

Bury Unitarian Church



Will we be able to get together again soon?

June 2021

Welcome!

Dear All,

Welcome to the June 2021 edition of the Bury Unitarian Church *Calendar*, and thank you for your patience and putting up with it arriving a week later than normal. Your editor was strolling on a Dorset beach on the days she would have normally been putting it together and printing it, and frankly, she regrets nothing.

As well as many of our regular articles, there is – yet again – information on how the church community is moving forwards in terms of Covid security.

As always, I'm really grateful to everyone who has worked so hard and submitted items for this edition – I love that as well as information about what's going on in church, we now have articles, opinions, and news from all over the denomination.

You will see later on in the *Calendar* that I'm inviting (or asking!) people to come into church for a 'collating party' once a month. With three or four of us folding, collating, stapling and stickering, the job should only take a couple of hours, and we can make sure it's arranged in a Covid-safe way. Once we can start to hold coffee mornings again (and that is still some considerable time off, despite the government's road map) we will be able to do the collating on Saturday mornings, with the added temptation of cake.

If there is anything you'd like to see in the *Calendar*, please don't hesitate to ask for it: and please don't be shy about submitting your own articles and pieces.

As always, any omissions are accidental: if you submitted something and it didn't appear I promise it was an oversight not a deliberate choice.

The deadline for the next edition is teatime on Tuesday 22nd June, so that it can be collated and distributed by the weekend.

Kate Brady McKenna (editor).

Letter from the Minister

Dear all,

I'm writing this on June 1st, the day after the May Day Bank Holiday, and all of a sudden it is too hot to sit outside comfortably. I think we've longed for some sunshine this year, and we've certainly got it now: I hope you're managing to enjoy it.

This is the month of the Summer Solstice, and we have three more weeks of lengthening days and lighter evenings. I love the feeling of long evenings, and I've said it many times before, but the summer evenings are noticeably longer up here in the North West than they are in East Anglia. I do sometimes gloat to my Norfolk friends about that!

I am hoping that, with the improved weather, the increase in the number of us who have been vaccinated, and the improved road up to the Holebottom site, we will be able to mark the Solstice outside this year: you will find more information, and a request for ideas and suggestions, elsewhere in the *Calendar*.

This is also the month in which it seems likely all the government restrictions with regard to Covid safety will be relaxed: unless anything changes, there will be no legal requirements for how we can mingle and what we need to do.

But we still intend, as a church community, to be very cautious. We have been making gradual changes all the time, some of which have been very welcomed and some of which have had to be looked at more than once. As always, the church officers and myself are constantly watching the news and the figures, and we have frequent discussions about what feels safe and sensible.

I see it as being like a speed limit on the roads: there are places where the speed limit is sixty miles an hour, but where no one would dream of driving

that fast because of the twistiness of the road, the limited visibility, and the likelihood of hitting a cyclist, pedestrian, or horse-rider. Whatever the government allows us to do, I promise that we will use that as the very bottom line of how we gather, and that we will still be prioritising safety and confidence.

And I will say again that you should not at any time feel under any pressure to come back to church until you are ready. Whatever decision anyone makes, I know that we, as a community, will respect that decision. If you need to wait several more weeks or months before returning, or if you only want to return occasionally, or if you try it once and find it isn't for you, then everything that we are currently offering as well as Sunday mornings in church (the Zoom service, the midweek meditation, the monthly online communion, and the services-at-home) will continue, and we will do what we can to make sure you can access them.

We – along with the whole country – are entering a time of transition, and although fifteen months ago we would have thought we'd greet this time with nothing but jubilation and excitement, I know that many of us are still anxious about how things will be. I absolutely understand that this is a time where we may feel insecure, anxious, and altogether wary about things. In many ways we have got out of the habit of 'normal' behaviour, and I think it will be some time before we get our old confidence back. However you are reacting to these changes, know that you don't have to pretend to be feeling anything other than how you *are* feeling.

I frequently say in our welcoming words at church that everyone is welcome with everything that they bring, and that is, perhaps, even more the case than ever right now. This is a community for everyone, and that means that we accept you exactly as you are.

As always, I send you my love.

Rev Kate Brady McKenna.

Presidential matters

May began busily---no surprise there! On the 1st, I presented the Greetings from the General Assembly at the Lancashire Collaborative Ministry's Spring Jamboree Service; on the 2nd, I presented the Greetings, at Ainsworth's service, and, on the 9th, again, at Bury. During the first weekend in May, I was surprised and pleased to receive a beautiful bouquet from the GA, in appreciation of the work I had done, as the Vice-President, during the previous year; at Ainsworth, I was formally introduced as the newly-installed President and received a spontaneous round of applause. After that, I settled to serious work, as I had services to prepare: for Rochdale's Anniversary Service, on May 16th, and for Golders Green, on the 23rd; the first was in-person, and the second by zoom. Both went very well; Rochdale were pleased to be reminded of many happy memories, and Golders Green were still discussing my address (on "Change") more than half-an -hour after the service had finished.

I have had three messages to write, along the way, one of which is printed elsewhere in this issue; this is the traditional Presidential message for the GA Weekend, which will take place during June 26th and 27th. At Bury, we do not usually hold a dedicated service, but individuals may wish to send donations in support of the Ministry Students' Fund---an excellent cause. When we receive details of where these should be sent, we will let everybody know. I was also asked to write a message, on behalf of the Peace Fellowship, which will be circulated to its members, asking them to support one of the four Motions passed, at the Annual Meetings: the Global Coronavirus Emergency Appeal---another worthy cause. The third message was one of Greetings to the International Association for Religious Freedom; this was recorded, in advance, and I was grateful to Robert Ince, the IARF President, for his help with the technology.

On May 13th, I met with our Chief Officer, and we discussed what we thought my role for the year might be; apart from visiting as many churches and congregations as possible, either online or in-person, it is to assess what is happening, across the country, to see where help is most needed and how requirements can best be met. May 18th brought my first Executive Committee Meeting; vast amounts of paperwork seem to be required reading, at all times, but I found the session reasonably straightforward to follow, and the necessary business was transacted efficiently; as I am an observer, rather than an elected member, I do not vote, so my powers are somewhat limited. During the rest of the month, I have been working my way through correspondence of all kinds, as a way of keeping in touch with members of our denomination---a task made more difficult when we cannot always meet together. I have an article to write for "The Inquirer", before the end of June, and June also brings commitments at three churches, with some time away factored in; I am looking forward to a break!

Once again, I offer thanks to Kate and Ade for the amount of work both of them carry out, on our behalf; they are always busy, and our church-life would be the poorer, were it not for their efforts and dedication. I hope they are enjoying their short break and will return to us feeling refreshed and renewed.

June sees the summer solstice, and it would be good to be able to sample some weather which is more seasonal---warmer, sunnier, and drier. Let us hope that we shall be luckier than we have been, during May! Roger joins me in sending best wishes to you all; look after yourselves.

Anne Mills

Notes from the church building

Last month I spoke of our beautiful sacred space, the quiet, contemplative field that is a forever Unitarian place, our lovely retired cemetery, Holebottom.

A big part of why Holebottom is such a wonderful place to spend some time is down to the hard work of our groundskeeper, Tony. He is one of the many people who provide services to our properties and it has to be said, he does the job wonderfully.

However beautiful it is though, getting up to Holebottom to see it has for too long been anything but beautiful. The state of the access road that leads us into the cemetery has been a problem that has long vexed everyone who needs to use it. Despite the best efforts of the trustees over many, many years, the job of getting it permanently repaired has been... well, quite aptly perhaps, a bit of a rocky road and it has been high up on the 'to do' list of a lot of people for a very long time.

It's a rocky road no more though, and it's off our 'to do' list too. Holebottom has a new smooth top. The road has been repaired by the company who lease the road from us and it has been properly laid down with a very solid looking asphalt. This has made our special, sacred space a much more accessible area, something that has made those of us who have visited it over the last few weeks, much more comfortable in making the journey up there, and not just more comfortable in the figurative sense.

Not only, as I mentioned last month, is that beautiful space worth going to see, it's now one we can all the more easily make use of now, and this is a very, very good thing indeed.

Ade Brady

News of the congregation

Geoff Stephenson

Most of you will know by now that Geoff Stephenson, beloved husband of Vera for sixty-three years, has died in Burrswood House at the age of ninety-three. Although Geoff was not a member of Bury Unitarian Church, he was well-known to many of the congregation, and will be much missed.

Vera is being very well supported by her loving family, and I know that you will all join me in praying for comfort and strength for Vera and her whole family as they begin to navigate this new and painful stage of their lives.

Pam Oxley

Following Pam's death earlier in the year, we have received a very generous gift of £1,000 from her family in recognition of how important our community was to Pam.

The church officers and myself want to do something special with this gift, and we have already received one excellent suggestion. But we'd be very interested to hear of any other ideas, so if you can think of something special we could use the money for, please let either myself, Anne, Roger, Betty, or Susan know.

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.

Sunday services

We are currently meeting to worship together in person at 11.15am on Sunday mornings, and there is no need to book in advance: if we ever have more people turning up than we can safely accommodate, I know that we will have volunteers to either listen from the lounge or to miss that week's service (and maybe join us for the Zoom in the afternoon).

From Sunday 6th June we will be allowing people to sit where they like, so long as the ribboned-off chairs are left empty.

Eventually we will be able to move the furniture back to how it was pre-Covid, but the church officers and the minister feel that, regardless of what the government says, this will not happen for some time yet. When it *does* happen, we intend to keep some rows available for those people who would prefer to remain socially distanced.

We are still working out how best to incorporate hymns into the services: it is very clear that communal singing is still very risky, and we will not be singing again until the science tells us it is safe enough. In the meantime we are playing recordings of hymns: we have tried various formats for this, and Kate would love to know which have worked best, which have been awful, and – even more particularly – if you have any other ideas for how we can do this!

Zoom

Our Zoom services continue to take place at 2pm every Sunday afternoon, and everyone is very welcome to join us.

If you are willing to give a reading either 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) or on Zoom, please let Kate know.

Midweek meditation sessions

There are some changes to the meditation sessions during June.

There will be no session on Tuesday 8th or Tuesday 15th (unless someone would like to host one).

If the weather allows, the session on Tuesday 22nd will be an in-person solstice gathering at the Holebottom site: we will hold a short ritual with music, candles, and reflection, and everyone is very welcome. The road to the site is much improved, but please note that the site itself can get waterlogged and is bumpy. If the weather doesn't lend itself to candles outside, we will hold the ritual over Zoom!

The session on Tuesday 29th will be on Zoom as normal.

Please watch emails and notices for more details, or contact Kate.

Meditation

Most Tuesdays in the early evening there is a meditation session using "Zoom" - this is usually led by Kate, our minister. It is about half an hour long followed by a short optional chat.

A Zoom meditation session is a particularly relaxing, it clears the mind and calms the body. The session usually starts by each person briefly answering a simple question about their present or recent thoughts or actions. This will be followed by a very relaxing session where the leader suggests areas in which to focus our minds and relax our bodies. Sometimes we are asked to concentrate on areas of our surroundings such as sounds breaking the silence or to focus our eyes on specific features of the room we are in. Other times we keep our eyes and ears closed whilst we think only of our own bodies.

The end of the brief session is like awakening from a pleasant resting period and we are always advised to "come round" gradually.

The session is relaxing and emotionally calming and I would suggest that anyone who is able to use "Zoom" should give it a go. *Roger Mills*

Communion Service

There will be an online Communion Service at 3pm on Sunday June 27th, to which everyone is very welcome.

Zoom details for all our services are in the What's On section in the centre of the *Calendar*.

Solstice at Holebottom

Weather, parking, and ground-conditions permitting I will be marking the Summer Solstice at our former burial ground at Holebottom (near Fairfield hospital) on Tuesday June 22nd at 7pm.

You are very warmly invited to join me: we will be celebrating light, warmth, and comfort, and acknowledging the glorious cycle of nature.

The road up to Holebottom is vastly improved, and we are hoping to arrange parking in the yard opposite the field. Please note, though, that the field access can be muddy and uneven. We will be bringing folding chairs. Please keep an eye on church notices and emails for further details, and I will confirm much nearer the time whether the ground will be dry enough for us to walk on it!

Pastoral visits

After a very long time, I have started making pastoral visits to people at home again.

I promise you a few things: I promise that I will never turn up unannounced; I promise that I will not be offended if you are not yet ready to have visitors in your home; and I promise that on any day on which I'm planning to visit someone I will take a Covid test in the morning.

I know that you will understand that with fifteen months of visits to catch up on, it may be some time before I get round everyone who would like a visit. But please contact me if you'd like to see me!

Vestry days and the opportunity for quiet time

From Friday June 4th I will once again be holding 'vestry days' on Fridays.

I will be in church between about 10am and 3pm, and you are very welcome to come in for a chat. For the time being I think we will still need to arrange these chats in advance, and to hold them in the lounge where there is more scope for social distancing, so please give me a call or drop me a text or email.

These vestry days are not instead of pastoral home visits! Some people prefer to pop into church, or to have a chat while they are down at church for other reasons.

The church will also be open on vestry days for anyone who would like to spend time in prayer or quietness: I know that some of you have missed being in the church building and would relish the chance to spend some time in the worship area.

This month's vestry days will be on Fridays 4th and 25th June. Most months they will be every Friday.

Worship in June 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.

There will be a Zoom meditation at 7pm on Tuesday 29th June. After a short time to introduce ourselves and check in, we have a guided meditation on a theme which changes from week-to-week. After the meditation you're welcome either to leave during some music, or to stay for some quiet conversation.

The meditation for June 22nd will (weather permitting) be an in-person gathering at Holebottom. Please see elsewhere in the Calendar for further details.

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 27th June. Log in details are the same as for the main Zoom service.

What's On, June 2021

Sat 5th June:	11am: Coffee morning. (Zoom 839 0159 23)
Sun 6th June:	<i>10.30am: Service at Ainsworth</i> <i>11.15am: Service in church.</i> <i>2pm: Zoom service. ID 849 7456 6116</i>
Tues 8th June:	<i>No meditation session this evening</i>
Sat 12th June:	<i>No coffee morning this morning</i>
Sun 13th June:	11.15am: Service in church. Led by Betty Kenyon <i>No Zoom service this afternoon</i>
Tues 15th June:	<i>No meditation session this evening</i> NWPA AGM
Sat 19th June:	11am: Coffee morning. (Zoom 839 0159 23)
Sun 20th June:	11.15am: Service in church. <i>2pm: Zoom service. ID 849 7456 6116</i>
Tues 22nd June:	7pm: Solstice celebration, Holebottom. Teatime: deadline for items for the June <i>Calendar</i> .
Friday 25th June:	Minister's vestry day, with collating party at 11am.
Sat 26th June:	11am: Coffee morning. (Zoom 839 0159 23)
Sun 27th June:	11.15am: Service in church. <i>2pm: Zoom service. ID 849 7456 6116</i>
Mon 28th June:	7pm: Camera club (see article)
Tues 29th June:	7pm: Meditation (Zoom ID 812 3292 6975)
Weds 30th June:	7pm: book club, in person (church garden).

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.

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

COFFEE MORNING

Every Saturday at
11am, on Zoom

Zoom:
839 0159 0623

If you would like to join us, we would love to see you.
You are welcome, no matter what.



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: 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

The minister's time off

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.

Although I have only just had a few days off, I am taking some more time off during June: I will be off from after the Zoom service on Sunday 6th until the morning of Saturday 19th. I am extremely grateful to Betty Kenyon, who has offered – at very short notice – to lead worship on Sunday 13th. (There will be no Zoom service on the afternoon of Sunday 13th, but I really do encourage you to 'visit' other churches' services on Zoom).

If you need pastoral care from a minister during my time off, two of my colleagues have very kindly offered to provide this: from Monday 7th until Saturday 12th, you can contact the Rev Shammy Webster, from Stand, on 07791 721925 and from Sunday 13th until Friday 18th you can contact Rev Cody Coyne, from Cross St Manchester, on 07786 820383.

I am not planning to go away, so if there is an emergency you can, of course, contact me.

Calendar collating party!

I am using the term 'party' very loosely here, but if you are free and willing to help collate the July edition of the *Calendar*, I would be delighted to see you in the church lounge on the morning of Friday 25th June. Please feel free to bring drinks or snacks: it seems unlikely that serving drinks will be wise by that time.

Book club

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 2nd, at 7pm; on zoom, when the book to be discussed will be "One August Night", by Victoria Hislop. We shall meet again, at the end of June, on Wednesday, the 30th,pm at 7 p.m. Weather permitting, we hope to meet at church, outside, in the garden; there may have to be a Plan B! Our book, on that evening, will be "How to talk to a widower", by Jonathan Tropper; this will be available as a reading-set from Bury Library, and regular members should receive a copy, in due course. If you require further details, please contact Anne Mills.

Camera Club.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, June **28th**, at 7 p.m; by zoom. We shall continue to discuss plans for our exhibition and have added three new topics to our list: Skies, Kitchen Objects, and Wheels. Further details can be obtained from Janet Thatcher.

Anne Mills.

Traidcraft

It has become increasingly obvious that it will be some time yet before the Traidcraft Stall will be able to operate again. I have had to reduce stocks to a minimum, which means that there is very little to sell, at the moment. However, if you wish to order items, please let me know what you would like, and I will organise this. If there are items in stock (such as sugar, toilet rolls and kitchen towels), you are welcome to take what you need; I will put up a list, inside the store at the back of the church; all I ask is that you sign for items taken, and I will ask you for payment, later; this will also help me to keep track of stocks. I anticipate that this system will operate until next April, when I will assess the future of the stall.

Anne Mills

President's message for GA weekend.

In a service which I recently conducted, I referred to a particular aspect of one of our churches: its Dramatic Society. I read details of this with interest, and it seemed to me that its operation, over the years, could be interpreted as an analogy of the *modus operandi* of churches as a whole. At first, its stage was very basic, but it was improved, over time, until it became an excellent, superbly-equipped area; however, the Dramatic Society's success was not only due to its construction-workers, but to the actors, the stage-staff, the lighting-crew, the props-people, the business-managers, the front of house team---and, of course, the tea-brewers! This was high-quality organisation, in which everybody worked together, for the common good---just as it should be, and in the perfect spirit for any successful group. The key to success was the unity of the group, and, just as each of our churches needs to aim towards an integrated whole, in order to continue efficiently, so might each of our churches be willing to contribute to the unity of our denomination. Whenever I visit one of our churches, I always convey Greetings from the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, stressing that each and every one of us is a key member of the organisation as a whole. As members, then, what can we do for the GA, just now?

In April, we held our Annual Meetings---online, as it was still unsafe to meet in person. We succeeded in transacting a great deal of business, including debating and voting for four Motions, which had previously been considered by each congregation. I was especially pleased that the Motion requesting Unitarians to support the Global Coronavirus Emergency Appeal was approved; as I write, the situation in India is desperate, as a second wave sweeps through that country---and "the Indian strain" is certainly taking hold in my area, as well as elsewhere, and proving highly-contagious; we can only hope and pray that our vaccines will be effective against the new mutations. One action that each of us could perform would be to

uphold, in a practical way, a GA Motion which we have resolved to support. As we contribute individually, we are acting in unity with other Unitarians; more than that, we are sending much-needed humanitarian aid to the sick and dying, who are desperate for immediate help, before it becomes too late.

The past fifteen months have proved difficult as regards our accounts, whether we think in terms of our personal finances, our church-income, or our national monies. Last year, we did not hold a GA Weekend; nor did we celebrate our Annual Meetings, either last year or this, with the traditional Anniversary Service, at which donations are gladly and generously offered. This year, in particular, we are hoping that members will feel able to contribute to the Ministry Students' Fund, which is sadly depleted---much below the usual level which enables us to assist with some of the expenses required by our Ministers in training. Despite our existing students, there is still a shortage of Ministers, Lay Leaders, and service-leaders, across the country, and we need to support and encourage those who intend to commit themselves seriously to Ministry, whilst they prepare for that work. A modest amount from each of us, when collected together, would make more difference to our students than we can possibly know, and the future benefits to our denomination would be clearly and quickly experienced.

Hymn 60, in "Sing Your Faith", begins with the words: "Here I am, all alone, can't do this job on my own; but if you come with me, it'll soon be done---two can do much more than one!" By the last verse, numbers have reached "thousands"---if "everyone can take a share!" My contribution is on its way; please join me, by sending yours. The Ministry Students' fund is a worthy and worthwhile cause to support; the more of us who act together, the better the result. Thank you!

In anticipation and gratitude,
Anne Mills: President.

News from around the denomination.

News from Ainsworth

Ainsworth's services continue, on the first Sunday of the month. On June 6th, the service will be held at 10.30 am; and will be conducted by David Meacham, a lay-preacher from Bolton, who has links with Bank Street Bolton. On July 4th, Ainsworth is holding its 306th Anniversary Service, at 3.00 pm; this will be conducted by Joyce Ashworth, the National Women's League President. All are welcome.

Anne Mills.

North West Provincial Assembly

The next meeting of the NWPA is scheduled to take place, by Zoom, on Tuesday, June 15th, 2021, at 11 a.m. This will be the AGM, to which everyone is welcome. Anne Mills has joining-details. One item on the agenda will be the future of the NWPA, who are considering this question, as the Unitarian College is now offering both Foundation, and Rites of Passage, Courses. Clearly, this is a matter of considerable seriousness.

Rites of Passage course

This is to be organised by Unitarian College and will be conducted on zoom. There will be two evening sessions, between 7 and 9 p.m; on June 24th and July 1st, plus a weekend residential course, at The Nightingale Centre, between July 16th and 18th, 2021. The course-leaders will be Rev. Ant Howe and Rev. Michael Dadson. The course costs £250.00, although a subsidy of £125.00 is offered to members of congregations affiliated to The North West Provincial Assembly. If you are interested in this course, Anne Mills has full details.

Anne Mills.

Women's League: message from the President, Mrs Joyce Ashworth.

There is to be a Women's League Summer Gathering at The Nightingale Centre in Great Hucklow, which will include the long-postponed AGM, and overnight stay in Hucklow and what will hopefully be a relaxed and enjoyable visit out the following day. In the evening there is to be a discussion on the way forward by the Women's League but if you are unable to attend the Summer Gathering but have points which would add to the discussion, please let me have them by Friday 18th June. I am so looking forward to finally managing a face-to-face get-together with many of you, that in itself will feel like a cause for celebration.

If you would like to join us at the Summer Gathering please would you request a booking form which has all the details on from either myself or Susan Holt. It would be appreciated if you would complete and return the booking forms and payment to me so that final preparations can be put in place. Mrs J. Ashworth, 2c Norden View, Forsyth Street, Norden, Rochdale OL12 7RF. Should you have any queries please contact me on 01706 659294.

As always, yours in love and friendship,

Joyce

New National Women's League President:

Bury Unitarian Church's very own Susan Holt has recently been appointed as president-elect of the National Unitarian Women's League for the year 2021-2022, and will become the President at the GA Meetings in 2022.

Congratulations to Susan!

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 12):

Arrangements for Whitsuntide (from the Calendar, 1893).

Whit-Friday

Teachers and scholars are desired to be at the school by 8.30am. Hymns will be sung in the chapel yard and the procession will leave Bank Street at 9.30am and march by way of Moss Lane, Princess Street, King Street, Rochdale Road, Clough Street, Rock Street, Fleet Street and Bolton Street to the station taking the train to Whitefield at 10.15 am. Teachers are expected to marshal their own scholars for the procession. The field is a few minutes' walk from Whitefield Station. The special train home leaves Whitefield Station at 3.30pm. Dinner at 12noon, tea at 4.30pm.



Tickets for railway journey: under 12s cost 3d over 12s cost 6d.

Committees needed and number of helpers: decorations 18, band 13, amusements 22, provisions 14, serving provisions 14, singing 5, ticket writing 5, forms and tables 20, trespass 9.

There was also a group headed by the ministers of Chesham and Bank Street to consider and determine the best use of the day should the weather be wet or doubtful.

An unusual committee Trespass, reading more of the Calendar it would seem that in 1891 complete outsiders had managed to get into the field! To manage, feed and safeguard close on 1000 youngsters was no light task.

A very hectic weekend!

The organisation required on so many levels is amazing!

Whit-Saturday

Trip to Aberystwyth, with Besses o' th' Barn Congregational School. The train leaves Bury at 3.20am. Tickets 4/9 each.

Breakfast particulars from Mr H. Pollard.

Whit-Sunday Service will be held in chapel at 3.00pm conducted by Rev T.B. Evans M.A. of Heywood. Places on the ground floor have been assigned to the scholars and teachers of the various schools. Members of the congregation and parents of scholars are invited to the service and respectfully asked to take their places in the gallery. After the service, the usual arrangements for tea have been made.

There were galleries at each side and the back of the chapel.

£-s-d quiz answers.

Following some controversy, Betty has provided the following corrected answer to the quiz in the April edition of the *Calendar*.

The amounts raised were

Morning: £8, 6s, 4½d

Afternoon: £13, 9s, 1d



This is the 3rd building of Bury Unitarian Chapel 1852

Rev T.B. Evans M.A. of Heywood.

Since 1892 Mr. Evans has been pastor at the Unitarian Church, Britain Hill. Heywood. In work on behalf of his congregation he is ever foremost, but he is always ready to assist in any movement tending to advance the people generally. His sermons and lectures delivered in Heywood and adjacent towns, often relate to the current topics of the day, and are very popular. Many of them have been fully reported in the local press, and constitute a record of hard work for the public welfare. His skill in literary analysis was shown in a remarkable study of "Robert Elsmere," his intimate knowledge of the locality described in the novel making the study all the more interesting and valuable.

New Banner Report in the Calendar August 1898:

The new banner worked by Miss B. Alcock, of Sale was used for the first time. The design is of Christ with the children and Faith, Hope and Love in the surrounding design. On the other side the name Bank Street Sunday School. One side in crimson and the other in blue. Only the best silks have been used. The banner has three strong linings of linen. It measured 10feet by 7 feet. It is very handsome and the most-costly banner ever purchased by the Sunday School. The cost was over £40. Contributions will be received by Mrs Odgers and Miss M.E. Grundy.

Neville can remember walking with it and holding on to one of the attached cords when he was a youngster. What happened to this banner?



This is our newest banner that is paraded at the G.A. Meeting.

It was made by Rene Hollos.

Foodbank

Susan Holt is currently taking items from the donation boxes to the Foodbank once a month, so if you are coming to services-in-person and would like to donate items, they would be very gratefully received. Kate also visits intermittently, so if you'd rather drop stuff off at the manse or have Kate collect it from you, that can also be arranged.

The Foodbank does now have facilities to make financial donations online using Paypal, and those donations would also be extremely welcome.

Use of the Foodbank has risen dramatically since the start of the pandemic, and seems set to continue to be high, so any support you can offer would be magnificent.

Toilet twinning

Understandably, not many pennies have been coming in for the Toilet Twinning appeal, but rest assured that it is only resting, and we will continue to raise funds as things open up more.

Jam jars

This is a slightly cheeky request from the editor for any empty jam jars you may have lying about: I know many of you already send them on to other people, but stocks in the manse are getting very low, so if you have some, there is a home for them here!

The deadline for entries for the June edition of the Calendar is Tuesday 22nd June, at around teatime: it will be available in church on Sunday 27th.

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).



"In an English country garden"





"Bamford Summer Breakfast"



"

"On a clear day you can see for miles and miles!"