



BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH



**CALENDAR
MARCH 2023**

Letter from the Minister

Dear all,

Last month I started by saying that it seemed a very long time since my last letter, and this month is completely the opposite: February is a short month though, so I suppose it's true!

And spring is definitely happening: the bushes and shrubs in the church garden have been pruned, and crocuses have sprung up in the light created by the pruning. It's worth the bushes looking a bit rough!

February was a fairly quiet month for us as a community: there was some drama at the beginning when Ade and I both picked up a virus, but as always, everyone was very patient about it. I know that we weren't alone in having some health problems, and my love goes to everyone who's been unwell or whose loved ones have been struggling.

And as well as the pain that we share together, we also share joys, and I am really delighted that later on in March (diary planning permitting) we will be welcoming six new people into formal membership of our congregation. It's always a joy to know that people feel that our community is something to which they belong, and which brings nourishment to their lives. I know that we will all join in welcoming them.

During March we have our first social event of the year: we're running another Give and Take event, and I'm looking forward to it. It's a less hands-on event than most of our social activities, but the committee have been planning more things for later in the year. Some of them are advertised in this Calendar, and others will unfold as the months progress.

And so, as we march further forward into spring, I send you blessings that life is nourishing for you, and that you feel strengthened when it isn't.

As ever, I send you my love,

Kate.

News of our community

Brenda and Robin Ainsworth

Robin is now home from Killelea, and is comfortably settled. He and Brenda are receiving very loving support from their family, and are being well looked after by a team of carers.

If you'd like to visit Robin, please contact Brenda by phone first.

Janine Sim

Janine, who many of you will know from Bury Unitarian Church and from various other Unitarian groups, has recently been accepted to train to become a Minister on the Roll of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.

This is really delightful news, and I'm sure Janine will be a great blessing to the denomination. We wish her well for the next two and a bit years as she embarks on her training, and for her future.

Welcoming new members

We will soon be welcoming six new members into our congregation: Andrew, Ewen, Janine, Julia, Paul, and Rita have all accepted our invitation to join our community. We hope to hold a membership service on the day of the AGM, but this has yet to be confirmed. I know that we're all delighted to welcome them.

First Aiders

Anne Evitts and Susan Mitchell have recently been on a one-day First Aid training course: they both have many years of experience in nursing, and we are grateful that they've updated their knowledge and are both willing to act as our named First Aiders in church. They have both also been trained in using the defibrillator.

Safeguarding officers

Ewen Sim has recently undertaken courses in safeguarding both children and vulnerable adults. He will join June Clarke as one of our nominated safeguarding officers. He will be working with Kate on updating the church safeguarding policy soon.

If you would like to use the Calendar to let people know what is happening in your life – whether to ask for our prayers, to celebrate good news, or to mark an anniversary or other event – please let Kate know: she is always happy to print personal news, providing, of course, that the person the news is about is happy for that to happen.

Worship and spiritual practices:

Sunday Services

We continue to meet on Sundays at 11.15am to worship together (the service lasts around an hour and is followed by refreshments and conversation).

We hope to resume Sunday Zoom services on the second Sunday and possibly the fourth Sunday of each month: there will be a Zoom on Sunday 12th March, and possibly on Sunday 26th: watch this space.

Inclusive Communion Services

We generally hold an inclusive communion service on the first Sunday of each month, at 12.30 (after the main service). There will be a Communion on Sunday 5th March: everyone is welcome to this simple and sacred sharing of food, juice, and community.

You're very welcome, even if you've never been before.

From April we will be moving the Communion service to the **last** Sunday of the month: they currently fall on the same day as the service at Ainsworth, and several people like to attend both.

Midweek online meditations:

The meditations have resumed, but there won't be one in March as Kate will be on leave on the relevant date. We'll start again in April. In the meantime please ask Kate for details of other online meditations offered by Unitarian groups.

Lectio Divina Sessions

We are still working on dates for these sessions, which Hannah is hoping to run over the next two or three months. We'll keep you updated as plans progress!

Spring equinox

Kate will be on leave on the day of the Spring Equinox, but if you'd like to celebrate with other Unitarians, she'll happily try and find out who else is offering something.

Worship Group

You may know that we have a Worship Group in the congregation, who work really hard behind the scenes to provide good quality worship when Kate is away. They have a long history of leading nourishing and enjoyable worship, and the care and love they put into services is hugely appreciated.

They are very open to new members. Would you like to be part of planning the occasional service, or providing worship material? You don't need experience, and you can go at whatever pace is comfortable for you.

If you'd like to talk about being part of the group, Val Chamberlain would love to hear from you.

Bury Unitarian Church Congregational AGM 2023

Notice is hereby given that the 53rd Annual General Meeting of the Congregation will be held in the worship area on **Sunday 26th March 2023**, starting at 12.30pm. Coffee and biscuits will be served beforehand, at the end of a slightly shorter than usual service. The meeting should not last for more than an hour. The quorum for the meeting will be 16 people.

Nomination sheets for the election of Church Officers will be posted on the lounge notice board during March. The posts to be filled are:

Chair of Council
Secretary
Treasurer
Membership secretary
Council members
NELUM representatives

At this AGM we will be voting on the following proposal from the Church Council:

That the Worship and Junior Church Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Social and Fund-raising Committee be integrated with the Church Council.

Any items for inclusion under Any Other Business must be notified to Karen Hampson, secretary, in writing (email is acceptable) by Sunday 19th March.

Social Events

Book Club

The Book Club will meet on **Wednesday 29th March** at 2.00pm in the coffee lounge. The book to be discussed is *Endless Night*, by Agatha Christie. The book should be available by Sunday 26th February.

All are welcome, come along and meet the friendly group, no need to have read the book. Tea, coffee, and biscuits are available and you can bring lunch if needed. Remember that parking at church is only available for special accessibility. If you consult the church website you will find a list of the books we have read during the past thirteen years.

Camera Club

The Camera Club normally meets on Zoom on the second and fourth Monday of each month, at 7pm. Everyone is very welcome to join them for these sociable and productive evenings.

The scheduled dates for March are **Monday 13th and Monday 27th**.

If you'd like to know more about Camera Club, or if you need the Zoom log in details, please speak to either Janet Thatcher or Ade Brady (and if you're not sure who they are, please ask someone to point them out to you!

Future social events

Some of these events are really quite far away, but please pop them in your diaries anyway: it's good to have things to look forward to!

Saturday 29th April: Bury Pride

Saturday 20th May: Quiz night

Saturday 15th July: Strawberry Tea

Sunday 10th December: Carols by Candlelight

Give and Take event

We are repeating the Give and Take event we held in 2020 and 2022: details below. It would be great to see the same support we saw in previous years!

Bury Unitarian Church

“Give and Take”

Friday 10th, Saturday 11th, Sunday 12th March 2023

It's a blessing to declutter. It's a blessing to give things. It's a blessing to receive gifts graciously.

Please bring items to church on Sundays or vestry days between now and the event, or on Mondays and Wednesdays by arrangement with Ade. We will set the room up on Friday 10th March.

Please join us for this event, and you may find something you love, either to keep forever or to return to a future event.

The event is much like a bring and buy sale, but everything is offered and received as a gift.

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



Social Gatherings.

We're continuing to hold our Saturday Social Gatherings on the last Saturday of most months. **This month's will be a week later than normal!**

These Gatherings are still slowly turning into what they are meant to be, which is whatever we want and need them to be.

The next gathering will be on **Saturday 1st April.**

Second Sunday lunches

Kate goes to a local pub for her lunch on the second Sunday of most months, and would love you to join her: we normally go to the Robert Peel opposite the parish church, but she is very open to other suggestions!

You can join us for a coffee, a drink, or your lunch. Everyone pays their own way, but **please don't let financial difficulties stop you from joining us:** have a quiet word with Kate and we will sort something out.

This month's lunch will be on **Sunday 12th March.**

April Calendar

The deadline for entries for the April edition of the Calendar will be teatime on Tuesday 28th March, and we'll collate it at the Saturday Social Gathering on Saturday 1st April.

Stewards for Sunday services, March 2023

Sunday 5 th March	Ewen Sim Janine Hurley
Sunday 12 th March	Beryl Bowden Marian Price
Sunday 19 th March	Norah Hickton Peter Whewell
Sunday 26 th March	Betty Kenyon Neville Kenyon

Tea and coffee rota, March 2023

Sunday 5 th March	Jean Maden and Howard Maden
Sunday 12 th March	Pam Gilbert and Lois Williams
Sunday 19 th March	Marian Price and Susan Holt
Sunday 26 th March	Norah Hickton and Peter Whewell.

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!

News from the building.

We are all in the process of a very welcome change: as we move from the quieter, darker times of Winter into the bright new light of Spring we have much that we can look forward to. This simple truth of nature means that there is much that cannot be done when it's freezing cold and threatening to rain, but the change is coming, and with that, some work in the building that feels long since due will soon be able to be dealt with.

Change being an ever present reality, means that it's not just the seasons that alter. You might remember that in the calendar last year, I paid thanks to Roger Mills who had then retired as the property trustee, the person with primary responsibility for the safety and security of our beloved building. I'm very pleased to let you know; for those of you who don't; that Howard Maden has recently agreed to take on this responsibility, and I would like to take this time to thank him for doing so. I invite you, the next time you see him, to welcome him too.

Primary Room

The Church Council has been discussing ways to make the Primary Room into a space which we can use in more and different ways: we think it might be possible to turn it into a room for small groups and confidential chats, or a space to sit and read. Apart from the benefits to our own community, groups booking the upstairs hall might like to have a 'break out' space available.

We are very committed to keeping it available as a welcoming space for the children, and to making sure we can still use it when we're using the upstairs kitchen, and we don't want this to cost much in time or energy.

Do you have any ideas? They don't – initially – have to be practical. Dreams are always good places to start!

Church building open (and warm) on Fridays.

As you probably know, the church building is normally open on Fridays between 10-3, to allow Kate to work in the vestry and be available to people who prefer to pop in to church rather than to have her visit at home. Please know that you are very welcome to come into church even if you don't particularly want to see Kate! As the weather remains chilly, and as fuel prices continue to rise, please know that at least on a Friday we would love you (and your friends, and anyone you know who could make use of this) to pop in and keep warm here. The kettle is always on, and there will be biscuits. You are welcome to bring your lunch, your books, your knitting or any other hobby.

Please do spread the word about this.

If I am ever not going to be able to be here, I will try to arrange for someone else to open up instead.

Minister's schedule, March 2023

I will be off work from after the service (and tidying up the Give and Take) on Sunday 12th March until the morning of Thursday 23rd March.

I am usually in the vestry between at least 10am and 3pm on Fridays, and if you'd like to pop in for a chat you would be very welcome: the kettle is always on.

I try to honour Thursday as a Sabbath, and to avoid work commitments of any sort on that day: Ade also tries not to work on Thursdays. I also try to take alternate Wednesdays as days off, but those are more flexible. Of course, if there's an absolute emergency I want you to contact me even on a day off!

Donations for disaster relief in Syria and Turkey

Thank you to everyone who donated so generously to our two after-service collections for disaster relief following the devastating earthquakes which recently caused so much suffering in Turkey and Syria.

We raised a total of £280, which has been paid into the DEC emergency fund.

Food bank

Thank you also for your continued support for the Foodbank at Trinity Baptist Church: your donations make a real difference, particularly at a time when Foodbanks are struggling for supplies.

Thanks too to Susan Holt, who quietly and efficiently delivers our donations to the Foodbank on a regular basis.

Toilet Twinning



You may know that over the past few years we have been raising money to twin toilets in some of the poorest areas of the world: to date we've twinned nineteen toilets, and we're well on the way to twinning one more. If you have loose change (however small), please consider dropping it into the money boxes situated in each of the toilets.

News from Ainsworth Chapel

Dear Members and Friends of The Chapel

Thank you to the Rev Helen Mills for taking our service on 4th February and all those who attended on a cold but bright morning.

Our next service is: 10.30 am Sunday 5th March led by Janine Sim (Rev Janine Hurley). Janine is already qualified as an Interfaith Minister and has just been accepted for Unitarian Ministry training. Whilst she studies, she is not able to use her Interfaith Reverend title. Congratulations to Janine and we wish her every success with her training.

Reading glasses:

A pair of reading glasses has been found in the School yard. Contact me.

Forthcoming services:

Chapel Anniversary Service: 3.00 pm Sunday 2nd April 2023 Rev John or Rev Beryl Allerton (tbc)

Coronation weekend: 10.30 am Sunday 7th May 2023 Mr Paul Hubbard (Rochdale) *(Bank Holiday weekend for King Charles III Coronation)*

10.30 am Sunday 4th June 2023 tba

10.30 am Sunday 9th July 2023 Rev Shammy Webster

NB Not 2nd July - due to the Bolton Ironman event

NELUM MEETING:

We have been invited to host the next NELUM (North East Lancs Unitarian Mission) General meeting in the Schoolroom 7 pm Monday 3rd April. Any

one is very welcome to attend, but only 2 delegates from each church are eligible to vote. Please try and attend if you can.

Chapel AGM:

It is hoped to hold the Chapel AGM towards the end of March - a mid-week afternoon - date and time to be arranged.

Nominations from Chapel Members are welcome to join the Chapel Congregational Committee and also The Chapel Trustees who are responsible for the structure and upkeep of the buildings. Contact me for any further information.

I do hope you'll be able to attend some or all of these services and we look forward to seeing you.

with best wishes to you all

Shirley



Chapel Winter Sunset

News from around the district and the denomination

Annual Meetings, 4-6 April 2023

If you are considering attending the General Assembly Annual Meetings in April, please note that the deadline for bookings is Tuesday 7th March.

If you'd like more details about the GA meetings, please speak to Kate.

From Uni-News, 3 February 2023

We are pleased to announce the election of two new members to our Executive Committee: John Bates and Rev. Wyn Thomas. The Executive Committee act as trustees for the General Assembly (GA) and Nightingale Centre and work with the Chief Officer and other staff and volunteers to develop and oversee the strategic direction and smooth running of the GA. John was nominated by New Unity CIO and Wyn by Cheltenham & Gloucester Unitarians.

As there were four vacancies on the EC and two candidates, both are elected unopposed, and the remaining vacancies may later be filled by co-option.

By-Gone Times no. 33 by Betty Kenyon:

Henry Pendlebury, 1662-1695

Edward Rothwell 1712-1731 at Bury

Thomas Braddock 1719-1770

John Hughes 1770-1803

William Allard 1803-1831: Minister at Bury Unitarian Church.

William Allard, born 1767 at Daventry.

He started his ministry at Rotherham. When he left there in 1793 his stipend was £80 per year and he lived in the parsonage. While there, he was instrumental in starting the Hollis School, where there was moral and religious training as well as secular studies. He married Susannah Bingley of Rotherham. Next, he was at Stockport for a few months, then he moved to Derbyshire, where he was minister at Bradwell, Stoney Middleton and Ashford in the Peak District, and Hucklow. In 1796 he was instrumental in the building of the stone chapel at Great Hucklow. Next, in 1798, he went to Coseley. Here he established a Sunday School.

William Allard had five children, the fourth child named Thomas Barnes Allard, born 1799. It is most likely that he was named after Rev Thomas Barnes.

Rev Thomas Barnes had been Minister at Cockey Moore, then Cross Street, Manchester, and became principal of Manchester New College 1784-1798.

Rev William Allard came to Bury in 1804. He lived at 19, Union Square, Bury. B&M store is approximately in the position of Union Square. Back in 1804 Union Square was a prime place to live.



A shop sign on Union Square



One side of Union Square, just before its demolition in the 1960's.

During William Allard's time at Bury the Chapel Library, the Sunday School, the Benevolent Society, and the Sunday Scholars' Clothing Society were started.

In a much more up-to-date piece of history, Betty has found a copy of *The Norfolk Unitarian* from August 2010, when Neville and Kate (who hadn't even started her ministry training at that point) were both down to lead worship.

What's a bit weird is that Kate can't find any record that she actually did preach on those weeks, or that she's ever preached on that topic!

Little did either of us know . . .!



Octagon Chapel, Norwich

Services in August

Services every Sunday at 11am

01.08 Neville Kenyon

President of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free
Christian Churches

'Nurture your Freedom'

08.08 Gavin Lloyd

(Member of Oxford Congregation)

'The Feast of the Transfiguration'

15.08 Kate McKenna

(Octagon Member)

'What do you do?'

22.08 Revd Peter Hewis

(Retired Unitarian Minister)

'What is Prayer?'

29.08 Ray Seal

(Lay Pastor at Framlingham Church)

'No Easy Exit'

05.09 Kate McKenna

(Octagon Member)

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 subject to change)

Sundays:

11.15am Worship in person at Bury

First Sunday of each month:

10.30am Worship in person at Ainsworth

12.30pm Inclusive Communion Service at Bury

Second Sunday of each month:

12.30 (approx.) Second Sunday Lunch. Please join Kate at a local pub for lunch, a coffee, or a drink. We'll all be buying our own (if you would like to come and the cost would be a problem please have a quiet word with Kate).

Second and fourth Sundays of each month:

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

Second and fourth Mondays of each month:

7pm Camera club (normally online)

Second Tuesday of each month (not taking place in March)

7pm Online midweek meditation session

Last Wednesday of each month:

2pm Book club

Most Fridays:

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

Last Saturday of each month (this month's will be on 1st April)

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

What's on: March 2023

Friday 3rd March

10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day. The church building will be open and warm and you are welcome to come and use the space.

Sunday 5th March

11.15am, Bury:	Service in church, led by Hannah Stephenson.
12.30pm, Bury:	Inclusive Communion Service.
10.30am, Ainsworth:	Service led by Janine Sim

Friday 10th March

10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day. The church building will be open and warm and you are welcome to come and use the space.

Friday 10th – Sunday 12th March:

Give and Take event.

Sunday 12th March

11.15am Bury:	Service in church, led by the minister
12.30pm:	Second Sunday lunch,
2pm:	Zoom service

Monday 13th March

7pm: Camera club, on Zoom

7pm: Trustees meeting

Friday 17th March:

No vestry day today: Kate is on leave.

Sunday 19th March (Mothering Sunday)

11.15am Bury: Service in church led by Tina Gandhi, ministry student.

Friday 24th March: 10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day. The church building will be open and warm and you are welcome to come and use the space.

Sunday 26th March:

11.15am Bury: Service in church, led by the minister
12.30pm: Bury Unitarian Church AGM
2pm: Zoom service (provisional: watch this space).

Monday 27th March: 7pm: Camera club, on Zoom

Tuesday 28th March: Teatime: deadline for entries for the April edition of the *Calendar*.

Wednesday 29th March: Book club meeting in church to discuss *Endless Night* by Agatha Christie.

Saturday 1st April: 11am onwards: Saturday social gathering, during which we'll be collating the April *Calendar*: you're welcome whether you want to join in with that or just socialise.

Sunday 2nd April

11.15am, Bury: Service in church, led by Hannah Stephenson.
12.30pm, Bury: Inclusive Communion Service.
3pm, Ainsworth: Anniversary Service, led by either Rev Beryl Allerton or Rev John Allerton.

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

Church secretary: Karen Hampson 0161 766 2283

Chair of congregation: Vacant

Church treasurer: Lynda Arthur

Contact for room bookings and building maintenance

Property Manager Adrian Brady 07736 107143

Charity reg no: 107857

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH



The Robin knows that winter's nearly over!

FEBRUARY 2022

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH



MARCH 2022

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH



Magnolia

April 2022

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH



Three Bury and Rochdale Presidents

May 2022

Bury Unitarian Church



Platinum Jubilee Congratulatory

June 2022

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH



Steam powered gondola on Coniston

July 2022

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH



August 2022

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH



SEPTEMBER 2022 CALENDAR



BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH



Elizabeth II - Charles III

OCTOBER 2022 CALENDAR

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH



November 2022

Calendar back-issues are available on our website

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH



December 2022 & January 2023