

CHURCH INFORMATION

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BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2019



Hi Jinks round the Traidcraft Stall!!

MINISTER

REVEREND K MCKENNA

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR MARCH 2019

CHURCH SERVICES

3 March	11.15am	The Minister
10 March	11.15am	The Minister
12 March	7.00pm	Contemplative Worship
17 March	11.15am	The Minister
24 March	11.15am	The Minister
31 March	11.15am	The Minister – Mothering Sunday

CHURCH STEWARDS

3 March	Roger Mills & Susan Holt
10 March	Betty & Neville Kenyon
17 March	Marian Price & Di Scaife
24 March	Beryl Bowden & Janet Thatcher
31 March	Sue McMullen & Ashleigh-Jade Jones

CHURCH FLOWERS

3 March	Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert - in memory of Ted & Eda Gerrard
10 March	Harry Taylor – in memory of his parents
17 March	Vera Stephenson – in memory of Barbara & Joe Ashworth
24 March	Kathryn Jackson & Sally Broadhurst – in memory of Jean Jackson
31 March	Church Flowers

Distributors: B.Bamford, j.Brookhouse, A.Evitts, S. McMullen

Distributors: Barbara Bamford, Jean Brookhouse, Anne Evitts, Sue McMullen

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

2 March	Margaret Fitzpatrick & Norah Hickton
9 March	Betty Kenyon & Kate McKenna
16 March	Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard
23 March	June Clarke & Sue McMullen
30 March	Brenda Ainsworth & Susan Holt

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

3 March	Anne Mills(M), Beryl Bowden & Damion Langford
10 March	Norah Hickton(M), Peter Whewell, Barbara Bamford
17 March	Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Lois Williams, Di Scaife
24 March	Marian Price(M), Susan Mitchell, Fred Mitchell
31 March	Jean Maden(M), Brenda Ainsworth, George Scaife

We need a volunteer to help with Sunday Morning Coffee on the first Sunday of each month. If you can help, please have a word with Marian Price – thank you.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN MARCH

Wednesday, 6 March at 7pm Social & Fund-raising
Sunday 24 March after Morning Worship – CHURCH A.G.M.

ADVANCE NOTICE- APRIL

Wednesday 3 APRIL at 7pm Finance & General Purposes

CALENDAR DEADLINE

The last day for items to be included in the April edition of The Calendar will be Sunday 24th March.

LUNCH CIRCLE

We shall meet, this month, on Tuesday, March 19th, at 12.30 pm; when Anne and Roger will act as hosts. Please watch the board for announcements and sign up, as soon as possible, if you intend to be present.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday, 7 March at 7.30pm A.G.M.

CAMERA CLUB

The group will meet on March 11th, at 7 p.m; when "Portraits" will be the order of the evening. If you fancy yourself as a Society photographer, come along to the session. Models for the pictures will be needed, too; if you can spare an hour or so, feel free to drop in---no previous experience necessary!

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Wednesday 27 March at 7pm. The book to be discussed is and it should be available from the lounge cupboard from Friday 1st March, all being well!

TRAIDCRAFT

The stall will be open on March 3rd and March 17th; if you require goods at other times, please speak to Anne or Jean. Fair Trade Fortnight takes place between February 25th and March 10th, and this year's theme will be "She needs an income".

THE FUTURE OF FAITH

Rev. Jim Corrigan has organised a series of lectures on this theme, on behalf of the Lancashire Collaborative Ministry. The last lecture in the series takes place on March 23rd, 2019, when the speaker will be Alastair McIntosh; his theme is to be "Towards Third Millennium Christianity: Activism, Non-violence and the Mystical Imperative."The lecture will be held at Rawtenstall Unitarian Church, between 11 am. and 3.15 pm. Lunch is on a bring-and-share basis.

FILMS AT ROCHDALE

There is a poster on the board which gives details of all the films planned, with dates, for 2019. The next film evening will be held on Saturday, March 30th, at 7 pm; when "Finding Your Feet" will be shown. Please note the change of date, from March 23rd. Anyone wishing to attend should consult the poster; booking may be made by contacting Helen Illingworth. Rochdale's film evenings are excellent; do consider joining them for one of their sessions.

CONGREGATIONAL AGM

Notice is hereby given that the 50th Annual General Meeting of the Congregation will be held in the worship-area, on Sunday, March 24th, 2019, commencing at 12.30 pm. The meeting should not last for more than an hour, and coffee and biscuits will be served beforehand, at the end of a slightly shorter service.

Nomination-sheets for the election of Officers and Council-members will be posted on the lounge notice-board, in advance of the meeting; we need a full set of officers to serve for one year, and four Council-members to serve for three years.

Any items for the agenda relevant to an AGM should be notified to Anne Mills, in writing, no later than Sunday, March 10th.

Retiring Council-members, this year, are Beryl Bowden, June Clarke, Margaret Fitzpatrick and Marian Price; they are not now eligible to serve for a year; thanks to them for all their efforts. Currently on Council, with a further year to serve are Abi Elliott-McGuffie, Norah Hickton, Lorraine

Maden and Sue McMullen; Val Chamberlain, Damion Langford, Peter Whewell and Lois Williams have two years left to serve.

Please give thought to nominating people to serve as officers or council-members; if everyone will volunteer to contribute a small amount, we can continue to operate successfully. Thank you.

Anne Mills: Church Secretary.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

We have been notified that ballot-papers for the above elections will be posted out to the church, during the week commencing February 18th; once received, they will be given to each quota-paying member, by the Church Secretary, so that votes can be cast.

NELUM MEETING

There appears to have been some confusion over the date of the meeting; it will be held on Monday, March 18th, at 7.15 pm; at Bury Unitarian Church.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KATE.....

.....on achieving full ministerial status. Newly-qualified ministers are subject to a probationary period, after which our Ministerial Support Group is required to submit a report to the Director of Ministry; a minister's progress is then reviewed by the Interview Panel, before being scrutinised by the Executive Committee. Kate's performance has been judged to be satisfactory, and she has now received a letter from the Chief Officer, congratulating her on her achievement and thanking her for her deeply-valued contribution to the Unitarian Ministry.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

We have been informed that, on Monday, April 8th, between 1 and 4 pm; at Cross Street Chapel, Manchester, a session is to be held, so that all interested parties may meet the new GA Chief Officer, Elizabeth Slade. Full details, or as many as we have at present, are on the board.

POSSIBLE ROAD-CLOSURES

Anne Mills has received information from Bury Metro Council that carriageway resurfacing is due to take place in the Bolton Street/Haymarket Street area, over a 5-week period, commencing on March 11th; work is to be carried out between Sunday and Friday, during the evenings and overnight, between 7pm. and 2 am. The full document will be posted on the notice-board; if anyone would like a copy, please speak to Anne.

300TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

The committee which will organise special events to celebrate our 300th Anniversary will consist of Susan Holt, Betty Kenyon, Damion Langford, Jean Maden, Kate McKenna and Anne Mills. A meeting will be arranged, very shortly, to discuss what we might do; if you have any ideas for consideration, please speak to a committee-member. Filming, for a celebratory DVD has already begun and will continue at intervals throughout the year.

RETIRING COLLECTION

The February Church Council Meeting agreed that a retiring collection could be taken, on Sunday, March 10th, in aid of the Women's League's national project for 2018/9: The Sepsis Trust. As it has not proved possible to arrange a separate fund-raising event, this year, this seemed a viable alternative. The subject of Sepsis is currently in the news; this is a life-threatening condition, which can lead to death, if left untreated, and its effects are often under-estimated or ignored; please make a contribution, if you feel able; thank you.

CALENDAR DISTRIBUTION

If you would like to receive THE CALENDAR each month as an attachment to an email, -please let the editor know.

CALENDAR CONTRIBUTIONS

We welcome articles, reviews, or items, of interest from members of the congregation, or the Junior Church – there is a yellow folder in the lounge cupboard (under the bookshelf) where items may be put or you can email the editor.

OBITUARY



JEAN JONES

14th February, 2019

Dear Revd McKenna

Some of the congregation at the church may have read in today's Bury Times that my mother, Jean Jones, died ever so gently and peacefully on 1st February after a happy and very fulfilled life of nearly 91 years.

My mother attended Bank Street for over 60 years, until increasing blindness meant that she was unable to get to services on her own, so she started going to the Baptist Church with my father, Ron. I'm sure that a number of the congregation will remember them. Mum then moved from Bury to St Albans after my father's death in 2015.

Mum was a member of the choir at Bury for around 50 years, and along with Jim Pollitt, sang many solos at services and concerts. I remember very clearly as a child turning pages for Frank Carter, the then organist, at performances of the Messiah at both the Bury and Ainsworth chapels in which mum was the soprano soloist. Mum also took part in many Christmas pantomimes, and plays in the old schoolroom at Bank Street during the 1950's – she often told the story of a production of Jack and the Beanstalk in which the beanstalk had no platform at the top, so she was unable to get down!

Though no longer attending a Unitarian church, my mother retained a strong Unitarian belief, and it was the prayers, readings and music of Bank Street which she always held dear. On the day she died, my wife and I spent lunchtime with her as she listened to the setting of the 23rd psalm to Brother James' Air (which I first came across at Ainsworth), and Walford Davis' "God Be In My Head", her favourite vesper. Mum had asked me to pray with her, and I read some verses by Rabindranath Tagore that she had kept in a little book by her bedside for so many years. And while my

wife and I sat next to her with our Morrison's salads, she settled down to sleep, closed her eyes and drifted quietly away.

Mum lost her appetite during the hot weather last summer, and never really regained it. She remained cheerful, though (as you can see from the photograph taken on Christmas Day) and determined to see out Christmas, her granddaughter's 18th and my 60th! Her birthday present to me were tickets to see La Traviata at La Scala in Milan; it was a wonderful performance, and mum was thrilled to be able to look at the photographs and hear all about it. It was following a family tradition – for mum's 60th, I took her and dad to see Boris Godunov in Paris, then for dad's 60th, it was Aida in Verona. Mum kept diaries of all their holidays, so I was reading about those two trips to her last week.

We are planning to hold mum's funeral in St Albans on 1st March; please would you remember her in your prayers that day. In a true ecumenical spirit, she had become part of the Cathedral congregation in St Albans, because one of the lay visitors used to visit her nursing home each weekend. It gave her great comfort to feel part of a Christian community down here, and we plan to endow an annual day of music at the Cathedral in her memory.

We will miss her terribly, but take solace in knowing how much she meant to so many people.

Sincerely, **Peter**

Bury Homeless Project

Ade and I normally steward for the Bury Street Kitchen sessions on a Tuesday night and we are more than happy to continue to do the bulk of this.

But if you would like to spend either a quiet evening in the vestry, or an evening getting to know the service users, and would be happy to steward from around 6.30 to around 8.30 on any Tuesday evening, there will be a rota on the notice board.

We have given Gary, from the Bury Homeless Project, permission to use the minister's parking space next to the church when there is no one else using it. He has a church parking permit, and will be using the space occasionally so that he can deliver food to rough sleepers.

Delta course

A reminder that Kate is hoping to run the Delta Course – a progressive alternative to the evangelical Alpha Course – sometime later in the Spring. Watch this space (or speak to Kate) for more details.

Contemplative worship

The contemplative worship session which would have taken place on Tuesday 12th March has been cancelled as Kate will be away. The next session will be on Tuesday 9th April, and will be in the afternoon. Further details in the April newsletter.

Communion

There will be a communion service after the main service on Sunday 31st March. Everyone is welcome to join in this sharing of bread, wine, and community. The service lasts about twenty minutes.

Ideas for services, contemplative worship, and workshops

If you have something you would like explored in a service, in contemplative worship, or as a workshop, Kate is always happy to take 'requests'.

Victoria Wood statue

The statue of Victoria Wood is going to be unveiled sometime in May, and we hope to be involved in some way. We'll keep you posted when the organisers have more information (like, for instance, a date!).

Visitors to the church

Please remember that if someone visits us and is hungry or thirsty, we can always offer them at the very least a hot drink. There are normally biscuits in the kitchen, and various food items in the cloakroom as well. It is our policy – and this is also what we've been advised by the street kitchen – that we do not give anyone cash. It would be really helpful if everyone

could stick to this policy. But please don't send anyone away without the offer of food and drink.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear all,

I've had a couple of days off this week because we've had visitors, and - like I always do when people come to stay - I've loved showing off Bury to them: particularly the church, by which I mean not only the building, but (more importantly) the people who make up the congregation. One of our visitors came to the service on Sunday morning, and I love that when I bring visitors I never have to worry about whether they'll feel welcome, because welcoming is one of our greatest strengths. It's also the most important. I've said before, and will probably say again, that our Sunday morning services could be the most inspiring and uplifting things ever, with transcendent music and everything running perfectly, but without our welcome that wouldn't count for much at all.

We had a couple of Manchester-based evenings, one seeing a rock gig at the Cathedral, and the other seeing Mother Courage and her Children, at the Exchange Theatre. Both of them were brilliant, and I admit to liking living within easy reach of everything Manchester has to offer, without having to actually live in such a big city. It's nice to spend a few hours with bright lights and lots of people, but it's much nicer to hop off the tram at the Interchange!

We also went (for the second time for me) to see the Victoria Wood exhibition over the road at the Art Museum.

I'm getting increasingly aware of the number of famous people who were from Bury - I knew about Victoria Wood, of course, but not about Richmal Compton, for instance. It's very exciting that it looks like we'll finally be seeing the Victoria Wood statue in our garden in May, and we're hoping to be involved in the unveiling in some way.

Inside the building the vestry is currently being painted: we have two weddings coming up this year, and it will be much more welcoming to wedding couples when it's freshened up. One of the weddings, of course, is that of Lorraine and Peter, and it's going to be particularly lovely to see the wedding of two of our own.

I'm always aware how blessed we are that, when something needs to happen to further improve our already beautiful building, we are generally able to do it without too much fuss or heartache. Our building is a glorious asset, and it's easy to forget that the ongoing 'tweaks' we're able to give it are why it's in the good condition it is. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Peter and Roger for everything they do on that front, and to the trustees for their support.

You will all know by now that Anne Mills has been chosen to be the Vice President of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian churches for 2019-2020, and will then be the President from 2020-2021. This is a real accolade for Anne, and we should be very proud that (once again) the President comes from Bury Unitarian church. Anne's duties will take her and Roger away a lot during the next two years, and we will miss both their presence and their work, but it will be very exciting to hear their tales.

I'm pretending to myself that we've had all the snow we're going to have this year (though it's not uncommon even into April) and that spring is really here. I have several vases of daffodils (my favourite spring flower) around the house, and we've been hearing a lot of birdsong from the cemetery over the road, so even if the weather does turn nasty again, I promise you it won't be long til we really believe in the spring!

With love, Kate

GRAND QUIZ EVENING

SATURDAY 6 APRIL AT 7.30PM

(Please arrive by 7.15pm)

WITH QUIZMASTERS – EDITH & DOUG CATHCART

PIE AND PEAS SUPPER & BYOB

TICKETS - £8 - FROM SUSAN MITCHELL

This is a fund-raising event – please give your support – half proceeds to Church Funds and half to Grace's Place Hospice, Dumers Lane, Radcliffe

A SEASONAL POEM

As the seasons are preparing to gently shift , I thought this poem might be
a suitable one for this month's calendar – **Abi**

On the precipice of all or nothing
the tightrope walker lurches.
Momentum has her in sight,
which way will she go?

Holding on tightly
to certainty.
One way or the other
it must be.
But what if?

What if
certainty is an illusion,
What if
certainty is the weight of imbalance,
What if
certainty pulls her crashing down.

The energy of possibility
teeters on the rope of her decision.
She breathes,
momentum loosens its' grip
and consonance takes her hand.