

Bury Unitarian Church



Waiting Patiently!

July 2021

Letter from the Minister

Dear all,

I'm writing this two days after the Summer Solstice: we have made it to and past the longest day and the shortest night, but we still have a few weeks of nice long evenings to come, and some hot days are promised. Officially, of course, we've only just entered summer, although to me this always feels like the best and most summery bit.

Things are still very uncertain out there in the world. We thought that by now all the restrictions might have been lifted, and they haven't. We thought all the travel restrictions were going to be over, and they're not. We are still unable to do a lot of the things we want to do, at church, and it's getting more and more exhausting.

I am very glad that we are able to meet to worship in person, even with the restrictions, but we can't pretend the services are as we would want them to be. I think that what we all miss the most is singing together, and I can barely wait for the moment when we can. But the truth is that not only the government but (more importantly) the science is clear that we shouldn't be singing just yet. I know that in Wales they're soon going to lift that restriction, and we'll be watching to see how that works out.

We're still continuing to hold our Zoom services as well, and I know that a lot of people really appreciate the chance to get together from their own homes. If you haven't tried a Zoom service yet, you're very welcome to!

As we move forward, we may start to video the services-in-person so that people who have the internet can watch from home, but this will be as well as, rather than instead of, the Zoom service in the afternoon.

I know that the lockdowns have been horrible overall, but I do think there are things we've learnt from them, both as individuals and as a community.

There are certainly things I hope remain after the infection rates tumble. For one thing, I won't be getting rid of my face-masks any time soon!

It does feel sometimes as though we haven't made any progress at all, but we honestly have. If we think back to last March, or even to this time last year, things were very, very different. There have been good steps forward: we can see our friends now, not only in our gardens but also in the house (this has had the effect in my house, at least, that we've had to work out how to tidy up all over again!). We can still travel, if only within limitations: I know that some of you have been able to get a way for a few days, or even just go to see family for a day, and that this has helped enormously.

Last night – the night after the Summer Solstice – some of us were able to gather in person at Holebottom to celebrate the height of summer and to enjoy the space outdoors. Because we were outside, we could meet without masks, and it was lovely to see each other's faces properly.

Things are progressing. We are moving forwards. It is still going to be longer than we want it to be, but because of the sacrifices we've made and the difficulties we've accepted; and because we've all managed to stick to the ever-changing rules; and, of course, because we have the sheer good luck to live in a place where the vaccine roll-out has been astonishingly quick and efficient, I am sure that we are approaching a time when the virus will not be gone altogether, but when we'll have all learned to live with its presence in the background.

We've done really well so far, we honestly have. And the time will come when we can sit together, in the same room, with cups of tea, and talk about this time as a piece of history. In the meantime, let's stay together in all the ways that we can, and let's continue to be our beloved community.

As always, I send you my love

Rev Kate Brady McKenna.

Presidential matters

June 6th saw us at Kendal, where I had been asked to offer Greetings from the General Assembly to the congregation there. Over the years, we have attended a large number of services at Kendal, so we know many of the members, and are known to them; Margaret Pollard's cousin, Helen, is one of them, and we enjoyed renewing our acquaintance with her. Kendal are now offering hybrid services; some of the members attend in person, whilst others sign in on zoom, so all preferences are catered for. Rev. Amanda Reynolds, Kendal's Minister, conducted an excellent service, about St. Columba, an Irish abbot, who is credited with spreading Christianity in Scotland, and with founding the abbey on Iona. Mandy included several personal memories in her service, which was profoundly moving, at times, and those of us who had visited Iona, and remembered it as a truly "thin place" were reminded of our own experiences, too. Afterwards, those present enjoyed chatting together, outside, in the sunshine, in Kendal's Memorial Garden, which is now nearly finished and looking very attractive. Our trip to Cumbria enabled us to mix business with pleasure, and we spent the rest of our time in Arnside, Silverdale, and Grange-over-Sands---areas we know and like. It seemed strange to be back in the "real world" of hand-sanitising and face-masks, all the time, and I remain unconvinced that I am ready yet for this; I prefer to remain private, for some of the time, at least, until the Indian variant figures start to fall; we still have some way to go, I fear.

Nevertheless, we are off on our business and pleasure travels again, soon, as I have been invited to take services for Blackpool Unitarians, on June 20th, and at Ansdell, on June 27th. Blackpool requested the Flower Celebration service, which I composed, two years ago, so work on that was fairly easily completed; Ansdell's service still needs attention, as the address I wrote, when I thought I would be with them at the end of March, 2020, is far too out-of-date to be of use; I had been asked to speak about my experiences as the GA Vice-President, but the piece needs updating; as it

stands, it belongs to a former life and age. The intervening fifteen months have brought incredible changes, which we would never have suspected when we began. On June 13th, I was invited to read the story at Padiham's service; this turned out to be rather more complicated than it sounds, as the piece was much longer than usual---a good five minutes, in fact---but it is an amazing piece, called "Together", written by Marianne Laidlaw, with illustrations by Luke Adam Hawker, which retells the story of our covid experiences; there is a video-clip of the illustrations online.

I was asked if I would write a regular column for The Inquirer, over the next year, and I have just completed this month's article and sent it off. Because of our holiday, everything is having to be done early, and quickly, which explains a lack of detail in some of the announcements in the July Calendar notices. I shall be sorry to miss the celebration of the Summer Solstice, which Kate is planning to hold, on June 22nd, at Holebottom; I hope, though, that as many people as possible will be able to attend this pleasant, different event, and make it the success it deserves to be.

Thanks are due to Kate and Ade, once more, for all their hard work, in difficult circumstances; we must beware not to overload them with our expectations of what they are able to do, in any given time-period. Please make every effort to help and support them, whenever possible. Thank you, too, to Betty Kenyon for leading worship, on June 13th; although I wasn't able to be present, I read and enjoyed her service at home; Betty, your efforts are also very much appreciated. Roger and I send our best wishes to everyone at Bury and hope to see you all at some stage, during July. In the meantime, be gentle with yourselves, and patient; we will be back in the world of the "new normal" before very much longer, I sincerely hope. Take care of yourselves!

Anne Mills

Notes from the church building

Tiny little steps. Sometimes, if you wish to move forward at all, you need to take tiny little steps.

I've been taking my own of late, slowly moving through the building and making some much needed repairs. A lot of these fixes involve patching and filling the walls, many of which have suffered from inevitable but entirely reversible water damage over the years. I've said before that I find this kind of work meditative, and I suspect I'll be found meditating in the building many a time over the coming months. This isn't a bad thing of course, I'm still moving forward after all.

I must admit that I do not really want to take tiny little steps with this process, I'd much rather take leaps and bounds. I'd like to be able to have every crack opened and brick reset, every hole filled and the resultant repairs repainted straight away. But that isn't the way the world works, the real world has constraints and we all need to work within them. Sometimes a tiny little step forward is all we can take.

It's not as if I need to take leaps and bounds either, the walls are not coming down, the building is not falling apart, and no-one's health is going to be at risk if all I take is tiny little steps. We are safe, we are secure and I can take my time making the space a much better one for all of us to enjoy.

Even though it's easy to assume that tiny little steps are sometimes not enough, they are. Sometimes those steps are all we have to keep us moving forward.

Ade Brady

News of the congregation

This month, Lois, Leah and Zilpha will be remembering their parents

Frederick and Eileen BOWDEN

who passed away on 3rd July 2007 and 31st July 2005 respectively.

Lois says: Dad came from a Unitarian family and attended church for many years.

We send our love to Lois, Leah, and Zilpha.

I know that we hold in our prayers and our thoughts all of those who are mourning or remembering loved ones now, and that we celebrate with those who are experiencing joy.

If there is an anniversary or other date you would like acknowledged in the *Calendar*, please let Janet Thatcher or Kate know.

Last month's services:



Bury Unitarian Church
'Disturb us, O Lord'
Zoom worship
Sunday 6th June, 2pm

Meeting ID: 849 7456 6116

If you would like to join us, we would love to see you: everyone is welcome, no matter what.



Bury Unitarian Church
'Not knowing'
Zoom worship
Sunday 20th June, 2pm

Meeting ID: 849 7456 6116

If you would like to join us, we would love to see you: everyone is welcome, no matter what.



Solstice Celebration
(outdoors)
7pm, Tuesday June 22nd 2021

You are welcome to bring drinks and snacks: after a meditative ritual we can eat and drink together.

Holebottom Cemetery, off Rochdale Old Road, Bury, Lancs (please contact us for directions) .

The site is uneven: please bring sensible shoes,

If you would like to join us, we would love to see you: everyone is welcome, no matter what.

Bury Unitarian Church

'Heal like the Trees'

Zoom worship
Sunday 27th June, 2pm

Meeting ID:
849 7456 6116

If you would like to join us, we would love to see you: everyone is welcome, no matter what.



Betty Kenyon led the service on Sunday 13th June, and I am very grateful to her for what I hear was an excellent service.

Readers

If you are willing to give a reading either on Zoom or at a service-in-person (we have made sure that the pulpit is as Covid-safe as possible for readers, and only one person will use the pulpit on any given Sunday), please let Kate know.

The minister's schedule

I generally try to take Thursday as my day off, and sometimes Wednesday as well. This does change when necessary, and of course *if there's an emergency*, I'm available even on days off.

Some weeks I don't manage a day off, so occasionally I'll take an extra one here or there!

I am generally in the vestry between at least 10am and 3pm on Fridays, and if you'd like to pop in for a chat you are very welcome. I do sometimes pop out to run errands, so it's wise to call first!

During June I took part in an online version of MOSA, the Ministerial Old Students' Association gathering, which is normally held at Harris Manchester College Oxford. The event is in part a college reunion, and is also the occasion on which students who have just finished their training are welcomed into the ministry of religion. It also focusses on spiritual and professional development, training, and support between colleagues.

It was a very nourishing and enjoyable day-and-a-half, and as always it was surprising how effective online conferences can be. We do all hope to be able to meet in person again next year, though!

During July I have one period of time away: I will be on retreat from Wednesday 7th to Friday 9th July. As I'll be on retreat, I won't be contactable during this time.

What's on pages (to pull out and keep!)

Bury Unitarian Church
Zoom worship

Every Sunday at 2pm

Meeting ID: 849 7456 6116

Please join us for a service of words, music, prayer, and silence. The service lasts around forty minutes, and then we gather for conversation.

If you would like to join us, we would love to see you: everyone is welcome, no matter what.

Worship in July 2021

We meet to worship in church on Sunday mornings at 11.15 and there is no need to book in advance.

If we are ever too full, someone may be asked to listen to the service from the lounge, or to miss that one service: we'll try not to have that happen!

If you want to make sure there's a seat for you (it might be a particularly important week for you, or you might have further to travel, or you might use the bus), just let Kate know.

We meet to worship on Zoom on Sunday afternoons at 2pm, and some of us stay for a chat afterwards

The Zoom services will continue to run even as we open more fully.

Log in details are the same for every service: Meeting ID: 849 7456 6116
Phone numbers: 0203 901 7895; 0131 460 1196; 0203 051 2874; 0203 481 5237; 0203 481 5240

Midweek meditations.

We meet online for meditation most Tuesdays at 7pm. You are very welcome to join us, whether you have ever been to a meditation or not. Even if meditation is not something you feel called to, you may value the chance to sit in quietness and away from distractions for a while. The meditation sessions are for everyone to use as they will. Meditation is not something you can get wrong.

Log in details are the same every week: Meeting ID: 812 3292 6975

Zoom communion

There will be an online communion service at 3pm on Sunday 25th July. Log in details are the same as for the main Zoom service.

What's On, July 2021

- Sat 3rd July:** 11am: Coffee morning. (Zoom 839 0159 23)
- Sun 4th July:** 11.15am: Service in church.
2pm: Zoom service. (Zoom 849 7456 6116)
- Tues 6th July:** 7pm: Meditation (Zoom 812 3292 6975)
- Sat 10th July:** 11am: Coffee morning. (Zoom 839 0159 23)
- Sun 11th July:** 11.15am: Service in church.
2pm: Zoom service. (Zoom 849 7456 6116)
- Mon 12th July:** 7pm: Camera club (see article)
- Tues 13th July:** 7pm: Meditation (Zoom 812 3292 6975)
- Sat 17th July:** 11am: Coffee morning. (Zoom 839 0159 23)
- Sun 18th July:** 11.15am: Service in church.
2pm: Zoom service. (Zoom 849 7456 6116)
- Tues 20th July:** 7pm: Meditation (Zoom 812 3292 6975)
Teatime: deadline for items for the *July Calendar*.
- Sat 24th July:** 11am: Coffee morning. (Zoom 839 0159 23)
- Sun 25th July:** 11.15am: Service in church.
2pm: Zoom service. (Zoom 849 7456 6116)
3pm: Communion service. (Zoom 849 7456 6116)
- Mon 26th July:** 7pm: Camera club (see article)
- Tues 27th July:** 7pm: Meditation (Zoom 812 3292 6975)
- Weds 28th July:** Book club. Please keep an eye on notices for details.
- Sat 31st July:** 11am: Coffee morning. (Zoom 839 0159 23)

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

Chair of congregation: Anne Mills 0161 762 0943

5, Arley Avenue,

Bury, BL9 5HD

Church secretary: Vacant

Church treasurer: Roger Mills 0161 762 0943

Charity reg no: 1078570

Book club

Our July meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 28th, at 7 p.m. At present, we do not know whether this will be in person, or by zoom, or which book we will be reading and discussing; these decisions will have to be left in abeyance, for now, but details will be circulated, once this is possible. For further details, contact Anne Mills, nearer the time.

Camera Club.

The provisional dates for Camera Club this month are Monday 12th and Monday 26th July. Please keep an eye on notices and emails for confirmation of those dates, and ask Roger, Janet, or Ade for log-in details.

Zoom Coffee Mornings

We continue to meet on Saturday mornings at 11am for a chat and a catch-up. There is now a password (coffee) to enter the Zoom room, which means that if there's ever a week where no one is around to host, the meeting can still go ahead.

Church Filing Cabinets

We now have three 4-drawer filing-cabinets which are available for the storage of church-related documents. They are situated in the loft which can be accessed through the door in the upstairs room and up a short flight of stairs. If you want to file any church-documents it would be best to ask for Ade's assistance. He will be able to allocate adequate space and make sure you know how to use it.

Congregational Collections

Before we were shut-down for Covid reasons and we all met regularly in church, we donated generously to support our church financially at our services. Many things have happened since, and one unfortunate consequence has been a reduction in our church income, although our expenditure continues. Another looming problem is that our bank will shortly be making it more difficult to pay in cash. Please try to pay by cheque, if you possibly can. Could I suggest, also, that you consider making your regular collection by means of a bank transfer, or standing-order, into the church account.

Please let me know if you need any help in arranging this.

The sort code and Account Numbers of our CAF account are:

40-52-40 00060114

Thank you!

Roger Mills

Finance and General Purposes Committee - An invitation

If you are interested in how the church is run, perhaps you would consider joining the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

We deal with a variety of matters, from repairs and alterations to the building to the supply of soap and hand towels in the loos and also deal with income generating lettings and car parking. It is important that we can consult a range of opinions about these matters.

If you would be interested in joining the committee and contributing to its work, please have a word with Janet Thatcher.

News from around the denomination.

News from Ainsworth

Ainsworth's next service was due to be held on July 4th, at 3pm; this has had to be cancelled, and there will not be a service at all at Ainsworth, on July 4th. The 306th Chapel Anniversary Service, to be conducted by Joyce Ashworth, the National Women's League President, will now take place on Sunday, August 1st, at 3 p.m. All are welcome on that date.

Anne Mills.

North West Provincial Assembly AGM

I attended the above event, on June 15th; the turnout was rather low, unfortunately, but, as I had suspected, there are changes afoot for this organisation; they are considering asking Unitarian College to take over the running of various courses, which raises the question of what other work of theirs the college might do, and what the function of the NWPA would be, in the future. Those present at the meeting are to be sent proposals, within the next fortnight, so that they may inform and consult their congregations. Next month, I will report on the AGM, and provide details of proposals.

Anne Mills.

GA Weekend.

Last month, the President's message for GA Weekend was printed in our calendar; as yet, no further details about payments have been received, but everybody will have them as soon as they are available. Please consider making a donation; it will go towards the Ministry Students' Fund---a very worthwhile cause. It is possible to donate, via The Unitarians website, if you wish to do so; alternatively, if you would prefer to pay by cheque, I am willing to collect any that come in and send them (with mine) to Essex Hall, in due course.

Anne.

Women's League gathering cancellation

Hello Everyone

You will be disappointed to learn, as am I, that the Nightingale Centre has had to cancel our WL event booked for 28/29 June on account of the lifting of Covid restrictions being postponed. The Centre simply doesn't have the space to satisfy the social distancing requirements needed.

As the next alternative dates the Centre can offer us are not until the end of August, WL Central Committee have taken the following decisions:

1. To go ahead on Monday, 28 June at 2 pm with the AGM via zoom so that this long overdue meeting can take place. Invitations to join the zoom meeting will be sent out in due course.
2. The discussion regarding Future of the Women's League to become a one-day event, say 11.30 am to 4.00 pm, at a central location on a date to be decided once Covid restrictions are fully lifted.

Try and keep your eye on the WL website (just google Unitarian Women's League). A notice re this cancellation and future arrangements will be uploaded there shortly and will be kept up-to-date. Please also do your best to spread the news amongst your branch/district members who perhaps don't use the internet.

Rather than posting back cheques to everyone who registered for Hucklow, I will shortly shred all the cheques I received. If you wish for your cheque to be returned please let me know in the next day or so and I will do that.

Very many thanks to you all for your understanding. I was so looking forward to us all meeting together, but some other time I am sure.

Very best wishes

Joyce Ashworth, President.

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.

(We make these anyway, so it's easy to get them to you: just let Kate know).

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.

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.

By-Gone Times (number 13), by Betty Kenyon

Thomas Wrigley, 27th June 1808 – 26th January 1880.

Thomas Wrigley (27 June 1808 – 26 January 1880) was a paper manufacturer, cotton mill owner, art collector and philanthropist from [Bury, Lancashire](#), England. He was a justice of the peace. He was made [High Sheriff of Lancashire](#) in 1872.

In 1846 he inherited Bridge Hall Paper Mills. He was largely responsible for making Bury one of the greatest paper-making centres in the world. For the first twenty years as owner, much of the mills' output was newsprint for The Times and The Guardian. He was a pioneer for the prevention of black smoke from mill chimneys.

He was instrumental in bringing the railway to Bury.

The East Lancashire Railway Company, opened in 1846, connected Bury through Manchester to the national network. Today the East Lancashire Heritage Railway is still situated at the original site just behind the church.

Thomas Wrigley was married to Hannah Grundy, eldest daughter of Edmund Grundy. Thomas and Hannah had four sons and three daughters.

He was a [Liberal](#) in his political views and favoured [free trade](#). His interest in education of the people was intense, he advocated the prohibiting the employment of children.

Thomas Wrigley was an ardent [Unitarian](#), and attended our Bury Bank Street Chapel.

At his death in 1880, he left his paper mills, cotton mill and over £1.1 million (approximately £66m in today's money), his home of Timberhurst and a holiday house at [Windermere](#). He was buried in the Bank Street Chapel yard.

In 1897, his family donated his collection of paintings, porcelain and other artworks to a [purpose-built art gallery](#) for the people of Bury. (Thomas's son Oswald laid the foundation stone for the new Art Gallery and Public Library in 1899.)

He left £5,000 to our chapel with inflation this is approx.: £650,000 today.

It was recorded in the Unitarian Herald of 1882 that, the large north window of stained glass, in memory of Thomas Wrigley, was unveiled in Bank Street Chapel.



Foodbank

Thank you for your continued support of the Foodbank: I know that they really appreciate our offerings. Susan continues to take our donations up there once a month, and Kate goes at odd times during the month.

The need remains high, so your offerings (of food or money) are very much appreciated.

Thanks from the minister:

Last month I asked if anyone had any spare jam jars, and several people were extremely generous: thank you to them!

Calendar deadline

The deadline for entries for the **August** edition of the Calendar is Tuesday 27th July, at around teatime: it will be available in church on Sunday 1st August.

Everyone will now have their own named copy of the Calendar, so that we can make sure everyone gets a copy, so from now on, if you're not in church on the relevant Sunday I will either pop one in the post or deliver it over the following few days (or ask someone who lives near you to do so).

If you are free at around lunchtime on Friday 30th July and would like to help collate the Calendars, please let Kate know.



No! - It's mine



Summer has come