

# BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

## CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2015

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### CHURCH SERVICES

1 March	11.15am	The Minister
8 March	11.15am	The Minister
15 March	11.15am	The Minister – Mothering Sunday
22 March	11.15am	The Minister – followed by post- service discussion of the G.A. Motions
29 March	11.15am	Rev. John Allerton – Palm Sunday

### CHURCH STEWARDS

1 March	Betty Kenyon & John Allerton
8 March	Marian Price & Di Scaife
15 March	Beryl Bowden & Jean Jackson
22 March	Sue McMullen & Marc Peters
29 March	Alf Howson & Roger Mills

*If you are unable to fulfil your duties on the given date, please re-arrange with another steward – thank you.*

### CHURCH FLOWERS

1 March	In loving memory of Barbara & Jim Pollitt – Melanie & Carolyn
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8 March	Mr & Mrs Derek Worthington
15 March	In loving memory of Barbara Ashworth – Joe, Vera & Families
22 March	Church Flowers
29 March	Mrs Susan Mitchell – In loving memory of her parents

Catherine & Sydney Poole

*Distributors: Barbara Bamford & Jean Brookhouse*

### SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

7 March	Anne & Roger Mills
14 March	Rene Hollos & Alison Hollos
21 March	Betty Kenyon & Molly Ratcliffe
28 March	Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard

### LUNCHEON CLUB

This month's meeting takes place on March 17<sup>th</sup>, at 12.30 p.m; when Susan will act as host. Please keep an eye out for a list on the notice-board to sign, nearer the time. New members are always welcome.

### WOMEN'S LEAGUE

**Thursday 5 March at 7.30pm Speaker to be announced.**

### BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm. The book to be discussed will be in the lounge cupboard on Thursday 2 April. New folk always welcome.

## **MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

We had an excellent meeting in February, when John Allerton imparted his knowledge to us on the subject of 'KNOTS' It was an extremely interesting hour, and he left us mentally in knots, as well as our fingers. A pint in The Trackside afterwards managed to refresh us and to untie our fingers. The next meeting will be on the last Wednesday in April, the 29<sup>th</sup>. Our speaker will be George Scaife who has done a couple of charity cycle rides in France. He will relate his adventures to us!! ***Derek Worthington***

## **MEETINGS IN MARCH**

### **Sunday 1 March after morning service – Congregational A.G.M.**

Monday 2 March        7.00pm Social & Fund Raising

Monday 9 March        7.00pm Communications, Worship & Junior Church

## **CALENDAR DEADLINE**

The last day for items to be given for inclusion in the April edition of the Calendar is Sunday, 22 March – thank you.

## **TRAI DCRAFT**

The stall will be open on March 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>; at other times, if you need goods, please ask Anne, or Jean Brookhouse.

## **ORGANIST**

On Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, we have a new organist visiting us; his name is Michael Scott; he is a (mature) piano pupil of Rose Dipnall and also plays the organ regularly at St. Joseph's R.C. Church, in Ramsbottom. On that date, several key people from the church will be absent, either on holiday or at the GA AGM's. Please give Michael a warm welcome, to encourage him to return!

## **SITUATIONS VACANT**

We need volunteers to fill two posts---neither is especially time-consuming or onerous, but the tasks involved need to be done. I have already established a good contact at "The Bury Times", in the Advertising Department; whenever we hold events at church and wish to publicise them, someone has to draft an advert, phone it through, and approve the proof---probably about 20 minutes' work, each time, in all; a telephone and computer are necessary, however. We are in the process of setting up an account so that payment will not need to be made for individual adverts, as we will be invoiced regularly. As part of our Growth Seminars, last year, we felt that good publicity was essential for everything we did; it would be a great pity if this was not done, simply for the lack of a volunteer. We also require a volunteer to oversee the Yoga Stewarding Rota; members are asked to sign up to steward on Monday evenings; all that is needed is to keep an eye on the rota and make sure that each Monday is covered; if it is not, a pulpit-notice will be needed. If we cannot find anyone to do this, it may mean that we have to cancel sessions; we may even lose the booking.

If you can help, please speak to me as soon as possible. ***Anne Mills***

## **THANKS**

We now have a new DVD Player, which links in with our television; our anonymous donor has paid for this, too, and we appreciate the generous gesture.

Our church-flowers are always beautiful---lovely colours, well-displayed, and abundant---always a delight to behold. Molly does us proud, on all occasions, but, whilst she has been indisposed, others have taken her place. We are most grateful to Molly for all the work she does, in terms of arranging our flowers, and we express our gratitude to Beryl, Rene, June and Sue for all their help, too.

Special thanks go to Janet and Ron, who very generously donated the floral arrangements from Richard and Sarah's wedding; the beautiful cream and light purple baskets graced our communion table and the organ for some weeks

afterwards and attracted many compliments. The National Women's League President, when she visited to conduct the Manchester and District Women's League Annual Service, on February 7<sup>th</sup>, commented particularly on the splendour of the flowers.

We are very fortunate in having church-members who are so very generous, in so many ways.

### **LAUNCH OF OUR PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP**

This year, it is the intention of the Charity Committee to establish and run a Prostate Cancer Support Group for the Bury Area, as it seems that there is a need for such a group. To that end, the Charity Committee have already had two meetings with Yvonne Trace, the Support Group Development Officer for Prostate Cancer UK. Yvonne has shown herself to be extremely knowledgeable as regards setting up such a group and has offered a great deal of practical assistance in the early stages of our project; we are grateful for the amount of work she has willingly taken upon herself. Plans are now at an advanced stage, and the Inaugural Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, between 7 and 9 p.m. The format of the evening will be a welcome from Beryl, who will outline our intentions in setting up the group; Yvonne will then explain her rôle, and she will be followed by a clinician, who will speak in general terms about Prostate Cancer; refreshments will be served, and there will be an opportunity for all present to chat informally. The Deputy Mayor and Mayoress will also be present.

Church-members have already shown great interest in the new group and have helped by distributing posters and flyers around the town. Please spread the word about our Prostate Cancer Group and its meetings---the more people we can attract, the better. Everyone is welcome at the Launch, on March 17<sup>th</sup>, and at the First Meeting, on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, again between 7 and 9 p.m. Let's hope for a successful outcome, on both occasions.

**Don't forget the Quiz Evening with Pie and Peas Supper, on February 28<sup>th</sup>!**

### **CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES**

After the February Church Council Meeting, on the 9<sup>th</sup>, I shall be busy for a couple of weeks, so the Minutes are unlikely to be available for a while. Since this means that I will miss the calendar-deadline, I will, again, make the full Minutes available by pinning them on the lounge notice-board so that anyone interested may read them.

### **DISCUSSION OF G.A. AGM MOTIONS**

We shall be discussing this year's Motions, after the service, on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, in order to instruct our delegates, Betty and Neville Kenyon, as to how we wish them to vote on our behalf. At the time of writing, we do not know how many Motions there will be, but all the necessary information will be made available well before the meeting.

### **MINISTER'S MONTH**

The piece in last month's calendar by Pat Mitton stirred many memories for me. I too spent my formative church years at Chesham. I also attended Chesham day school and was in the same class as Pat's sister Pam. Being slightly younger than Pat (age matters when you are little) I was in a different group. The name she was looking for in her group, which she couldn't remember, was Marjorie Morris, cousin of the Livesey girls. I remember she went off to America to be a nanny something that sounded very glamorous and exciting. As for dancing, well, Brenda Livesey did 'ballet' and so made me feel even more like a not-so-baby elephant. The transparent paper dresses in jewel colours, which Pat remembered, went on to make further appearances as I wore one a couple of years later when singing 'On the Sunny Side of the Street'. For our costume fittings we went to the mysterious and wonderful 'sewing room' up the back stairs where Mrs Cheetham worked her magic with her helpers. My aunt Emily, who was one of the Chesham Minstrels, did our make-up while telling me not to sing but just to mime. And if you never saw Molly as Principal Boy slapping her thigh you really missed out. Thanks for the memories Pat. Memories which made me realise that the church today does

very different things and may seem to have changed completely but I think under the surface the important things endure.

My trip to Venice, which most of you will have heard about was really rather wonderful and I would recommend anyone to go in January. The weather was good and there were no crowds and no queues. It is amazing how quickly having canals instead of streets becomes 'normal'. I will remember lots of things, but a strange one was Diaghilev's grave adorned with lots of ballet shoes.

The launch for the Prostate Cancer Support Group is now only a few weeks away. The Charity Committee are working very hard to publicise it in as many places as possible. This is just one of the 'open door' initiatives planned for the church this year. At a recent committee meeting we decided that we would try and encourage as many peoples possible into the church to get to know us and what we offer. With special services and events planned all of which have a wide appeal we need to invite people to come along to some or all of the things which we are offering this year as part of our 'open door'.

In January I had one of those 'moments' when I was privileged to conduct the wedding of Richard and Sarah Thatcher and I recalled holding an eleven day old Richard at my wedding thirty years ago, he was our youngest guest, I could not have dreamed then I would officiate at his wedding. **Beryl**

I will be away at the GA Meeting Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February the Minister conducted the funeral of John Sharples at the church followed by committal at the East Lancashire Crematorium. Jack's sudden death came barely a month after that of his wife Lilian. Their son Phillip managed to get home from Dubai to be with his father before he died. We extend our deepest condolences to Phillip on the loss of his father so soon after that of his mother. Jack was brought up at the Chesham Chapel and when the three churches merged he became a committed member of Bury Unitarian Church.

## **PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP LAUNCH**

**TUESDAY 17 MARCH 7 - 9PM**

**Welcome by Beryl**

**Talk by the Support Group Development Officer for Prostate Cancer UK**

**Talk by a clinician who will speak in general terms about prostate cancer**

**Refreshments will be served and there will be opportunity for informal chat.**

**The Deputy Mayor and Mayoress will be present.**

**PLEASE SUPPORT THIS NEW VENTURE FOR OUR 2015 CHARITY**

## **MUSIC EXAMS**

Please remember that the church is being used for music exams 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

## **ADVANCE NOTICE – SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

### **A SWING BAND**

This band comes with an enormous reputation for being wonderfully entertaining and we expect that there will be quite a number of visitors for this event.

Tickets will be on sale from Members of the Social and Fund Raising Committee soon.