

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR JULY & AUGUST 2016



REVS. BERYL & JOHN ALLERTON - WHO BETWEEN THEM HAVE SERVED BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH AS MINISTERS FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS.
Photo by George Scaife

We wish them many years of happy retirement.

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CHURCH SERVICES

3 July	11.00am	WE VISIT BURY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
10 July	11.15am	Bury United Reformed Church join us. Rev. Tony McNeile from Bolton There will be coffee afterwards as usual. Abi's lunch.
17 July	11.15am	Connie Diggle from Bolton
24 July	11.15am	Seminar Group
31 July	11.15am	Rev. Tony McNeile
7 August	11.15a	Rev. John Allerton
14 August	11.15am	Sue Pounder from Oldham
21 August	11.15am	Dawn Buckle from Dukinfield
28 August	11.15am	Sarah Simpson-Bostock from St Annes-on-Sea

CHURCH STEWARDS - JULY

10 July	Jean Brookhouse & Susan Mitchell
17 July	Margaret & John Fitzpatrick

24 July Betty Kenyon & John Allerton
 31 July Marian Price & Di Scaife

CHURCH STEWARDS – AUGUST

7 August Beryl Bowden & Janet Thatcher
 14 August Marc Peters & Sue McMullen
 21 August Alf Howson & Roger Mills
 28 August Barbara Bamford & Alan Hodgetts

If you are not available on your given date please change with another steward(s). Thank you.

CHURCH FLOWERS

10 July In memory of Jean & Tom Jackson
 17 July Connie Diggle
 24 July Lois, Leah & Zilpha – In memory of Fred & Eileen Bowden
 31 July Janet Thatcher – In memory of Minnie Sharp
 7 August Val Chamberlain & Jean – In memory of J & M Hargreaves
 14 August In memory of Irene Rogers
 21 August Beryl & John Allerton
 28 August Dorothy Haughton – In memory of Marion & Bernard

Haughton

Distributors: as available

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

2 July Margaret Fitzpatrick & Norah Hickton
 9 July Marc Peters & Philip Peters
 16 July Rene Hollos & Alison Hollos
 23 July Betty Kenyon & Molly Ratcliffe
 30 July Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard
 6 August June Clarke, Marc Peters & Philip Peters
 13 August Brenda Ainsworth & Jean Taylor
 20 August Margaret Fitzpatrick & Norah Hickton
 27 August Marc Peters & Philip Peters

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

10 July Norah Hickton(M), Peter Whewell, John Allerton
 17 July Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Lois Williams, Di Scaife
 24 July Marian Price(M), Jean Taylor, Susan Mitchell
 31 July Pam Gilbert(M), Di & George Scaife
 7 August Anne Mills(M), Beryl Bowden, Rene Hollos
 14 August Norah Hickton(M), Peter Whewell, John Allerton
 21 August Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Di Scaife, Lois Williams
 28 August Marian Price(M), Susan Mitchell, Jean Taylor

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN JULY

Wednesday 13 July at 7pm Communications & Worship with Young People

Wednesday 27 July at 7pm Finance & General Purposes

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN AUGUST

Monday 8 August at 7pm Church Council

Wednesday 10 August at 7pm Trustees

CALENDAR DEADLINE

All items for the September edition of the Calendar should be with the editor by Sunday 21 August please.

TRAIDCRAFT

The stall will be open on July 10th and 24th, and on August 7th and 21st. If you require goods at other times, please see Anne or Jean.

LUNCHEON CLUB

There will not be a meeting in July---please note. In August, we shall meet on the 16th, at 12.30 p.m; for a Jacob's Join Lunch. Details will appear on the notice-board, nearer the time. New members are always welcome.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP – The next meeting will be in September.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Monday 25 July at 7pm and on Monday 29 August at 7pm. Please watch the notice board or the website for details of the books to be discussed on these occasions. New faces welcome!!!

BEANIES

Remember the Fish and Chip Babies' Vests? Brenda Ainsworth is encouraging us to dust off our knitting-needles and make a start on Beanie-hats for premature babies. There are sample-patterns on the notice-board, for inspection, and copies can be collected from Brenda; Brenda will also send off completed hats; if you have wool that you could donate, she would like that, too. Ideal work to accompany television-viewing or deckchair sunbathing! We managed to knit about 200 vests---can we manage the same number of hats?

PASTORAL CARE

For the time being, Susan Mitchell and Margaret Pollard will oversee any Pastoral Care that needs to be carried out. However, they need help with the actual visiting; if you are able to assist with this by visiting just one person, in your immediate area, approximately once a month, that would make their job much easier. Please volunteer, if you can. Susan and Margaret also need to be kept informed about anyone who is in need of a visit, so please let them know, as soon as possible. Also, we need up-to-date addresses and telephone numbers for everybody; if yours have changed during the past two years, please let Susan know. Thank you.

A BITTERSWEET OCCASION

On Sunday, May 29th, Beryl conducted her last service as our Minister. Owing, no doubt, to Beryl's influence, the weather was superb---a beautiful,

sunny, warm, late spring morning. More than 80 people attended the service, all of whom had come to wish Beryl well, at the end of a highly successful ministry. At Beryl's request, the church had been decorated with several arrangements of white and cream flowers, which provided a beautiful background for this very special occasion.

During the service, Beryl read an extract from a Max Coots' piece about attitudes to time: we cannot hold on to time, or hold it back indefinitely; eventually, a point is reached at which we must let go and move on; the parallel with her decision to retire was clear. John read from Philip Larkin's "Church Going": a church may seem an empty shell, of no real use, containing only echoes of the past---yet it fulfils our spiritual needs and is, therefore, invaluable. Later in the service, in a poignant speech, Beryl thanked John for allowing her to carry out her ministry at Bury; he had encouraged, at every turn, but never interfered; his support had always been of the highest value, and much appreciated.

In her sermon, Beryl reflected on the various aspects of her five and a half years at Bury; she came as our interim minister, for six months---and stayed---and stayed! She said that it had been "an honour and a privilege" to be our minister, and that she had enjoyed every minute of it. She had tried to be both minister and friend to each member of the congregation, and her unique situation, as a long-term member of more than forty years' standing, before she entered the ministry, had stood her in good stead. She felt that she was leaving a healthy, active church, where much to be proud of had been achieved, and she hoped that the congregation would be able to continue the momentum.

Susan presented Beryl with a pair of diamond ear-rings, on behalf of the whole congregation, and these were much admired, after the service. June and the children of the Junior Church gave Beryl a bouquet of flowers, and, later, after lunch, Connie Diggle, on behalf of NELUM, handed over a bottle of wine, a certificate, pronouncing Beryl to be a member of The British Preacher's Association, and a medal for "the best preacher".

Beryl's love of music is well-known, and the service was filled with many excellent examples. The choir sang an introit, "We Stand on Holy Ground",

and, as an anthem, a spiritual, "There's a River"; the congregation's favourite hymn, "Flying Free", was included, and the morning's postlude---a joint effort between organist, Barrie Brailsford, and trumpeter, Laurence Killian, was the rousing Sousa march, "The Liberty Bell". Beryl's final exit was accompanied by a huge round of spontaneous applause, as the entire congregation showed its appreciation of her and her work. We all left the service, our feet tapping and our faces wreathed in smiles. Beryl received a consolatory hug from Roger, as she exited the worship-area, and her emotions threatened to overcome her.

Lunch at The Red Hall provided a fitting end to the day. Anne proposed a toast to wish Beryl a long, happy and successful retirement; she paid tribute to Beryl's energy, enthusiasm, commitment, devotion, and generosity, and thanked her for all she had done for the congregation; we are sorry to lose her---she will be greatly missed and virtually impossible to replace.

JUST A REMINDER

The following are extracts from the service conducted by Anne Mills on June 5th; the first is part of the bidding prayer, and the second is taken from the address, the full text of which appears on our website.

"Remind us that the first duty of a congregation is to congregate. It matters that we come here when we can, not just for what we each may gain, but for what we each may contribute by our presence and participation. Remind us, in our heart of hearts, that, if we want our church to be there for us, then we must be there for our church, and remind us that, if we want its members to be there for us in our need, then we must be there for them in theirs."

What should our formula for success be? It seems to me that there are a few rules we could adopt. We need to co-operate with each other, work together for the good of the church, and be democratic---this church is about all of us, not a few select individuals! It's not your church, or mine---

it's ours! Let's be kind to each other, tolerant of opinions, supportive of each other's work. Above all: let's try not to grumble! Try to resolve the difficulty, rather than muttering under your breath! On the subject of working together, remember that every little helps. We come to church with expectations: that the building will be warm, clean and tidy; that the service will be well-prepared and delivered; that the music and the flowers will be beautiful; that there will be coffee afterwards. But somebody has to organise all this, and take the responsibility---it doesn't happen by magic! That means that all of us must be involved, doing what we can, according to our abilities! Coming regularly to church, sharing worship with others, and offering support and friendship, is one way in which we can all contribute. We have a reputation for being a friendly, welcoming congregation, and I would add that, at our best, we are generous, caring, pleasant and helpful. We should always be at our best---for our own sakes!

The time of change is now; the road forward might be tough, and we may sometimes feel discouraged---be patient! If we give up, or give in to despair, we are lost. We have the potential, not just to maintain our present position, but to improve upon it. That is our collective decision and our choice; there are no guarantees that it will be easy, but let's at least try to achieve what we can. Over the past five and a half years, this congregation has done some excellent work---let's persevere!"

PARKING

Please do not park on Back St. Mary's Place, especially on Sunday mornings.

Church parking-permits are available; if you have not yet collected yours, take one home with you, and make sure that you display your permit, prominently, whenever you use church-parking. This enables us to keep a check on who is parked, at any given time, and, hopefully, will act as a deterrent in preventing others from parking where they are not entitled.

RIVINGTON PILGRIMAGE 2016

There is a notice on the board about Rivington Unitarian Chapel's Triennial Pilgrimage; if you wish to attend, you will need to book by September 2nd. It takes place on Saturday, September 24th, with lunch at 1 p.m. and the service at 3.15 p.m. Bob Janis-Dillon will conduct the service, and Dot Hewerdine will be the guest speaker. See Anne Mills, if you wish to book.

THANKS

A huge vote of thanks to Roger, and John Allerton, for cleaning the stained-glass windows, inside and out; they look much better now! They braved weather, cobwebs and spiders, in order to do this job---the first time it has been done, in more than 40 years! They both say that they won't be doing it again in another 40 years' time!

BURY IN BLOOM

We have been asked to help with this effort by tidying our Church Gardens; judging will take place at the end of July. If you have a spare hour or so, please come along on Saturday, July 23rd, from 10 a.m. to join the working-party then. We have been lent a small number of litter-pickers, which are very exciting to use---first come, first served! At other times, if anyone has a few minutes in which to tidy up, please feel free! Our efforts will attract publicity for the church, as well as improving the appearance of the area

SATURDAY COFFEE

We are still seeking additional volunteers to help on Saturday mornings; please speak to Jean Taylor if you can help. These sessions are very quiet, at present, and members can help by supporting them; why not call in for coffee, cake and chat, whenever you can?

CHRISTMAS DAY AND NEW YEAR'S DAY

These fall on Sundays, this year, and Council has been considering what to do about services; it has been decided to have a short service on each day, so please make a note in your diary. Our organists have been booked, and members of the "Taking the Service" group will, hopefully, be conducting the services, so all we need is a good congregation. Take some time off from slaving over a hot turkey and come and join us in worship and fellowship, during the festive season.

(If you need transport, speak to Susan Mitchell.)

RUBBISH!

We are now separating green waste from other kinds and disposing of it; if you see green rubbish bags, under the stairs, please take them home and put them in your brown bin. You could also help by taking home such items as glass, cans and plastic bottles, and recycling them. If you bring milk for Saturdays or Sundays, please take home any that is left. We have only one all-purpose bin and should be able to do more for the environment!

STRAWBERRY TEA

This will take place on Saturday, July 30th, from 2 p.m. Tickets will cost £6.00, and this will include a glass of Pimms. We need help with refreshments, the raffle, and on the door; we also need offers of cakes, and of raffle-prizes; please sign up on the list on the board if you can help, and come along and join us---the food and the company will be first-class!

CALENDAR BY EMAIL – AS AN ATTACHMENT

If you would like to receive the Calendar each month in this way, please tell the editor – email address on last page of Calendar – thank you.

A PROFILE OF ONE OF OUR MEMBERS

DI SCAIFE

Born into Unitarianism – both parents were lifelong members of Wilton Street Chapel, Denton (now relocated and renamed New Chapel, Denton) so I was christened there.

Met husband, George, at Unitarian Young People's League Drama Festival in Leeds in 1968 and were married at Wilton Street Denton in 1971.

Qualified as nurse (SRN) in 1971 and Occupational Health Nurse Advisor (OHNC) in 1990 and worked for several large companies up to 2001, when I switched careers to become co-owner of a cleaning franchise.

Now live in Whitworth with George, having built our own house – yes, actually built it!

Very tiring but really satisfying. Hence, I enjoy watching house-building and renovating programmes for inspiration.

Came to Bury Unitarian Church about 1977 with the first of two daughters, until work and family interrupted attendance.

On returning to the Church after approximately 30 years, it was like we'd never left – we were made so welcome and were amazed that many people we knew before we left, were still there.

Do Unitarians have staying power?

I am an insufferable pedant when it comes to grammar, punctuation and English language – ask George!! I would have liked to have been a proofreader.

PROFILES - Val Chamberlain is seeking Profiles from members of the congregation – so, be prepared!!

STRAWBERRY TEA

SATURDAY 30 JULY FROM 2PM

A GLASS OF PIMMS, STRAWBERRIES & CREAM, CAKES

£6.00

FIRST CLASS FOOD & COMPANY!!!

SUMMER LUNCH at ABI & GEOFF's

Sunday 10th July at Cop Thorn Farm from 1pm

We would like to invite you all to join us for a summer lunch on the 2nd anniversary of our arriving in Bury.

Please add your names to the list on the notice board by Sunday 19th June, to give us an idea of numbers (I'll have the list with me on Sunday 3rd for later additions or phone on 01204 883380).

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you then
☺ Cop Thorn Farm, Church Street, Walshaw. BL83BP
- single gravel track directly opposite No 49 Church Street. (I can help with lifts!)

SUNDAY, 5TH JUNE

We could have been excused for being slightly apprehensive on attending our first service without a minister on Sunday, 5th June, but any worries were quickly dispelled by Anne who led us in an inspiring hour of worship.

An excellent service covering the difficulties faced in the past by a previous generation and how they were successfully overcome with courage and foresight, and how we too have to pull together now as a congregation and face new challenges with confidence and commitment.

The tone of the service was pitch perfect and the choice of text spot on. I cannot be the only one to have been inspired to face the future with optimism.

Well done, Anne, and thank you. **Marian Price**



Members of THE SEMINAR GROUP who have volunteered to help organise services during the coming weeks.

POEM- READ AT BERYL'S FAREWELL TO MINISTRY SERVICE

BY SUSAN HOLT

Our latest minister's name is Beryl. Cross her at meetings at your peril.

We then had rather a conservative look; so she made us sing from the purple hymn book.

We enjoyed your services very soon; but she doesn't really sing in tune.

Potatoes, onions in the kitchen she peels; to cook us lots of delicious meals.

We even let her bake some cakes; for us to sell at our church fetes.

Designing posters and D.I.Y. There's not a lot she wouldn't try.

Everyone thought she was nice; so we raised her stipend once or twice.

She's put her talents to good use; and with our thanks we are profuse.

But now she's decided to retire; feet up with a glass of wine by the fire.

She really does deserve a rest.

So, thank you Beryl for giving us your best. *Susan Holt*

CHURCH INFORMATION

Church address 1 Bank Street, Bury BL9 0DN

Church telephone 0161 761 3785

Charity Reg. No. 1078570

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

Editor's telephone 01706 822651

Editor's email pam_gilbert66@btinternet.com

Pastoral Care – Susan Mitchell – 01706 823787

Margaret Pollard 01204 888051

Minister (Retired) B. Allerton 07807322449 Text Funerals only

CHURCH OFFICERS

Chair of Trustees Susan Holt 078767 16563

Chair of Church Council Betty Kenyon 01204887222

Chair of Congregation Anne Mills, 5 Arley Avenue, Bury
BL9 5HD 0161 762 0943

Church Secretary Anne Mills

Church Treasurer John Fitzpatrick, 2 Heapy Close, Bury
BL8 2HW 0161 764 6374
