

CHURCH INFORMATION

Church address	1 Bank Street, Bury BL9 0DN
Church telephone	0161 761 3785
Charity Reg. No.	1078570
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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 APRIL 2018



Photo by Roger Mills, Camera Club

Line up of dignitaries at our Fair Trade Service. Saturday 4th March

From left to right: Betty Kenyon (Chair of the Church Council), Anne Mills (Chair of the Congregation), Rev. Kate McKenna (Minister), Councillor Rishi Shori (Leader of Bury Council), Councillor Dorothy Gunther (Mayor of Bury), Rachael Kennedy (Chair of Bury Fair Trade Group), Pat Jones-Greenhalgh (C.E.O. of Bury Metropolitan Borough Council), Bernard Emblem (Secretary of Bury Fair Trade Group), Neville Kenyon (Deputy Chair of Trustees).

MINISTER

REVEREND K MCKENNA

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR APRIL 2018

CHURCH SERVICES

1 April	11.15am	The Minister
8 April	11.15am	Val Chamberlain.
15 April	11.15am	The Minister
22 April	11.15am	Marian Price
29 April	11.15am	The Minister, <i>followed by Communion</i>

CHURCH STEWARDS

1 April	Alf Howson & Roger Mills
8 April	Betty & Neville Kenyon
15 April	Marian Price & Di Scaife
22 April	Beryl Bowden & Janet Thatcher
29 April	Sue McMullen & Barbara Freemantle

If the above dates are not possible, please exchange with another steward(s) – thank you.

CHURCH FLOWERS

1 April	Kate McKenna
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8 April	Anne & Roger Mills - In memory of Rene & Sybil
15 April	Pam & David Gilbert - In memory of Peter
22 April	Margaret Miller – In memory of Derek
29 April	Church Flowers

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

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

7 April	June Clarke & Sue McMullen
14 April	Brenda Ainsworth & Susan Holt
.21 April	Pam Gilbert & Di Scaife
28 April	Margaret Fitzpatrick & Norah Hickton

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

1 April	Anne Mills(M), Beryl Bowden, Barbara Freemantle
8 April	Norah Hickton(M), Peter Whewell, Barbara Bamford
15 April	Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Lois Williams, Di Scaife
22 April	Marian Price(M), Susan Mitchell, Fred Mitchell
29 April	Jean Maden(M), Brenda Ainsworth, George Scaife

COMMITTEE MEETINGS DURING APRIL

Tuesday 3 April at 7pm	Finance & General Purposes
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Monday 9 April at 7pm

Church Council

Wednesday 11 April at 7pm

Trustees

FAIR TRADE

Our special service, in celebration of Fair Trade Fortnight, was held on Sunday, March 4th. Rachael Kennedy and Bernard Emblem, the Chairman and Secretary of The Bury Fair Trade Group, contributed to the service, and The Mayor of Bury (Councillor Dorothy Gunther), The CEO of Bury Metropolitan Borough Council (Pat Jones-Greenhalgh), and The Bury Council Leader (Rishi Shori) were welcomed as distinguished visitors.

The service was devised by The Minister, who chose elements which emphasised ideas of trade justice; this included a fair trade hymn, written by Aberdeen Unitarian, Sue Good, and sung to the tune of Hyfrydol. Anne Mills, the Fair Trade Champion for the church, researched, wrote and delivered the children's address, in which she talked about cocoa-bean production in Ghana, conditions there, and improvements resulting from Fair Trade involvement. Bernard discussed the Fair Trade process, which helps people in developing countries to help themselves, by supplying housing, education, medical care, training, and whatever else is most needed and valuable to producer-communities. Great strides have been made, since Bury became a Fair Trade Borough, in 2011, and the Council have proved co-operative and encouraging to The Fair Trade Group. Rachael told the congregation about her personal commitment to fair trade but stressed that it was part of her general belief that the planet should be treated with respect, without being damaged in any way; that women should be encouraged to achieve their full potential; and that developing countries should be given every opportunity to take their place in the world. She applies these principles to her business-life, as well; she has her own hairdressing salon, which operates according to highly-ethical criteria.

The civic dignitaries who attended professed themselves delighted with the service and with the warm welcome they had received. Fairly-traded

refreshments were served after the service; Anne organised this, and she and Rachael baked cakes appropriate to the occasion. The church Fair Trade Stall was open for business and did a roaring trade. This was a new, joint venture, between the church and the local Fair Trade Group, and one well-worth repeating. (The children's address can be found on the church website.)

TRAIDCRAFT

The stall will be open on April 8th and 22nd. If you need goods at other times, please speak to Anne or Jean. Whilst work on the lift is in progress, Traidcraft stock will have to be moved from the store at the back of the church and kept elsewhere, and it will probably be necessary to reduce the amounts in hand, temporarily. Normal service will be resumed, as soon as possible! The new Spring/Summer brochure is now available and can be collected from the stall.

LUNCH CIRCLE

This month's meeting will take place on April 17th, at 12.30 p.m. It will be hosted by Susan and Margaret. Please sign up, as usual, but let the organisers know, as soon as possible, if you are subsequently unable to attend. Remember to bring with you any drinks you would like; water will be served with the meal, and tea and coffee afterwards. If anyone would like to assist with the catering, please speak to Anne or Susan; offers of help with serving, clearing away, and washing-up are always welcome.

CAMERA CLUB

This will meet on Tuesday, April 10th, at 7 p.m. The group are planning an exhibition for the summer, to run between July 2nd and 15th, and would welcome photographs from the congregation. At present, various topics are

under discussion: Flowers, Sunrise/Sunset, Water, Churches (including our own), Motive Power, Landscapes, and Architecture; there will also be a miscellaneous section. If you have photographs which you would like to contribute, why not come along to the meeting and talk to the others in the group?

And now - a date for your diaries: An evening entertainment organised by the Church Fund-raising Committee - please support this event which will be lively and fun!!!

TOTTINGTON PUBLIC BRASS BAND CONCERT

SATURDAY 12 MAY AT 7.30pm

**A varied programme of classical Brass Band music,
Songs from the Shows and some Marches**

Refreshments will be included.

Tickets £8 from Susan Mitchell

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Wednesday 25 April at 7pm. The book to be discussed should be in the lounge cupboard by Thursday 29 March and is *The Sisters Brothers* by Patrick de Witt. Everyone welcome.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 5 April at 7.30pm

Speaker Veronica Walker – ‘Charles Dickens – The Women in his Life’

CONGREGATIONAL AGM

This was held on Sunday, March 18th, 2018. Unfortunately, the snow kept many people away, and the meeting was not quite quorate; luckily, nothing was contentious or in need of a vote, and all was agreed amicably. The Church-Officers were re-elected, as follows: Anne Mills (Chairman of the Congregation, and Church Secretary); Betty Kenyon (Chairman of Church Council); John Fitzpatrick (Treasurer); Roger Mills (Assistant Treasurer). All will serve for a year.

Five Council-members were also elected: Val Chamberlain, Barbara Freemantle, Peter Whewell and Lois Williams will serve for 3 years, and Norah Hickton will serve for 2 years. Betty Kenyon, Val Chamberlain and Neville Kenyon were confirmed as this year's G.A. Delegates, and June Clarke and Neville Kenyon will continue as our NELUM Delegates. The AGM Minutes will be posted on the notice-board, when available. All retiring Council-members will be officially thanked.

The formal Welcome to New Members section of the service had to be postponed, but we now have five new members: Adrian Brady, Barbara and Bryan Freemantle, Peter Hunter, and Damion Langford; those present were welcomed at the AGM and received their chalice badges then. Congratulations to all of them!

If you are not yet a church-member but would like to become one, please speak to our Membership Secretary, Margaret Pollard.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Rev. Lynne Readett has contacted us to ask whether anyone from the Bury congregation would be interested in joining members of Chowbent Chapel for a NELUM Weekend, at Great Hucklow, from June 8th to 10th, 2018. Full details are on the board; if you wish to discuss this matter further, you are welcome to ring Lynne, on 01942 893965.

Rev. Jim Corrigan is again organising a Poetry Festival at Padiham; this will take place on Saturday, June 9th, 2018, between 11.30 a.m. and 4 p.m. (a different format, this year). The day will contain 2 lectures: one on Sylvia Plath, and one on her husband, Ted Hughes; the lectures will be followed by a Poetry Workshop. Tickets are available from Jim and cost £10, which includes lunch. Full details are on the board.

HARRY TAYLOR

At the time of writing (March 18th), Harry is being looked after in Bealey's Community Hospital; he has been there for approximately three weeks, after developing breathing-difficulties. We hope for a speedy improvement in his condition and send him our good wishes. Recently, he has attended a few Saturday coffee-mornings and the occasional service.

LIFT INSTALLATION

The trustees have decided that the time has come to install a lift between the ground and first floor of our church. This will not only enable people with mobility problems to more easily access the upper floor but will be extremely helpful for moving heavy items between floors for social functions (chairs and tables mainly!). This project will be entirely financed from trustee funds and will not damage the day-to-day finances of the church.

Orders have now been placed and preliminary building works will be carried out between the 9th and the 23rd of April. The lift itself will be

installed during week commencing the 7th of May. Work will be carried out during weekday daytimes only and we will continue to be able to use our building in the evenings and weekends.

The lift will occupy parts of 2 storage rooms, at the back of the worship area and at the end of the upstairs room. Access to the lift on the ground floor will be on the wall opposite the staircase and on the upper floor will be in place of the concertina access door to the store room.

Once the lift has been installed some limited storage space in the two rooms will, once more, be available to us but not while the work is carried out. Some re-organisation of storage space will therefore be necessary on a temporary and then again on a permanent basis.

Please let me know if you need any more information or feel that it will cause you inconvenience and I will do my best to help.

Roger Mills

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear all,

I'm very much hoping that by the time you read this the snowy windy weather will be a distant memory. But then, I hoped that last month too.

But whatever the weather is doing, the clocks will have changed and the equinox will have happened: it might still be cold and windy, but it will also be lighter for longer, and it's hard not to have our spirits lifted by that.

I write this on the afternoon after our AGM, and I'm pleased to be able to say it was a very amicable and positive meeting. It's easy to dismiss the AGM as a boring

business meeting, but in fact it's a vital part of our life. It's true that it's a legal requirement, and it's true that we should all care about the practicalities of the running of the church, but it's also important in other ways. It's our opportunity to hear the annual report, which summarises all the many activities which have happened over the year: I think we don't really notice how much goes on until we review it after the fact. It's also a chance to formally thank church officers, committee members, and trustees for all the absurd amount of work they put in to keeping us not only alive but lively.

I think we're pretty good as a community at noticing what people do, but maybe we take people for granted sometimes - and I know we don't always realise what someone does until they're unable to do it one day! It reminds me of a joke about a parent coming home one day and finding the house in total disarray, the children running rampant, and no dinner ready. They ask their partner what on earth has happened, and the partner replies "well, you know that 'nothing' you think I do all day while you're at work? I didn't do it."

We should definitely use the AGM to formally thank everyone, but we should also bear them in mind throughout the year. Nothing "just happens" at church - someone's made it happen, and would probably like a 'thank you'!

I'm very excited that work starts this month on installing a platform lift to improve access to the hall. There's no

doubt it will cause some disruption - nowhere is nice when there are builders in - and for a while we will have to live with a bit of mess, but the outcome will be that more people will feel more welcome in our building. There is a secondary benefit as well, in that chairs and tables will no longer have to be manually dragged up the stairs, but more important is our commitment to welcoming everyone equally.

Let's try and be patient while the work is underway!

The toilet twinning fund is creeping up nicely - at the time of writing we have slightly over £20. I'm very sad that one of the collecting frogs has gone missing (especially as it would only have contained a few pence as I empty them every week), but it's been replaced with an identical one.

I am very pleased that my request for Easter Eggs for the Foodbank resulted in 28 eggs being delivered to Sister Joan at Caritas. And that translates to 28 children getting an egg who might not otherwise have done so. We also continue to gather a good number of jars and packets of food each month, which is very pleasing indeed.

In more frivolous news, I'm personally very excited that the proposed statue of Victoria Wood has now been approved, and will be placed in the Library Gardens at some point. I hope we can get involved in the unveiling in some way, and increase our visibility within the town.

With love, **Kate**

MEMBERSHIP AND COMMITMENT SERVICE:

On Sunday 29th April we will be formally welcoming our five new members into our congregation. There will also be a chance to reaffirm our own commitment to the community.

COMMUNION

You are very welcome to join us for communion on Sunday 29th April. The communion service is a sacred sharing of bread and wine, and is open to everyone of any religious belief or none. The service starts at 12.30 and normally lasts about 15-20 minutes.

If you are curious about what happens but anxious about actually taking part, you are very welcome to join us and decide at the time whether you want to share in the bread and wine. There is no obligation.

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP

We still plan to hold a monthly contemplative worship session on the first Friday of every month at 6.15. However, Kate will be at the GA on the 6th April, so the first session will take place on Friday 4th May.

HELPING THOSE WHO NEED IT:

Please remember that there is always a bag or two of food available in the vestry for anyone who visits us needing something to eat. They generally contain a long-life salami, some crisps and nuts, a drink, and some snacks. Never feel you need to ask before handing these out – if someone needs food we should feel privileged that we have something to give them.

There is often also foodbank food in the building, again, if a tin or two of something would be useful to someone, don't hesitate to give them

something (although the food is donated specifically for the Foodbank, I know no one will mind how it is used so long as it is used for those who need it).

Occasionally people also ask for money. It is not up to anyone at church to tell you what to do with your own money (and the generous nature of the congregation is a lovely thing to see), but in general it's probably better to give someone a bag of food and a hot drink than cash.

There are also several warm coats and some pairs of boots in the cloakroom in the corridor. Again, please be generous with these if anyone visits who seems to be in need of them.

ADVANCE NOTICE: WORKSHOP:

Saturday 5th May: Kate will be leading a workshop on "what we believe, and what we commit to. It is hoped this will result in the creation of a new leaflet for the congregation.

Please bring sandwiches from 12pm, for a 1pm start. The workshop will finish by 3pm with coffee.

ADVANCE NOTICE: EQUAL MARRIAGE

The service on Sunday 13th May will be on the subject of equality in marriage. After the service there will be a discussion on applying for a same-sex marriage licence for the church, and a vote on whether to go ahead.

