

# BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

## CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2020

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### CHURCH SERVICES

|             |         |  |
|-------------|---------|--|
| 2 February  | 11.15am | The Minister   |
| 9 February  | 11.15am | The Minister   |
| 16 February | 11.15am | The Minister   |
| 23 February | 11.15am | The Minister – service will be followed by Communion. All welcome. |

### CHURCH STEWARDS

|             |                               |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 February  | Susan Holt & Roger Mills      |
| 9 February  | Betty & Neville Kenyon        |
| 16 February | Marian Price and Di Scaife    |
| 23 February | Beryl Bowden & Janet Thatcher |

### CHURCH FLOWERS

|             |                |
|-------------|----------------|
| 2 February  | Church Flowers |
| 9 February  | Janet Thatcher |
| 16 February | Peter Whewell  |
| 23 February | Beryl Allerton |

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

**If you would like to make a donation towards flowers in church, please speak to Janet Thatcher.**

### SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

|             |                                      |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 February  | Margaret Fitzpatrick & Norah Hickton |
| 8 February  | Betty Kenyon & Kate Brady McKenna    |
| 15 February | Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard        |
| 22 February | June Clarke & Sue McMullen           |

### SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 2 February  | Jean Maden(M), Beryl Bowden, Damion Langford      |
| 9 February  | Norah Hicktn(M), Barbara Bamford, Peter Whewell   |
| 16 February | Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Di Scaife, Lois Williams |
| 23 February | Marian  Price(M), Susan Mitchell                  |

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS DURING FEBRUARY

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Tuesday, 4 February at 7pm | Finance & General Purposes                            |
| Monday, 12 February at 7pm | Church Council  |
| Sunday, 16 February        | Social & Fund-raising – a short briefing after church |

### CALENDAR DEADLINE

All items to be included in the March Calendar should be with the editor by Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February, please.

## **WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

**Manchester District A.G.M. – SATURDAY 1<sup>st</sup> February**

**Lunch at 12 midday, followed by a service led by Anne Mills and a meeting. All the ladies of the congregation are welcome. See notice on board.**

## **LUNCH CIRCLE**

We meet on February 18th, at 12.30 p.m; when Susan Holt and Margaret Pollard will host. Please sign up on the list as soon as possible. We are always pleased to welcome new members; why not join us occasionally? Lunch costs a mere £3.00 per head, and our chefs come highly recommended!

## **CALENDAR CONTRIBUTIONS**

The portal for donations towards Calendar and distribution for 2020 is 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**

Cheques made payable to Bury Unitarian Church  
Currently, distribution and production costs run at £12 per year per calendar.

***Thank you.***

## **CAMERA CLUB**

The members of this group will meet on Monday, February 10th, 2020, at

7 p.m. Under discussion will be the picture for the cover of the March Calendar, a possible away-day visit to Rochdale Town Hall, and photographs that might be suitable for this year's exhibition; the topics have already been identified.

We are very keen to attract new members; please come along to this meeting and see what's on offer; we are not a technical group, at all; we just enjoy taking photographs and talking about them, in a relaxed way! Perhaps a change of name would encourage more people to join us; the group is open to everyone, whether church-members or not.

## **QUITA BROOKS**

We now have a new, permanent, address for Quita, who would be very pleased to hear from people who remember her from her time at Ainsworth. Her address is:

60 Glenbervie Road, Kirkcaldy, Fife, KY2 6XT; she moved in early December and is feeling very settled already. Anne Mills is keeping in touch with Quita and can give news of her to anyone who would like it.

## **TRAIDCRAFT**

The stall will be open on February 2nd and 16th, this month; if you require items at other times, please speak to Jean or Anne.

\*Fairtrade Fortnight begins on February 24th. The Bury Fair Trade Group is aiming to sell 90 kilograms of Kilombero rice, in order to sponsor a child in Malawi through high school for a year---a very worthwhile project---and your support would be very much appreciated. The rice is of very good quality; it is suitable for both sweet and savoury dishes, and costs £3.30 for the white variety (10p extra for the brown). There will be supplies on the stall; please consider buying a packet for yourself, a family-member or a friend.

\* The 2019 figures are now available; altogether, we sold goods to the value £1,950.43, which included £250.00 for necessary supplies; thank you to everyone

who has supported Traidcraft, this year; these are very pleasing results. Over the last 15 years, we have made a clear profit for the church of £3,135.00.

\*Profits from Traidcraft provide supplies for the tea, coffee, sugar, and hot chocolate, used on the premises, for all events, and this is an important part of our commitment as a Fair Trade church. We have good stocks of all the above items, which are kept in the store at the back of the worship-area. It would be appreciated if members did not buy additional supplies, as this leads to over-stocking; if re-stocking is required, please speak to Marian Price, Anne Mills or Jean Brookhouse; thank you.

## **CHRISTMAS 2019**

During December, last year, we were kept very busy with special services of all kinds; the most special, in terms of celebration, was our 300th Anniversary Service, which was hugely successful. Several VIP guests were in attendance, including Barry Dixon, one of The Lord Lieutenant of Manchester's Deputies; The Mayor of Bury; The President and the Vice-President of the General Assembly; former Mayors and Consorts of Bury; and Revs. Beryl and John Allerton, both of whom participated in the service, speaking respectively about being the first woman minister at Bury Unitarian Church, and the transitional period between the demolition of the old Bank Street Chapel and the amalgamation of the three churches which formed the new church, in 1974; thanks to them both for interesting and appropriate contributions. An excellent afternoon tea was served, after the service; footage of our 300th Anniversary film was shown; and four of our members (Susan Holt, Susan Mitchell, Roger Mills, and Neville Kenyon) spoke about different important historical periods in the life of our church. Thanks and congratulations are due to the members of the organising committee, who devoted most of last year to planning and executing the December 1st event; they are Susan (Holt), Kate, Betty, Damion, Jean (Maden), and Anne (Mills).

December 8th was the date of our Candlelight Carol Service; the church was well-filled and looked very atmospheric; the choir, Barrie, our organist, and the Bury

Music Service Youth Brass Band supplied high-quality music; the readers performed effectively, and the congregation sang heartily. Mince pies, shortbread, and drinks were served after the service, and a good time was had by all. Our Christingle Service, the following week, involved traditionally-decorated oranges, prepared by Kate, Ade, and a small team; thanks to them. On December 22nd, we discussed the Winter Solstice, and the fact that the days are gradually growing lighter, as time goes on. Christmas Day saw a good-sized congregation assembled; a traditional observance of a significant occasion (even if Hope did decline to leave her presents to come and put Jesus into his crib!) and much-appreciated refreshments; the spirit of Christmas was truly in evidence.

December is always a busy month for ministers; thanks to Kate for all her services, for devising and delivering quality-worship throughout the month, and for greeting everyone with affection and good wishes, on Christmas morning. Thanks, too, to everyone who contributed to a very successful period in church-life.

We must also express our appreciation of Abi, who conducted worship on December 29th; the service which takes place on the Sunday between Christmas and New Year is often a difficult one to prepare; Christmas is over, yet the festive season has not finished. Abi asked us to look back, as well as forward, and to reflect on the direction our lives are taking, especially with reference to our inner lives, in terms of love, faith and hope; if these qualities exist, our lives will be enriched. She pointed out that, when we have expectations in life, it is better to allow courage, rather than fear, to guide us. Abi's journey, during this year, will concentrate on her ministerial-training, which has already begun; we wish her all the best, as she pursues what will almost certainly be a challenging path for her, and look forward to seeing her emerge victorious. Thank you, Abi, for a thoughtfully-considered, excellent service. At this point, we acknowledge all those who have led worship for us, this year, whether church-members or members of other Unitarian congregations; all contributions are appreciated, and we should feel very fortunate to be able to call on people of such talent and commitment.

**Anne Mills**

## OBITUARIES

At the end of 2019, we received sad news about the deaths of two former members.

Carolyn Dearsley (née Pollitt), died on November 25th, following a fall at her home in Turkey; her sister, Melanie Wilson, and Kathryn Jackson, flew out to Turkey, later in the week, to attend Carolyn's funeral. Condolences were sent to Carolyn's family.

Gerald Reid died on December 8th, during an operation to remove his leg; he suffered from diabetes and had already lost one leg. I remember Gerald from school, and Sunday School at Bank Street; at school, he was determined to study Domestic Science, which was usually "only for girls"! Permission was, reluctantly, granted! Later in life, Gerald ran a restaurant with his partner, Patrick; he also became an expert flower-arranger and an eminent national judge in this sphere.

We send sympathies to the families of Carolyn, and Gerald.

### *Anne Mills*

**NEWS FROM RAWTENSTALL** - Rawtenstall's Film Club has resumed, this year; the next film to be shown is "Tomboy", on Friday, February 7th, from 6.45 p.m. On March 6th, the selected film will be "Hidden Figures". These events are free, although donations are welcome; refreshments are served during the evening, and each session lasts for just over 2 hours.

The next Interfaith Service at Rawtenstall will take place on Sunday, March 15th, at 5 p.m. The theme of the service is "Women". All are welcome.

For further information, please see the notices on our board, or consult the Rawtenstall website.

**CONGREGATIONAL AGM** - This year's Congregational AGM will take place on **Sunday, April 5th**, after the service, at approximately 12.30 p.m. It is usual to hold this meeting during March, but that has proved impossible, for 2020. Church Council settled on March 22nd, but later realised that it was Mothering Sunday then; key-people are unable to attend on the Sundays before and after the 22nd, and the treasurers cannot have their figures prepared and audited until a later stage in the month. It was felt that the later, more convenient, date should be chosen.

\*During last year, we have spent a great deal of time discussing how Church Council might be restructured; our decision must be ratified by the Congregational AGM, so we hope for a good attendance. The new Church Council will consist of The Minister, the 5 Church Officers, and one representative from each of the three sub-committees; the representatives will serve for one year, and they will be appointed at sub-committee level; the church-officers will be elected, as usual, and nomination-sheets will appear, in due course; the Chairman of Trustees may attend Council-Meetings, as an ex officio member, and will be sent copies of all the minutes. Meetings will be held quarterly, rather than every other month. The new system, we hope, will be more manageable, lighter on manpower, and more workable than the previous one; please support it.

\*Anne Mills has decided not to stand as Church Secretary, in April 2020, because of her rôle as GA President, which will run from April 2020 to April 2021. This means that we will be looking for nominations from other quarters; please consider volunteering for this key-position; further information is available from Anne, Betty, or Kate.

### *Anne Mills*

\*Please note that Sunday, April 5th is also the date of Ainsworth's Anniversary Service, which will begin at 3 p.m. All are welcome.

**VICE-PRESIDENTIAL DUTIES** - On November 17th, I conducted the service at Flowergate Chapel, Whitby, where Roger and I were made very welcome; at the

end of the service, we celebrated the Golden Wedding Anniversary of two of their members, with afternoon tea---a lovely touch. Flowergate Chapel is truly a hidden gem; it is not visible from the street, but tucked away behind a dull green, wooden gate, and its exterior notice-board is obscured by a street-lamp. This is a great pity, as the chapel is delightful---simple, and tranquil, with some beautiful stained-glass windows. We were able to try out a newly-prepared audio-tour, which took us round the town (not without mishap!) and gave much information about Francis Haydn Williams, a former Minister, and something of a revolutionary; see the Flowergate website for further details!

December brought many services at Bury; on December 1st, at our 300th Anniversary Service, I welcomed visitors to our church, as well as conveying the greetings of those who had been unable to attend. At our Carol Service, I sang with the choir, and also presented thoughts on how we might approach the Christmas-season. I attended services at Bury, on the 15th, 22nd, 25th, and 29th of December, and went to Padiham's Candlelight Carol Service, on the 15th---an excellent service, enhanced by the trees of their Christmas Tree Festival. An event of a rather different kind took me to Atherton, on Saturday, December 21st, when I attended the memorial service for the Pretoria Pit Disaster there. This occurred in 1910, with a new memorial-stone being erected 100 years later; the memorial-stone is inscribed with all 344 names of the miners who died when an explosion occurred, and the tremendous loss of life is commemorated annually; wreaths are laid, and the National Union of Mineworkers' banner pays silent tribute, too. Rev. Lynne Readett is the first Unitarian Minister to be asked to conduct the service of remembrance, which I felt was worthy of support---and very moving I found it.

January began busily, with two services to attend on the 5th: Brenda Catherall conducted her last service at Chowbent before she retired, and I was privileged to be able to present the greetings of the GA, to congratulate her on a highly-successful 30-year ministry, and to wish her a long and happy retirement; the day was also Brenda's 64th birthday, so she had much to celebrate. In the afternoon, I attended the service at Rawtenstall, when a triptych, specially-commissioned by the Lancashire Collaborative Ministry, was unveiled; each painting, by local artist, Joyce Wicks, had been inspired by scenes from the chapel-windows, and they

were superb. Ade read a piece in which he argued that the hymn, "Jerusalem", was the perfect hymn for Unitarians, as it questioned everything and urged everyone to fight for freedom and right. Kate and Marian sang with Roundelay, whose music filled the chapel wonderfully---altogether, a different but inspiring service. On January 12th, I conducted my first service of 2020, at Bank Street, Bolton, where I received the warm welcome I have become accustomed to receiving there; they are always a most appreciative congregation.

\*The incoming GA Vice-President, who will serve from April, 2020, for a year, is Rev. Sue Woolley, who ministers to The Midland District; I have sent our congratulations; she will do an excellent job, I know!

**CHARITY-MATTERS** - At last year's Congregational AGM, it was agreed that we should stop supporting Liberty, on the grounds that the organisation had become overly-political. It was further suggested that we should, instead, support an environmentally-friendly organisation, and Church Council was asked to deal with the matter. This has proved somewhat more complicated than expected; however, we now seem to have reached a decision: that we should support The Woodland Trust, by taking out a subscription to pay £25.00 per annum (the same amount as we paid to Liberty); and that, from the profit raised at this month's Quiz, we should send 25% to Médecins Sans Frontières and 25% to Hope for Justice; the remaining money will be used to support church-funds. A short article about each of the three charities appears, for your information. **Anne Mills**

**THE WOODLAND TRUST**- was founded in 1972 with the stated aims:

To plant woods and trees to combat climate change and create a green future for the UK, and to create havens for wildlife

To bring ancient woods to life.

To protect woods and trees from decimation and lead the fight against pests and diseases.

To care for existing woods and work to influence government to secure them stronger protection.

To use research to underpin their conservation work.

They undertake new projects and work with other partners to achieve the stated aims.

Local woods listed on their website include: Starling Wood, Redisher Wood, Hercules Farm Birtle, Chesham Woods, Georges Wood, Ainsworth, Hollins Vale and Prestolee Woods.

The Trust is based in Grantham and membership fee is £48 annually with a quarterly printed magazine and an online newsletter.

**HOPE FOR JUSTICE** - came to my attention (Abi) after the deaths of the 39 Vietnamese nationals late last year. These people were either being smuggled as migrants or had been caught up in human trafficking. Either way someone, somewhere was exploiting their vulnerability for their own gains. They preyed on the victims' hope of a better life, a hope that was wiped out by the self-interest of all involved in this act of people-smuggling. However, this is only one story; there are many that go unnoticed.

Hope for Justice is a non-profit-making organisation that is privately funded, supported by a small number of trusts and through church partnerships. It is founded on Christian principles although not exclusively religious; it does however hope that its work and the good that comes of it speak of the love of God.

The organisation works in the many areas of people-trafficking; areas in which people are traded as cheap labour, for prostitution, domestic servitude, profit and for organ harvesting. All of which are abhorrent in a society where individual worth, equality of human life and respect for all are what we seek.

Through education, Hope for Justice are working towards the prevention of human trafficking. They also work with countries to change policies as an aid to prevention. For victims of people trafficking HFJ have professionals who facilitate their rescue and are able to support them in recovering from the trauma of their experiences.

The organisation is active in the UK (with headquarters in Manchester) and across the US, Cambodia, Norway, Ethiopia and Uganda.

**MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES** – Doctors who, for no payment, willingly give up holidays and free time to travel, at their own expense, to any country where medical help is needed and made necessary by war or plague such as Ebola. They go where others are afraid to go and were the first to help in Yemen before the public even knew of the atrocities happening there.

People in need, of any nationality, colour or religion are treated without prejudice of any kind. The costs of this amount to 1% of income. For example, £1 spent in advertising brings in £7 of donations. Donations are never requested unless funds are at rock-bottom. Please help these wonderful, selfless professionals and through them the poor and helpless of so many other countries. *Pam Oxley*

**ROCHDALE FILM NIGHT** - The next film to be shown at Rochdale Unitarian Chapel will be the 2019 version of "The Lion King". This will be held on Saturday, February 8th, 2020; the start-time is 7p.m. prompt, and the suggested donation for the evening is £7.00; the profits will be donated to Sightsavers Trachoma. As usual, ice-cream will be served during the interval, and a Pie and Peas Supper, complete with home-made cakes and beverages, at the end of the evening. If you

wish to attend, you **must** book your place in advance, stating whether you prefer meat and potato pie or cheese and onion. EITHER ring on 01706 649015, or email [Rochdaleunitarian@outlook.com](mailto:Rochdaleunitarian@outlook.com)

**PROPERTY MANAGER** You will have read, in the November, 2019, Calendar, that we are seeking a Property Manager, who will help our two Property Stewards (Roger and Peter) to maintain and run our premises. We have had an applicant, who is enthusiastic and eager to embark on his duties: Adrian Brady (Ade). With the agreement of the Trustees and Church Council, Ade has been appointed, with immediate effect; we thank him for his offer and wish him well in his new post. It will take time to establish all Ade's duties; these are currently under discussion. Please be patient; if you have queries, or tasks to be done, speak to Ade, or to Roger (but **not** to Kate!) Thank you.

**COMMUNIONS:** - The February communion service will take place after the main service on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Everyone is, as always, welcome.

**SECOND-SUNDAY LUNCH, 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY** - Following a successful first session, you are very welcome to join Kate for lunch, a coffee, or a drink at the Art Picture after the service on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February.

The seating area and toilets in the pub are downstairs, and there is parking just outside.

**FOODBANK** - Following a break during December and January, normal Foodbank collections have now started again. Sister Joan was overwhelmed with offerings just before Christmas, but tells me the shelves will be empty again by February, so an extra effort would be wonderful.

Please also bear in mind that if you know of anyone who would benefit from a bag of food, Kate can get one to them, and can do it anonymously if necessary:

sometimes you may think the Foodbank box has been depleted, and this is because she's taken a bag to someone who needs it!

**CHILDREN'S PRIZES:** - At the prize-giving service on January 19<sup>th</sup>, our young people were awarded prizes for: always being willing to help with the younger children; becoming an adult member of the congregation and becoming more involved in church life; patience and kindness to the younger children, and contributions to the Junior Church; being a great conversationalist and enthusiastic in church and Junior Church; for always being willing to be involved in Junior Church, and being willing to try new things; and for developing very important personal skills.

They were presented with their prizes by Anne Mills, in her capacity as Vice-President of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, who said this: *We present you with your prizes to congratulate you on coming to Sunday School and for being part of the classes, and the services, when you're here; and we also thank you for being part of this church and its congregation--- for letting us get to know you, and watching you grow up, and for contributing to the events and life of this church.*

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**CHILDREN'S BOOKS AND ACTIVITIES** - The children's book-swap cabinet has been moved back into the lounge, where it will live until December. If there is no Junior Church and you take your child out of the service, please bear in mind there is a variety of pens and paper in the bottom drawer, which is for the children's use. There is also scrap paper in the children's corner.

If there is anything else we can do to make it clear that we value your child's presence at church, please let us know!

**BURY PRIDE, 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL:** - Bury will be celebrating LGBTQI pride on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April, and the worship committee have agreed that the church will host a Pride service in the afternoon of that day. Further details will follow.

**FRIDAYS AT CHURCH** - Kate is normally in church on Fridays between around 10 and around 4.30, and you're welcome to pop in for any reason – maybe a chat with Kate, or to use the worship area for quiet contemplation, or just for a sit down and a cup of tea: the kettle is always on!

Our flower team are normally in between about 1 and 2.30, and that's normally a busy and sociable hour and a half – you're welcome to watch the flower magic happen, or maybe learn a floristry trick or two!

**CRAFT GET-TOGETHERS: COMING SOON!** - Starting on the first Saturday in May, Sue McMullen, June Clarke, and Kate Brady McKenna will be hosting 'craft get-togethers' in the lounge after the coffee morning. More details to follow, but pencil the date in your diaries!

**CHRISTMAS CARDS** - The congregation received the following Christmas cards in December: to all at the church, from Kevin; to the book club and the photo club, from Bridget; to all at Bury Unitarian Church, from the congregation at Ainsworth Unitarian Chapel; to my friends at Bury Unitarian Church, wishing you all the best in 2020, love, Jean Taylor; to everyone at Bank St Church, from Jean Brookhouse; to everyone at Bury, with love, John and Beryl; to all at Bury Unitarian Church, from Marc and Phil; to all at Bury Unitarian Church, from Stephen Ramsay, with thanks; to Mr and Mrs Fitzpatrick and all at the Unitarian Church, Rose Dipnall; to all, with love, Pam; from Dorothy and Roy Pryce; to everybody at Bury Unitarian Church, love Babs and Bryan; wishing you all a blessed season, with our love, from Abi and Geoff.

For Christmas 2020, we are encouraging members to send one card to the congregation as a whole (the greetings will be read out in church). We will, of course, make sure that anyone who isn't able to attend regularly knows that we all send our love and greetings.

**FILING CABINETS** - We have been given some filing cabinets, which now live in the upstairs hall. If you have church paperwork at home and think it would be more appropriately stored at church, please let Kate or Betty know.

**CHURCH RECORDS**- Kate and Ade have been working on transcribing the church baptism records so that they are permanently available in text form. If you fancy spending an hour or so helping with this at any time, please let Kate know. It's a very pleasant way to spend some time, and it takes two to do it properly (one to read, one to type). We're still working on the late 1870s, so the work won't run out any time soon!

**EMAIL LISTS:** - You probably know there are two email lists at church: one is for general news (which is used mainly for news of our community, or for updates in-between services, and is used fairly rarely), and one is for the weekly church notices (which is sent out on Sunday afternoons)

If you're on one and would rather not be, or not on one and would like to be, please let Kate know.

**BOOK CLUB** - Please wait for a pulpit announcement about the meeting in February. The lounge has been reserved by another organisation on our usual evening. Apologies.

**Dear all,**

Although this is the first minister's letter of 2020, it seems a bit late to wish you all a happy new year: I do, though!

I think we can safely say we had a busy and active December: as well as the usual life of the church continuing to rumble along in its joyful way, we had two very important services: on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December we celebrated our 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and on the 8<sup>th</sup> we had our carol service. Both were well attended happy occasions, where we showed ourselves at our best to our many visitors. And as always, when I say we showed ourselves at our best, I don't mean the building (splendid though it is): I mean we maintained our reputation as a friendly, happy, loving, welcoming community.

I write this on the afternoon following our children's prizegiving service: a service in which we celebrated the people they are, and the people they're growing into. Anne Mills also pointed out that one of the purposes of the prizes is to thank them for their contributions to church life, and for letting us see them grow and develop.

It's not just the children who should be celebrated for that: we all contribute to the life of the church, whether we attend once in a blue moon, or every single Sunday, and by being a part of the community we all let each other see us grow and develop (because we never stop growing and developing!), and that openness is a gift. Almost without noticing it, we watch each other's lives unfold, and we're there to witness to it, to join in each other's joys, and to hold on to each other in our sadnesses. I always think perhaps the most important part of our services is the notices, when we hear not only about events, but about each other's lives. It's where we talk about our life as a community.

And our life as a community is a rich one. No church would survive on Sunday services alone: and our life is enriched by our regular events (Saturday morning coffee, camera club, the book club, the Women's League, and all the many other groups we have) and by our special events. The Social and Fundraising committee have already made plans for several exciting events this year, starting with the ever-popular Quiz Night later this month. We also have several musical events throughout the year, and more than enough opportunities to eat cake and drink tea!

These things are not incidental. They are the life-blood of the congregation. They're the times where we get together and when we really get to know each other. They're also times when we welcome our more regular guests – those people who are a full part of our community even though they seldom or never come to services. Our community spreads far beyond our membership list, and there are many people for whom our church is important. We should be proud of that.

As we near the end of the first month of the year, and almost exactly a month since the shortest day, we can already clearly see the days getting slightly longer. We probably still have a cold snap to come, but we can see our way through that, and by the next time I write we will be heading to the equinox. It happens every year, without fail, and just as we celebrate our life as a church, we can celebrate the eternal cycle of the year.

I wish you a 2020 in which joy overrides sadness.

With love,  
Kate.

# GRAND QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY, 22<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY

7.15pm for start at 7.30pm

TICKETS £8 from Susan Mitchell

(01204 880484)

**Cheese & Onion, or Meat & Potato Pie & Peas -  
Please indicate preference when buying tickets.**

**BYO drinks and nibbles if you wish - glasses are  
provided.**

**Proceeds from the QUIZ will be divided as follows:**

**Bury Unitarian Church 50%**

**Medecins Sans Frontieres 25%**

**Hope for Justice 25%**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

At the Quiz Night - all welcome. There will be questions to suit everyone. Come on your own and a place will be reserved for you or bring your own team 4-6 people. See you soon!!!

## **GIVE AND TAKE: SATURDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH AND SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

From 10am on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> March until around 1.30pm on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> March we will be holding a 'give and take' stall in the upstairs hall.

It will work like a bring and buy sale, but there will be no charge for the items: it is about finding homes for unwanted things, and about sustainability.

It will be a good way to find new homes for unwanted Christmas gifts, toiletries, homeware, and good quality clothes. What you don't want might be just what someone else is looking for!

We won't be accepting anything which won't fit into a normal bin bag, although you can bring as many items as you wish.

Anything which hasn't been re-homed by Sunday afternoon will go to charity.