

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH



Beautiful Blue Damselfly

August 2023

Letter from the Minister

Dear all,

Last night we had some friends over for tea and a bonfire in the back garden, and it was very lovely. We have apparently been friends with these people for long enough, now, that we spend quite a lot of time reminiscing about the past and talking about other bonfires we've had. We were particularly remembering the times we got together during those periods of lockdown where we were allowed to meet other people, but only outdoors. Didn't those gatherings feel so precious, three years ago?

We were also remembering this time last year, when the weather was so dangerously hot that the thought of a bonfire would probably have made us melt spontaneously. I know it's been chilly and a bit too rainy the last couple of weeks (and in fact when we came back indoors after the fire had died down I had to put my fleecy hoody on to keep warm!) but I'd genuinely rather that than the excessive heat. And we need to try to find a way to get used to it: the seven hottest days on earth in the last one hundred thousand years all happened in July this year. We can't deny that the climate is becoming dangerous, no matter what the weather does. I think it was one of the congregation who introduced me, recently, to the phrase "the climate *is*, and the weather *may be*".

These extremes of weather are a stark reminder, though, of just how precious and just how vulnerable our planet is, and just how much responsibility we all have to protect it as much as we possibly can.

Meanwhile, while the weather does as it chooses, life at church carries on, and as it always is it's a mixture of worry, sadness, joy, and (and this matters) trivial things. All of human life is here in our church, and long may that continue.

As we enter August, and we start to see the glories of summer give way to the different but no less real glories of autumn, I hope that you all find time for leisure, for friendship, for enjoying what you can see and feel of the outdoors, and relishing the warmth and the promises of harvest.

As ever, I send you my love,

Kate.

Minister's schedule, August 2023

I will be on leave (or taking days off) from the morning of Wednesday 2nd August until the morning of Friday 11th August. There won't be a vestry day on the 4th, and I'll keep you posted about the 11th and 12th.

I have a series of fairly significant dental work coming up between early August and mid-September, and although I've arranged all the appointments for as early in the week as I can, so as not to affect Sunday services, it is likely that some will have an impact on my work: I'll keep you all informed as the work continues, and I'm very much looking forward to it all being over!

Please remember that both Kate and Ade try to honour Thursdays as a Sabbath, and please try not to contact them on that day except in an emergency.

News of our community

Robin Ainsworth

Robin's condition continues to fluctuate. He has had some days which were very worrying for his family, and also a few better days.

Robin knows that he is in our thoughts and prayers, and I know that the contact we all have with him and Brenda is helping them at this incredibly difficult and tiring time.

Brenda misses us all at church, and knows that we are looking forward to welcoming her back whenever she feels that the time is right to come back.

This 'news of our community' section is here for anything you would like to share with us: sad or happy news, updates, birthdays, and memories are all welcome.

Regular Social Events

Book Club

The Book Club will meet on Wednesday, **23rd August** (a week earlier than normal) at church at 7.00pm. The book to be discussed will be '*Blind*' by Cathy Weeks. All are welcome, whether you have read the book or not. This will possibly be our last *evening* meeting before next Spring. We need to decide timing of our daytime gatherings for Autumn and Winter.

For information, we get the books we read at the Book Club from Bury Library who supply sets of books for readers' groups, absolutely free of charge.

Pam Gilbert

Camera Club

The camera club will meet in person (in the church lounge) on Monday 7th August (to discuss the upcoming exhibition) and on Zoom on Monday 21st August. There will be some extra in-person meetings to erect the exhibition: please look out for notices.

Social Gatherings.

The next Gathering will take place on **Saturday 26th August**, and is a chance to drink coffee, socialise, and help to collate the following month's Calendar. It's also a time and space just to "hang out" in company, and it's there to be used in any way we would like. Please feel free to drop in!

Second Sunday lunches

On **Sunday 13th August**, you're invited to join Kate for coffee, a drink, or lunch, at the Art Picture House after the service. If you'd like to join us but either can't afford it or have just forgotten your purse that day, speak to Kate: money should never be a reason not to join us.

If you'd like to come along to these lunches but would like to suggest somewhere else for us to go, please let Kate know.

Notes from the building.

There has been an explosion in green lately, and it's kind of hard to miss. From grass, to weeds, from potted plants to roadside trees the explosion is obviously happening, the Earth it seems, at least where we most commonly interact with it, is getting greener, faster.

Which is great, unless of course you are trying to weed your garden, or cut back the hedge rows on the sides of your property, just generally fighting the overgrowth of that green in a manner which allows you to keep the outside view of your garden at a comfortable medium to the inside comfort of your home.

It's been a bit like that in Holebottom recently, except a general aesthetic comfort hasn't been our concern. What has been our concern is that with this explosion in Green, the road had started to look like something out of an apocalypse movie, the sort of space in which a sprawling mass of Zombies might appear from at any time and that makes it very difficult to use the road for more common actions, like driving along it.

We spent quite a bit of money, quite recently, to cut back all of this greenery the last time it turned up, and it's a testament to mother nature that we were facing a large bill again in such a very short period of time. Fortunately however, we had just enough time to put the word out and put it right. With thanks to Rita, who was the first in our community to offer the appropriate tools, and to all those others who offered the same, I managed to cut the whole thing back in a little over two hours. It's amazing what we can all do, when we come together in community. We definitely saved ourselves a lot of money and we may even have saved the world from a Zombie apocalypse... well... maybe.

Ade.

Stewards for Sunday services, August 2023

Sunday 6 th August	Beryl Bowden Marian Price
Sunday 13 th August	Norah Hickton Peter Whewell
Sunday 20 th August	Betty Kenyon Neville Kenyon
Sunday 27 th August	Susan Holt Susan Mitchell

Tea and coffee rota, August 2023

Sunday 6 th August	Jean Maden and Howard Maden
Sunday 13 th August	Lois Williams and Pam Gilbert
Sunday 20 th August	Marian Price and Susan Holt
Sunday 27 th August	Norah Hickton and Peter Whewell.

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: most Fridays, and one Saturday a month

Kate is generally in the vestry on Fridays, between at least 10am and 3pm, although she does sometimes pop out to get some fresh air or pop to the market. She loves it when people drop in for a cup of tea, a chat, or just to drop something off or have a quick (or leisurely) cup of tea.

She's also now in the vestry on one Saturday a month, generally the second Saturday.

All of that said, Kate is taking some leave during August and therefore there won't be a vestry day on Friday 4th August, and there may not be one on either Friday 11th or Saturday 12th. Some of this depends on how her dental work is going, so please keep an eye out for notices!

September Calendar

The deadline for entries for the July edition of the Calendar will be teatime on **Tuesday 22nd August** and we'll collate it on **Saturday 26th August**.

News from Ainsworth

The next service at Ainsworth Unitarian Chapel will be:
10.30 am Sunday 6th August, led by Mrs Veronica Walker

Lammas celebration

The Lammas celebration, on Tuesday 1st August, will be going ahead. Lammas is the celebration of the first of the wheat harvest, and is known as Lughnasadh in the Celtic calendar, but you don't need to know anything about it to be welcome to join us! Please let Kate know if you'd like to attend, and we'll decide on whether it's going to be at Holebottom or indoors (there doesn't seem much point trying to plan ahead!). Lifts are available wherever we hold the meeting.

Looking ahead

Sunday 29th August: Favourite hymns and readings

The service on Sunday 29th August will be a 'favourite hymns and readings' service: Kate will leave a basket on the table at the back of the worship area for you to request hymns or readings: they don't have to be in our regularly used hymn books, but if they're very obscure it might be difficult. It would be lovely if you felt you could speak in the service about the item you've chosen and what it means to you, but it's fine if you'd rather just nominate something, or ask someone else (including Kate) to read out your reasons.

Tuesday 5th September: New sound system

I am delighted to report that we have a date for the installation of the new sound system in the worship area: it will be being installed on Tuesday 5th September, and the work will take all day. There will be no parking available that day (this won't have an effect on the minibus pickup and drop-off for the visit to the Elizabeth Gaskell House).

**Saturday 9th and (hopefully) Saturday 16th September:
Heritage Open Days**

Rita, Betty, and Kate are opening the church for Heritage Open Days on Saturday 9th September, and are hoping to do so on Saturday 16th September. It will be a fairly low-key event, though we hope that we will be able to display some of the record books (baptisms and funerals) and that there will be various other documents available for people to read through. The camera club is hoping to put together an exhibition in the worship area. We're also hoping to show some of the older videos of church life, and to get hold of the documentary that was made in 2019. The kettle will be on, of course!

If you have any other ideas for things that could happen on those days, and if you are able to organise them, we'll offer any help we can.

If we're to open on Saturday 16th we need at least one person who is able to steward and is happy to be a keyholder for that day. Please speak to Rita or Kate if you can help with this.

More details will follow in the September *Calendar*.

Sunday 24th September: Harvest Festival and Harvest Lunch

This year's Harvest Festival will take place on Sunday 24th September, and will be followed by a congregational lunch. Further details to follow.

No Zoom services during August.

We will be taking a break from hosting Zoom services during Summer, and will start again in September. If you would like details of Zoom services hosted by other congregations, Kate is happy to point you towards some.

Sunday 1st October: No service at Bury

Because of the Bury Festival of running, which will make it extremely difficult to get into church (either on foot or by car) we have decided that there will be no service at Bury on Sunday 1st October.

We have previously moved that service to the afternoon, but the Church Council decided that after the problems and difficulties with doing that last year, it makes much more sense to give that one day a miss.

However, Shirley Horrocks, at Ainsworth chapel, has very kindly invited members from Bury to their Harvest Festival at 3pm that day.

Further details will follow in the September Calendar.

Wheeled mobility aid

Karen Hampson has a wheeled walking aid which is no longer needed within her family, and she has very generously asked me to ask if anyone could make use of it? If no one at church (or friends with someone at church) can use it it will go to the warehouse at Bury Hospice, so it won't be wasted.

If it is something you could use, please let either Kate or Karen know.

Parking

Spaces next to church:

The two spaces next to the church building are provided primarily for church members on church business, and are available to us all the time.

Please display a Bury Unitarian Church parking permit when using these spaces.

The Exchange car park:

The *uncovered* spaces in the car park behind the Exchange building (next to the railway wall) are available to us in the evenings (after 6pm) and at weekends and Bank Holidays.

If you park in these spaces on weekday daytimes you will be very likely to be ticketed and fined, and we have no power to get the fines cancelled.

Car park spaces under the canopy and other spaces alongside the garden wall:

The spaces are *not* available for us to use at any time. Please do not park here unless you have made private arrangements with the spaces' owner: you may be fined otherwise, even on a Sunday.

If you would benefit from a parking space close to the front door, let Kate know and she'll keep the space next to the church building clear.

By-Gone Times no. 38 by Betty Kenyon: Rev John Wright.

Minister at Bank Street 1856-1873,
born 21st April 1824 died 26th March 1900.

He entered Manchester New College (Manchester) at the age 16 years. He was a diligent student and took his B.A. degree at London University in 1844. He wrote and had published many books and tracts. He married Anna Johnston in 1845.

In 1857, Rev John started a monthly paper, The Bury Unitarian Circular. It contained news of other congregations in the area. Later called, The Unitarian Circular.



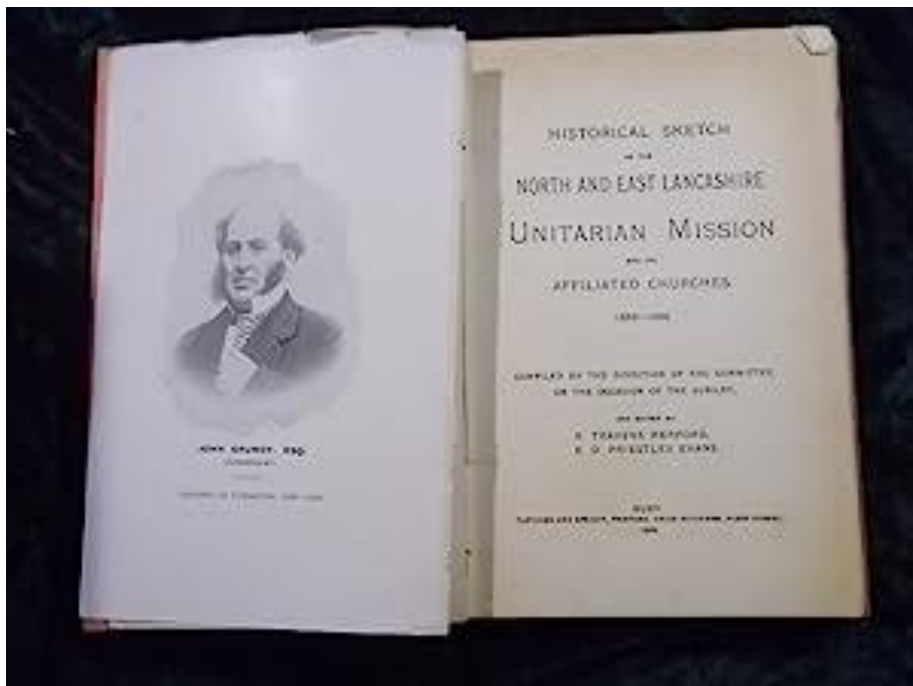
A great event was organised by the Congregational Committee for Wednesday 20th July 1859. A Congregational Rural Fete was held in the grounds of Sir Henry Bold Houghton, at Houghton Towers. The use of about 50 acres of land and the surrounding woods were secured for the day. There was a Quadrille Band for dancing, the band occupied the gallery of the banqueting hall.

There were all sorts of games to play.

Other congregations joined in from: Ainsworth, Preston, Stand, Accrington, Bacup etc.

In the evening the band moved to the wood. *No words or acts interfered with the happiness of the party, who 'showed that religious associations do not forbid our enjoyment, but enable us to cast out from it all that is evil.'*

Unitarian Circular, August 1859.



In the Unitarian Circular, December 1859, it stated 'one of the principal objects was to record the missionary efforts made in the district.'

Mr Wright and Mr John Grundy were instrumental in doing this. It was first named; The East Lancashire Unitarian Mission. More chapels were included and it became: The North East Lancashire Unitarian Mission.

We now call it NELUM.

Child of the Universe, by Bill Grimke-Drayton

Oh child of the universe!
You ask to be shown the end;
Let me take you by the hand,
Show you from the beginning,
Where the answer lies.
For there among the darkened skies
Is your lodestar, containing life before, after,
In-between, forever,
With nothing left out or lacking.

You exist at the interface.
Of two dimensions
Where they weave together
Within an understanding
That surpasses human knowledge.

O child of the universe!
I am here to guide you
Through each stage
Of your faith journey,
Which answers every unasked question,
Weighed in the scales of the spirit.

You cannot know from here,
But one day you cross
The threshold into all truth,
When belief is washed away
In the stream of certainty.

Thank you to Bill for sending us this poem to print. I'm always delighted to print people's creative work.

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!

Regular Events (all social events are subject to change)

Sundays:

11.15am: Worship in person at Bury

First Sunday of most months:

10.30am: Worship in person at Ainsworth

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. (If the cost would be a problem please have a quiet word with Kate).

Last Sunday of each month:

12.30pm: Inclusive Communion Service at Bury

Second and fourth Sundays of each month (not during August):

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

Second and fourth Mondays of most months:

7pm: Camera club (normally online)

Second Tuesday of most months:

7pm: Online midweek meditation session

Last Wednesday of each month:

7pm (summer): Book club

Most Fridays:

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

Second Saturday of each month:

10.am til 3pm approx.: Minister's Vestry Saturday

Last Saturday of each month:

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

Sunday 20th July

11.15am Bury:

Service in church

Monday 21st August*9.30 – 2.30: British Red Cross booking (entire building)***Monday 21st August**

7pm: Camera club, meeting on Zoom

Tuesday 22nd AugustTeatime: deadline for entries for the September edition of the *Calendar*.**Wednesday 23rd August**7pm: Book club meeting in church to discuss *Blind*, by Cathy Weeks**Friday 25th August**

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

Saturday 26th August

11am onwards: Saturday social gathering and Calendar collating

Sunday 27th August

11.15am Bury:

Service in church (favourite hymns and readings)

12.30pm:

Inclusive communion

2pm:

Baptism

Monday 28th August*9.30 – 2.30: British Red Cross booking (entire building)*

Church Information:

Minister:

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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: Neville Kenyon 01204 887222

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



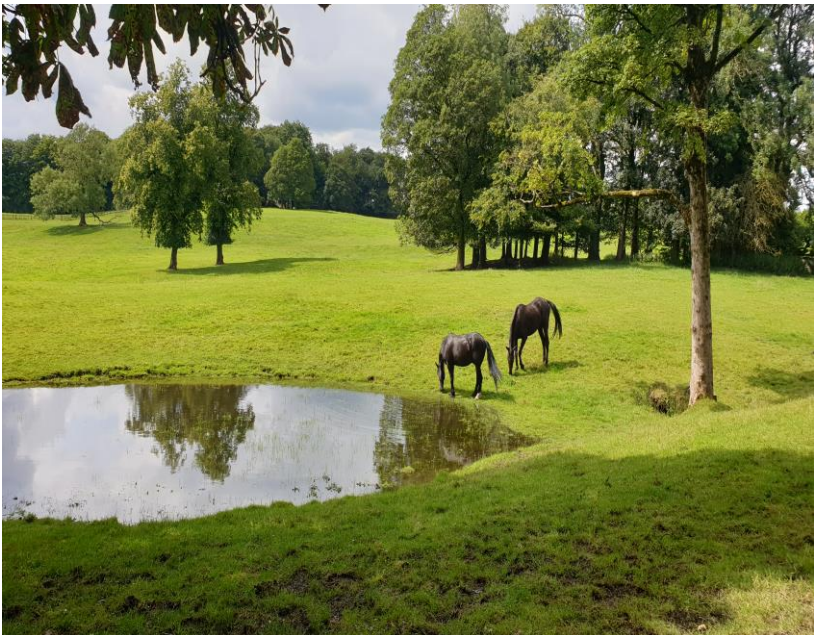
Clematis with busy bees!



Crocosmia



Piano Concert



“Sunny Heywood”



“Drainage Pond” in Lytham



Littleborough Rush Cart