

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH



August 2022

Letter from the Minister

Dear all,

I sometimes think I write too much about the weather in this letter, but this month I really can't avoid it: last week we had the hottest day the UK has ever seen: I really hope you all managed to cope with it. The heat that day was unbearable: in the manse we closed all the windows and curtains, sat with as many fans as we could gather, and made sure both we and our dog drank as much water as possible, and it was still a horrible day.

Thankfully, the last few days have been much more reasonable, but I think that we're going to get more days (and weeks) like that as the years roll by, and if ever we've had a warning that climate change is real and dangerous, that day was that warning.

Let's hope that the weather over the next month is kind to us, and that we can all enjoy some pleasant days. I have to be entirely honest and say that I never think much of August and that I'm already looking forward to September.

I know that several of you have been unwell recently, either with Covid or other problems, and I hope you know that our love goes out to you. Please continue to let me know if you hear of someone who is struggling: as I always say, I'd rather know something twice than not know it at all, so I won't mind in the slightest – in fact I'll be delighted - if you tell me something I already know.

As it generally is, August is a fairly quiet month in church life: lots of people are away and we're preparing ourselves for a busy autumn. All our "core activities" will continue, of course, and most of our regular social events. I am taking a couple of weeks off towards the end of the month, but otherwise I'm around, and hoping to use the quieter time to catch up on some visits: please have the kettle on!

As ever, I send you my love

Rev Kate Brady McKenna

Tea and Coffee rota, August

Sunday 7 th August	Jean and Howard
Sunday 14 th August	Lois and Pam
Sunday 21 st August	Marian and Susan H
Sunday 28 th August	Norah and Peter

Stewarding rota, August

Sunday 7 th August	Betty and Neville
Sunday 14 th August	Susan M and Susan M
Sunday 21 st August	Jean and Howard
Sunday 28 th August	Janine and Ewen

If you know in advance that you're unable to be at church when you're on the stewarding or tea and coffee rota, it would be really helpful if you could try to swap with someone.

If you're not on either rota and would like to be, we would very much love to hear from you: please let Marian know if you can help with tea and coffee, and Betty if you can steward. A full and comprehensive training programme is available for all the positions!

News of our Community

Bill Drayton

It seems that we have had a superstar in our midst, without being aware of it! Bill has been attending our services for about a year now, and has certainly made his presence felt. Soon after his arrival, he began to frequent the worship-area, approximately half-an-hour before the start of the service, each week, to play his musical improvisations on the grand piano there. Bill does not read music, but he has a gift for playing what he composes, as he goes along---a special talent! Over the months, we have come to expect, and enjoy, his beautiful music, as a fitting preparation for our worship. Bill has now relocated to the Blackpool area, where he hopes to maintain his Unitarian links. We will miss him, and his music; we wish him well, in his new home, as he embarks upon a new chapter of his life.

During July, Bill has had an article published in "The Guardian", and a poem ("I cannot hear you"), in the first column of "The Inquirer", in the July 9th issue. During his time with us, he has given service-readings on several occasions. We thank him for his contributions and congratulate him on his achievements. If you would like to hear a selection of Bill's piano improvisations, you can do so by logging on to the Bury Unitarian Church website and following the link there; alternatively, log in to You Tube and search for "Bill Drayton: Piano Improvisations". Enjoy!

Anne Mills

Ashleigh-Jade

Many of you will remember Ashleigh-Jade, who has been coming to our Sunday School since she was tiny. We haven't seen her in church for a while because life gets so busy, but I know you'd all love to see this photo of her at her school leavers' prom.

I know you'll join me in wishing Ashleigh-Jade the exam results she wants, and every blessing as she moves forward into whatever comes next.



Photo shared with Ashleigh-Jade's permission.

Roger Mills

Almost everyone at church knows Roger Mills, he is a pillar of our community, and has been for long enough so that the word 'stalwart' is the only fair descriptor.

For many years if there was work to be done at the church, it would either be done by Roger, or it would by necessity pass through him in either his role as the Property Trustee, and in more recent years, also as the Treasurer of the church council.

So much of the hard work that's gone into maintaining our property has happened thanks to the work that Roger has tirelessly put in in the background. Even after I started working at the church, with Roger as my line manager, a large amount of what needed to be done, could only be done because of Roger. He's been tireless in his approach to everything and has always acted with the best interests of our community in mind.

Following his recently announced retirement from the board of trustees, and his decision to leave the church council role, Roger has left behind a legacy of work he can justifiably be proud of, and we should all be proud of him too. He probably won't even let you thank him properly, it's not really his style. He's a stalwart you see.

Ade Brady.

Church Council

The Church Council met on Wednesday 27th July, and below are some of the highlights. The full minutes will be available in due course.

Council Membership:

The Church Council consists of:

- Beryl Bowden (co-opted member)
- Betty Kenyon (chair)
- Janet Thatcher (co-opted member and Trustee representative)
- Jean Maden (co-opted member)
- June Clarke (co-opted member)
- Karen Hampson (secretary)
- Kate Brady McKenna (minister: ex officio)
- Peter Whewell (co-opted member)
- Roger Mills (treasurer, until end September 2022)
- Susan Holt (deputy treasurer and Trustee representative)
- Val Chamberlain (co-opted member)

100 Club

The 100 club is closing, and the money remaining in the fund will be returned to the donors in the near future. Janet Thatcher will be approaching everyone individually to arrange this.

Pam Oxley's legacy.

The generous legacy left to us by Pam Oxley has been used to provide a laptop computer, printer, and consumables for the church secretary. Kate will write to the family to thank them for this generous gift and to tell them what we used it for.

Bequest from the Hindley Congregation

Along with other local congregations, we have received a very generous gift of £10,000 following the closure of the Hindley Congregation. This money is to be used to promote who we are and what we do. The Church Council and church officers would love to hear ideas from members of the congregation about how we could best use this. Some suggestions include developing our website and social media presence, or helping to train the congregation in promotion. Please give this some thought! We've decided that unless we can decide on the use of this gift by the date of the next AGM, we will return it with grateful thanks so that other congregations can make use of it.

Next Church Council meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday October 18th at 1pm: you are welcome to arrive at 12.30 with a packed lunch.

Any member of the congregation (whether a formal member or not) is very welcome to attend these meetings and to be a part of the discussions.

Social Events

Book Club

The book club met on Wednesday 27th July to discuss the July book, *Five Little Pigs* by Agatha Christie. After a good chat about the book and books in general, we shared alcohol free fizz and home made fudge.

Our next gathering will be on Wednesday, 31st August at church and we hope to keep the current arrangements of sharing snacks afterwards. **We will confirm the time of the meeting soon and make sure everyone knows.**

We will be discussing *Never Go Back*, by Lee Child, and you are welcome to join us whether you loved it, hated it, or didn't get round to reading it (it may be encouraging to hear that the minister has seldom read the book, so you won't be on your own if you haven't).

Camera Club

The Camera Club normally meets either on Zoom, in person, or both 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 August meetings will be on August 8th and August 22nd.

As the person currently editing the Calendar, I would like to thank the Camera Club for all the work they put in. Every month I receive the cover, ready printed, and with all the gorgeous pictures you see already laid out. It's a real treat every time!

Kate.

Saturday Social Gatherings.

As Kate won't be around on the last Saturday of August, she won't be running a Saturday Social Gathering. But she'd love it if anyone wanted to volunteer to open the church, have the kettle on, and maybe provide some biscuits.

The Social Gatherings are an emerging space, so they're meant to be whatever we want and need them to be. If you'd like to facilitate something for this one I would love you to give it a go: the worst that can happen is that it just doesn't work!

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Workshops

I've had a few responses to my request for your preferred times to hold workshops, and it seems that midweek daytimes are best for most people. Please watch this space for details of when the first (of what I hope will be a series) will happen. I should be able to tell you a date in the What's On listing I'll be producing instead of a Calendar in September.

Second Sunday lunches: still experimenting, still changing!

Last month I said that I was thinking of reducing the number of Second Sunday Lunches and swapping two thirds of them for picnics: this idea didn't prove very popular, because the people who come for the pub lunches really value that.

So the latest experiment is that we will continue to go to a pub for lunch on the second Sunday of each month, and that when there is a fifth Sunday in any month (the next ones are October and January), we will have a picnic either at Holebottom or in the lounge, depending on the time of year, the weather, and people's preferences.

This may change again, of course, and if you have any opinions on how we should do this, or even if you'd like to consider a picnic or a lunch out every so often during the week, please let me know: one thing we've learned in the last couple of years is that it can be a blessing to have things 'up in the air' and that there is no harm in trying things and then trying them again in a different way if they don't work.

The next Second Sunday lunch will be at a pub (I think we decided on The Two Tubs, next to the Robert Peel), on Sunday 14th August.

Zoom coffee mornings: taking a break

The Zoom coffee mornings were really important to some of us during the lockdowns, particularly in those bewildering early days, but it's been several weeks now since anyone has turned up, and I think it's time to stop them.

I am really glad that we were able to run them, and that they provided something we needed at a very strange time in our lives, and I'm not in any way sad or disappointed that they are no longer needed: quite the opposite, in fact!

It might be that in winter people want to start them up again, and I hope that you'll tell me if so.

In the meantime the monthly Saturday Social Gatherings are going to carry on (in person), and if anyone has other ideas about ways in which we could come together socially as a community (either in person or online) I would love to help them bring those ideas about.

Notes from the building

As if by magic everyday life is made that little bit easier for us. As if by magic things that need to be done are done. As if by magic things that might otherwise not be in the right place appear where they need to be. The world has magicians, and it has millions of them.

From farmers working in the field, to truck drivers delivering produce, to the market stall holders who offer that produce to us, there is often a massive chain of people who provide us with services that we never see, and are not very often called on to appreciate.

With all that has happened over the last few years, there has been a breakdown in the supply chain and we have all likely started to see it in empty supermarket shelves and stories of protests from those working within the food chain.

I have mentioned this before in an earlier report from the building, when I recounted how hard it was during the lockdowns to acquire such items as wood, sand and cement for the most basic of jobs. The lockdowns have also taken quite the toll on contractors, who seem to have so much high paying work on their hands at the moment that the smaller jobs that used to be their bread and butter work is pushed further and further back, as the bigger, more costly jobs that disappeared during the lockdowns begin to take up all their time.

It's easy to argue that some of the magic is gone, and that is true because some of the people are gone. Many of the magicians we used to rely upon have simply stopped casting their magic.

This train of thought hit me again when I was shopping for consumables for the church. Prior to the lockdowns I would most often just go to one provider and buy stock in bulk because buying bulk made more sense. It's often a lot cheaper, and in the case of some of our consumables, bulk purchasing is the only method available to us. But because some magicians have stopped casting their magic, sometimes it's not the best, or cheapest

option for everything we need. So now, it's not as simple as me heading off to one shop and buying the consumables, sometimes now it makes more sense for me to visit two or more stores.

In the past I also have tended to buy things like consumables using a basic just in time procedure, that is, I purchase the consumables when the bulk only purchases are threatening to run out. It makes the whole process a lot easier on me, and is cheaper for the church on the whole.

This will need to change however, as fewer magicians makes for fewer products in the supply chain. In the future I will need to start planning our consumables purchases on an as available basis, to ensure that we always have what we need. The consumables will still appear in church as if by magic, it's just that more magic is going to be done in house, by the magicians of the church.

And although I'm using my own work as a sort of case study here, it really isn't just going to be affecting me, everyone from the Trustees, the council, and the Minister, the flower arrangers, the coffee and tea providers and all manner of other church members do magic that may have to change as things move forward. We will, all of us, need to be doing more magic as the world around us changes and we take account for the ever decreasing number of magicians elsewhere in our supply chains.

So let us be aware, and grateful for the magic that we've had, the magic that will still be left in the world, however it changes, and for all of the magicians who work for the church, particularly those who perform their magic voluntarily, they may soon have to work some extraordinary magics just for everything around us to remain 'normal'. That we have so many magicians is a great blessing as well as a gift.

Ade Brady

The Minister's schedule, August 2022

I'm taking a couple of weeks off in late August and early September (from the morning of Monday August 22nd to the evening of Saturday September 3rd).

Ade won't be taking any time off during that time, so please can I gently remind you that even though he'll be around, and even though I know it's tempting to ask him to pass messages on to me, it's not fair on either of us when people do that. If there's an emergency you can contact me directly, and unless I'm away I'll deal with it.

My colleague Rev Cody Coyne (Minister at Cross Street Chapel, Manchester) has kindly agreed to cover any pastoral care needs which crop up during my absence, so if you want to speak to a minister and it's not the sort of emergency you'd need to speak to me about, please contact him on rev.c.coyne@gmail.com or on 07786 820383. Please remember that Cody has days off too!

My 'official' day off in the week is Thursday, and I try very hard to avoid work commitments of any sort on that day: Ade also tries not to work on Thursday. I sometimes also take Wednesdays off, but I'm a bit more flexible about that. Of course, if there's an absolute emergency I want you to contact me even on a day off!

I am 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.

Regular Events

Sundays:

- 11.15am Worship in person at Bury
2pm Zoom worship from Bury (except first Sundays)

First Sunday of each month

- 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 Mondays

- 7pm Camera club (normally online)

Second Tuesday of each month:

- 7pm Online midweek meditation session

Last Wednesday of each month:

- 7pm: Book club

Most Fridays:

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

Last Saturday of each month (subject to change):

- 11-1 Saturday Social Gathering

What's on: August 2022

Friday 5th August: Minister's vestry day

Sunday 7th August

10.30am, Ainsworth: Service led by Betty Kenyon

11.15am, Bury: Service in church

12.30pm: Communion

Monday 8th August: 7pm: Camera club, on Zoom

Tuesday 9th August: 7pm: Zoom meditation
(Zoom ID 812 3292 6975)

Friday 12th August: Minister's vestry day

Sunday 14th August

11.15am Bury: Service in church

12.30 (approx.): Second Sunday lunch, at the Two Tubs pub
(probably!)

2pm: Zoom service (Zoom 849 7456 6116)

Friday 19th August: Minister's vestry day

Sunday 21st August

11.15am Bury: Service in church

Monday 22nd August – Saturday 3rd September:

Kate on annual leave.

Pastoral care will be covered by Rev Cody Coyne.

Mon 22nd August: 7pm: Camera club, on Zoom

Sat 27th August: Watch out for notices about whether or not there will be a Saturday Social Gathering.

Sunday 28th August

11.15am Bury: Service in church

No Zoom service today

Wed 31st August: *Time to be decided:* book club, meeting to discuss *Never Go Back*, by Lee Child. All welcome.

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:	Betty Kenyon	01204 887222
Church secretary:	Karen Hampson	0161 766 2283

Chair of congregation: Vacant

Church treasurer (pro tem): Roger Mills 0161 762 0943

Contact for room bookings and building maintenance

Property Manager	Adrian Brady	07736 107143
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Charity reg no: 107857

September Calendar

Because I'll be on leave during the time I'd normally put the Calendar together, the Calendar will be having a month off in September. I'll produce a What's On list before I go off on leave and make sure it's distributed, but there won't be a full edition.

If you normally get the Calendar by post, I won't send you the What's On list unless you specifically ask me to.

Normal service will be resumed in October.

If you no longer want to receive the Calendar, particularly if you receive it by post, please just let me know and I will remove you from the mailing list with no hard feelings whatsoever!

Worship:

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) and on the second and fourth Sunday of each month we also meet on Zoom at 2pm (the service lasts around half an hour, and you are welcome to stay for a chat afterwards).

There will be a Zoom service on August 14th. Kate will be on leave on August 28th, but will try to provide you with a list of other Zoom services which are available to you.

Inclusive Communion Services

We normally meet for communion at 12.30 on the first Sunday of every month, and everyone is very welcome to this short, inclusive communion, in which we share grape juice, bread, and community.

The next communion services will be on Sunday 7th August and Sunday 4th September.

Monthly midweek online meditations

We normally meet for meditation on Zoom on the second Tuesday of each month, now at 7pm

We will meet on Tuesday 9th August. Zoom details are in the centre pages.

Traidcraft

In January, this year, I announced my decision to discontinue my twice-monthly Fair Trade Stall. It has taken me until now to finish off all the associated paperwork and necessary "tidying-up", but the task is almost finished. In the store, at the back of the worship-area, the various large containers have been removed, leaving a very small amount of stock still to be sold; also left behind are quantities of tea, sugar and coffee, which will be used on Sunday mornings, and whenever else they are required.

If we are to retain our status as a Fair Trade Church, we must use, and promote, at least two fairly-traded items, as frequently as we can, and I hope that we will feel able to do this. Profits from the Traidcraft Stall have been used, since about 2010, to provide tea, sugar and coffee for church-use---the cost of doing this has amounted to approximately £250.00, each year, since that date, and the costs have been provided from the profits; current stocks, already paid for, represent approximately £54.00. I have now paid the remaining profits from the Traidcraft Stall into our Church Council account: a sum amounting to £443.32.

Thanks are due to Jean Brookhouse, who has helped me to run the stall, in the past, before lockdown, and, also, to everyone from the church who has supported the stall by buying items, large and small, during the past seventeen years. I offer my thanks, not only on a personal level, but on behalf of all those suppliers and producers of goods in developing countries; over the years, I calculate that we have purchased, on average, £2,000.00 worth of goods, per year, and the majority of that money (£34,000.00) will have gone directly back to those who need it most, where it will have been used and appreciated. These days, it is much easier to buy fairly-traded items, across the counter; please try to remember what life in developing countries is like, especially post-covid, and buy Fair Trade, occasionally. Thank you, all.

Anne.

GDPR

It is time to renew our GDPR records to make sure that we have up-to-date details for people and so that we know what permission we have to share those details.

Sometime soon you will receive a form to complete and sign: it seems tedious, but it's really important so that we can remain in touch with you.

We're also going to be asking whether you'd like your name, address, phone number and email address included in a contacts list for the congregation: I would personally love it if you said yes so that everyone can stay in touch with each other, but your wishes will absolutely be respected if you would rather not be included.

It would be really helpful if you could complete the form as quickly as possible so that we can stay on top of our information.

Gift Aid 2021 - 2022

Thanks to the generous donations made by members and visitors, the church has been able to reclaim a total of £1233.98 through the Gift Aid Scheme. This is actually an increase in the repayments from last year...all the more worthy of appreciation considering the increased challenges on all our purses.

Every penny that you donate, for which we have records, and meets HMRC's criteria, counts towards our claim. ..so every Smarties Tube returned, every coin in the bowl at Sunday coffee as well as all your other regular donations add up. So thank you to Marian, Brenda and of course Margaret Pollard and Roger Mills for your accurate record keeping. And a final thank you to you for providing information – whether filling in the (sometimes fiddly) information on the Visitor Donation envelopes or updating Gift Aid declaration forms – they might not be the most exciting pieces of paperwork you've completed this year, but they are like gold dust for the Gift Aid Administrator.

Val Chamberlain

Ministry Student

From September we are hoping to welcome a Unitarian Ministry Student to work with us for a few months. Hannah Stephenson is from Merseyside, and an experienced worship leader. She will be joining us for several services, and getting involved in some of our other activities.

I know that she'll be warmly welcomed and I hope that working together with her will be nourishing both for her and for our community. I hope to ask Hannah to write a bit about herself for a future edition of the Calendar, but I know that life is enormously busy and complicated for ministry students!

Parking

As you'll have heard if you've been around in church or receiving emails, we're currently having some problems with parking: just to be very clear, no one from church is doing anything wrong!

Until we get the situation sorted out (and the trustees are working hard on it) please try to only use the spaces next to the building when you're actually on church business.

Evening and weekend parking is still absolutely fine, but please remember that we can't park under the offices *at any time*.

Storage cupboards

With the consent of the church officers I've begun a tidy-up of some of the cupboards in church. The worship resources now have a whole cupboard dedicated to them (the cupboard which used to hold books and candles); the candles and candle holders are now in the cupboard at the back of the worship area; and by the time you read this I hope that all the tablecloths (including the seersucker ones we use in the lounge) will be stored in one cupboard.

If you used to know where something was and now can't find it, please just ask. The only things I threw away were things which were definitely rubbish – including a tub of Bisto with a best-before date of 2013!

Autumn clear-up

Betty and I are hoping to organise a clear up day on one Saturday in September: those of you who remember clearing out the loft space will know that it was hard work but very rewarding. If you'd like to come and help, your reward will be unlimited tea and coffee, probably some cake, and a rich sense of satisfaction.

Watch this space for a date and further details.

Printer and photocopier

You may know that there is a printer / photocopier in the vestry, but you may not have realised that you're very welcome to use it! If you want to use it as a printer you'll need a computer (if Kate's in you can borrow her laptop just to print from), but it's already switched on if you just want to do some quick copying. If you're doing more than a tiny amount of printing or copying, we would be very grateful for a donation for paper and ink.

A message from Ainsworth Chapel

Dear Members & Friends of The Chapel

I do hope you've all survived the recent, record-breaking heatwave and now enjoying these more comfortable summer days.

We thank Rev Helen Mills for taking our July service and those of you who were able to attend.

We look forward to welcoming Mrs Betty Kenyon (Bury Unitarian Church) to take our next service: 10.30 am Sunday 7th August and hope you'll be able to join us.

The Ashes of Mr Allan Hodgert were interred on 16th July in a new Ashes Plot in the School Yard, Rev Kate Brady McKenna officiating, and we send our love to Barbara and Allan's family.

The 'Royal White' rose bush planted near The Chapel porch by Mrs Anne Mills on Jubilee Day 5th June now has a proper plaque to commemorate this historic occasion.

I attach a copy of a reply we've received from Buckingham Palace in response to our Jubilee message of congratulations sent to HM The Queen.

with best wishes to you all,

Shirley.



News from around the district and the denomination

Incredible Edibles at Stand Unitarian Chapel.

Our friends at Stand Unitarian Chapel in Whitefield have been running an 'Incredible Edibles' scheme at the field next to their chapel for a while now, and it is very successful. Around a dozen people, from the chapel and the local community, meet each week to grow vegetables, enjoy the fresh air, spend time in community and provide food to people in the local area who need it. In the last few weeks they have donated 25lbs of potatoes, 2lbs of peas, 11 cabbages and a lot of onions and lettuce to the local Homestart group: this is a very direct and immediate way of helping people who are in great need.

Rev Shammy Webster has extended a very warm invitation to anyone from our church who would be interested in joining them, or in just popping along to see what happens.

David Dawson Musical

On Sunday, 14th August, at 5pm, the Unitarian Music Society is presenting the world première of "Oliver's Journey Home", a musical with libretto by Nick Morrice and music by the late David Dawson. This was due to have been performed at the Nightingale Centre in 2020, but the pandemic and David's untimely death intervened. This public performance will be a belated tribute to David and will take place at the Clarke Foley Centre in his home town of Ilkley, with many members of his family present, local friends, and members of his orchestra taking part. Contact Nick Morrice on 01904 765424 for tickets; these cost £10.00 each. A poster, with full details, is on the lounge notice-board.

Anne

**By Gone Times No. 27, by Betty Kenyon:
The story of the Matthew Haygarth Memorial Trust Fund**

Our church and our town are grateful to our benefactors of the past – the Unitarian industrialists who helped Bury to be the place it is today: the Wrigleys, the Grundys, the Holts and more besides.

The Art Gallery across the road was built specifically to house the fabulous Wrigley collection of paintings and works of art. In addition, there were generous monetary contributions to this congregation which have extended beyond the 19th century.



The lady in this photo with Matthew is Irene Richardson, a member of B.U.C.

Matthew Haygarth was a British ex-pat living in Malta to where he'd retired after selling his quirky successful restaurant in Prestbury. He died on 4th February 1988 after a short illness. He is buried in Malta.

Matthew had family connections with this congregation and used to turn up on special occasions. His sister Violet Haygarth was married to Alex Rogers who was an eminent trustee here in his day. Alex and Vi, whom some here will remember had a son Anthony who was therefore the nephew of Matthew Haygarth.

Matthew's will left the bulk of his estate to establish 'a residential home for the accommodation of elderly single persons' such home to be provided and administered under the auspices of Bury Unitarian Church. The legacy was £300,000. That's over one million in today's money.

You can imagine the frisson of excitement that ran through this church community when the news was announced and a board of trustees was established under the chairmanship of David Sayer who was Matthew's solicitor.

The problem was that the Unitarian movement had no organisation for establishing such a scheme and after much investigation, a partnership was forged between the trustees and the Manchester Methodist Housing Association. After much toing and froing, the disused Baptist Chapel in Ramsbottom was identified as a suitable building. By this time the fund had almost doubled to £600,000 thanks to high interest rates, the Halifax share flotation and a grant from English heritage of £100,000.

The chapel was converted to form twelve individual self-contained apartments which are popular with the residents – including our own Barbara Bamford and Jean Brookhouse.

Our church is always advised when a vacancy occurs. The building is now administered by Great Places Housing Association who meet with the Haygarth trustees twice a year where rents and service charges are agreed for the following year and any issues addressed.

The Unitarian contribution, thanks to Matthew, has been the provision of 12 beautiful apartments offering special financial and material advantages compared with similar types of accommodation available locally. Great Places have recently spent £230,000 on a complete refurbishment of the premises.

There is at present a vacancy on the ground floor. Neville Kenyon is now chair of the Trust. Please get in touch with him if you wish to know more.

Chesham Unitarian Cubs, 1964

Sue McMullen came across this photo on the Facebook page 'Bury Olden Days'. I wonder if you recognise anyone (I can let you see a larger copy if you're interested).



“From the Old Codger”.

Eggs badly boiled are good things spoiled.

You may depend the dustman is your friend

The windows opened more would keep doctors from the door.

A dirty grate makes dinner late

Too much bed makes a dull head

When the hand is clean it needs no screen

A waiting appetite kindles many a spite.

Some hours we should find for the pleasures of the mind.

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.

Just let Kate know if you would like any printed material in a different format.

Kate Brady McKenna

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. We have a wheelchair available for use at church events and for short-term loan to members of our community. We are fidget friendly and are working on becoming as neuro-divergence aware as we can be.

But we'd really like to know what we're missing: is there something which would make you feel more welcome, or make you feel more comfortable when you get here?

Please let us know, and we will do our very best.





