

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH



"Let there be light!"taken at Styal Mill

APRIL 2023

Letter from the Minister

Dear all,

We're past the Equinox, the clocks have gone forward, the daffodils on the roadsides are rampant, and Easter is just over a week away. Admittedly, we haven't had a decent drying day in what feels like months and months, but the winter is definitely over.

Last weekend we held our Annual General Meeting, and although these meetings always involve an awful lot of work for the Church Officers and the Church Council, it's a huge blessing and a privilege to be able to be a part of making decisions for our community: meetings can feel like a chore, but they're much more than just that. Later in the Calendar you will see details of the new Church Officers and council members, and of two changes which have been made to church rules. Both these changes will simplify our church administration: you will probably know that I have been saying for a long time that our church structures need to serve us, rather than vice versa, and I hope this will be a huge step towards that.

As it always does, our church life continues to be a mix of joys and sorrows, beginnings and endings. Churches are, or should be, places where all human experiences can be held and nourished, and I do feel that our own community achieves that aim. As we worship and socialise together, 'all of human life is here' and whilst we don't always talk directly about what is happening for each of us, I hope that we all know that we can do that if we want to or need to, and that even our unspoken feelings are welcomed and held by the community.

During the first week of April several of us will be attending the General Assembly meetings, in Northamptonshire: I hope that we will come back with fresh enthusiasm and fresh ideas. I hope to arrange a GA service some time in May or June. We'll keep you posted!

As ever, I send you my love,

Kate.

News of our community

Robin Ainsworth

At the time of writing, Robin is comfortable and in no pain, at home with his family around him. He is receiving excellent care and support from Bury Hospice. Robin, Brenda, and their family are in our prayers.

Jean Heal

We heard, earlier in March, of the death of Jean Heal: Jean was a former member at both Bury and Ainsworth, and was known to some of us through her work with the Bury Homeless Project when they met in our church lounge.

Welcoming new members

I am delighted that at our service on Sunday 26th March, we welcomed Andrew, Ewen, Janine, Julia, Paul, and Rita as formal members of our congregation. Janine and Paul were welcomed in their absence, and will be welcomed in person at an upcoming service. Growth in congregations is always a delight, and I know that these new members will enrich our congregations just as we hope to enrich and nourish their lives.

If you would like to use the Calendar to let people know what is happening in your life – whether to ask for our prayers, to celebrate good news, or to mark an anniversary or other event – please let Kate know: she is always happy to print personal news, providing, of course, that the person the news is about is happy for that to happen.

Worship and spiritual practices:

Sunday Services

We continue to meet on Sundays at 11.15am to worship together. The service lasts around an hour and is followed by refreshments and conversation.

We also hold Sunday Zoom services on the second Sunday and possibly the fourth Sunday of each month: there will be a Zoom service on Sunday 9th and Sunday 23rd April.

Inclusive Communion Services

We generally hold an inclusive communion service on the first Sunday of each month, at 12.30 (after the main service). The next one will take place on **Sunday 30th April**: everyone is welcome to this simple and sacred sharing of food, juice, and community.

You're very welcome, even if you've never been before.

.

Midweek online meditations:

The meditations have resumed, and the next will take place on **Tuesday 11th April at 7pm**: *please let Kate know by Monday morning if you would like to come along*, otherwise we will postpone until May.

Lectio Divina Sessions

Lectio Divina sessions are planned for **Sunday 2nd April, Sunday 16th April, and Sunday 30th April**. They will take place shortly after the service finishes (and after communion if they fall on a communion day). Hannah will confirm details as soon as she can.

Good Friday Communion

I will be hosting a short Good Friday vigil and communion in the worship area at **3pm on Friday 7th April**. Everyone is very welcome to join us for this quiet and contemplative service.

The service does, of course, mark the crucifixion of Jesus, and is free Christian in nature, but it is inclusive of people of any faith and none.

The service will last around forty minutes (perhaps an hour), and we will meet in the lounge for coffee and hot cross buns afterwards.

You are very welcome to join us just for the hot cross buns if you'd like.

I will be holding a Vestry Day on Good Friday as usual, but finishing slightly early to prepare for the vigil.

Social Events

Book Club

The Book Club will meet on **Wednesday 26th April** to discuss: *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini. We read his first book *The Kite Runner* a few years ago.

We hope to resume our Summer time of meeting which is 7pm but this will depend on lighting-up time so watch out for an announcement nearer the time.

The book is available from the lounge cupboard. New readers always welcome.

If you are interested in joining us have a word with any of us; Kate, Beryl Bowden, Janet, Rita, Anne Evitts, Margaret, Pam.

Camera Club

The Camera Club normally meets on Zoom on the second and fourth Monday of each month, at 7pm. Everyone is very welcome to join them for these sociable and productive evenings.

The scheduled dates for April are **Monday 10th** and **Monday 24th**.

If you'd like to know more about Camera Club, or if you need the Zoom log in details, please speak to either Janet Thatcher or Ade Brady (and if you're not sure who they are, please ask someone to point them out to you!

Social Gatherings.

We're continuing to hold our Saturday Social Gatherings on the last Saturday of most months.

The next gathering will be on **Saturday 29th April**, the same day as Bury Pride.

Second Sunday lunches

The second Sunday in April is Easter Day, so there won't be a Second Sunday Lunch visit that day. We'll start again in May, on Sunday 14th, and we'll be going to the Art Picture House. Further details in the May Calendar.

May Calendar

The deadline for entries for the May edition of the Calendar will be teatime on Tuesday 25th April and we'll collate it at the Saturday Social Gathering on Saturday 29th April

The Coronation of King Charles III, Saturday 6th May

Because the TV licensing laws are being waived over the weekend of the coronation, we will be able to watch the Coronation together in the church lounge if anyone wishes to.

We'll only arrange for this to happen if anyone wants us to, so please look out for a notice on the noticeboard and sign up if you'd like to come along and watch it in community.

Notes from the building.

If I were to describe the function of our beautiful building, I would say it is simply the physical property that allows the church to operate and that the more important bit is that the church is all of us. This is the ethos I take into property management at the church, and this is the time of year we have an awful lot of the little things that need to be done to make the building a safe and secure sanctuary for our individual bodies, as well as our collective 'soul'... our church.

From gas certification and electrical work to fire equipment and lift testing, there's an awful lot of work going on in the background of the building at the moment, and while it is work that you don't really need to know about; there is a reason that I mention it here.

There is a lot of work very obviously not getting done at the moment and almost all of this is directly tied to the aesthetics of the building. There are things to hang, floor pieces to affix, parts of the ceiling to repair and so on, and none of that really obvious work is getting done, because there is so much work to do at the moment on safety, or contract work that has to take precedence because, as I have mentioned, that is the work of maintaining the core of the building, and that has the greatest potential impact on our church.

So if you hear me wandering around the building singing parodies of Christmas carols such as 'tis the season to be busy' or 'Where are ye Mr Leccy-man' (to the tune of God rest ye merry gentlemen), it isn't because I'm losing my mind... I'm just engaging in something to turn the interminable chore of chasing contractors around town into something essentially joyous. I'm basically trying to play a trick on myself, and fortunately, it frequently works.

If I can take out all of my frustrations in an empty church through the medium of song, then when I do get a contractor in we can have a very positive engagement. That is important because welcoming people into the building kindly can be an important first step in welcoming them into our church, and maybe, just maybe, our church is where they too might actually belong. So if you come in one day and I'm singing to myself? Well, now you know why.

Bury Pride



Bury Pride takes place on Saturday 29th April, with the parade starting at 1pm from Knowsley Street.

We hope to have a presence at the parade, and that we'll be joined by some friends from Cross Street chapel Manchester.

Watch this space for further details.

Bury Unitarian Church AGM.

The 53rd AGM of the congregation was held in church on Sunday 26th March 2023. Eighteen members and two ex-officio members were in attendance.

The following appointments were made and approved with no objections or abstentions:

Chair of Congregation: Betty Kenyon

Chair of Church Council: Jean Maden

Church Secretary: Karen Hampson

Treasurer: Lynda Arthur.

Church council members: Beryl Bowden, Norah Hickton, Peter Whewell, Rita Boardall, Susan Mitchell, Val Chamberlain

GA delegates: Anne Mills and Ewen Sim

At the time of the meeting there had been no nominations for NELUM delegates.

Change to Church Rules:

The following changes to church rules were voted in unanimously:

1. *“The Worship and Junior Church Committee, Finance Committee, and Social and Fund-Raising Committee are integrated with the Church Council”.*
2. *“New members should have attended services over a six-month period (unless former members of other Unitarian Churches) and shall be subject to the approval of Council”.*

The full minutes will be available in due course.

Stewards for Sunday services, April 2023

Sunday 2 nd April	Susan Holt Susan Mitchell
Sunday 9 th April	Barbara Bamford Jean Brookhouse
Sunday 16 th April	Howard Maden Jean Maden
Sunday 23 rd April	Ewen Sim Janine Hurley
Sunday 30 th April	Beryl Bowden Marian Price

Tea and coffee rota, April 2023

Sunday 2 nd April	Jean Maden and Howard Maden
Sunday 9 th April	Pam Gilbert and Lois Williams
Sunday 16 th April	Marian Price and Susan Holt
Sunday 23 rd April	Norah Hickton and Peter Whewell.
Sunday 30 th April	Rita Boardall and Susan Mitchell

If you would like to be included on the rota either for stewarding or for setting up and serving tea and coffee after services, please ask Kate to put you in touch with the relevant people: if you'd prefer not to be on the rota but can offer to help out on occasional Sundays, that would also be very gratefully received!

Vestry Days: Saturdays.

As you know, I hold a Vestry Day on most Fridays, so that people can pop in and see me for a chat on an informal basis. I'm going to try adding in a 'Vestry Saturday' once a month: it dawned on me recently that parking is awkward on a Friday and some people prefer to be in town at the weekend.

Initially I'm going to do this on the third Saturday of the month, so the April Saturday Vestry Day will be on **Saturday 15th April**. I'll still be in the vestry on Fridays as normal.

We'll see how it goes. And, of course, the kettle will be on.

Minister's schedule, April 2023

Kate will be at the GA Annual Meetings from Monday 3rd to Thursday 6th April. She will be taking a few days off on the week starting Monday 17th.

She is usually in the vestry between at least 10am and 3pm on Fridays, and if you'd like to pop in for a chat you would be very welcome: the kettle is always on.

I try to honour Thursday as a Sabbath, and to avoid work commitments of any sort on that day: Ade also tries not to work on Thursdays. I also try to take alternate Wednesdays as days off, but those are more flexible. Of course, if there's an absolute emergency I want you to contact me even on a day off!

News from around the district and the denomination

Next Rochdale concert:

FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC Clover Street Unitarians

**Dance to classic covers by
UNDERCOVER2
Friday 21 April - 7.30pm**



**£10 (inc. tattie supper)
(£5 under 12's)**

Tel. 01706 649015 or on the door
Clover Street, Rochdale, OL12 6TP
www.rochdaleunitarians.org.uk

Spiritual, not religious

Unitarian Transformers, in collaboration with the National Unitarian Fellowship and the General Assembly, have launched a series of events under the banner 'Spiritual, not Religious'. The launch took place in mid-March, but future events are planned. These are mainly to be hosted online. Please keep an eye on the GA website and social media for further details.

Uni-News

If you have internet access, you may like to subscribe to Uni-news, a more-or-less monthly round up of what's going on in the denomination nationally. You can find details online, or ask Kate. The information is also published on the GA website.

By-Gone Times no. 34 by Betty Kenyon:

What's in a name?



First Chapel 1719

Probably the oldest document relating to Bank Street Chapel, is a passage in the will of Samuel Wareing who died in 1717. In it he leaves £100 for the minister of the chapel that shall be built in or near the town of Bury for the Dissenters for the worship of God.

Others who gave fairly large sums of money were Richard Kay, Robert Wareing and Brother Hampson.



Second Chapel 1837

In 1735 Mary Kay of Baldingstone left £10 for the support and maintenance of the Presbyterian minister. This is the first time Presbyterian is used but only for the minister. The people who formed the congregation were called simply 'Protestant Dissenters' the words used in the Act of Toleration of 1689.

In 1735 in the earliest Minute and Account Book we read of a Vestry Meeting held at the Dissenting Meeting House in Bury. By 1816 mention is made of the 'Old Meeting in Bury'.



Third Chapel 1852

In 1883 'The Unitarian Chapel' was the given name.

However, Bank Street Presbyterian Chapel was its more recent name.



Fourth building, 1974

This changed in 1974 to Bury Unitarian Church when Chesham and Britain Hill Church, Heywood joined.

Regular Events (all subject to change)

Sundays:

11.15am Worship in person at Bury

First Sunday of most months:

10.30am Worship in person at Ainsworth

12.30pm Inclusive Communion Service at Bury

Second Sunday of each month:

12.30 (approx.) Second Sunday Lunch. Please join Kate at a local pub for lunch, a coffee, or a drink. We'll all be buying our own (if you would like to come and the cost would be a problem please have a quiet word with Kate).

Second and fourth Sundays of each month:

2pm Zoom worship (Zoom link: 849 7456 6116)

Second and fourth Mondays of each month:

7pm Camera club (normally online)

Second Tuesday of each month (not taking place in March)

7pm Online midweek meditation session

Last Wednesday of each month:

2pm/7pm Book club

Most Fridays:

10am til 3pm (approx.) Minister's Vestry Day:

Last Saturday of each month (this month's will be on 1st April)

11am-1pm (approx.) Saturday Social Gathering

What's on: April 2023

Sunday 2nd April

11.15am, Bury:	Service in church
12.30 approx, Bury:	Lectio Divina Session
3pm, Ainsworth:	308 th Anniversary service, led by Rev Beryl Allerton

Monday 3rd April

7pm: NELUM meeting, Ainsworth Chapel Hall

Friday 7th April

10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day.
3pm: Good Friday vigil and communion, followed by fellowship (you are welcome to join us for any or all of this).

Sunday 9th April (Easter Sunday)

11.15am Bury:	Service in church, led by the minister
	No Second Sunday Lunch today
2pm:	Zoom service

Monday 10th April

7pm: Camera club, on Zoom

Tuesday 11th April

7pm: Online meditation (please let Kate know by Monday morning if you would like to attend this).

Friday 14th April

10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day.

Saturday 15th April

10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Saturday

Sunday 16th April:

11.15am Bury:	Service in church
12.30 approx, Bury:	Lectio Divina Session

Tuesday 18th April

7pm: Church council meeting.

Friday 21st April: 10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day.
7pm: Rochdale concert series (see poster).

Sunday 23rd April: 11.15am Bury: 2pm:	Service in church Zoom service (provisional: watch this space)
---	---

Monday 24th April 7pm: Camera club, on Zoom

Tuesday 25th April Teatime: deadline for entries for the May edition of the *Calendar*.

Wednesday 26th April **2pm or 7pm:** Book club meeting in church to discuss *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini

Friday 28th April 10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day.

Saturday 29th April 11am onwards: Saturday social gathering,
1pm: Bury Pride Parade

Sunday 30th April 11.15am, Bury: 12.30pm, Bury: After communion, Bury:	Service in church, led by Hannah Stephenson. Inclusive Communion Service. Lectio Divina Session
---	---

Saturday 6th May
Time to be confirmed: (Provisional) showing of the Coronation of King George III

Sunday 7th May 10.30am, Ainsworth: 11.15am, Bury:	Ainsworth service, led by Paul Hubbard Service in church
---	---

Church Information:

Minister:

Rev. Kate Brady McKenna

0161 460 3363 / 07751 240886

revkatemckenna@gmail.com

Church address: 1 Bank Street, Bury, BL9 0DN

Church phone: 0161 761 3785

Website: www.bury-unitarian-church.org.uk

Facebook: Bury Unitarian Church

Church officers

Chair of trustees: Susan Holt 07876 716563

Chair of church council: Jean Maden

Church secretary: Karen Hampson 0161 766 2283

Chair of congregation: Betty Kenyon 01204 887222

Church treasurer: Lynda Arthur

Contact for room bookings and building maintenance

Property Manager Adrian Brady 07736 107143

Charity reg no: 107857

Do you find this easier to read?

Almost everything we provide in print at church (including services, Calendars, letters, reports, and the minutes of most meetings) is available in a large-print format, and a recorded version of the Calendar is available on CD and on memory disk.

Accessibility

We want our church and our community to be as accessible to everyone as it possibly can be. As well as providing everything in large print, we have a hearing loop, wheelchair access at the back of the building, and an accessible toilet.

Our services and other events are fidget-friendly!

We have also recently taken possession of a new lightweight, easily collapsible, sturdy wheelchair. The wheelchair lives in the cupboard under the front stairs, and you are free to use it at any time it would be useful in church.

If you have a short-term need at home and would like to borrow it, please speak to one of the church officers.

We know that there will be needs we haven't accounted for: if there is anything which would make it easier for you to engage with what we do, please please do tell us!



Boat full of Bulbs



Amaryllis



Dusky Sound in Southern New Zealand



Pilot Boat in Dusky Sound



Australian White Ibis



Coleus Plant