

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2013 & JANUARY 2014

DECEMBER SERVICES

1 December	11.15am	Rev Bill Darlison – GA President
8 December	11.15am	Nativity Service
15 December	11.15am	Readings & Carols followed by Christmas Lunch
22 December	11.15am	A Quiet Service
25 December	11.00am	A Short Festive Service
29 December	11.15am	Reflections on the Year

JANUARY SERVICES

5 January	11.15am	Junior Church Prizegiving – Prizes will be presented by Mrs Val Chamberlain
12 January	11.15am	The Minister
19 January	11.15am	The Minister
26 January	11.15am	The Minister

A Post-Christmas Party will be held on 4 January for Junior Church children and friends.

CHURCH STEWARDS

1 December	Sue McMullen & Sue Mitchell
8 December	Lois & Alan Williams
15 December	Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert
22 December	Beryl Bowden & Jean Jackson
Christmas Day – no offertory	
29 December	Marc Peters & Sue Mitchell
5 January	Beryl Bowden & Jean Jackson
12 January	Sue Mitchell & Marc Peters
19 January	Alf Howson & Roger Mills
26 January	Freda & Derek Worthington

If you are unable to fulfil your duties on the given date, please rearrange with another steward – thank you.

CHURCH FLOWERS

1 December	Church Flowers
8 December	In loving memory of Jean Kenyon
15 December	In loving memory of David Pollard
22 December	In loving memory of Joan & Ted Sharples
29 December	In loving memory of Jack Entwisle

Distributors: Barbara Bamford & Molly Ratcliffe

5 January	In loving memory of my husband and friend David Healey
12 January	Church Flowers

19 January In loving memory of Mr & Mrs J Pollard
26 January In loving memory of Mr & Mrs Jack Lord

Distributors: Anne & Harvey Evitts

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

7 December Anne & Roger Mills
14 December Marc Peters & Philip Peters
21 December Rene Hollos & Alison Hollos
28 December Betty Kenyon & Molly Ratcliffe

4 January Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard
11 January Brenda Ainsworth & Jean Taylor
18 January Jean Jackson & Margaret Fitzpatrick
25 January June Clarke & Freda Worthington

COMMITTEE MEETINGS DURING DECEMBER 2013 & JANUARY 2014

Wednesday 4 December	7.00pm	Finance & General Purposes
Monday 9 December	7.00pm	Church Council
Saturday 14 December	11.00am	Charity
Monday 16 December	7.00pm	Trustees
Monday 20 January	7.00pm	Worship, Junior Church & Communications

CALENDAR DEADLINE

All items for the February edition of the Calendar should be given to the editor by Sunday 19 January, please.

LUNCHEON CLUB

Tuesday 10 December at 12.30pm – A Christmas meal will be served. Susan will be in charge – please let her know if you intend to be present, or if you normally attend but cannot do so; there may be a list on the notice board in the lounge, so make sure you sign up if this is necessary.

In **January**, we meet on Tuesday 21st. Anne & Roger will be the organisers then, and there will be a list to sign; watch the board for further details.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

There are no meetings either in December or January.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Another very successful meeting was held last Wednesday 20th November. The guest speaker was Mr David Wright who gave us a very interesting and educational talk on the origins, the day to day running, and future of the East Lancs. Railway Preservation Society. He can normally be found manning the signal box at Ramsbottom and he will be acting as Santa during the Christmas period on the Santa Specials. He is the Santa with glasses!! The talk was followed by a pint and a meal at the 'Trackside'. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 26 February at the usual time of 11.00am.

SMARTIES

Could Brenda Ainsworth please have Smartie Tubes by 15 December. Thank you.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club do not meet in December. The next meeting will be on Monday 27th January at 7.00pm. The book to be discussed is: *Toast* by Nigel Slater.

40 YEAR CELEBRATION PLANS SO FAR.....

A small group, consisting of Beryl Allerton, Susan Holt, Anne Mills and Marian Price, met on 28-10-13. After a great deal of positive discussion, the following outline plan was resolved:

Extracts from 1974 calendars will be printed regularly, in the current calendars, throughout 2014;

A pot containing 40 bulbs, or similar, will be planted in the church-gardens, under the notice-board, initially in March; plants will be renewed during the year;

An Anniversary Service will be held, on June 1st; this will be followed by a buffet-lunch, with wine and cake;

An Anniversary Meal will be held, off-site, in October; this may be a lunch or a dinner; it could be followed by entertainment; the congregation will be asked for its preferences, in both cases;

A Christmas Concert with a 40's theme will also be held.

The group bore in mind that normal church-events of all kinds would continue to take place during the year, and that the congregation should not be asked to pay large sums of money or to commit extra time and effort towards too many additional events.

Arrangements are at the planning-stages, at present; if you have further suggestions, please speak to Anne, Beryl or Susan.

There is now a tick-list on the notice-board; please indicate whether you would prefer a lunch or a dinner as the Anniversary meal, and whether you would like the meal to be followed by entertainment or not.

TRADCRAFT

The stall will be open on December 8th and 22nd, and also on January 5th and 19th. If you require items at other times, please speak to Anne.

This year's figures, as they stand, mid-November, are as follows: goods to the value of £1,787.04 have been sold; the sum of £200 has been handed over to the treasurer for church-funds; since we first started to sell

Traidcraft, eleven years ago, a clear profit of £1,734.61 has been raised for the church. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this total. Thank you, also, to Jean Brookhouse, who has assisted me on the stall, for the second half of this year---much appreciated.

A recent mailing to members of The Bury Fair Trade Group commended the work done by this church, both in selling fairly-traded goods, and in publicising fair trade issues; I think we all deserve a pat on the back!

FROM THE CHARITY COMMITTEE

The Charity Committee considered quite a long list of suggestions for next year's charity, bearing in mind that our preference is for a Bury charity, and one which will really appreciate our efforts. A shortlist of six has now been drawn up, and literature for each one is available from the small lounge-tables; please take the time to read this, before ticking the list on the notice-board to indicate your choice. The deadline will be December 1st; once we have made our choice, we will try to arrange for a speaker to attend one of our services, early in the New Year.

The shortlist consists of:

Bleakholt; BreatheEasy; Bury Children's Hospice; Bury Society for Deaf and Hearing-Impaired People; Hurdles; Ronald McDonald House, Manchester.

All are worthy causes, so the choice will be difficult; please sign up, as soon as possible.

POST-BAZAAR ASSESSMENT MEETING

This was held on November 11th and engendered much positive discussion; a full report will be available shortly. Howard Maden carried out a Fire Risk Assessment whilst the Bazaar was in progress and reported on his findings; most of his comments were positive, but there areas for improvement, and these will be pursued, in the near future.

As regards the actual Bazaar, each stall was reviewed, in turn, with comments and some suggestions for changes; next year, we hope to begin

at 10 a.m. which would align the Bazaar and the Downstairs Café, and the banner will be changed accordingly. It was felt that only one day for setting-up was necessary (Friday). Storing items brought in for the Bazaar created problems; everything needs to be kept securely, and we should improve on tidiness, wherever goods are stored.

The Bazaar was a social and financial success; however, on the day itself, because of illness, we were very short of helpers; again, this must be addressed in the future.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Bazaar's success.

NOTES FROM 1974

I have compiled various pieces of information from the AGM Reports and Council Minutes of the time; the calendars relating to the period around 1974 are not archived but stated to be "missing". If anyone knows where they might be, please let me know.

Christmas, 1973, was spent at George Street, when 103 Christmas puddings were collected. The then Church Secretary, Norman Haworth, refers to 1973 as "the year we **nearly** moved!" At the start of 1974, the congregation did move into the new church; one John Allerton had been appointed as Minister, and Bernard Haughton was approved as temporary Chairman of the Congregation, following the death of Alex Rogers. Cash in hand and at the bank amounted to £1,950.90, according to Treasurer, Jack Crabtree, and membership stood at 121. The sale of Bank Street Chapel and its assets raised £48,393.12, whilst assets from Chesham and Heywood produced £12,421.16 and £8,900.00, respectively.

Despite the obvious relief of the congregation at having transferred to the new church, work continued; there was a considerable amount to be done before the building was fully completed; difficulties with the heating occurred throughout the year, and problems with the varnishing of the floor in the

upstairs room resulted in it having to be re-sanded and re-sealed, after which a 5-year guarantee was sought from the sub-contractor responsible.

At the Prize-Giving, on January 6th, 53 children were awarded prizes; early in the year, it was suggested that more active participation from the Sunday School children might be encouraged if they occasionally sang certain verses of hymns by themselves. Molly Ratcliffe offered to arrange a permanent display of flowers for the church; this was accepted---for a period of 3 years! The Minister had hoped not to read notices from the pulpit but to produce, instead, an announcement-sheet, each week; this proved impossible, because of "the present scarcity and cost of duplicating paper" and the fact that there was no duplicator on the premises.

As the congregation settled into its new routine, it expressed its appreciation of George Street, for providing temporary premises, and Council resolved to give a party to thank the members of Bury Ragged Church, as well as "a substantial donation to a deserving charity, in gratitude and thanksgiving" for its safe transfer to its new premises. *Anne Mills*

NORTH WEST AIR AMBULANCE INVITATION

I have just received details of the NWAA's Christmas Carol Concert, to which we are all cordially invited; this will be held on Friday, December 6th, at 7.30 p.m. Liz Greenwood would be delighted if anyone from Bury Unitarian Church could attend. Further details are on the notice-board.

Anne

CONTACT LIST

The contact list of members' names, addresses, telephone numbers is purely for emergencies. Data Protection is observed and any exchange of personal information should be done directly between members.

MINISTER'S MONTH

The month began with the annual Bank Street Bazaar which was once again a success in every way. The profits, when all is gathered in, will probably exceed last year by a little. This is good to report in the current financial climate. Though it is hard work and everyone goes home very tired there is also a great sense of achievement. Floating, as I do, downstairs, I hear all the positive comments made by visitors who obviously enjoy the atmosphere, the food and the shopping. Thank you to everyone, with aching feet, who helped to raise the profile and the finances of the church this year.

The Remembrance Service is always poignant and this year was no exception. The decision to ask the children to lay the wreath brought home to all of us, I am sure, that our efforts for peace is a legacy for them to which we must remain committed. At the quiet service on Armistice Day itself the ethereal sounds of the last post coming from the Fusiliers Garden followed by a piper playing a lament made the service particularly moving.

On a personal note John and I have been celebrating with friends a 70th Wedding Anniversary and an 80th Birthday. Maureen and Harry Parkinson, who attend Unity Church, celebrated their platinum wedding anniversary on the 11th November. An appropriate date as they met during the war when Harry was based in Northern Ireland as part of the North Atlantic fleet. He was one of those I spoke of at the Remembrance Day service who was in the battle of the Atlantic.

We travelled to Yorkshire to celebrate a birthday for someone who belies her 80 years by being one of the most active people I know. In fact we attended one of three parties that are being held as she has so many friends scattered far and wide they could not all be accommodated at one celebration. How to be 80 in style!

After the party we made our way over to east Yorkshire to a cottage just outside Whitby. I have to say, east Yorkshire was closed, even Whitby Abbey was closed, thank goodness we approached the back way and had not climbed the 199 steps to get to it. A tiny, warm and cosy cottage, decorated like one of those in the glossy magazines, was a lovely base, handy for the coastal villages and cliff walks.

In this final Minister's Month of 2013 I would like to thank everyone for their support and encouragement during the year.

Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. **Beryl**

FROM THE TREASURER

At the October Finance Committee we considered a report on the 2013 congregational income & expenditure. The report shows that the costs of Sunday Worship for 2013 will be approximately £10,000. This covers energy costs (34 % higher than 2012) organists' fees, and other costs which include the GA Quota). Note: the Minister's Stipend is paid by the Trustees.

As our membership has decreased and prices have increased, current weekly giving at Sunday services is now forecast to be below realistic requirement. This imbalance equates to about 50p per member per week. Speak to John, if you would like to see a full analysis.

For 2014 can we all please try and increase our giving by 50p per week. Even this small amount per member per week will help the church balance income and expenditure in 2014.

SUBSCRIPTION ENVELOPES

The Subscription Envelopes for 2014 will be available for collection from the table at the back of the church from Sunday 1 December. Please

destroy any unused envelopes for 2013 at the end of the year as your membership number may change.

Margaret Pollard, Membership Secretary

0161 764 6374

CHURCH INFORMATION

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Church Secretary Anne Mills
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BL8 2HW

DECEMBER DATES

- 1 Bill Darlison leading the service, lunch afterwards at a cafe in Broad Street**
- 4 Finance & General Purposes meeting 7.00pm
- 6 NWAA Christmas Carol Concert at 7.30pm – details on notice board in lounge.
- 8 Nativity Service, Traidcraft stall**
- 9 Church Council 7.00pm
- 10 Luncheon Club 12.30pm
- 14 Charity Committee meeting 11.00am
- 15 Service of readings & Carols followed by Lunch, Smartie Tubes to Brenda**
- 16 Trustees meeting 7.00pm please.
- 22 A Quiet Service, Traidcraft stall**
- 25 A Short Festive Service at 11.00am**
- 29 A Service of Reflections**

JANUARY DATES

- 4 Junior Church Children's party
- 5 Junior Church Prizegiving also 1st service of our 40th year, Traidcraft stall**

12 The Minister

19 The Minister, Traidcraft stall, Feb. Calendar deadline

20 Worship, Junior Church & Communications meeting 7.00pm

21 Luncheon Club 12.30pm

27 Book Club 7.00pm