## BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH



Steam powered gondola on Coniston

**July 2022** 

#### Letter from the Minister

Dear all,

I'm not sure how I'm writing for the July Calendar, when in my mind it still feels like early May, but I know we all share that feeling! Summer does seem to be approaching rather sluggishly this year, and we're having a lot of cool and overcast days, but I'm always very grateful that we live somewhere temperate and the extremes of weather don't affect us too hugely: we are very fortunate.

I am now, I think, more or less fully recovered from Covid, so stand by for me asking to pop round for cups of tea from next week onwards. You really have all been very patient whilst I've been ill and recovering, but I hope and pray that Covid has now fully departed from my system. Any remaining coughs and sniffles are, I promise, hay fever.

Life, including church life, is still subject to shifts and changes: several events last month were changed or cancelled, and the things that happened in their stead were good and rich. I particularly enjoyed the impromptu picnic in the church lounge, which took the place of the picnic at Holebottom, and I'd love to see more of those happening.

I'm sure you'll have noticed that the *Calendar* has been a bit smaller in the last couple of months, compared to the bumper editions we were creating between us during lockdown: I hope that, like me, you can see this as a positive thing. When we weren't able to meet in person, there was much more need for a chunky newsletter, and now that we're nearly back to "normal", much more of our communication is in person. That said, I know that many people reading this don't attend services, or don't attend services in person, so I hope that I continue to receive submissions for future editions and that it still remains lively and interesting.

I hope our summers are full of joy and love, and that we can take a moment to be grateful for our many blessings.

As ever, I send you my love

Rev Kate Brady McKenna

#### Worship:

#### **Sunday Services**

We continue to meet on Sundays at 11.15am to worship together (the service lasts around an hour and is followed by refreshments and conversation) and on the second and fourth Sunday of each month we also meet on Zoom at 2pm (the service lasts around half an hour, and you are welcome to stay for a chat afterwards).

Zoom services will take place on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, July 10<sup>th</sup>, and July 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Inclusive Communion Services**

We normally meet for communion at 12.30 on the first Sunday of every month, and everyone is very welcome to this short, inclusive communion, in which we share grape juice, bread, and community.

The next communion services will be on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August.

#### Monthly midweek online meditations

We normally meet for meditation on Zoom on the second Tuesday of each month, now at 7pm

We will meet on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July. Zoom details are in the centre pages.

#### **News of our Community**

#### **Stephen Ramsay**

Stephen continues to make good progress, despite a few problems with his walking, which have now been overcome. He had hoped to join us, on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, and to play for us then, but, because of Bolton's Ironman event, when many Bolton roads will be closed, he will not be able to reach us. Instead, he hopes to return to Bury, in August, and to play for us, on the 7<sup>th</sup>. We send him our very best wishes and will look forward to seeing him back with us again soon.

Anne Mills.

#### **Bill Grimke-Drayton**

Many of you will have got to know Bill over the last few months: he has been attending services regularly, and we've been delighted to hear him play the piano before and, on at least one occasion, during services. We've also really valued him as a reader, and as a committed member of our community.

Bill will be leaving Bury in early July, to move to Blackpool where he hopes to be joined soon by his husband Kim.

I know that you will join me in wishing Bill every blessing on this next move in his life – I know that we will continue to see him occasionally.

#### **Social Events**

#### **Book Club**

We managed to get together for a meeting in the lounge at church after a few postponements during the last three months. We had a shorter gathering than usual (no refreshments), due to roadwork complications around Bury Bridge. However we had a good discussion on *The Remains of the Day* by Kazuo Ishiguro which most folk had found interesting. Some of us are now keen to see the film which starred Emma Thompson and Anthony Hopkins.

Our next gathering will be on Wednesday, 27th July at 7pm at church and we will be having nibbles, etc. The book we will be discussing is *Five Little Pigs* by Agatha Christie. All are welcome, no need to have read the book.

#### Camera Club

The Camera Club normally meets on Zoom and in person at church 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 July meetings will be on July 11<sup>th</sup> and July 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Bury Unitarian Church Saturday social gatherings (in person)

Please join us on the following Saturdays between about 11am and about 1pm.

Saturday 25th June Saturday 30th July Saturday 27th August

the kettle will be on; there will be biscuits, and there will be good company. Parking is available, and free.

Why not bring your knitting, your lunch, your book,or a project you're working on? And bring your friends. And maybe some cake . . .
You can also help us collate the next month's Church Calendar.

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

#### Second Sunday lunches: an experimental change!

As you probably know, I've been hoping to reinstate the Second Sunday Lunches which we used to hold before Covid. I still am, and this month I'll be going to the Robert Peel opposite the parish church, after the service on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July. I hope some of you will join me.

It was so lovely having a picnic in church in mid-June, that I think we should try having some of the Second Sunday Lunches that way: it's easier, saves a walk and, and this is particularly important now everyone's having to cut back, cheaper and therefore more accessible to people.

So the Second Sunday Lunches in August and September will be picnics.

Let me know what you think!

#### **Lammas Picnic**

# A deliberately non-organised Lammastide Picnic

Holebottom Burial Ground, off Rochdale Road, Bury

12.30ish, Sunday July 30th

Bring your own picnic (and maybe a couple of spare sandwiches in case anyone wants to join us at the last minute). Picnic chairs would be helpful, and you're welcome to bring games and well-behaved dogs.

If you need a lift, let Kate know.

The Midsummer Picnic, which had been planned to be at Holebottom, actually took place in the church lounge, because it was a very wet day, and it was really enjoyable, although the scenery wasn't as good. We'll try again on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July, and everyone is very welcome.

#### **Zoom coffee mornings**

Zoom coffee mornings will resume from July, as promised! I'm planning for them to take place on the first and third Saturdays of each month, and I'll open the room around 11am.

It may be that there is no longer a need or desire for these coffee mornings: please don't feel any obligation to turn up unless you actively fancy a chat. I'll continue running them at least until the end of the year, and we'll see how things go.

July coffee mornings will be on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### Workshops

You'll have seen that there hasn't been much success in getting a series of workshops off the ground: either people haven't fancied the topic or they've fancied the topic but the timing hasn't worked for them.

I feel as though people would like to take part, and I'm certainly keen to run some, but I do need to know what time would work for people: if you're interested in workshops (and you only have to fancy one or two), please let me know what times would be good for you: it'd be good to know what days and whether you prefer morning, afternoon, or evening.

There is a sheet on the board in the lounge, or you can drop me an email.

Please let me know: I will keep nagging! I'm hoping we can start in September.

#### **Bury United Reformed Church**

I have had some discussions with our URC colleagues, about an exchange of services, this summer, and we have agreed that we will not go ahead, formally, this July. However, the URC congregation has invited members from Bury Unitarians to visit them, at any time, as they wish, and as is convenient for them; Sunday services are held, every week, at 11 a.m. I have assured the URC that their members will be equally welcome, at Bury. We all hope that our usual exchange will be back in place, in 2023.

Anne.

#### Notes from the building: Making Things

Humans make things, making; or doing; is one of the things that actually define us as beings, and we are very, very good at it. We've been making things since the dawn of human history, from the very first controlled fire, to pigments with which to paint stone. From beginnings such as these, we have marched ever onwards in our making things, making ever more complex things for our ever more complex needs and desires.

But why do we make things? I know many in the church, like our minister, make their own jams, marmalades and cordials, and not only does this have practical benefits but Kate has described it to me as a spiritual practice, something that can bring comfort, and joy and a genuine felt sense of accomplishment when everything goes as it should. Making something that can feed others, is probably the most obviously spiritual thing you can do. From a spiritual perspective making things can be extremely worthwhile.

When it comes to working at the church, I must admit, I don't often start from a spiritual mindset. I instead measure a number of practical things before I start to make anything for the building. This usually begins with an assessment of time, how long will the job take? Do we need it done now, or can it wait? If I add my time to the cost of the materials, would we benefit from hiring a contractor? It's all mundane and rational stuff really, but even though I struggle to find anything spiritual in these actions, it's obviously still worthwhile.

Very recently, the fascia for the building's letterbox came away and we needed to replace it, which is a shame because actually, the old fascia used to be quite beautiful and I choose that word quite purposefully.

Our building is beautiful. Almost all of it is bespoke, and like a finely tailored suit, it is impossible not to notice that our building is specifically and wonderfully crafted for us to worship in. It is, in itself, a unique spiritual place. Even the letterbox was handmade, built to expectations that belong only to us, and now, the poor worn out fascia has been built again, in exactly this fashion.

Was it a spiritual process though? No. Not always, it was a process, largely of necessity, but the moment in which I realised that the old, broken fascia

wasn't an original part of the church? That was a spiritual moment. When I realised that someone, many years before me but likely years after the church was built, hand made that fascia in the same exacting and loving fashion as I was constructing the new one? That was a spiritual moment. When I became aware that someone who I might not even know, and maybe never met, went through this process before me, possibly someone facing the same difficulties with the bespoke construction of the church building that I was? That was a spiritual moment.



It didn't make the process less mundane, or more worthy, it's simply a letterbox and it always will be; even our postman doesn't care that I have repaired and rebuilt it; and really, now that the job is done, neither should you. But the fact that it has been done before, and I can't tell you who did it, is a beautiful fact indeed. It means that throughout its life our building has been lovingly tended, by many people, many people who have sewn themselves into the fabric of the finely tailored suit that is our building. It also means that the people who come to our church in the future, need never know who did what, they will simply see that our unique spiritual place has obviously, always been loved and tended with due care and respect, and that is as it should be, because even if the spirituality is not always evident in the making, it can be found in the made.

#### **Regular Events**

**Saturdays:** 

11am Zoom coffee morning (Kate will only be at the

coffee mornings on the first and third Saturdays)

Last Saturday of each month (subject to change):

11-1 Saturday Social Gathering

**Sundays:** 

11.15am Worship in person at Bury

2pm Zoom worship from Bury (except first Sundays)

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 either for a

picnic in the lounge or at the Robert Peel pub

(please provide your own food!)

**Second and fourth Mondays** 

7pm Camera club (online and in person)

**Second Tuesday of each month:** 

7pm Online midweek meditation session

**Last Wednesday of each month:** 

7pm: Book club

**Most Fridays:** 

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

What's on: July 2022

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July** 11am: Zoom coffee morning room open (Zoom 839

0159 0623)

#### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

11.15am, Bury: Service in church 12.30pm, Communion

2pm, Zoom service (Zoom 849 7456 6116)

Please note that this month's Ainsworth service will take place on 10<sup>th</sup> July).

(Wednesday 6th to Friday 8th July

Kate will be on retreat).

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July No vestry day today

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July 11.45am Rochdale: Summer lunch. Please contact

Helen Illingworth for details.

#### Sunday 10th July

10.30am Ainsworth: Service led by Rev Helen Mills.

11.15am Bury: Service in church

12.30 (approx.): Second Sunday lunch, at the Robert Peel pub.

2pm: Zoom service (Zoom 849 7456 6116)

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July** 7pm: Camera club, in person and on Zoom

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July** 7pm: Zoom meditation (Zoom ID 812 3292 6975)

**Friday 15**<sup>th</sup> **July** Minister's vestry day

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July 11am: Zoom coffee morning room open (Zoom 839

0159 0623)

#### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July

11.15am Bury: Service in church

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July Minister's vestry day

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July** 

11.15am Bury: Service in church

2pm: Zoom service (Zoom 849 7456 6116)

**Mon 25**<sup>th</sup> **July** 7pm: Camera club, in person and on Zoom

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July** Teatime: deadline for entries for the June Calendar.

**Wed 27<sup>th</sup> July:** 7pm: book club, meeting to discuss *Five Little Pigs*,

by Agatha Christie. All welcome.

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July: Minister's Vestry Day

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July: 11am – 1pm (Approx) Saturday Social Gathering,

and Calendar collation.

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July:** 

11.15am Bury: Service in church

12.30pm (approx.), Holebottom: Lammastide picnic

(in church lounge if wet)

#### **Church information**

Minister: Rev. Kate Brady McKenna

0161 460 3363 / 07751 240886

revkatemckenna@gmail.com

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

Church phone: 0161 761 3785

Website: <u>www.bury-unitarian-church.org.uk</u>

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 (pro tem): Roger Mills 0161 762 0943

#### Contact for room bookings and building maintenance

Property Manager Adrian Brady 07736 107143

Charity reg no: 107857

#### The Minister's schedule, July 2022

I will be away for a couple of days in early July: I'll be on retreat in Worcestershire from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> to Friday 8<sup>th</sup>, and I'll only be contactable in an emergency. These retreats (which I normally attend twice a year but which have been a bit less since Covid) are important for spiritual and professional development, and I'm happy to tell you more about them over coffee!

My 'official' day off in the week is Thursday, and I try very hard to avoid work commitments of any sort on that day: Ade also tries not to work on Thursday. I sometimes also take Wednesdays off, but I'm a bit more flexible about that. Of course, if there's an emergency I want you to contact me!

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.

Parking can be a little tricky on Fridays but we always manage!

#### August Calendar.

The deadline for articles for the August Calendar will be teatime on Tuesday July 26th, and I will be editing it later that week. It's always helpful if items are a bit early! I'll be collating it during the Saturday Social Gathering on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>, and it should be ready on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>.

Large print copies of the Calendar are available either to pick up in church or by post: please let Kate know if larger print (or a different typeface or different coloured paper) would be easier for you and we'll make it happen.

#### A message from Ainsworth Chapel

**Dear Members and Friends** 

Thank you to everyone who attended our Queen's Platinum Jubilee service on 5<sup>th</sup> June, led by Mrs Anne Mills.

After the service, Anne proposed a loyal toast to The Queen and we stood for the National Anthem. Anne then planted a 'Royal White' rose bush in the Chapel flower bed as a lasting remembrance of the occasion.

'Thank you' also to Barry for his careful choice of appropriate music for the occasion and to Joanne for her Jubilee cakes.

A reminder that our next service is NOT on the usual first Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July. The Bolton Ironman event has been re-routed through the village this year, and we will be effectively cut off for most of the day.

Our next service will be <u>10.30 am Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July</u>, when we look forward to welcoming Rev Helen Mills to take our service: hope to see you then.

I hope that you are all manging to get out and enjoy this lovely warm weather.

Shirley Horrocks



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

#### **Alwyn Charlton**

Jim Sheffield, the Chair of the Congregation at Bolton Walmsley, has recently contacted me to let me know that one of their long-standing members, Alwyn Charlton, passed away on Monday, June 20th. Alwyn was a very valued member of the Walmsley congregation; despite his frailty, he still attended Chapel, until a few months ago. He served the Chapel as a trustee, and as a past chairman of trustees, and was always very active in Walmsley life; he will be greatly missed. Alwyn was a member of the NELUM finance committee for many years and will be remembered by many of our NELUM Chapels. Reverend Tony McNeile, who has fond memories of Alwyn, has agreed to officiate at his funeral, once the details are known. Alwyn had expressed his wish to be cremated, and to have his ashes interred in the Chapel Garden of Remembrance. I have offered condolences, on behalf of Bury Unitarians.

Anne Mills

#### **Lunch at Rochdale**

Rochdale Unitarians have invited us to their Summer Lunch, which is to be held on Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, at 11.45 a.m. Tickets cost £10.00 and are available from Joyce Ashworth or Helen Illingworth; for further details, see the notice on the notice-board.

Anne.

#### **David Dawson Musical**

On Sunday, 14th August, at 5pm, the Unitarian Music Society is presenting the world première of "Oliver's Journey Home", a musical with libretto by Nick Morrice and music by the late David Dawson. This was due to have been performed at the Nightingale Centre in 2020, but the pandemic and David's untimely death intervened. This public performance will be a belated tribute to David and will take place at the Clarke Foley Centre in his home town of Ilkley, with many members of his family present, local friends, and members of his orchestra taking part. Contact Nick Morrice on 01904 765424 for tickets; these cost £10.00 each. A poster, with full details, is on the lounge notice-board.

### By Gone Times No. 26 by Betty Kenyon: Institutions of the Chapel and Sunday School in 1719

Here are some of the institutions from 1719 in the time of Thomas Braddock, then later on John Hughes and William Allard, some of which existed until fairly recently. They were not in existence all at the same time.

Amateur Operatic Society
Benevolent Society
Botanical Rambling Club
Boys Brigade
Cycling club
Dorcas Society
Drum and Fife Band
Essay and Discussion Class
Female Sick Society
Football and Cricket clubs, Indoor bowls, Badminton, Table Tennis
Girls' Physical Culture Class
Natural History Society
Religious Improvement Class
Temperance Society

A bit more information about some of the above.

The Religious Improvement Class met at 8.30am in the library.

The Cross Causeway Club
The Tract Society

- A stove was erected there so that the clothing of the scholars on wet Sundays could be dried.
- Some of the meetings took place in The Library; so, it must have been a fair-sized room.

We still have Discussions

I can remember dramas and pantomimes being produced until quite recently.



Pantomime of 1950? G Howells, G O Kenyon, F Moore

Our church building is still in the same place as in 1719! What about transport to get there in 1719? Shanks pony?

Does anyone know what the following societies were about?

Female Sick Society

The Tract Society

The Cross Causeway Club

#### From "the Old Codger".

A fool's bolt is soon shot.

A liar should have a good memory.

Begin well and end better, Every man knows where his own shoe pinches.

Glass first brought to England A D 60's

Use wealth generously, Govern wealth discreetly.

There are none so wicked as represented None are so good as they should be.

Night is not dark to the good. Nor is Day bright to the Wicked.

Bustle is not INDUSTRY, Nor is impudence COURAGE.

Never open the door to a little VICE Lest a great should enter also.

Knowledge makes HUMBLE IGNORANCE makes PROUD.

KNOWLEGE talks LOWLY IGNORANCE talks LOUD.

#### 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.

Just let Kate know if you would like any printed material in a different format.

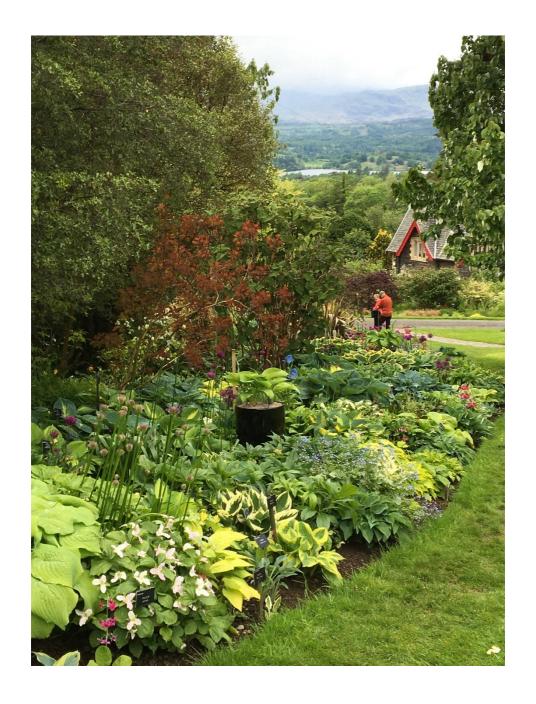
Kate Brady McKenna

#### **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 a wheelchair available for use at church events and for short-term loan to members of our community. We are fidget friendly and are working on becoming as neuro-divergence aware as we can be.

But we'd really like to know what we're missing: is there something which would make you feel more welcome, or make you feel more comfortable when you get here?

Please let us know, and we will do our very best.



Holehird Garden – Windermere



Bourton-on-the-Water – The Cotswolds





