

# **BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH**



**December 2022  
&  
January 2023**

## Letter from the Minister

Dear All,

Welcome to this final edition of the *Calendar* for 2022. I can't work out whether it seems like five minutes since I wrote the last Minister's letter for Christmas, or more like five years.

Firstly, I want to wish you all every blessing for the Winter Solstice and for Christmas: I pray that whatever it is you hope this season will bring, that is what you receive. We all want and need different things at this time of year: some of us want to worship and spend time in reverence; others want to party; others want to be with those they love; and others, I know, simply want to get through it and emerge into January. All of those desires are valid, and it's also entirely okay to want a combination of them, or to want one of them one day and something entirely different the next.

It has been another rich and full year at Bury Unitarian Church, and I have felt blessed and privileged to share it with you.

We have had, of course, sadness and loss as well as joys and celebrations, and it is really important to remember our sadnesses at this time of year where there is so much pressure to appear joyful. We have lost beloved members of our community, and I know that we are all holding in our hearts and our prayers those people who are facing their first Christmas without a loved one. Please know that this is a community where we support you in your grief and where you shouldn't feel anxious about sharing it with us.

It feels like this has been the first year for a while where things have been vaguely 'normal', after a really complicated and hard couple of years in 2020 and 2021. This year we have, I think, worshipped in church every Sunday, without seating restrictions and with the ability to sing out, including a few Sundays in May where I was off sick and everyone rallied round. I wonder if we'll ever again take those things for granted? I feel sure I won't – every so often, particularly when we sing the Lord's Prayer together, I am struck by how much we missed it when we couldn't do it,

and what a great blessing it is to be able to do so again. It certainly does seem to be true that you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone.

And as well as worshipping together, we've also continued to socialise together: our various social groups and gatherings are going strong, and I know that they help to strengthen relationships in the community. If you want to join any of our regular groups, please know that none of them are 'closed' and you will be made very welcome.

We've also welcomed new faces into our congregation: some regularly, some occasionally, and some maybe just for a short time. It's always lovely to get the chance to welcome people and we genuinely do have a reputation for being a warm, friendly, and welcoming congregation: that is one thing, among so many things in our church, of which I'm very proud.

I am very proud to minister to this community, mainly because I very definitely don't do it alone. One of my favourite quotes is "ministry is all that we do – together," and we definitely share the ministry of our church. Every time you set foot in the building, let alone every time you do a piece of work or organise something or suggest something or stop to have a word with someone or neaten something up or mend something or send something in to this Calendar, you are ministering to the rest of us, and maybe the individual action isn't always noticed, but the overall effect definitely is. This community belongs to us, however long or short a time we've been a part of it, and I'm not going to apologise for saying, again, that that makes me very proud.

Our next Calendar will be in February, so having started this letter with wishes and blessings for Christmas and the Solstice, I want to end by sending you my wishes for a 2023 in which there is more joy than sorrow, and in which we are able to share our strength and our love together, as we have done so well and for so long.

As ever, I send you my love.

Kate.

## **News of our community**

### **Richard Ashworth**

Richard Ashworth – son of the late Barbara and Joe Ashworth and nephew of Vera Stephenson, died on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, in Chesterfield, aged 63. Richard attended Chesham Unitarian Church and then Bury Unitarian Church, before moving away for work.

### **Terry Ratcliffe**

Terry Ratcliffe, a friend of our congregation and the architect of this beautiful church building of which we're all so proud, died on 29<sup>th</sup> October. We send our love to his family and loved ones.

### **Peter Sedgwick**

In last month's *Calendar*, Anne Mills asked for memories of Peter, who was known to some of the congregation. Unfortunately, Peter passed away before the *Calendar* was published, but I feel sure that the fond memories people had of him were of comfort to those who loved him.

*We hold all of these people, and those who loved them, in our prayers.*

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.

## Social Events

### Book Club

The book club won't be meeting in December.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> January at 2.00pm in the lounge. The book to be discussed is: *Someone Like You* by Roald Dahl. Coffee/tea and biscuits will be available, and you are welcome to bring your lunch if necessary. Please note parking at church will be strictly for those with accessibility needs.

### 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 scheduled dates for December and January are 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> December and 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January, but please speak to one of the members about whether there will be a meeting on Boxing Day.

### Saturday Social Gatherings.

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

These Gatherings are still slowly turning into what they are meant to be, which is whatever we want and need them to be.

We are also taking tentative steps toward bring coffee mornings back: watch this space for updates.

There won't be a gathering on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> December (unless someone would like to open up?) so the next gathering will be on **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January.**

## **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 most months 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 won't be a Sunday Zoom service during December: on December 11<sup>th</sup> we have our Carols by Candlelight service, and I think we all know what's happening on December 25<sup>th</sup>.

We will Zoom on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

If there is a wish for it, there will also be a short communion service on Christmas Eve.

### **Inclusive Communion Services**

We generally hold an inclusive communion service on the first Sunday of each month, at 12.30 (after the main service). There will be a Communion service on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December, but not on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January. 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.

### **Monthly midweek online meditations**

There will be an online meditation on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January.

## **Advent and Christmas services and activities at Bury**

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November, 11.15am:**

Advent Service, led by Hannah Stephenson.

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, time to be arranged:**

Christingle workshop, in the church lounge.

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December, 11.15am:**

Christingle service.

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 11.15am:**

Reflective time in the worship area.

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December: 3pm:**

Carols by Candlelight.

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December, 11.15am:**

Morning worship.

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December, 12.15pm (approx.):**

Congregational Christmas lunch.

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December, 6pm:**

Solstice Celebration: details to follow.

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December (if people would like it)**

A communion service for Christmas Eve. Time to be arranged.

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December, 10.15am:**

Breakfast – everyone is welcome for bacon or vegan sandwiches, orange juice, tea, coffee, and nibbles.

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December 11.15am:**

Worship for Christmas morning.

## **Solstice, Christmas Eve, and New Year's Day.**

### **Winter Solstice**

Kate is planning a celebration of the Winter Solstice on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December, at 6pm, either at Holebottom (if it's dry) or in the Worship Area.

Please could you let her know by Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December if you'd like to come, so that she can plan the correct number of mince pies.

### **Christmas Eve Communion**

Kate will be hosting a communion service, both online and in person, at 11am on Christmas Eve. Please let her know if you'd like to attend. Everyone is very welcome to this service.

### **New Year's Day, Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January**

Please note that  
**there will not be a service at Bury Unitarian Church on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January.**

If you would like details of other local Unitarian churches which will be holding services that day, Kate will do her best to find out for you.

Kate will be on leave (she always tries to have a week off, including a Sunday, after Christmas) and the worship group have worked extra hard this year because of Kate having several weeks off sick: this, together with the fact that attendance is likely to be very low, led Kate and the Church Council to decide that this is the best option.



**Christingle service, and Christingle workshop**

**Bury Unitarian Church**  
**Sunday 4th December, 11.15am:**  
**Christingle Service**

Please join us for this family friendly service celebrating  
the joy and unity of the world.

You are welcome no matter what.



You are also very welcome to join us the previous day (time to be confirmed) to help create the Christingles ready for the service. There will be suitable refreshments.

**Reflective service, Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December.**

On the morning of the Carol service, you are invited to share a quiet reflective time in the sanctuary. Christmas brings sorrow as well as gladness, and you may appreciate a quiet and sacred time to acknowledge this. All are welcome, but no one should feel they \*ought\* to come.

# **Christmas Lunch**

**After the service on the  
18th December, 2022  
we will be having our Christmas  
Lunch.**

**Menu - £5.00 per person**

**Glass of Sherry/ fruit juice  
Vegetable soup with a roll and butter  
Hot Ham muffin  
Christmas cakes  
Tea or coffee**

**Please would you sign on the list on the notice  
board in the lounge if you would like to attend.**

**Bury Unitarian Church**  
**Sunday 11th December, 3pm:**  
**Carols by Candlelight**

Please join us for this service of carols, readings, and music to celebrate Christmas, followed by refreshments.

You are welcome no matter what.



**If you would like a lift to and from any of our events, please speak to Kate and we will make it happen.**

**Bury Unitarian Church**  
**Sunday 25th December, 10.15:**  
**Christmas morning worship**

Please join us for this friendly service of carols, prayers, and readings.

The service starts at 11.15, and you are welcome to join us from 10.15 for a light breakfast.

You are welcome no matter what.



## Stewards for Sunday services, December 2022 and January 2023

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Peter Whewell Norah Hickton
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	NO SERVICE IN THE MORNING
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Susan Mitchell Susan Holt
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	NO STEWARDS NEEDED
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> January	NO SERVICE TODAY
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Jean Maden Howard Maden
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	Janine Hurley Ewen Sim
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Beryl Bowden Marian Price
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Peter Whewell Norah Hickton

## Tea and coffee rota, December 2022 and January 2023

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Jean and Howard
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	NO COFFEE NEEDED TODAY Carol service in afternoon
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	NO COFFEE NEEDED TODAY Lunch after service
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	NO COFFEE NEEDED TODAY Breakfast before service
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> January	NO SERVICE TODAY
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Lois and Pam
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	Marian and Susan Holt
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Norah and Peter
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Susan Mitchell and Rita

## **Church building open (and warm) on Fridays.**

As you probably know, the church building is normally open on Fridays between 10-3, to allow Kate to work in the vestry and be available to people who prefer to pop in to church rather than to have her visit at home. Please know that you are very welcome to come into church even if you don't particularly want to see Kate! As the weather gets colder, and as fuel prices continue to rise, please know that at least on a Friday we would love you (and your friends, and anyone you know who could make use of this) to pop in and keep warm here. The kettle is always on, and there will be biscuits. You are welcome to bring your lunch, your books, your knitting or any other hobby.

Please do spread the word about this.

If I am ever not going to be able to be here, I will try to arrange for someone else to open up instead.

## **Minister's schedule, December 2022**

Kate will be working and available throughout December: amidst all the glories and the fun, Christmas can be a very difficult month and you may want to have contact with her. She will be taking little pockets of time off, but probably not full days and not to a regular pattern.

She will try to be in the vestry on each of the Fridays, but please watch out for emails and notices about changes to that.

<p><b>Kate (and Adrian) will be taking time off from after the Christmas morning service until Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January.</b></p>
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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.

## Notes from the building

Simon and Garfunkel's 'The Sound of Silence' is a beautiful song, it's a poignant, symbolic representation of alienation. It tells of an oncoming wave of separation, a separation of the one from the all, a separation of each person from the whole of the people.

As a warning to us, as Unitarians, it can certainly be appreciated for that symbolism, but the idea contained within it, is also making itself a practical problem for our church in very real terms. Over the last few years we've started to struggle a little with the audio system in our sanctuary, and it's becoming an issue for more and more members of the community. People are finding it increasingly difficult to follow the minister during her services and as the sound becomes thinner and thinner the need for us to address this encroaching silence becomes ever more pressing.

A lot of the cause of the problems we have are to do with the age of the components that make up our audio system. While the speakers were built for the church, the amplifier that fills them with sound and, the hearing loop, look to me as if they predate it by a few years more. While this does mean they were built at a time when things were built to last, they can't really be expected to last forever, and sadly we can't just throw money at the problem and have it disappear before Christmas, our audio system is a very peculiar beast. It's a specialist set of kit, but if we just leave it as it is, the sound of silence might be all that we hear.

I've now replaced our second failing microphone in the sanctuary (with the one from the upstairs lounge) and by the time you read this, I'll have replaced all of the cabling which is starting to visibly and audibly crack at their connections. The background hum and lack of power may well be dealt with by the introduction of secondary speakers and from me borrowing the upstairs amplifier. This should be more than enough for everyone to be able to enjoy the coming Christmas services, because a service, like a song, is at its most poignant and least separating, when it can be shared by all.

*Adrian Brady*

## **Lifts to services and events**

Please don't let transport be a reason for not coming to services or events: if there is something you'd like to attend but it will be hard to get there or back, please speak to Kate. This is always the case, but particularly for Christmas events which are important to so many people, and particularly in winter when it's a lot harder to get out. And do bear in mind that if Kate's picking you up or dropping you off, it means she can't be shifting furniture or tidying things, so everyone's a winner, frankly.

## **Name and address booklet**

Those of you who asked to be in the booklet containing names and addresses of members and friends of the congregation should have received your own copy with your Calendar. Please remember that this has only been distributed to those people whose names are included in it, and shouldn't be shared with others.

## **Smartie tubes**

For several years, Brenda Ainsworth has been organising the Smartie Tube collection: people are invited to take a (full!) tube of Smarties, eat the contents, and then, over the year, fill the tube with 20p pieces. This has resulted in a nice extra donation every year.

Brenda won't be carrying on with this in 2023, so unless anyone else has a desire to take on the organisation, we're going to let the Smartie tubes scheme lie fallow for a while.

If you do have any full tubes from this year, please could you let Brenda have them by Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup>, in time to get them counted by the end of the year.

Thank you to Brenda for all her hard work over the years.

## **Readers**

As you'll know if you come to services in church, we have a group of really talented readers who take it in turns to provide a bit of texture to the service.

If you'd like to join them, Kate would be very happy indeed to add you to the list: you'll never be asked to read anything you're not comfortable with!

Also, please bear in mind that if you'd like to join the list of readers but would rather not read from the dais (it can be very intimidating to walk to the front and stand at the pulpit, and some people have mobility issues) you are very welcome to read from your seat: we do ask that you use a microphone for the benefit of people with hearing problems, but we can give you a roving microphone.



## **News from Ainsworth Chapel**

Dear Members & Friends of Ainsworth Chapel

Thank you to everyone who attended, and contributed to, our Service of Remembrance on 4<sup>th</sup> November.

Also a special 'thank you' to our Organist, Barry, for bringing his Yamaha Keyboard and his lovely choice of appropriate, evocative melodies.

### **Commonwealth War Graves Sign**

The Green Sign from The Commonwealth War Graves Commission arrived in October and was attached to our new notice board. This denotes our single war grave, for Lance Bombardier Edgar Crook Wilkinson.

Steve read the names on the Chapel's War Memorials and spoke briefly about Edgar, who died of war wounds in 1919. His Father, Rev Robert Wilkinson, who was Minister at The Chapel, had died suddenly in 1887 when Edgar was only 2 months old.

Edgar is buried in the family grave with his parents, Robert and Jane.

### **Ainsworth Unitarian Chapel Christmas Service**

You are warmly invited to join us for our afternoon Christmas Service on:

**3.00 pm Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> December**

when we look forward to welcoming Rev John D Allerton to take this special, festive service.

The Christening of Harry Alexander Bowman will follow this service and there will be refreshments available in the Hall. We look forward to welcoming Harry's family and friends to this happy occasion.

**January 2023:** -

Please note that there will **not** be a service on 1<sup>st</sup> January, as it is a Bank Holiday and Steve & I will be away.

The next service will be: 10.30 am Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2023, led by Rev Helen Mills.

### **2023 Chapel Flowers**

If you wish to provide flowers in Chapel for any service in 2023, please let me know.

With good wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year

Shirley



*A note from Kate:*

*Bury's Christingle Service and Ainsworth's Christmas Service both take place on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December: if you would like to attend both (and Kate really does encourage people to visit Ainsworth for their services!) but don't want to travel home in between times, you are very welcome to bring your lunch to eat in the lounge at Bury. Kate can provide lifts to Ainsworth for up to three people, but only one way, unfortunately.*

## Foodbank

Once again this year I have been very moved by your generosity to the Foodbank, both in terms of food and cash donations. It is particularly encouraging during the current cost-of-living crisis. Thank you all, and thank you also to Susan Holt who regularly collects our donations and drives them to the Foodbank for us.

The Foodbank have issued a list of specific Christmas requests, and I know that they would be very grateful for any donations you are able to make. I also know that many of us are struggling ourselves, so please do not feel under any obligation whatsoever.



If you are struggling yourself, please do make sure that Kate knows (in confidence): we can help. And if you need to you are also, of course, welcome to food from the boxes under the vestibule table.

## **News from around the district and the denomination**

### **Unitarian Peace Fellowship Ukraine Peace Appeal**

More than 200,000 Ukrainian and Russian troops have been killed.

Over 40,000 Ukrainian civilians have lost their lives and many more are suffering life changing injuries.

More than 13,000,000 Ukrainians have fled their homes, millions internally displaced and millions of others living as refugees.

Numerous homes, schools and hospitals have been damaged or destroyed. Water, electricity and other essential facilities have been badly disrupted. Landmines and other devastating weapons are killing many innocent civilians, including innocent child victims.

At least 18,000,000 people in Ukraine are in acute need of medical care, food, water, heating and other essential humanitarian aid.

Right now the people of Ukraine are facing the worst disaster and Europe and the world as a whole our most dangerous political crisis since the Second World War.

In response to this unprecedented international crisis endangering so many lives the Unitarian Peace Fellowship, in the spirit of the Charter for Compassion, which it has embraced, and acting in its longstanding commitment to Red Cross life saving appeals, is launching this Christmas and New Year Appeal as part of its 2022-2023 Annual Appeal in aid of British Red Cross global humanitarian emergency responses to succour the victims of war.

By donating to the British Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal you will help Ukrainian victims of war by assisting the Ukrainian Red Cross, its sister charity, give desperately needed aid to hospitals and primary healthcare facilities, fire fighters and civil protection units, help it repair homes, schools and community centres and enable the rebuilding or replacement of Ukraine's vital infrastructure damaged or destroyed by this devastating war.

If you wish to respond to this urgent appeal, please call

0300 023 0820

or visit [redcross.org.uk/Ukraine](https://www.redcross.org.uk/Ukraine)

or send a cheque made out to the British Red Cross and post it to British Red Cross, 44 Moorfields, London EC2Y 9AL. Please kindly earmark it for the British Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal and ask for it to be recorded as a donation to the Unitarian Peace Fellowship Ukraine Peace Appeal. Thank you.

Rev. Feargus O'Connor, Unitarian Peace Fellowship committee and the Gandhi Foundation (and twelve other GA signatories).

### **Worship words**

Those of you who prepare and lead worship might be interested in a new page on the GA website: called 'Worship Words', it's a collection of original prayers, readings, liturgy, and other worship material, provided by minister and lay worship leaders from throughout the denomination. At the time of writing the site is not yet live, but it will be by the time you read this!

### **Uni-News**

If you're on email and would like to keep up-to-date with news from the denomination, you can sign up to the occasional Uni-News emails: these contain news, and details of regular and occasional events. You can find the sign-up link on the GA website, or ask Kate how to go about it.

Christmas Concert at Padiham



**GALA  
CHRISTMAS  
CONCERT**

**LANCASHIRE  
ARTILLERY**

**Volunteers Band**

**Reception, bubbly & buffet at 7pm**

**SATURDAY | 10 DECEMBER | 8 PM**

**Padiham Unitarian Chapel  
Church St, Padiham, BB12 8JH**

**TICKETS**

**£9 - CONCERT ONLY**

**£12.50 - SPECIAL RECEPTION & CONCERT**

To enquire or book tickets, contact us at the email or number below.

secretary@padiham-unitarians-org.uk | 07951 486 794

<https://www.lancashirecollaborativeministry.org> |   



## Consultation on the new GA chalice design: a message from the GA

At the last Annual Meetings of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, held in Birmingham on 19-21 April 2021, the resolution below was passed.

Following on from the listening circles held in September, the Executive Committee would now like to know your congregation's views and we invite you to share them with us by email (to: [info@unitarian.org.uk](mailto:info@unitarian.org.uk)) or in writing (to: Chief Officer, Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London, WC2R 3HY), by **16<sup>th</sup> January 2023**.

For further information about the branding work undertaken since 2020, please visit our website.

Kind regards,

*Liz Slade*

Chief Officer, on behalf of the Executive Committee

**Resolution:** *“That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches regrets the lack of consultation over the rebranding exercise and requests that the Executive Committee (EC) consults the constituent congregations and fellowships on whether to introduce the new logo or retain the traditional Chalice Design adopted in 2007 in the interests of maintaining a consistent denominational identity.”*

### **Briefing Paper from East Midlands Unitarians:**

*“East Midland Unitarians comprises 8 Unitarian places of worship plus one active house fellowship. We have a strong and proactive district association meeting four times a year.*

*When the new chalice logo emerged, it became apparent at several district meetings that some representatives were perplexed and uneasy that the new image of our symbol had not received a proper consultation process with constituent Congregations and Fellowships which make up the General Assembly.*

*At the December 2021 Quarterly Meeting of East Midland Unitarians the unanimous view of the meeting was to submit the Notice of Motion to the April General Assembly Meetings for debate.*

*Members of East Midland Unitarians are united in their understanding that, in order to ensure confidence in denominational structures, an appropriate consultation should take place specifically to ascertain the view of the whole Unitarian Movement which makes up the General Assembly.”*

**Examples of the new branding:**



If you have views (positive or negative) about the new branding or the process by which it came about, please speak to Kate and we can try to arrange a short, informal meeting (probably early in the new year), so that we can make our views known to the GA.



## Our Nativity



## Now for Christmas in the Past

*From the Calendar December 1889*

The Annual Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday, December 25th. Tea at 4.30pm. Tickets price 1/-.

*Report in January Calendar 1890 of the Christmas Party*

There seems to be but one opinion as to the well-earned success of the Christmas entertainment. "The Ticket of Leave Man" is a capital play, full of bright and interesting dialogue, with pathos, action and fun.

*Report in January 1908 Calendar of the Christmas Party*

The Christmas party was held on Christmas Day 1907 when about 300 persons sat down to tea. The entertainment consisted of the comedietta, "Miss Honey's Treasure" followed by the drama, "Old Phil's Birthday".

*Report in January 1912 Calendar of the Christmas Party of 1911*

The party was on Christmas Day and tea was still costing 1/- again with entertainment.

The scholars' party was on 28th December with tea at 5 o'clock with entertainment to follow. Price of tickets—4d for children under 12 years of age; 6d each for all other scholars and teachers; friends and members of the congregation over 14 years of age, 9d each.

**Do you remember the Christmas Tree Festival that Betty and Molly organised for 4 or more years?**

It was held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

We invited 39 local charities to be a part of this.

*Christmas Tree Festival and Fair Weekend*

*At Bury Unitarian Church*

*Friday 5th December - Sunday 7th December 2007*

*Over 23 decorative Christmas trees by local voluntary organisations.*

*Hot drinks, mince pies and Traidcraft goods for sale.*



Admission was £2

The Christmas trees surrounded the worship area.



The Square Street Singers performing at the Sunday Evening Concert.



## **“From the Old Codger”**

A scraper at the door keeps dirt from the floor

A letter box saves many knocks

A bell hung well its tale will tell

An ill fixed blind no one can wind

Keep your keys and be at ease

A chair unsound soon finds the ground

Every recipe is the basis of another

A good suggestion is often invaluable

A good beginning makes a good ending

We learn something even by our failures

### **Upcoming Calendars**

There won't be a January edition of the *Calendar*.

The next issue will be for February 2023: the deadline for entries will be teatime on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January, and we will collate it at the Saturday Social Gathering on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>.

In the absence of a January Calendar, please keep an eye on emails and notices in church for anything which you might need to know about.

# 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!

## What's on: December 2022

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December** 10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day. The church building will be open and warm and you are welcome to come and use the space.

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** Time to be arranged: Christingle workshop in church.

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

11.15am, Bury: Christingle Service, Rev Kate Brady McKenna

12.30pm, Bury: Inclusive Communion Service.

*After the service you're very welcome to eat your lunch in the church lounge, and Kate can give you a lift to Ainsworth.*

3pm, Ainsworth: Christmas Service, Rev John D Allerton

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December** 10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day. The church building will be open and warm, and you are welcome to come and use the space.

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

10.15am Bury: Reflective time in the worship area: all are welcome, but there is no obligation to attend.

3pm Bury: Carols by Candlelight, with refreshments and social time.

*No second Sunday lunch or Zoom service this week.*

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December** 7pm: Camera club, on Zoom

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** 7pm: Online meditation

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December** 10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day. The church building will be open and warm and you are welcome to come and use the space.

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

11.15am Bury:	Service in church.
12.15 approx:	Congregational Christmas Lunch (please book in advance for this)

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December** 6pm: Solstice Celebration. Please let Kate know by Monday if you'd like to attend.

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December** 10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day. The church building will be open and warm and you are welcome to come and use the space.

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December** Time to be arranged: Christmas Eve communion, online and in person

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas day**

10.15am:	Informal breakfast. All welcome, but please let us know of any dietary requirements.
11.15am Bury:	Christmas morning worship in church.

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> December** 7pm: Camera club, on Zoom (please check)

## What's on, January 2023

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January**

**NO SERVICE AT EITHER BURY OR AINSWORTH**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day. Church open and warm!

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January**

11.15am Bury:

Service in church.

2pm:

Zoom service

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January**

7pm: Camera club, on Zoom

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January**

7pm: Online meditation

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January**

10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day. Church open and warm!

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January**

11.15am Bury:

Service in church.

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January**

10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day. Church open and warm!

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**

11.15am Bury:

Service in church.

2pm:

Zoom service

**Wed 25<sup>th</sup> January**

2pm: Book club, meeting to discuss *Someone Like You*, by Roald Dahl.

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January**

10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day. Church open and warm.

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January**

11am-1pm approx: Saturday Social Gathering, and calendar collating party.

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January**

11.15am Bury:

Service in church.



## Church information

Minister: Rev. Kate Brady McKenna  
0161 460 3363 / 07751 240886  
[revkatemckenna@gmail.com](mailto:revkatemckenna@gmail.com)

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

Church phone: 0161 761 3785

Website: [www.bury-unitarian-church.org.uk](http://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*

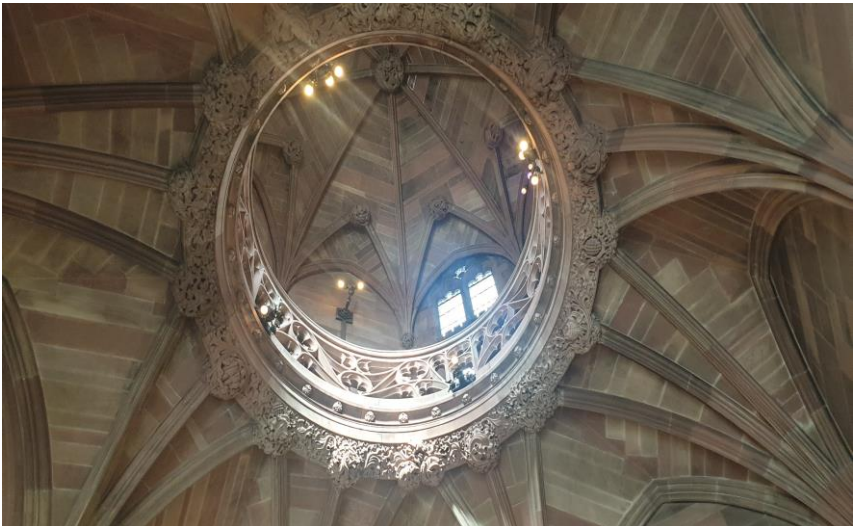
*Church treasurer: details available on request.*

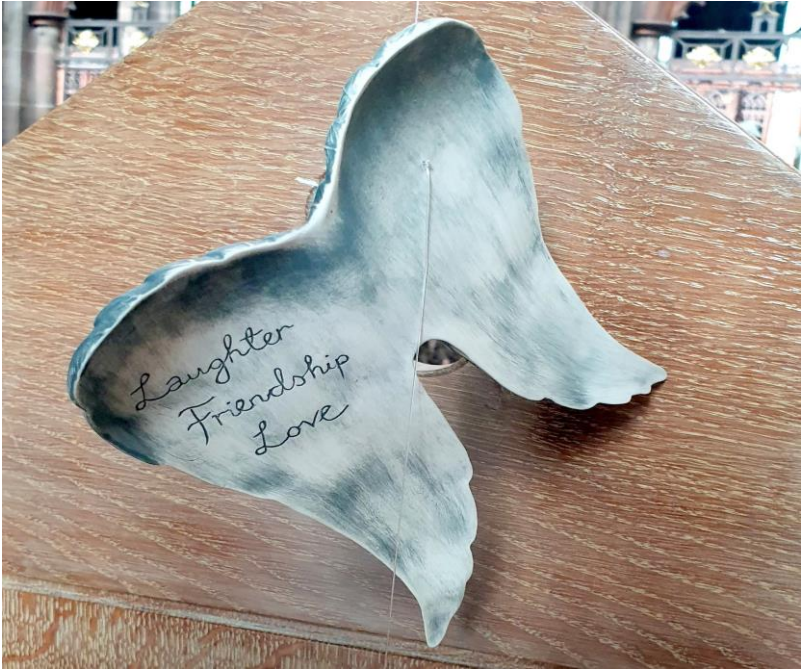
## Contact for room bookings and building maintenance

Property Manager Adrian Brady 07736 107143

Charity reg no: 107857

## Camera Club Pictures





**Bury Unitarians are delighted to welcome Hannah Stephenson as their ministry student for the next few months. During her time with them, she will assist Rev. Kate McKenna, as appropriate, as part of her newly-begun training with Unitarian College. As a foretaste of her talents, Hannah led worship, at Bury, on October 2nd and 30th. Hannah lives in Southport, with her husband and family, and is currently the Lay Leader at Park Lane Unitarian Chapel, Ashton-in-Makerfield, near Wigan.**

