

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH



....."The snowdrop, in purest white arrae,
first rears her headde on Candlemas daie"
(19th Century Old English Floral Calendar)

February 2023

Letter from the Minister

Dear All,

It feels like it's been a long time since the last edition of the *Calendar*, and I think we're probably all more or less up to speed with writing the year as 2023 instead of 2022: I don't know about the rest of you but January certainly seems to have been exceptionally slow this year – and as I write there's still a week to go.

But I'm already seeing signs of spring, and although I do love the darker half of the year, it's always a joy to start seeing buds appearing on the trees up at our former burial ground at Holebottom – it gives me confidence that although the ground is currently alternately deep with mud or hard with frost, the year is already working its magic and progressing through the seasons as it always has and always will. And the light is definitely coming back already: we're closing the curtains later and later and by the middle of February (Valentine's day, in fact) it will be possible, according to East Anglian farming tradition, to have our tea in the light.

This year, young though it still is, has already thrown a variety of experiences towards us, some for us to rejoice in, and some bringing sadness and pain in their wake. Let us pray that we are able to bear the harder gifts, and fully experience those for which we're more grateful: and let us have faith and find peace in the knowledge that whatever we encounter, we encounter it in beloved community, surrounded by our companions from church as well as elsewhere.

As we move more deeply into this year, I hope that we can continue to build on the things which bring us nourishment, strength and happiness, and that we can work together on increasing those things in each other and in the world.

As ever, I send you my love,

Kate.

News of our community

Brenda and Robin Ainsworth

Many of you will know that Robin and Brenda's son, Robert, died at his home in Yorkshire in January. We send our love and prayers to Robin, Brenda, and their family as they come to terms with this loss: Robin is still unwell and in Killelea, so this is a very painful time for the family.

Alan Price

Marian would like to thank everyone for their kind words and emotional support during a traumatic time, following her husband, Alan's, sudden death.

They have been, and continue to be, a great comfort.

We hold all of these people, and those who love 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.

Worship and spiritual practices:

Lectio Divina Session

Our ministry student, Hannah, is planning a Lectio Divina session for Saturday 18th February – time to be arranged. Lectio Divina is a spiritual practice involving close reading and prayerful reflection on a given text: Hannah will explain much more nearer the time, but please consider marking some time out in your diary. Spaces will be limited.

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).

We hope to resume Sunday Zoom services on the second Sunday and possibly the fourth Sunday of each month: there will be a Zoom on Sunday 12th February, and possibly on Sunday 26th: watch this space.

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 5th February: 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

We will be pausing the midweek meditations until March – please speak to Kate for more details about how and when they'll resume.

Social Events

Book Club

The Book Club will meet on **Wednesday 22nd February** at 2.00pm in the coffee lounge. The book to be discussed is: *Spies of the Balkans* by Alan Furst. It should be available from the cupboard in the lounge on and after 22nd Feb.

All are welcome, come along and meet the friendly group, no need to have read the book. Tea, coffee, biscuits available and you can bring lunch if needed. Remember that parking at church is only available for special accessibility. If you consult the church website you will find a list of the books we have read during the past thirteen years.

Camera Club

The Camera Club normally meets on Zoom 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 February are **Monday 13th and Monday 27th**.

If you'd like to know more about Camera Club, or if you need the Zoom log in details, please speak to either Janet Thatcher or Ade Brady (and if you're not sure who they are, please ask someone to point them out to you!

Closure of 100 club

We have decided not to continue with the '100 club': if you paid for a membership of the club (we think the last time people would have paid is early 2020, before the pandemic) you are, of course, very welcome to have that year's membership refunded: please speak to Janet Thatcher to arrange this. Any funds left after all requested refunds have been made will go into general church funds.

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.

The next gathering will be on **Saturday 25th February.**

Second Sunday lunches

Kate goes to a local pub for her lunch on the second Sunday of most months, and would love you to join her: we normally go to the Robert Peel opposite the parish church, but she is very open to other suggestions!

You can join us for a coffee, a drink, or your lunch. Everyone pays their own way, but **please don't let financial difficulties stop you from joining us:** have a quiet word with Kate and we will sort something out.

This month's lunch will be on Sunday 12th February.

March Calendar

The deadline for entries for the March edition of the Calendar will be teatime on Tuesday 21st February, and we'll collate it at the Saturday Social Gathering on Saturday 25th.

Stewards for Sunday services, February and March 2023

Sunday 5 th February	Betty Kenyon Neville Kenyon
Sunday 12 th February	Susan Holt Susan Mitchell
Sunday 19 th February	Barbara Bamford Jean Brookhouse
Sunday 26 th February	Howard Maden Jean Maden
Sunday 5 th March	Ewen Sim Janine Hurley
Sunday 12 th March	Beryl Bowden Marian Price
Sunday 19 th March	Norah Hickton Peter Whewell
Sunday 26 th March	Betty Kenyon Neville Kenyon

Tea and coffee rota, February 2023

Sunday 5 th February	Jean Maden and Howard Maden
Sunday 12 th February	Pam Gilbert and Lois Williams
Sunday 19 th February	Marian Price and Susan Holt
Sunday 26 th February	Norah Hickton and Peter Whewell.

If you would like to be included on the rota either for stewarding or for setting up and serving tea and coffee after services, please ask Kate to put you in touch with the relevant people: if you'd prefer not to be on the rota but can offer to help out on occasional Sundays, that would also be very gratefully received!

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, February 2023

I don't have any planned leave or conferences this month.

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.

I try to honour Thursday as a Sabbath, and to avoid work commitments of any sort on that day: Ade also tries not to work on Thursdays. I also try to take alternate Wednesdays as days off, but those are more flexible. Of course, if there's an absolute emergency I want you to contact me even on a day off!

News from around the district and the denomination

Annual Meetings 2023

A time to be together, reconnecting with spiritual friends and making new connections for the journey ahead: registration is now open!

We are delighted to announce that the 2023 Annual Meetings of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches will be held at Staverton Park Hotel and Golf Club in Northamptonshire on 4-6 April 2023.

We are looking forward to returning to Staverton Park, having previously held our Annual Meetings there in 2018. Staverton Park is in the Northamptonshire countryside near Daventry, and offers fresh air, natural light and a relaxed atmosphere. The excellent conference facilities are complemented by a golf course and spa. As well as parking being available at the venue for those travelling by car, we will be providing shuttle-bus transport from nearby Northampton train station for those travelling by public transport.

The GA have also sent round details of the youth programme for the GA meetings: please let Kate know if you're interested in this.

The Inquirer

The oldest nonconformist newspaper - launched in 1842.

It is published fortnightly and contains many lively articles relevant to Unitarians and beyond.

Annual Subscription prices: UK: - Individual £46, Church £37 per copy. Please let me know if you wish to receive the Inquirer.

To subscribe, please let me have a cheque payable to Bury Unitarian Church and you will start receiving your personal copy every fortnight.

Betty Kenyon

By-Gone Times no. 32 by Betty Kenyon: February 2023

From The History of the Presbyterian Chapel, Bank Street, Bury 1719

author Rev E.D. Priestley Evans

Rev John Hughes born 1747 in Shrewsbury, minister at Daventry 1765-1769; Horwich 1769-177; Bury 1770-1803. Ordained in 1773

He was baptised by Rev. Job Orton. He was benefactor and life long friend of John Hughes.



This would have been John Hughes' chapel. This first chapel was often termed the "little yellow chapel", because the inside walls were coloured buff or light yellow.



Our bell was cast in 1777 for the first chapel which was built in 1719.

John Hughes married Bridget Fenner in March 1775.

Rev. Orton sent a letter to John saying that he was pleased to hear that his wife was of good temper, character and circumstances.

He goes on to give the following advice: 'your scheme of keeping a female boarding school, may answer very well if your wife has health and spirits to manage that, together with the natural and expected cares of a family.' He goes on to say that John should not become involved with the management of the school. He could instruct the young ladies in reading, English language, geography and other useful subjects.

Furthermore: Dress and live as plainly as possible, consistent with decency and a regard to your ministerial character. When your friends come to see you, entertain them cheerfully, but in the most cheap and prudent manner imaginable. I think it should be a rule with you not to treat any of them with foreign wine, content yourself with home manufacture.

A minister's wife should dress rather below than above her rank, thus she will secure respect. What time she can spare from her scholars, let her devote to domestic business, a little reading and a good deal of walking for her health.

Be sure to never run into debt, pay weekly as you go, keep an exact account of every penny you expend.

He finishes by saying that the writing paper John has used is monstrously expensive. 'If you don't buy goods at a better hand, when you become the head of a large family you will soon become bankrupt.'

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 we sang in 2022:

During 2022, Kate estimates that we sang 216 hymns (an average of four in every Sunday service, plus several extra at the Carols by Candlelight service).

In the services Kate led, we sang:

Seventy-four hymns once each.

Thirty hymns twice each.

Five hymns three times each

And one hymn* four times.

We sang nine new hymns for the first time, with mixed reviews.

There are still over ninety hymns in the purple book which we've never used.

Kate hopes you know that you are always welcome to request a hymn on a particular Sunday, and that she'll do her best to make it happen (providing she has a week or so as notice!).

**What shall we say to them?*

Regular Events (all subject to change)

Sundays:

11.15am Worship in person at Bury

First Sunday of each month:

10.30am Worship in person at Ainsworth

12.30pm Inclusive Communion Service at Bury

Second Sunday of each month:

12.30 (approx.) Second Sunday Lunch. Please join Kate at a local pub for lunch, a coffee, or a drink. We'll all be buying our own (if you would like to come and the cost would be a problem please have a quiet word with Kate).

Second and fourth Sundays of each month:

2pm Zoom worship (Zoom link: 849 7456 6116)

Second and fourth Mondays of each month:

7pm Camera club (normally online)

Second Tuesday of each month (not taking place in February)

7pm Online midweek meditation session

Last Wednesday of each month:

2pm Book club

Most Fridays:

10am til 3pm (approx.) Minister's Vestry Day:

Last Saturday of each month:

11am-1pm (approx.) Saturday Social Gathering

What's on: February 2023

Friday 3rd February

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 5th February

11.15am, Bury: Service in church, led by Hannah Stephenson.

12.30pm, Bury: Inclusive Communion Service.

10.30am, Ainsworth: Service led by Rev Helen Mills

Tuesday 7th February:

7pm: Church council meeting

Friday 10th February

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 12th February

10.15am Bury: Service in church, led by Rev Kate McKenna

12.30pm: Second Sunday lunch, probably at the Robert Peel pub.

2pm: Zoom service

Monday 13th February

7pm: Camera club, on Zoom

Friday 17th February

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 18th February:

Time to be arranged: Lectio Divina session, led by Hannah Stephenson.

Sunday 19th February:

11.15am Bury:

Service in church led by Hannah Stephenson

Tuesday 21st February:

Teatime: deadline for items for the March *Calendar*.

Wednesday 22nd February:

Book club meeting in church to discuss *Spies of the Balkans* by Alan Furst

Friday 24th February

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 25th February:

11am onwards: Saturday social gathering, during which we'll be collating the March *Calendar*: you're welcome whether you want to join in with that or just socialise.

Sunday 26th February:

11.15am Bury:

Service in church, led by Rev Kate McKenna

Monday 27th February:

7pm: Camera club, on Zoom

Church information

Minister:

Rev. Kate Brady McKenna

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revkatemckenna@gmail.com

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

Church phone: 0161 761 3785

Website: 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



We think this is a Chaffinch; what do you think?



A very small part of a substantial and quite magnificent mural in Town Meadow Park, Tottington, in memory of a Victoria Cross recipient in the First World War.



George Stanley Peachment - aged 18.



This church-window commemorates Henry Wood, who emigrated to New Jersey, in the 17th Century, when he was nearly 80; he had been persecuted because he was a Quaker. He helped to found the town of Woodbury - a combination of his family-name and the town from which he originated. St. Anne's, Tottington, is now linked with the episcopalian church, in Woodbury, and, in 2006, a Tottington builder, Melvyn Magnall sailed the Atlantic, to reconstruct Henry's earlier voyage.