

# BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH



Bury Pride

# June 2023

## Letter from the Minister

Dear all,

I'm writing this month's 'letter from the Minister' in Norfolk, having been over here in the east (I think you're all used by now to me pointing out that I'm East Anglian, not southern!) for a couple of days visiting a friend and enjoying the weather (it wouldn't be a minister's letter without mention of the weather) and the beautiful Norfolk countryside. And the chips and ice cream, of course (I am on hand to give pastoral advice on both these latter issues should you be visiting Norfolk in the near future).

As most of you know, I grew up in Norwich, and I probably do still think of myself as being a Norfolk person (although I wasn't born here, so a lot of locals might disagree). It was a wrench when I left to take up my post in Bury six and a half years ago, and whenever I come back (which I do three or four times a year) I remember how beautiful the county and the city are, and I enjoy visiting particularly beloved places and shops and cafes. I generally try to drive past the house I grew up in, and I normally go and visit my parents' graves in the city's Quaker Burial Ground. It's a lovely area, and it's always good to revisit old haunts, and remind yourself of where you first felt fully at home.

But when I leave Norwich, and make that all-important decision about which route to take back to Bury, I am very strongly aware that I am going home. Norwich will always be very dear to me, and there's a comfort in "going back" sometimes, but Bury, and Lancashire, are now my home. I get that lovely feeling of "aah, nearly home" as soon as I first see 'Manchester' on the motorway signs (even though I do know we absolutely aren't in Manchester!) and then an even deeper version of that feeling when – assuming I'm traveling in daylight – I spot the Peel Tower.

It sometimes makes me ponder what 'home' means to each of us, and how it can change throughout our lives. I think we all know that it's more than just a place, and more than just bricks, carpets, and furniture. It's a feeling as much as a physical location, and although it's really hard to define, I think those of us who've had the blessing of knowing stable and safe homes understand it.

It's also, perhaps, something to do with somewhere being the place you feel safe to criticise: loving both Norwich and Bury means I can comfortably say that Norwich has horribly hard water, and Bury is a bad town for cyclists!

For those of us who are churchgoers (frequent or less so), it's quite common to talk about our church as 'our spiritual home', and I think that's a really important concept. If our actual home is more than just our house, then our spiritual home is more than just our church building. It's about the memories we have there (if we've been there a while); the hopes and plans we have for it; the people we share it with; the things we've done that stamp our own selves on it (whether those are huge or less so); and, crucially, the way we feel when we approach, and when we enter.

And it's also okay to point out the bits of our church which we'd like to improve on – like Norwich's hard water and Bury's cycle lanes: and it's really important that when we do that we know we might share the responsibility to make the changes!

I hope that as we step fully into the height of summer, and towards the glories of the Summer Solstice and the longest brightest days, you find the feeling of home, wherever you are.

As ever, I send you my love,

Kate.

## **News of our community**

### **Robin Ainsworth**

Robin is still showing enormous strength, and is still with us. He is increasingly tired, of course, and sleeping a great deal of the time, but when he's awake he is still very much 'Robin'.

His family remain in our prayers and thoughts, of course, and will continue to do so over the next days, weeks, and months.

### **Joyce Thompson;**

Some of our members will remember Joyce and her sister, Connie. They both belonged to Padiham Unitarian Chapel, for many years; they served NELUM well, and were very active in The Women's League. Connie died, several years ago, but Joyce has continued to live independently, and is now in her nineties. She was recently admitted to hospital, and the decision has now been taken that she will not return home; her general health, plus problems with her mind and memory, make this necessary. She is to spend at least a month in respite care, at Spring Cottages, Padiham, after which a permanent home for her will be sought. Joyce began her career as a nurse, in 1947, as Britain's National Health Service came into being.

*Anne Mills*

## **In memoriam: Granville Leather**

It is with sadness that I have to record the passing of Granville Leather recently. Granville gave many years of service to our church as a worship leader, as well as supporting his home congregation of Bank Street, Bolton.

He was a larger than life character and made his presence felt wherever he was. He also had a great love of biscuits, and would often eat a good number of them before going into church to take a service, which he did in a style of his own, often without notes or a script to help him.

He was also, for several years our Authorised Person for weddings, and latterly trained Jenny to take over the role when his eyesight was beginning to fail.

Sadly, age finally caught up with him and it became unsafe for him to get into the pulpit (he would not use the lectern) and he had to retire.

We are fortunate to have had the benefit of his teaching, and he is a hard act to follow.

Although he was finally registered as blind and suffered from COPD he continued to worship at the Blackpool Church until recently.

Five of us attended his funeral service at Lytham Crematorium which was conducted by Simone Cowgill whom he had also mentored whilst at Blackpool Church.

The Trustees have decided to install a plaque on the wall by the pulpit in his memory, and feel that this would be a fitting tribute to his work for our church and to Unitarian worship in Ansdell.

*Ansdell Unitarian Church newsletter*

## Regular Social Events

### Book Club

The Book Club will meet on 28th June at 7pm. The book to be discussed is: *The Summer Story* by Tove Janssen. All welcome, no need to have read the book.

At our meeting in April, we discussed *And The Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini. Most of us enjoyed the book but it was somewhat complicated, so, unusually, we decided to opt to have it again in the near future. In the meantime for your information it's available as an audiobook on BorrowBox, which is freely available online to members of Bury Library.

*Pam Gilbert*

### Camera Club

The June meeting dates for the Camera Club are yet to be confirmed: please contact one of the members (Ade Brady, Howard Maden, Janet Thatcher or Roger Mills) for details, and listen out for notices in church.

### Social Gatherings.

Our Saturday Social Gatherings normally take place on the last Saturday of the month, but this doesn't always coincide with the best day for collating the Calendar. The next gathering will take place either on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June (without the Calendar to collate) or on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July, including the Calendar. If you have a preference, please speak to Kate so we can all decide what's our favourite plan!

### Second Sunday lunches

On **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June**, you're invited to join Kate for coffee, a drink, or lunch, at the Art Picture House after the service. If you'd like to join us but either can't afford it or have just forgotten your purse that day, speak to Kate: money should never be a reason not to join us.

## Notes from the building.

The English poet and novelist Stevie Smith, once penned a wonderful poem about a man who, in the process of sinking in the ocean received no help from those on shore because his frantic hand gestures were presumed by onlookers to be him simply waving hello. As the onlookers presumed he was only waving, no help was offered and the poor man drowned.

During classes in communications it was common for me to read this poem to my adult students as an introduction to what philosophers call 'the human condition'. The human condition is possibly easiest to understand if you describe it as the total life experience, the totality of being human between the start of life and its end. It is generally understood as being the grey area, the area of existence in which binary, or black and white assumptions do not easily apply.

I raise this philosophical thought because I have recently described myself as "swimming in paperwork". Property management requires an awful lot of paperwork sometimes, from bookings material that needs to be drawn up and sent out to dealing with all of the important contractors whose work with us is now in full swing, more of the work I am doing at the moment is paperwork than I would like to admit.

It would be fair to say that I feel a little glum about this. In this lovely weather I'd much rather be outside doing important work like re-fixing the window seals, re-laying the concrete blocks on our roadway, or up at Holebottom updating the lime-work mortar to keep the border wall in place. These jobs all need doing but they are not as important to the property as all of the paperwork, so I'm swimming in paperwork, and because it's best to do so, I'm still finding time to wave hello.

And this is the direct opposite perspective of the Stevie Smith poem. For wherever there are two people viewing the world, it will always be grey in any set of actions. The black and white of the matter could be for one of us, that we are swimming or we are sinking, but from the perspective of someone else we may be waving in need or simply waving hello. As soon as

you take both perspectives on the totality of what is happening, even if both actions are truly binary positions, truly black or white things, the two colours always mix and you get a little more grey in your life.

I'm not sinking... I'm waving hello, that's both very grey, and a very nice thing to be able to say.

*Ade Brady*

**Not waving but drowning: Stevie Smith  
(the poem referred to in Ade's piece)**

Nobody heard him, the dead man,  
But still he lay moaning:  
I was much further out than you thought  
And not waving but drowning.

Poor chap, he always loved larking  
And now he's dead  
It must have been too cold for him his heart gave way,  
They said.

Oh, no no no, it was too cold always  
(Still the dead one lay moaning)  
I was much too far out all my life  
And not waving but drowning.



## Stewards for Sunday services, June 2023

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Howard Maden Jean Maden
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Ewen Sim Janine Hurley
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Beryl Bowden Marian Price
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Norah Hickton Peter Whewell
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Betty Kenyon Neville Kenyon

## Tea and coffee rota, June 2023

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Jean Maden and Howard Maden
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Pam Gilbert and Lois Williams
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Marian Price and Susan Holt
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Norah Hickton and Peter Whewell.
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Jean Maden and Howard Maden

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

## Council Meetings

The next meeting of the Church Council will be on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June** at 7pm in the lounge.

Minutes of previous meetings are available either on the noticeboard in the lounge or from the secretary, Karen Hampson.

### **Vestry Days: Saturdays.**

As you may know, Kate has started holding a Vestry Saturday once a month, normally on the second Saturday. This month's will be moved by a week (due to a booking) and will take place on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June**.

The idea of the Vestry Saturdays is that you can just pop in for a chat over a cup of tea, in an informal way: hopefully it will be more accessible to some people than Fridays, partly because parking is easier.

### **Minister's schedule, June 2023**

Kate will be away at a ministry training and development event in Oxford from Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

She is 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.

Please remember that both Kate and Ade try to honour Thursdays as a Sabbath.

### **July Calendar**

The deadline for entries for the July edition of the Calendar will be teatime on **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June** and we'll collate it on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July**.

## Upcoming special services

### Flower communion



*Hawthorn at Holebottom*

### **Bury Unitarian Church**

Sunday 18th June 2023

### **Flower Communion**

Please join us for this traditional Unitarian service, which this year celebrates the 100th anniversary of Norbert Capek's introduction of the Flower Communion.

Bring a flower if you're able to (from a shop, your garden, or a hedgerow). Everyone will go home with a flower.

### **Solstice celebrations**

Kate will be offering a Solstice meditation session on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June, either online or in person at Holebottom. Watch this space for confirmation! (There will not be a meditation on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>).

## Last month's activities

### Bury Pride

Seven Unitarians, four of us from Bury and three of our friends from Cross St. Chapel in Manchester, took part in this year's Bury Pride parade, an event to celebrate the LGBTQIA+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex, asexual and others) community. So far as I know, we were the only faith group represented, and I am really pleased that we were able to make this visible statement of our principles and our inclusive welcome for everyone. I think this was the fifth time Bury Unitarians have been a part of the parade and I'm delighted that we are able to do so.

I'm also delighted that, thanks to volunteers, we were able to have the church building open as a place for quiet thought and contemplation (and a cup of tea and the use of the toilets!) for anyone who might have benefited from that during what can be a tiring and noisy day. In the event no one joined us, but we will make sure we publicise it more for next year's event.



## The Coronation of King Charles III



Seven members and friends of the congregation gathered on the morning of the Coronation so that we could eat breakfast and watch this important historical event together. It was a lovely and relaxed gathering, and some of us had a good sing. Thanks to Ade for doing the tech and cooking the bacon sandwiches, and to Barrie for providing some lovely and appropriate music at the end.

## Quiz Night

The quiz night was a great success, with lots of teams gathered to puzzle over Doug and Enid's high-quality and varied questions. It's always lovely to share food together, and the pie and pea supper during the interval was much appreciated. Huge congratulations and thanks to everyone who made it possible – including Betty for the overall arrangements, and Susan Holt and her hardworking team for cooking and serving the meal.



Betty has asked me to add the following:

Please express my thanks to all who helped on Saturday at the Quiz: the food, the raffle, on the door and not forgetting Ade. I was amazed how quickly and efficiently people collapsed and cleared the tables and moved the chairs at the end of the evening. The profit was £180.

## Our church in the news

From The Bury Times:

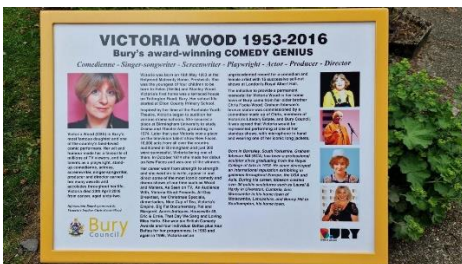
A new plaque dedicated to a 'comedy genius' from Bury is in place to mark what would have been her 70th birthday.

The information board which honours the life of comedian Victoria Wood was installed beside her statue in Bury town centre yesterday, Thursday.

Victoria, who was born in Prestwich in 1953, wrote and starred in a number of successful television programmes including sitcom Dinnerladies and comedy sketch series As Seen on TV.

The comedian died with cancer in 2016 aged 62 and today, (May 19) would have been her birthday.

The board, which was sponsored by her brother Chris Foote-Wood, gives details of the stellar career of "Bury's award-winning comedy genius."



## News from around the district and the denomination

### News from Ainsworth

Dear Members & Friends of The Chapel

Thank you to everyone who attended our 'Coronation Service' on Sunday 7th May led by Mr Paul Hubbard. To celebrate this historic occasion, we toasted King Charles III after the service and enjoyed a cream scone (courtesy of Joanne). Then our Organist, Mr Barry Scanlon, planted a memorial Rose Bush in the flower bed.

Last year we gratefully received a Legacy from the estate of Jack Schofield OBE. Jack was a Trustee here for many years, until he moved down to Nottingham to be near his daughter. He was just short of his 100th Birthday when he passed away and his Ashes have been interred with those of his late first wife, Dorothy. In memory of Jack, a bench has been installed by the Chapel porch.



Our next service will be 10.30 am Sunday 4th June, led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie from Rochdale Unitarian Church. This will be a Flower Communion Service and you are all requested to please bring a single stem flower, from the garden, bought or foraged - something that holds



meaning, is symbolic or just something you like. We will have some extra flowers available for those who weren't aware or forget.

Please note that the service in July will be on Sunday 9th July (not 2nd) due to Bolton Ironman taking place. This will be led by Rev Shammy Webster.

with good wishes to you all and hope you're enjoying this warm and sunny weather.

*Shirley Horrocks*

## **N.E.L.U.M**

**North and East Lancashire Unitarian Mission**

Notice is here given that the  
Annual General Meeting of the  
District Association  
will take place at

**Stand Chapel Whitefield**

**On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June**

**Commencing at 7.15pm.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Wine or Soft Drinks and Nibbles  
will be served from 7pm.

\*\*\*\*\*

Next Rochdale Music Night:

# FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC

## Clover Street Unitarians

SINGING MODERN CLASSICS  
THE MIXED VOCAL GROUP  
**VOICE (of Heywood)**  
Friday 30 June 7.30pm



**£8 (includes supper)**

Tel. 01706 649015 or on the door

Clover Street, Rochdale, OL12 6TP

[www.rochdaleunitarians.org.uk](http://www.rochdaleunitarians.org.uk)

## **Advance notice: an invitation to a service at Chorley**

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Chorley Unitarian Chapel and The Lancashire Collaborative Ministry, I am delighted to invite you to attend worship, at Chorley, on Sunday, October 15th, 2023, at 11 a.m. The service will be conducted by the current GA President, Vince McCully, who will also speak about his Presidential duties, during the lunch which follows. We hope you will feel able to join us, on this occasion, either as individuals, or as congregations; you may like the opportunity to organise an away-day, and transfer your service to Chorley, on that morning. We hope for a good attendance, from each of our NELUM churches, on this date, for what promises to be a very special and inspiring day.

It would help us if you could acknowledge this invitation and give us some indication about possible numbers, so that we have an idea as to what arrangements we need to make, at this stage. A reminder will be sent out, nearer the time. If you have queries, now, please contact John Hewerdine, Chair of the Chorley Congregation, by emailing him at

[john@hewerdinefamily.co.uk](mailto:john@hewerdinefamily.co.uk)

Otherwise, please respond to

[rogermills4@yahoo.com](mailto:rogermills4@yahoo.com)

We look forward to seeing you all, in October; a warm welcome awaits you at Chorley.

Best wishes,

Anne Mills

(Lancashire Collaborative Ministry Secretary).

## By-Gone Times no. 36 by Betty Kenyon:

### Franklin Howorth

Minister at Bank Street 1832-1853, from 10 years old he was educated at the Moravian Academy, Fairfield, Droylsden, Lancashire. Later he was educated by Rev William Gaskell. He was an eyewitness to the Peterloo massacre.

He married Mary Milns. Rev Franklin Howorth was a keen supporter of the Temperance movement.

The congregation was flourishing so a larger building became necessary.



This second chapel, built on the site of The Exchange offices, cost £4,000 (over £300,000 today!), was opened in 1837. It was classical in design, with a portico of four large pillars, and could seat 800 people, though, according to the records, it was barely large enough for the people then attending.

Between 1853 and 1860 he was minister at Free Christian Church at Commercial Buildings, Spring Street. In 1860 he started the Free Christian Church in Rochdale Road. He died in 1882.

His second wife, Bessie Holland died in 1886. She was buried with her husband.

Her friends were indignant on her behalf, “she bore her wrongs most patiently and uncomplaining. He was not nearly enough with her, forsaking her every evening for his constant classes, meetings and services.” In travelling together, he would go 3rd class leaving her in her 1st class compartment, in order to distribute tracts and speak with the poorer people.

# Do you find this easier to read?

Almost everything we provide in print at church (including services, Calendars, letters, reports, and the minutes of most meetings) is available in a large-print format, and a recorded version of the Calendar is available on CD and on memory disk.

## Accessibility

We want our church and our community to be as accessible to everyone as it possibly can be. As well as providing everything in large print, we have a hearing loop, wheelchair access at the back of the building, and an accessible toilet.

Our services and other events are fidget-friendly!

We have also recently taken possession of a new lightweight, easily collapsible, sturdy wheelchair. The wheelchair lives in the cupboard under the front stairs, and you are free to use it at any time it would be useful in church.

If you have a short-term need at home and would like to borrow it, please speak to one of the church officers.

We know that there will be needs we haven't accounted for: if there is anything which would make it easier for you to engage with what we do, please please do tell us!

## Regular Events (all social events are subject to change)

### Sundays:

11.15am                      Worship in person at Bury

### First Sunday of most months:

10.30am                      Worship in person at Ainsworth

### Second Saturday of each month:

10.am til 3pm approx.: Minister's Vestry Saturday

### Second Sunday of each month:

12.30 (approx.)              Second Sunday Lunch. Please join Kate at a local pub for lunch, a coffee, or a drink. (If the cost would be a problem please have a quiet word with Kate).

### Last Sunday of each month:

12.30pm                      Inclusive Communion Service at Bury

### Second and fourth Sundays of each month:

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

### Second and fourth Mondays of most months

7pm                              Camera club (normally online)

### Second Tuesday of each month (moved for May)

7pm                              Online midweek meditation session

### Last Wednesday of each month:

2pm/7pm                      Book club

### Most Fridays:

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

### Last Saturday of each month:

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

## What's on: June 2023

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** 10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day.

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

11.15am, Bury: Service in church  
10.30am, Ainsworth: Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June** 9.30 – 2.30: *British Red Cross booking (entire building)*

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June** 10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day.

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June** *Booking in downstairs lounge*

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June**

11.15am Bury: Service in church  
12.30 approx: Second Sunday lunch  
2pm: Zoom service

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June** 9.30 – 2.30: *British Red Cross booking (entire building)*

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June** 7pm: Church Council meeting, in the lounge

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June** 10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day.

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June** 10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Saturday

### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June**

11.15am Bury: Service in church **FLOWER COMMUNION**

<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June</b>	9.30 – 2.30: <i>British Red Cross booking (entire building)</i>								
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June</b>	7.15pm, Stand Unitarian Chapel: NELUM AGM								
<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June</b>	7pm: Solstice celebration, either online or at Holebottom. Please let Kate know by Monday morning (19 <sup>th</sup> June) if you would like to attend.								
<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>(Provisional)</b> 11am onwards: Saturday social gathering								
<table> <tr> <td><b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June</b></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>11.15am Bury:</td> <td>Service in church</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12.30:</td> <td>Inclusive communion</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2pm:</td> <td>Zoom service</td> </tr> </table>		<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June</b>		11.15am Bury:	Service in church	12.30:	Inclusive communion	2pm:	Zoom service
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11.15am Bury:	Service in church								
12.30:	Inclusive communion								
2pm:	Zoom service								
<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June</b>	9.30 – 2.30: <i>British Red Cross booking (entire building)</i>								
<b>Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Teatime: deadline for entries for the July edition of the <i>Calendar</i> .								
<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June</b>	7pm: Book club meeting in church to discuss <i>The Summer Story</i> , by Tove Jansson.								
<b>Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June</b>	10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day.								
<b>Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June</b>	7.30pm: Rochdale Music series concert								
<b>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July</b>	<b>(Provisional)</b> 11am onwards: Saturday social gathering 11am: Calendar collating								



## Church Information:

Minister:

Rev. Kate Brady McKenna

0161 460 3363 / 07751 240886

[revkatemckenna@gmail.com](mailto:revkatemckenna@gmail.com)

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

Church phone: 0161 761 3785

Website: [www.bury-unitarian-church.org.uk](http://www.bury-unitarian-church.org.uk)

Facebook: Bury Unitarian Church

## Church officers

Chair of trustees: Neville Kenyon 01204 887222

Chair of church council: Jean Maden

Church secretary: Karen Hampson 0161 766 2283

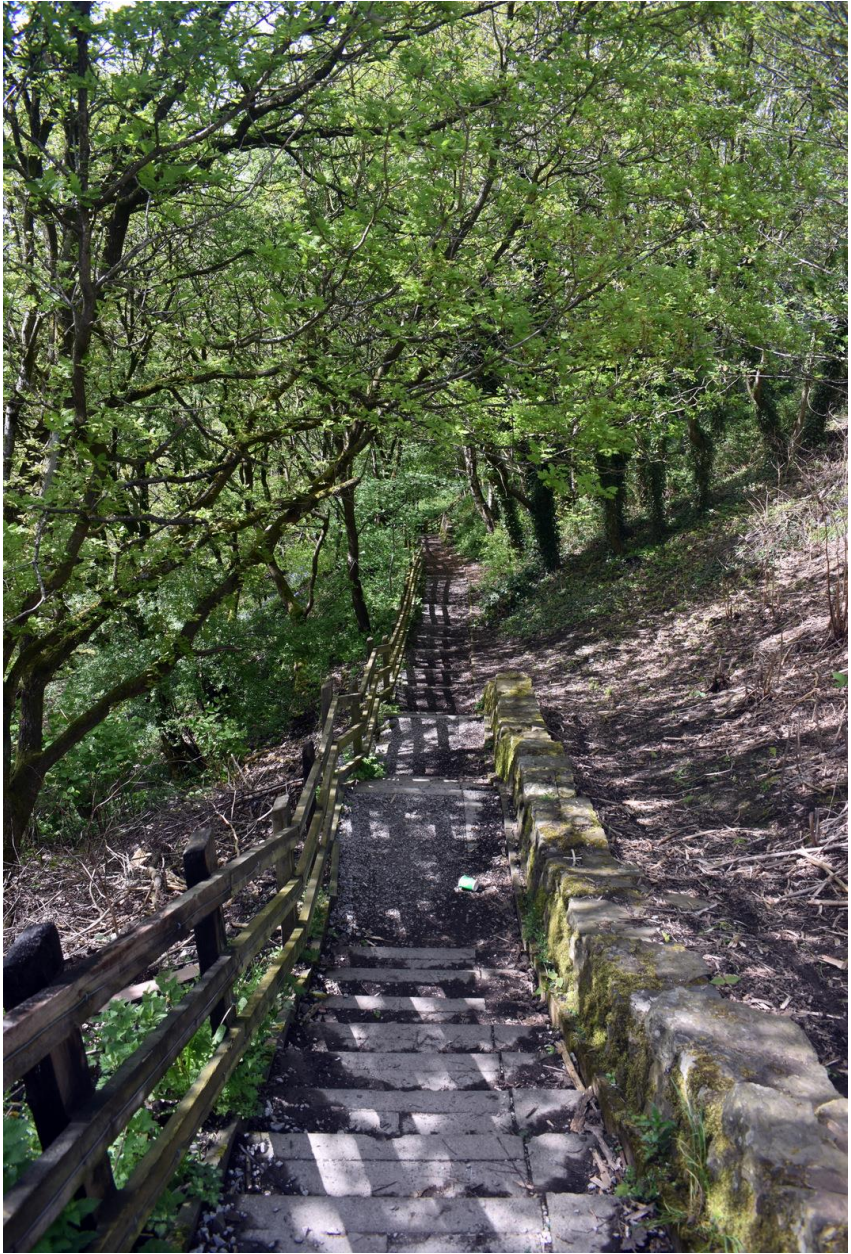
Chair of congregation: Betty Kenyon 01204 887222

Church treasurer: Lynda Arthur

## Contact for room bookings and building maintenance

Property Manager Adrian Brady 07736 107143

Charity reg no: 107857



**Steps down to Burrs Country Park**



**Cherry Laurel**



**Four happy teddies!**



**Primula Veris (Cowslip)**