



BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH



Anniversary Flowers

June 2024

Letter from the Minister

Dear all,

It seems strange that we're in June already (or will be, by the time you're reading this). We're nearly half-way through the year and I'm only just getting used to putting '2024' on the Orders of Service: my fingers still want to type 2023, and often do so!

I normally talk about the weather and the seasons in this letter, and this month it's a bit hard: I feel as though by the time I get to the end of a sentence about the chill and the rain, I'll be wanting the fan on to help with the heat and wishing I had sunglasses to help with the brightness of the sun. I will admit that I absolutely loved a fairly loud thunderstorm that happened over the weekend though, but I'll also admit that part of why I loved it so much was that I was safe, dry, and warm indoors listening to it. I mightn't have been quite so happy if I'd been out in it.

Holebottom is really lovely right now, although I'm a little disappointed that the elder in the back corner isn't producing many flowers: we've had some lovely elderflower cordial in previous years, but it seems we'll have to live without this time round. It's a good lesson about how much we're in the hands of nature, though, and also a good reminder that if we don't get much of a crop of something one year, it's only a bit of a shame: I'm very grateful not to be needing the crop for survival.

In the last few weeks at church we've held all our lovely and regular activities, and have also gathered socially for the Quiz Night, which was as lovely as it always is: being together for things other than Sunday services is always special, and I know everyone's grateful for all the hard work that went into the evening behind the scenes. My own team didn't win, but neither did we disgrace ourselves, and it was lovely to get better acquainted with new people.

I had another treat this month, in that I got to be ‘in the pews’ for a service. I don’t generally attend services when I’m on leave (obviously!) but as this one was being led by my spouse, I made an exception. It’s very different experiencing worship in the same way that most people do most weeks, and I got a new perspective – literally and figuratively – on our church and our worship. I did find myself dithering a bit about where to sit, and then worrying a little in case I was in ‘someone else’s seat’. It made me realise that that must be the exact sort of thing that makes a visitor a bit uneasy on joining us, though I know everyone would be completely understanding if someone did sit in a place we’ve got used to calling “our seat”.

We had my ex-wife Rowan staying with us for a few days, and she joined us at church on Sunday. I know that she felt really welcome, having not been with us for a while, and I was proud of that Bury Unitarian Welcome once more, as I always am!

Over the next three weeks, leading up to the Solstice, we’re going to notice the days getting longer and lighter: I love this time of year as we head towards a peak, hover there for a couple of days, and then start to move back to the gentleness of the second half of the year. Whatever you’re doing in the next days, weeks, and months, I wish you joy of it.

As ever, I send you my love.

Kate.

Minister’s schedule, June 2024

I am away from the 19th – 21st June, at a Ministerial Gathering in Oxford. Other than that, my working pattern should be fairly straightforward.

I try to take Thursday as a Sabbath, and sometimes take another day off in the week as well: please listen out in notices for details of my days off.

Worship

Barring emergencies, all the services in June will be led by the minister.

Communion

This month's Inclusive Communion will take place on **Sunday 23rd June**, at around 12.30 or 12.45. Everyone is welcome. Please note that this isn't the last Sunday of this month!

Ainsworth

Sunday 2nd June, 10.30am: Service to be led by Anne Mills.

Mid-month mid-week meditations

I'll be offering an online meditation on **Tuesday 11th June at 6pm**: the session will last between half an hour and forty minutes, and everyone is very welcome. Please let me know by Monday teatime if you'd like to attend.

If you're interested in taking part in a long-running and much-loved regular online meditation session from the Findhorn Unitarian Network, please talk to either myself or Val Chamberlain.

Vestry Days: most Fridays, and one Saturday a month

I plan to be in the vestry between 10am and 3pm on **Fridays 14th, and 28th June, and Saturday 15th June** (I'll be taking a day off on Friday 7th, and away at a conference on Friday 21st).

It's worth bearing in mind that people are often in and out on a Friday (which is the point of the vestry days), so if you want a more in-depth or confidential and uninterrupted chat, it would be better to arrange this on a different day.

Please remember that these vestry days aren't instead of meeting up with me either at your home or in a coffee shop somewhere, or in the vestry on a different day. They're an addition to all those ways of catching up with me!

Second Sunday lunch

Kate will be going to the Art Picture House for her lunch on **Sunday 9th June**. There are normally between two and five of us, and we each pay for whatever we're having, but please don't let money be a reason not to come: have a quiet word with Kate and we'll sort it out.

Fifth Sunday breakfasts

On **Sunday 30th June**, you are very welcome to arrive early for church, where coffee and pastries will be available from **10am to 10.45**. We tried this for the first time in March, and people seemed to enjoy it, so we're going to be doing it whenever there are five Sundays in a month.

Regular Social Events

Book Club

Our book club is now meeting in the evening, with plenty of parking available. We next meet on **Wednesday, 26th June at 7.00pm**. The book to be discussed is *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry.

Refreshments are available, as are lifts home if required.

Pam Gilbert

Camera Club

The Camera Club meeting on **Monday 10th June** has been **postponed**: please ask one of the club for details of the new date. They will meet on **Monday 24th June at 7pm** on Zoom. Everyone is welcome to join the group: please speak to one of the members for details (if you don't know who is in the Camera Club, Kate can tell you!).

Social Gatherings

The next gathering will take place on **Saturday 29th June**: you are really welcome to join us, whether you'd like to get involved with collating the next edition of the Calendar, or just fancy joining us for a cup of tea, coffee, or hot chocolate and some friendly companionship.

Notes from the building.

I've been waiting for sunshine for quite some time now, I've been looking forward to it like a love-sick romantic lead in a second-rate Victorian novel, and like any forlorn hero, the first chapter of summer came and went without me really noticing.

I had a series of outside jobs lined up and have had so since Christmas, from sorting out the external lighting to the resealing of the windows, and some much needed road clearing and pointing work down at Holebottom.

I'm now in the second chapter of the book, the chapter titled 'It never rains but it pours', where the usually beautiful, warming and positively glowing heroine disappears into a moody gloom and starts crying. The days have actually grown cold enough to require us to put the heating back on, and the second chapter started with a shock downpour that came through the roof and into the building.

So the first of my summer jobs was putting buckets under the leaks that inevitably appeared, and with nine buckets down, and a mop moving like a whirlwind, I had to wait for a glimpse of sun two days later, to find the villain of the piece. This is sadly, where the allusion to a romantic novel ends for a bit though, because I cannot find a suitable simile at all, that in any way, describes chicken wire.

Yes, the villain of the piece was chicken wire, specifically the chicken wire attached to the drains that protects the downpipe on the roof from storing leaves and dirt, and blocking the entire system. The failure allowed for a small garden to be growing along the roof and into the downpipe and it was an extremely unpleasant way to spend an afternoon, the upside however, is that we have no more leaks, at least for now. There's still work to do on the roof, but it can slide down my to do list until the next chapter starts and the heroine returns.

Ade Brady

Unitarian LGBTQIA+ history exhibition

For the next few weeks we will be hosting the General Assembly's traveling exhibition about the history of our long-standing support and affirmation of LGBTQIA+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex, asexual and other) people. The display boards will be in the worship area, and the eight panels are testament to our historical and ongoing work in this area.

The panels will be there during Bury Pride (although that will have already happened by the time you read this) and I hope that they'll remain there for at least the month of June (they are very easy to dismantle and move should that be necessary if we have an event in the room).

I do hope that you will take the chance to have a look at them, and I also hope that they might help other local people realise that we are an affirming, accepting, and loving community.

You will also notice that during June (and possibly into July) we are displaying a 'Progress Flag' on the corner of our building. This is a very clear sign of our commitment and our love for everyone, no matter who they love and who they are, and this is particularly important during Pride month in Bury.

I will be explaining the 'Progress Flag' in the service on June 2nd, and if you're not there I'm very happy to give you a copy of that sermon.



July 2024 Calendar:

The deadline for entries for the July edition of the Calendar will be teatime on **Tuesday 25th June**, and we'll collate it on **Saturday 29th June**.

Church keys:

If you are in possession of church keys and not officially required to have them, please speak to the Key Holder (currently Marian Price). There is a need for spare keys to be made available. Please be aware that a key is available in the key box for use on a weekly basis (i.e. To be picked up on a Sunday morning and returned a week later, preferably with notification to the Key Holder. Also the Minister is usually in the vestry most Fridays and some Saturdays, and the property manager is generally around late afternoon on Monday and mid-afternoon on Wednesday, so it is possible to gain access to church at these times without the need for a key.

Please give some consideration as to whether it is really necessary for you to have a key constantly in your possession.

Please speak to Marian if you have any queries.

Stewarding rota

We still have a vacancy on the stewarding rota: if you'd be interested in stewarding once every six or seven weeks, please let me know. If you're already a steward, I might be speaking to you soon about the possibility of having a six-week rotation instead of seven. Watch this space!

Foliage for flower arrangements

I'm sure that those of you who join us in church for worship, or who use the church for other events, will have noticed and been hugely impressed by the flower arrangements both in the worship area and in other areas of the building. We're very lucky to have such talented florists.

If you have a garden with a supply of greenery, and would either be willing to bring some into church or to allow the florists to visit you to select some, I know that they'd be really grateful: please speak to either Jean Maden or Rita Boardall if you can help. If you're not sure who they are, then Kate can tell you!

Website update

Our new web hosts, Scruffy Monkey, based in Bolton, are currently working on building our new website: they received all the initial information in May, and we hope to have a look at the new site in the next few weeks. We will be able to update it before it 'goes live', and then once it's up and running, we'll be able to keep it up-to-date very easily.

We are, of course, hugely grateful to Roger Mills for all his work over a lot of years in producing and maintaining our website, and for his continued support of the move to the new one.

The website planning team for the new site consists of Ewen Sim, Janine Sim, Kate Brady McKenna, Neville Kenyon, and Roger Mills.

“Soul Deep”

I am hoping to run a series of workshops based on a new Unitarian book, *Soul Deep*, by my colleagues Rev Kate Dean and Rev Michael Allured. I’m aiming for this to run during July and September (missing out August), but this will depend on interest and availability. “Soul Deep” is described as *a practical 8-week course of spiritual exploration for small groups of seekers (‘spiritual but not necessarily religious’), designed to encourage personal reflection and small-group work on a range of real-life themes. Each session includes suggested readings and activities, plus detailed guidelines for facilitators to help participants reflect on how they find meaning and fulfilment in their lives, and to be nourished by listening to the shared experiences of others.*

Please speak to me for more details, if you’re interested. I haven’t yet decided whether this will take place in person, on Zoom, hybrid, or a mixture of all three.

Facilitation training

In connection with the launch of *Soul Deep*, Kate and Michael are running two workshops on facilitation: the idea of these workshops is that they will help to equip and train you in running groups and engagement sessions.

There are two opportunities to take part: **Saturday 22nd June 2pm – 3.30pm** and **Monday 24th June, 7pm – 8.30pm.**

If you’re interested in taking part, I can forward you the details so that you can register.

I would be more than happy if someone wanted to go to one of the workshops and then use their newly-discovered skills to help with the running of the Soul Deep sessions when they happen!

Stewards for Sunday services June 2024

Sunday 2 nd June	Barbara Bamford and Jean Brookhouse
Sunday 9 th June	Howard Maden and Jean Maden
Sunday 16 th June	Vacant
Sunday 23 rd June	Beryl Bowden and Marian Price
Sunday 30 th June	Ade Brady and Damion Langford

Tea and coffee rota, June 2024

Sunday 2 nd June	Howard Maden and Jean Maden
Sunday 9 th June	Lois Williams and Pam Gilbert
Sunday 16 th June	Marian Price and Susan Holt
Sunday 23 rd June	Rita Boardall and Susan Mitchell
Sunday 30 th June	Faye Casey and Janet Thatcher

News from around the District and around the Denomination

Rev. Dr. Vernon Marshall

Many of you will have known Rev. Dr. Vernon Marshall, who served the denomination for many years. Sadly, Vernon died in May: his funeral will take place at 1pm on **Thursday 13th June** at Brookfield Unitarian Church, Gorton, and my understanding is that everyone is welcome at the service. There will be a wake at the Village Hotel, Hyde, at 3pm: please let his family know if you would like to attend that.

Anne Mills

Congratulations to Anne Mills, who has accepted the post of NELUM treasurer. I know that she'll work hard and with commitment in this position.

NELUM Annual Report

The NELUM Annual Report is available in the book cupboard in the lounge. Please don't take this copy away: if you would like a copy of your own, please ask either Anne Mills or the minister, and they can either email you a copy or print one off for you.

GA structure

At the recent Church Council meeting, I said that I would write a brief piece about how the Unitarian denomination "works" and what the structures are: unfortunately (though it's a nice problem to have) there isn't room in this edition of the *Calendar*. I will do it soon, but in the meantime if you do have any questions, please let me know!

Rochdale Mural

You may have seen that Rochdale Unitarian Church have recently unveiled an astonishing new mural on the side of their building. The picture below doesn't do it justice, but I hope that we'll all get a chance to see it in person some time soon. Congratulations to everyone at Rochdale.



Great Hucklow Party 1908



Holiday Home for Sunday School parties in Great Hucklow, near Buxton in about 1898.

From Chesham Unitarian Congregation and Sunday School Calendar of June 1908

The Holiday Home has been secured for the week beginning Saturday, August 8th.

The charges will probably be the same as last year:

under 12, 10/-; 12-16 13/6; 16 and over 17/-.

Full particulars will be announced later. Will all who intend to go please give their names to the school secretaries at Bank Street (Mr G. Greenhalgh and at Chesham (Mr T. Lee)?

On 5th August: Chesham payments to be made at 7.30pm to Mr Lee. Bank Street members to Mr G. Greenhalgh. The party will leave Bolton Street Station on Saturday 8th August at 10.47am. All luggage should be handed to Mr H. Cresswell, at the station no later than 10.20am. Railway and waggonette tickets will be issued by Mr Lee at Bank Street School from 9.30am to 10.20am.



Friends who are going to stay in the village can buy tickets at the following prices: rail 4/6; waggonette 8d, (half price for children under 12). Lunch should be taken as the party cannot enter the Home before 5 o'clock.

The party will return from Millers Dale Station on Saturday August 15th at 1-52pm.

September Calendar 1908

The weather during the week was very "mixed". Castleton, Buxton and Monsal Dale were visited, two cricket matches were played; one by the boys against Hucklow boys, which our side won by one run; a social was held on the Friday evening at which a good many villagers were present.

A collection in aid of Barleycrofts Convalescent Home for Girls and Women amounted to 10/-.

(Barleycrofts, a former farmhouse)

The party was much smaller than usual: 29 boys and 20 girls from Chesham, 17 boys and 12 girls from Bank Street.

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 do tell us!

Regular Events (all social events are subject to change)

Sundays:

11.15am: Worship in person at Bury

First Sunday of the months:

10.30am: Worship in person at Ainsworth

Second Sunday of the month:

12.30 (approx.): Second Sunday Lunch. Please join Kate at a local pub for lunch, a coffee, or a drink.

Fourth Sunday of the month:

12.30pm: Inclusive Communion Service at Bury

Fifth Sunday of the month (when there is one!)

10am: Fifth Sunday breakfast

Second Monday (in person) and Fourth Monday (online) of the month:

7pm: Camera Club

Second Tuesday of the month:

6pm: Online meditation

Last Wednesday of the month:

7pm (summer): Book club

Most Fridays:

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

Second Saturday of the month:

10am-3pm (approx.): Minister's Vestry Saturday

Last Saturday of the month (this sometimes moves to the first Saturday of the following month):

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

What's on: June 2024

Sunday 2nd June

10.30am Ainsworth

Morning service, led by Anne Mills

11.15am Bury

Morning Service

Monday 3rd June

9.30 – 2.30: BRC booking (entire building)

Wednesday 5th June

10 – 12: Booking in downstairs lounge (Kate)

Sunday 9th June

11.15am Bury

Morning service

12.45 approx

Second Sunday Lunch

Monday 10th June

9.30 – 2.30: BRC booking (entire building)

Monday 10th June

7pm: Trustees' meeting

Tuesday 11th June

6pm: Zoom meditation (link to follow)

Thursday 13th June

1pm: Funeral of Rev Dr Vernon Marshall,
Brookfield Unitarian Church

Friday 14th June

10-3: Minister's Vestry Day

Saturday 15th June

10-3: Minister's Vestry Saturday

Sunday 16th June

11.15am Bury:

Morning service

Monday 17th June 9.30 – 2.30: BRC booking (*entire building*)

Saturday 22nd June 2pm: Facilitation training

Sunday 23rd June

11.15am Bury:	Morning service
12.30pm approx:	Inclusive Communion

Monday 24th June 9.30 – 2.30: BRC booking (*entire building*)

Monday 24th June 7pm: Camera Club, **meeting on Zoom**

Monday 24th June 7pm: Facilitation training

Tuesday 25th June Teatime: deadline for entries for the June Calendar

Wednesday 29th May 7pm: Book club meeting to discuss *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry.

Friday 28th June 10-3: Minister's Vestry Day

Friday 28th June 1pm: Cross St Chapel (Manchester) concert series

Saturday 29th June 11am onwards: Saturday Social Gathering and Calendar Collation party

Sunday 30th June

10am:	Fifth Sunday Breakfast
11.15am Bury:	Morning service

Church Information:

Minister:

Rev. Kate Brady McKenna

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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: 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



Recent Camera Club pictures from a new member!





Grounds of Blore Hall in the Peak District



Its just a matter of Focus!

