's appointment, and 3 against.

STRAWBERRY TEA

Once again, this was a very successful venture, and £562.00 was raised for church-funds. We hosted about 80 people, on the day; the food was delicious, the Pimms flowed freely, the raffle was generously-supported, and the atmosphere tremendous. Many thanks to all who contributed in any way to the afternoon's events.

SUNDAY NOTICES

Whilst we remain without a minister, we are all responsible for the notices which are read out towards the end of each service; a notebook for notices may be found on the bookcase in the lounge. If you are the Chairman or Secretary of a committee, or are organising a meeting or event, you need to write your announcement in it, otherwise it will not be read. Do not assume that others will do this for you!

VICTORIA WOOD STATUE

Bury Council has announced its intention to erect a memorial statue in The Library Gardens, on the site of the fountain; money will be raised by public subscription, and the statue is expected to be in place by May or June, next year. Apparently we will all be allowed to vote for the design of the statue. We are in contact with the Council, in the hope that we may bring some influence to bear as regards the statue and its surrounding area. If there are developments, you will be informed.

JANE TOMLINSON/ASDA 10K FUN RUN

We have been made aware that this event is to take place on Sunday, September 18th, and that Silver Street will be closed between 8.30 a.m. and 12 noon. We were not consulted about this, at all; arrangements have been made by the race-organisers which completely fail to take into account our requirement to access our premises by car, in order to attend worship. At the time of writing, our own alternative arrangements have not been fixed; please watch the notice-board and listen for pulpit-announcements for up-to-date information.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Bury Art Society has asked, once again, to use our premises for an Art Exhibition; the date of Saturday, October 8th has been agreed. This time, the exhibition will last for one day only; we will serve refreshments during the day. Please keep the date free and come along to view the art-work on display.

WORSHIP STUDIES COURSE

This is on offer on 4 separate dates, between October, 2016, and March, 2017, at York Unitarian Church. Full details are on the notice-board.

rites of passage course

This is on offer on 4 separate dates, between October and December, 2016, at our Bank Street Bolton church. Full details are on the board.

UNITARIAN RENEWAL GROUP

The group will be holding a Day Gathering, on Saturday, September 17th, from 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; at Dunham Road Chapel, Altrincham. This year's theme is: "Articulating Your Faith". Full details are on the board.

GIFT AID

Thank you to all eligible members who have completed Gift Aid Declaration forms in the past. This enables the Church to claim a substantial sum for Church funds.

If you are eligible for Gift Aid, and haven't completed a form, could you please complete a form, available from Margaret Pollard, and return to Val Chamberlain. If you are unsure whether you have completed a form for donations to our church, please check with Val Chamberlain.

RIVINGTON TRIENNIAL PILGRIMAGE

This takes place on Saturday, September 24th; lunch will be served at 12.30 p.m.; and the service commences at 3.15 p.m. If you wish to stay for lunch, you will have to book and pay, by September 2nd, at the latest, or your booking will not be secured. Full details are on the board.

THANKS

Two recent sermons have reminded me of the value of being a Unitarian. On July 24th, Betty Kenyon spoke about the freedom of worship. This does not mean that we can believe what we like, if we like, but carries with it a profound sense of responsibility. If we take our religious life seriously, we should give everything we believe great consideration, weighing up every thought, before reaching conclusions---even then, it might not be possible to decide each matter definitely, just when we wish to do so. Our beliefs require application at all times---a very demanding yet thoroughly rewarding process.

Rev. John Allerton, on August 7th, demonstrated that, despite being retired, he has lost none of his skill in preaching thought-provoking sermons; his ability to explain complex ideas very clearly, and seemingly effortlessly, remains unimpaired. Quoting from Louis de Berniere's novels, he explored the idea that, whilst some people are satisfied with beliefs imposed from above, others prefer the opportunity to think and decide for themselves. The greatest stimulus to quality of religious thought comes from scepticism---for example, the conversation between a cleric and an atheist can be far more productive than simply absorbing and regurgitating uninspired ideas. Undeniably, such a process is rigorous and challenging---uncomfortable, even---but how much more fulfilling.

Thanks to both Betty and John for their inspirational words; what a pleasure to be able to take away, pursue and cherish such high-quality deliberations!

Anne

PLEASE CAN YOU HELP? *(If you can help, please speak to Betty Kenyon.)*

Margaret Sitch (or maybe Stich) began life just over 80 years ago as Margaret Haslam at Bury Unitarians.

It is her mother who was the Unitarian in the family and her maiden name was Nora Chappell. She came from a big family and must have been active in the church as they won medals over the years. Margaret has one younger brother, Peter who is not involved in Unitarianism.

Peter and Margaret are the only surviving members of the family. Can you help, or lead us to someone who would have more information please?

DOROTHY STOTT

Dorothy's daughter, Kathleen, contacted us to inform us of her mother's death on June 9th, in Maidenhead; she had reached the ripe old age of 100. Dorothy and her husband, Harvey, were very active members of Bank Street Chapel until they moved south, 29 years ago.

Kathleen wrote: "My mother was in a care home for the last three years of her life, and I visited her every afternoon. During these visits, we regularly talked about Bank Street days--- the pantomimes, the shows, the dances, the annual fund-raiser, and many other lovely events. These were very innocent and happy times. The day the teddy boys rushed in, when there was a dance, was quite a memorable event! My family and I spent many wonderful times, both in the old building, and in the new church. Had my mother still lived in Bury, she would have remained a loyal member of the church; she had an extremely strong faith, and we prayed together, each Sunday. She loved her days at Bank Street."

We extend our sincerest sympathies to Kathleen and her family for their loss.

FUNERALS

On Wednesday 24th August the funeral of Margaret Schofield, Diane Scaife's mother, was conducted by Reverend Beryl Allerton at Rochdale Crematorium.

To Diane, Kate and their family we offer our sincere sympathy.

On Friday 26th August, at the church, Reverend Beryl Allerton conducted the funeral service for Gillian Isherwood. The service was followed by committal at Overdale Crematorium.

To Percy, Zenobia and Christopher and their family we extend our condolences.

A PROFILE OF ONE OF OUR MEMBERS - PAM OXLEY

I was born in a small country hamlet called Woodend near Sheffield.

- I married Norman, a Green Beret Commando, and lived an army life for the next 12 years.
- This life meant that we lived in many countries including Italy, Cyprus, Germany and Singapore.
- We met people of many different nationalities and faiths. Wherever we went we were met with kindness and friendliness by the local people. The friendly atmosphere of mutual tolerance and respect made a lasting impression on me.
- During this time we had 3 beautiful daughters and I now have 5 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.
- After the untimely death of my first husband, Norman, I eventually married Austin and settled in Radcliffe where I have lived for the last 43 years.

- I started coming to Bury Unitarian Church where I found friendship and a renewed purpose in life after being widowed a second time. I enjoy the Sunday services and taking part in all the activities of the church. I've taken part in a number of the seminar groups and I'm told I've entertained the younger members with tales of 'how we used to live'. They now know, if they didn't know before, that fun didn't begin in the 1960s! We shared a lot of laughter as well as thoughts about our beliefs and values.
- I enjoy my garden and am lucky to have a reliable and talented gardener to help me to keep on top of it.
- I love watching tennis and have been glued to the TV during Wimbledon.
- I also love reading and particularly enjoy historical novels.

Thank you, Pam

If you would be prepared to contribute 'a profile' for the Calendar, please speak to Val Chamberlain.

CALENDAR – RECEIVING A COPY via EMAIL

If you would be prepared to receive your copy of The Calendar via email, please advise the editor – details on back page of Calendar.

FLOWERS

If you would like to make a donation to the Flower Fund either 'in memory' or to remember or celebrate a special occasion, please speak to Janet Thatcher.
