

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CHURCH INFORMATION

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CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2019

MINISTER

REVEREND K MCKENNA

**BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH
CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2019**

CHURCH SERVICES

3 February	11.15am	The Minister
10 February	11.15am	The Minister
12 February	2.30pm	Contemplative Worship
17 February	11.15am	The Minister
24 February	11.15am	The Minister – followed by Communion

CHURCH STEWARDS

3 February	Sue McMullen & Ashley-Jade Clarke
10 February	Jean Brookhouse & Susan Mitchell
17 February	Lois Williams & George Scaife
24 February	Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert

CHURCH FLOWERS

3 February	Beryl Allerton
10 February	Church Flowers
17 February	Church Flowers
24 February	Janet Thatcher

Distributors: Barbara Bamford, Jean Brookhouse, Anne Evitts, Sue McMullen

Donations to the Flower Fund will be welcome at any time – please speak to Janet Thatcher.

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

2 February	Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard
9 February	Jane Clarke & Sue McMullen
16 February	Brenda Ainsworth & Susan Holt
23 February	Pam Gilbert & Di Scaife

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

3 February	Anne Mills(M), Beryl Bowden, Damion Langford
10 February	Norah Hickton(M), Peter Whewell, Barbara Bamford
17 February	Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Lois Williams, Di Scaife
24 February	Marian Price(M), Susan Mitchell, Fred Mitchell

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY

Weds. 6 February at 7pm	Finance & General Purposes
Weds. 13 February at 7pm	Church Council
Monday 25 February at 7pm	Trustees

CALENDAR DEADLINE

The deadline date for items to be included in the March Calendar is Sunday 17th February.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Saturday, 2 February – 12.00 midday - Lunch followed by a Service and the AGM

If you would like lunch, please sign up on the list on the lounge notice board.

CAMERA CLUB

The February meeting will be held on the 11th, at 7 pm; when the subject under consideration will be triptychs. Come and find out what this means, if you aren't sure! New people are always welcome; no special expertise is needed---not even a camera is necessary; if you're interested, come and join in!

LUNCH CIRCLE

The February meeting will take place on the 19th, at 12.30 pm; and will be hosted by Susan and Margaret. Please sign up on the notice on the board, once it has been posted. New members and visitors are always welcome; come and see what's on offer---no need to commit yourself, in the long term, unless you wish to do so! Lunch costs £3.00 per head; feel free to bring your own drinks with you.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Wednesday 27th February at 7pm. The book to be discussed is: ***The Lighthouse* by P.D. James**
All are welcome – no need to have read the book!

TRAIIDCRAFT

The stall will be open on February 3rd and February 17th; please ask Anne or Jean, if you need items at other times. Many thanks to Jean for her assistance with the stall during 2018, and to everyone who has bought goods, too; your continued support is valued---not least by those in developing countries, who work extremely hard to make a living for themselves and their families, and to improve both their quality of life and local conditions.

At the start of the New Year, Traidcraft announced that it was to seek a new location; staff-numbers have been severely reduced, and the company has entered a period of transition; 2019 will be a crucial year. The next new brochure will be available by the end of March, and further developments are awaited.

Sales for us, at church, rose during 2017 but dropped back slightly in 2018. However, all the bills have been paid, we are well-stocked, and we have a small amount of cash in hand. Profits from Traidcraft sales provided all the tea, coffee, hot chocolate and sugar that we use, which amounted to £275, last year, plus £114. Over the 14 years that Traidcraft has been sold at church, the clear profit to the church amounts to £2,727.

BELL CUPBOARD

Since work on our lift was completed and various tidying-up jobs carried out, the former Bell Cupboard (which is currently in the upstairs room) has been emptied. If anyone would like the cupboard, for personal use, at home, please speak to Roger. First come, first served! This offer will be kept open until the end of February, after which the cupboard will be disposed of.

REMINDER

The Congregational Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 24th, after morning-service; please put this date in your new diary and make every effort to attend.

OBITUARY

We have recently received information from Noreen Shaw's son that Noreen died during the early part of 2018; a note of condolence has been sent to him and his family. Noreen and her late husband, Rodney, were originally members of Heywood Unitarians and attended Bury Unitarian Church for some years, until they moved to Wrea Green. They then visited, approximately once a month, until Rodney's ill-health prevented him from driving. Rodney died in 2016; his funeral, in Lytham, was conducted by Rev. Beryl Allerton. Noreen continued to receive our calendar, from then onwards; we are grateful for her support and contribution to the life of our church.

REQUEST

Beryl Allerton, in her capacity as NELUM Secretary, has contacted us to ask whether any Bury members would be interested in conducting a service at Newcastle-on-Tyne Unitarian Church, at any point. If anyone wishes to offer to do this, please contact the church in question direct by emailing:

newcastleunitarianchurch@hotmail.co.uk

Thank you.

FAIR TRADE TEAPARTY

On Saturday, February 23rd, between 2 and 4 pm; we shall be hosting a Teaparty on behalf of the Bury Fair Trade Group. Anne Mills has offered to organise this event, in order to raise funds for the group, which is sorely in

need of money, in order to continue its valuable work. Tickets will cost £2.50, to include refreshments, and will be on sale from January 27th, from the Traidcraft Stall. The stall will be open during the event, and there will be a raffle with fair trade prizes. The theme of this year's Fair Trade Fortnight is "Chocolate", and refreshments, prizes and goods for sale will reflect this! Members of the Fair Trade Group, hopefully, will be helping at this event, but, if anyone else wishes to assist, either on the afternoon, or by baking a cake, please speak to Anne. Your support, on the day, will be very welcome, too.

THE FUTURE OF FAITH

Rev. Jim Corrigan has organised a series of lectures on this theme, on behalf of the Lancashire Collaborative Ministry. The last lecture in the series takes place on March 23rd, 2019, when the speaker will be Alastair McIntosh; his theme is to be "Towards Third Millennium Christianity: Activism, Non-violence and the Mystical Imperative."

The lecture will be held at Rawtenstall Unitarian Church, between 11 am. And 3.15 pm. Lunch is on a bring-and-share basis.

FILMS AT ROCHDALE

There is a poster on the board which gives details of all the films planned, with dates, for 2019. The next film evening will be held on Saturday, March 23rd, at 7 pm; when "Finding Your Feet" will be shown. Anyone wishing to attend should consult the poster; booking may be made by contacting Helen Illingworth. Rochdale's film evenings are excellent; do consider joining them for one of their sessions.

FILMING

As part of our 300th Anniversary proceedings, we are aiming to produce a DVD, which will provide snapshots of typical events in our church-year.

This will be a permanent visual record, to celebrate 300 years since the start of Unitarianism in Bury. David Lloyd will be filming key occasions, throughout the year, and will assemble the final record.

If, when filming is in progress, you do not wish yourself or your family-members to appear, please inform David, or Roger Mills, and they will ensure that your wishes are respected. When filming does occur, there will be a notice on display to this effect.

GA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

There are notices on the board about these meetings, which take place, in Birmingham, between April 16th and 18th, 2019. We are entitled to send two delegates to represent us; if you are willing to attend, in this capacity, please speak to Anne Mills or Betty Kenyon. A special bursary is also offered, this year, to encourage new participants to attend; it is open to people who have not attended previous Annual Meetings and who have belonged to their respective churches for less than 5 years; those who attend in this capacity cannot be delegates or vote. Anne has details; the deadline, which has been extended, is January 25th.

NEW GA CHIEF OFFICER

Elizabeth Slade has been appointed as the new Chief Officer of the General Assembly; she will take up her post on March 18th, 2019, and will then undergo an induction-period, before the current Chief Officer, Derek McAuley, leaves, at the end of April. Elizabeth has been a member at our Newington Green church for 7 years; she was formerly a senior healthcare manager, and, subsequently, a leader of the Sunday Assembly. We wish her well in what will undoubtedly be a challenging post.

DONATIONS TOWARDS COST OF THE CALENDAR

The portal for donations towards Calendar production and distribution for 2019 is now **OPEN!**

Contributions, whatever size, will be gratefully received by **Di Scaife**, either at Church or by post to:

Twenty Pen'orth, Whitworth Rake, Whitworth, Rochdale OL12 8PQ

Currently, distribution and production costs run at £10 per year per calendar.

Cheques should be made payable to Bury Unitarian Church. **Thank you**

THANK YOU ANNE

Worship on Sunday 30th December was led by Anne Mills, on the theme of *the many seasons of our lives*. We were walked through the season that we may have encountered in the year that was about to draw to a close. Whether dark and cold, difficult or effortless, or bright and full of joy; each holding within it something of value. We must see them as part of the whole and recognise that it's our response to them that ultimately shapes how we experience the passing seasons and year.

A service of readings, hymns and prayers that invited reflection on the past year and offered words of encouragement for the coming year. Thank you Anne for leading worship for us.

*****FORTHCOMING EVENT – PLEASE GIVE YOUR SUPPORT*****

FAIR TRADE TEAPARTY

SATURDAY 23 FEBRUARY - 2pm to 4pm

Tickets £2.50 from June Clarke, Norah Hickton or the Fair Trade Stall

FAIR TRADE STALL WILL BE OPEN

Advance Notice – the next meeting of the Social and Fund Rais9ng Committee will be on Wednesday 6th MARCH at 7pm.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Some of you may be aware that every August the denomination runs a Summer School at Great Hucklow in Derbyshire. This year's event runs from 17th – 24th August, and the overall theme is 'Theology in the Flesh'. Summer School is a chance to spend time in an intentional community, and is the highlight of the year for many Unitarians. Bursaries are available to offset the cost, and newcomers are always prioritised for these. Speak to Kate (this will be her ninth Summer School and she is a member of the organising panel) if you would like to know more.

BURY HOMELESS PROJECT

As most of you know by now, we are now hosting the Bury Homeless Project street kitchen once a week.

The street kitchen is a project entirely run by volunteers, which provides hot meals to anyone in need in the local area. Most of the clients are homeless (some sleep rough, others are vulnerably housed), and a few are adequately housed but unable to afford to eat well regularly.

The numbers attending vary greatly: some weeks there are around eight people turning up needing food, and sometimes there have been nearly twenty.

All the food is provided by the project's volunteers, who take it in turns to provide stews and casseroles to eat immediately, and sandwiches, crisps, fruit, and sometimes cake for clients to take away. Tea and coffee, of course, flow abundantly. There is always a table or two of donated clothes, bags, sleeping bags, and toiletries, and these are always very welcome.

The food and the 'stuff' is, of course, vital to the people using the service. But nearly as important is the warmth, the shelter, and the opportunity to sit and chat – and to be treated like people who are deserving of these things: because everyone is deserving of these things.

As a church community we should be really pleased that we are able to offer our premises in this way: being a religious or spiritual community is about serving those who need us, and it is okay to be proud of what we do.

Currently Adrian and I are in the building whilst the street kitchen are there: it may be that in time we won't need to provide regular stewarding (the place is

always left immaculate and the two main organisers won't accept anything less from the group). If you would be interested in opening up on the odd Tuesday evening though, you would be made very welcome by the group. You will find a noisy, happy, laughter-filled atmosphere, and they make a very good cup of tea.

MAILING LIST:

Many of you will already be receiving the weekly notices by email: people have said they find this useful, particularly if they have not been at church. If you currently get the notices and don't want to, or if you've somehow been missed off the list but would like to get them, please just let Kate know and she'll arrange it.

rites of passage:

We are very pleased that in April we will be hosting the wedding of Candice and Suzanne: we think this will be the first same-sex wedding in a church in Bury. As Kate will be away, the service will be conducted by Rev Cody Coyne. We also have the wedding of our own Lorraine and Pete in August, which is a very exciting occasion to have to look forward to.

CHARITY COLLECTIONS OVER CHRISTMAS

Kate would like to thank everyone for their contributions to the charity appeals over Christmas: as well as a very large Food Bank collection, we also gathered 157 pairs of socks: the street kitchen users were really grateful for these.

THANKS

Kate would like to help everyone who helped in any way in all the services and events over the Christmas period. These things really are a team effort. She would particularly like to thank people for being around so that the street kitchen could be here on Christmas Day (the stewards had an unexpectedly long day of it) and on the Friday after Christmas. It meant a lot to the service users and that, in turn, means a lot to Kate.

DELTA COURSE

Kate is hoping to run the Delta Course – a progressive alternative to the evangelical Alpha Course – sometime later in the Spring. Watch this space (or speak to Kate) for more details.

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP

This month's contemplative worship session will take place on Tuesday 12th February, **at 2.30**. We are still playing with the timing of these sessions to ensure that as many people can attend as possible.

COMMUNION

There will be a communion service after the main service on Sunday 24th February. Everyone is welcome to join in this sharing of bread, wine, and community. The service lasts about twenty minutes.

IDEAS FOR SERVICES, CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP, AND WORKSHOPS

If you have something you would like explored in a service, in contemplative worship, or as a workshop, Kate is always happy to take 'requests'.

PRIMARY ROOM

If you've used the Primary room, or if you've used the kitchen and 'spread' into the Primary, please could you make sure you clear it afterwards? The Junior Church helpers sometimes have to clear up before they can use the room on a Sunday morning, and that's not fair on them or the children.

VICTORIA WOOD STATUE

The statue of Victoria Wood is going to be unveiled sometime in May, and we hope to be involved in some way. We'll keep you posted when the organisers have more information (like, for instance, a date!).

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear all,

Welcome to 2019, and a slightly belated Happy New Year to you all. I hope everyone managed some rest and a sense of the sacred over the holidays.

Most of you will know that this year is our 300th anniversary as a congregation. Obviously, we have been in this building for less than fifty of those years, but it is still a hugely significant anniversary. We will be marking it in various ways throughout the year, but with a particular effort in December, which marks the actual anniversary. It's incredible to think how we've grown and changed even in the fifty years in this building, let alone in the 300 years since we first gathered as a community.

I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make advent and Christmas so special at church: we had a lovely mix of worship and social activities, and were able to find time to support other people as well. I think we can truly say we did what a church is there to do.

We have already marked our young people's achievements over 2018, with their prizegiving on the first Sunday in January. We are very lucky to have them amongst us, and particularly lucky that we have skilled people to lead them. It's particularly lovely to see them joining in with worship and helping out with some of the things which make services flow so well.

Children watch and learn from the grown-ups they're around and I like to think that what they see from us is a good grounding for their future. Now that we've moved from giving prizes for attendance to making note of individual strengths in the children, I hope we can continue to see them as individuals with strengths and needs, just as much as we are. And whilst we're looking out for the positive in our young people, perhaps we could make a point of mentally clocking something positive about each of the adults in the congregation as well!

I have written elsewhere in the calendar about the street kitchen and how delighted I am that we are able to support it by offering our premises once a week: I'm particularly grateful that (thanks to other people) we were able to offer them use of the building on Christmas Day.

The things we do for those who are not a part of our community, and particularly those who struggle to feel part of the community as a whole, are how we show our strengths.

As I write it is snowing: let's hope that the cold and slippery snap doesn't last long. Even despite the snow, I heard loud birdsong from the cemetery earlier, and the place I stayed in just over a week or so was carpeted with snowdrops, so we do know spring isn't far away!

*With love,
Kate*

LOVE – a poem for the MONTH OF LOVE by Abi

This love will not be contained
it bursts from the breast of my soul.
Raging and turbulent
it engulfs.
Tender and caressing
it flows between.
Knowing nothing of idleness,
ever stirring, always renewing.
Pouring from the heart
of who knows where,
from me or you?

This gift of love, pure and fresh
as the morning air,
I I breathe you in and we are one.
You are the one that inspires,
the energy that bubbles and billows.
Driven by your power
against rocks that break and shatter,
in to deep pools that bathe and soothe.
I am swept into love's embrace,
and there I am held.
And there you are.
