

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2009 & JANUARY 2010

WORSHIP SERVICES

6 December	11.15am	St Nicholas' Day
13 December	11.15am	Christmas Music and Chanukah
20 December	11.15am	Christmas Carol Service followed by congregational lunch
24 December	06.30pm	Christmas Eve Service of Holy Communion
25 December	11.15am	Christmas Day Service
27 December	11.15am	Final Sunday Service of the year

CHURCH STEWARDS

6 December	Margaret & John Fitzpatrick
13 December	Jean Jackson & Beryl Bowden
20 December	Marc & Philip Peters
27 December	Alfred Howson & Jonathan Reeves

WORSHIP SERVICES

3 January	11.15am	First Sunday Service of the New Year
10 January	11.15am	Guest Preacher <i>Minister on holiday</i>
17 January	11.15am	Service for Martin Luther King Day
24 January	11.15am	Service for the Week of prayer for Christian Unity
31 January	11.15am	Sunday Service

CHURCH STEWARDS

3 January	Vera Stephenson & Barbara Ashworth
10 January	Anne & Roger Mills
17 January	June Clarke & Susan McMullen
24 January	Pat Haworth & Jean Taylor
31 January	Lois & Alan Williams

If, for any reason, you are unable to fulfil your duties on the date given, please inform Harry so that a stand-in steward can be allocated to that date – thank you

CHURCH OFFICERS

Chair of Trustees	Susan Holt 078767 16563
Chair of Congregation	Neville Kenyon 0120488 7222
Church Secretary	Marian Price 24 Swinell Brook Park, Grane Road, Haslingden, Rossendale BB4 4FN 01706 211981
Church Treasurer	John Fitzpatrick 2 Heapy Close, Bury BL8 2HW 0161 764 6374

CHURCH INFORMATION

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CHURCH FLOWERS

6 December Margaret Pollard
In loving memory of David
13 December Church Flowers
20 December Church Flowers
27 December In memory of Mrs Mary A Richardson
Distributors: Barbara Bamford & Edna Wilkinson

3 January In memory of Jack Entwistle
10 January Mrs Shirley Healey
In loving memory of my husband and friend,
David
17 January Church Flowers
24 January In memory of Mr & Mrs J Pollard
31 January In memory of Mr & Mrs J Lord
Distributors: Sue McMullen & June Clarke

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTAS

5 December Barbara Bamford & Freda Worthington
12 December Rene Hollos & Alison Hollos
19 December Molly Ratcliffe & Betty Kenyon
26 December Closed

2 January Anne & Roger Mills
9 January Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard
16 January Margaret Fitzpatrick & Jean Jackson
23 January Pat Haworth & Jean Taylor
30 January Barbara Ashworth & Vera Stephenson

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Wednesday, 2 December	7.00pm	Communications & Worship
Monday, 7 December	7.30pm	Finance & General Purposes
Monday, 14 December	7.00pm	Church Council
Monday, 18 January	7.30pm	Efforts
Saturday, 30 January	11.00am	Charity
Monday, 1 February	7.30pm	Finance & General Purposes

Rev. J.L.Gould resigned from his ministry at Ainsworth Chapel in October 2009. This does not affect the relationship of the two congregations which we look forward to continuing well into the future.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday, 3 December 7.30pm Project – Meningitis Research
Bring & Buy Sale - Christmas Theme, Bingo, Raffle
Tickets £2 include supper and one book of raffle tickets – extra books 20p each. *Please support and have a fun evening*

Thursday, 7 January 7.30pm A.G.M.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

There will be no meeting of the Fellowship in December.

Wednesday, 27 January 7.30pm A.G.M.
Please let Harry know by Sunday, 24 January if you have anything to be placed on the agenda.

LUNCH CIRCLE

We shall meet on Tuesday, 15 December at 12.30pm. This will be our Christmas Lunch. Organisers are Harry, June, Marc and Michael.
Please let Harry know in good time if you are unable to attend.

Our first meal in 2010 will take place on Tuesday, 19 January at 12.30pm. The organisers this month are Margaret, Susan and Jeff.
Please let Jeff know in good time if you are unable to attend.

NOTES FROM COMMUNICATION & WORSHIP/YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7 OCTOBER 2009

- The new Hymn Book is now in use and we hope soon to be able to learn some new tunes.
- We have received a letter from our friends in Kendal thanking us for our hospitality during their recent visit.
- Chalice Lighting – it was suggested a poll be taken on this matter.

SUNSHINE PENNIES

Could Barbara Ainsworth please have any pennies by 20.12.09 – thank you?

SAD OR HAPPY?

Many people are diagnosed with a condition that is caused by a deprivation of natural light. Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) can bring symptoms of lethargy, drowsiness and even depression. It is at this, the darkest time of the year, that symptoms of this malady are most present. Humans have for many years attempted to cope with and interpret the shortest and darkest days of the year, and religion has been but one sphere in which people have sought effective antidotes. Our Roman ancestors observed the festival of Saturnalia on 25 December, as they rightly noted that the days began to lengthen, and the sun would eventually offer its warmth and light in greater strength. It is no coincidence that Christianity chose to honour the birth of Jesus of Nazareth on a date that was firmly established in the Pagan calendar, thus guaranteeing a seasonal bias in favour of such celebrations. In English, the words "sun" and "son" are homonyms, thereby emphasising the shared nature of the holiday we share at this time each year.

My sister is badly affected by SAD, but I enjoy the dark, cold nights of the winter months, as I find them comforting and cosy, especially if a warm stew or baked pudding is to hand. Each of us responds to the outward signs of the season in ways that are unique to each person, but all around us are the festivities of Chanukah, Christmas, the Winter Solstice, and the inevitable round of Christmas shopping/January sales. As members of a faith tradition that celebrates diversity, particularly in the realm of religious practice, we can savour the months of December and January as opportunities to learn about the faith of others and re-examine our own deeply held convictions. In the midst of the darkness, I hope that we discover some light shed on the perspective of our neighbours, and derive great joy from the days (and nights!) ahead.

A Holy and Happy Holiday Season to Everyone
Jeff

BOOK CLUB NEWS

The Book Club will not meet in the month of December, but will hold its first gathering of the New Year on Monday, 25 January, beginning at 7.30 p.m. in the church's coffee lounge. The book to be discussed is *Old Filth*, by Jane Gardam. Copies of the book will be available from the bookcase in the coffee lounge. Please sign your name beside the correct number of the copy you borrow.

MEDITATION GROUP

The Meditation Group will follow its usual pattern of meeting on the final Thursday of the month, 28 January 2010 at 7.30 p.m. in the church. There will be no meeting in December 2009. The group is always keen to welcome new members, and no previous experience of meditation is required. Each time we meet, a new approach to meditation is explored, and light refreshments are served at the end. For further information, please telephone Jeff Gould (0161 764 4925).

CHRISTMAS LUNCH SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER

MENU

Sherry or fresh orange juice
Homemade vegetable soup, roll, butter
Aberdeen Angus beef muffin with mustard
Christmas cake, coffee or tea

You are welcome to bring your own wine

Tickets £3 (Children under 12 £2) from Pam Gilbert
after morning service on 6 and 13 December

CALENDAR DEADLINE

The last day for receiving items for the February Calendar will be Sunday, 24 January – thank you.

CALENDAR DONATIONS

Jean Jackson will be happy to receive your donations towards the cost of producing the Calendar.

TRAI DCRAFT

Please note that the Traidcraft stall will not be open on Sunday, 20 December on account of the Christmas Lunch; nor will it be open on Sunday, 27th December. If this causes problems for anyone, please speak to Anne Mills; individual items can always be brought from the store-cupboard.

Survey of hymns in *Sing Your Faith*

Janet and I should like to thank the congregation for completing a survey of the hymns we sang from our new hymn book during the service on 15th November. We give a summary of the results in the table below and we shall pin up the details in the lounge at Church. We received 35 questionnaires although not every person had given a score to the words and tunes of every hymn. This was taken into account when the averages were computed.

Hymn	Words	Tune
32	4.14	4.63
143	3.68	4.63
179	4.18	4.47
196	4.21	4.51
197	3.79	4.46
202	4.15	4.21
216	2.76	2.60

What is clear is that the often quoted remark, the Bury congregation is opposed to change, is not borne out by our survey. Many people scored all the hymns quite highly and the completely new hymn, hymn 179 with new words and new tune, scored very well. Within the details of the results one can see that there are a small number of people who are less happy with the new hymn book.

The overall winner, with the highest total of the two averages (4.14+4.63), was hymn 32 with hymns 196 and 179 coming in second and third respectively. But statistically there was very little to choose between these three hymns. The least popular, by some margin, was hymn 216.

On the whole the words were less popular than the tunes. This might have been expected since for six of the hymns the tunes were familiar to most people. From comments made after the service some people gave poor marks to some words because they did not fit the tune very well while others gave poor marks if they just did not like what the words were saying.

One or two people added useful remarks on their survey. I particularly appreciated the person who gave a 5 to the children's story. Thank you whoever you are.

Ron Thatcher

A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS TREES

FRIDAY 4 DECEMBER
SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER
SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER

The church is open every day. Come and look at over 24 decorative trees by a host of voluntary organizations from the Bury area.

Hot drinks, mince pies and Traidcraft goods for sale.

Friday 4th - 1pm to 5pm

Saturday 5th - 10am to 4pm

Sunday 6th - 1pm to 4pm

SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER AT 7PM

SQUARE STREET SINGERS

ADMISSION £5 TO INCLUDE REFRESHMENTS

PAY AT THE DOOR

(CHILDREN FREE)



TWO GLASSES OF WINE

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle; when twenty four hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and the two glasses of wine.

A professor stood before her philosophy class and had some items in front of her. When the class began, wordlessly, she picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. She then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of small pebbles and poured them into the jar. She shook the jar lightly and the pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. She then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course the sand filled up the remaining space. She asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes". The professor then produced two glasses of wine from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar effectively filling the empty spaces....between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your lives. The golf balls are the important things; your family, your children, your health, your friends, and your favourite passions; things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else; the small stuff.

If you put the sand into the jar first," she continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life.

If you spend all your energy and time on the small stuff, you will never have time for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness.

Play with your children. Take time to get medical check-ups. Take your partner out to dinner. Make time for your friends. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the

Take care of the golf balls first; the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand".

One of the students raised his hand and enquired what the wine represented. The professor smiled, "I'm glad you asked." she said.

"It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of glasses of wine with a friend."

Thank you Derek

AINSWORTH UNITARIAN CHAPEL DECEMBER 2009 / JANUARY 2010

SERVICES

10.00am Sunday, 6 December

Rev Helen Mills

6.30pm Sunday, 13 December

'Carols by Candlelight'
Rev John Midgley

10.00am Sunday, 3 January Mrs Jennifer Whitelaw

10.00am Sunday, 17 January

Mr Bill Swift

Minster's Resignation from Ainsworth

The Congregation at Ainsworth was shocked and saddened to receive a letter of resignation from our Minister, The Rev Jeffrey Gould, on 29 September. This was reluctantly accepted on 30 October 2009 with immediate effect.

We send our appreciation to Jeff for his excellent and dedicated ministry to us all and our best wishes for the future.

We intend to continue holding services twice a month with visiting preachers and are grateful to Harry Taylor for continuing as our Organist.

LADIES' SOCIAL GROUP

The Ladies' Social Group will meet for Christmas Lunch at 12.30 / 1 pm on Wednesday 9th December in the Schoolroom.

The next Tea will be at 4.30 pm Wednesday 6th January 2010.

'Carols by Candlelight'

The Rev John Midgley

6.30 pm Sunday 13 December

Followed by mulled wine, tea and mince pies

*We wish a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
to all Members and Friends of The Chapel*





HARVEST FESTIVAL AT BURY

OCTOBER 2009

PHOTOS FROM MOLLY



