

CHURCH SERVICES

1 March 11.15am The Minister, with Marta Pacini, Anand Ennis-Cole and Sri Ramana Devi. *Following this service there will be a retiring collection to sponsor trees in a new Peace Forest in Rossendale.*

8 March 11.15am The Minister – *followed by Second Sunday Lunch*

15 March 11.15am To be confirmed.

22 March 11.15am The Minister – Mothering Sunday

29 March 11.15am The Minister, *followed by Communion*

CHURCH STEWARDS

1 March Sue McMullen & Ashleigh-Jade Jones

8 March Jean Brookhouse & Susan Mitchell

15 March Lois Williams & George Scaife

22 March Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert

29 March Susan Holt & Roger Mills

CHURCH FLOWERS

1 March Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert - In memory of Eda & Ted Gerrard

8 March Vera Stephenson – In memory of Barbara & Joe Ashworth

15 March Church Flowers

22 March Kathryn Jackson & Sally Broadhurst – In memory of Jean Jackson

29 March Pam & David Gilbert – In memory of Peter

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

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

7 March Pam Gilbert & Di Scaife

14 March Margaret Fitzpatrick & Norah Hickton

21 March Betty Kenyon & Kate McKenna

28 March Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

1 March Jean Maden(M), Beryl Bowden, Damion Langford

8 March Norah Hickton(M), Barbara Bamford, Peter Whewell

15 March Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Lois Williams, Di Scaife

22 March Marian Price(M), Susan Mitchell

29 March Marian Price(M), Brenda Ainsworth, George Scaife

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN MARCH

Tuesday, 3 rd March at 7pm	Trustees
Tuesday, 17 th March at 7pm	Worship
Monday, 23 rd March at 7pm	Social & Fund-raising
Monday, 30 th March at 7pm	Finance & General Purposes

CALENDAR DEADLINE All items for inclusion in the April Calendar should be with the editor by Sunday 22nd March, please.

LUNCH CIRCLE We will meet on March 17th, at 12.30 p.m; when Anne and Roger will host. Please sign up as soon as possible, so that we have time to plan, shop, and prepare for the meal. New members are welcome.

Please note that the April meeting will be held on the 28th, **not** on the 21st, on account of work being carried out in the Switch Room; it is also a more convenient date for the chef!

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday, 5th March at 7.30pm **Annual General Meeting**

BOOK CLUB Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 25th March at 7pm. The book to be discussed is..... All are welcome; no need to have read the book.

TRAIDCRAFT The stall will be open on March 1st and 15th; at other times, if you need items, please ask Anne or Jean for assistance. We are still selling rice as part of The Bury Fair Trade Group's Rice Challenge, so do consider buying a packet from the stall; if you cannot use this yourself, you could pass it on to a family-member or friend; the people of Malawi will appreciate your generosity, and it is in aid of an excellent cause.

CAMERA CLUB

We shall meet on Monday, March 9th, at 7 p.m; when we will continue to prepare photographs for our next exhibition, later in the year. New members are always welcome to come along and potter with us; our meetings are always very informal. In addition, we have arranged a private tour of Rochdale Town Hall, on Wednesday, March 18th, between 12 noon and 2 p.m. Whilst this is primarily for Camera Club members, it should be possible to include church-members, if they are interested; to reserve a place, please speak to Roger. There will be a charge of approximately £10.00 per head (depending on numbers attending) for the visit.

Communion: The March communion service will take place after the main service on March 29th. Everyone is, as always, welcome.

Prayer workshop, 21st March: The much-delayed Prayer Workshop will take place on Saturday 21st March, beginning at around 1030am and finishing by 1230. This is a chance to discuss and consider your relationship with prayer and is suitable for anyone, no matter whether prayer is important to you, or just a matter of interest!

Second-Sunday lunch, 8th March: You are very welcome to join Kate for lunch, a coffee, or a drink at the Art Picture House after the service on Sunday 8th March. The seating area and toilets in the pub are downstairs, and there is parking just outside.

Bury Pride, 25th April: Bury will be celebrating LGBTQI pride on Saturday 25th April, and the worship committee have agreed that the church will host a Pride service in the afternoon of that day. Further details will follow.

Saturday coffee: We are looking for someone to help with Saturday morning coffee once every six weeks. The coffee mornings are an important and lovely part of our church life. You don't have to be able to cook: shop-bought cakes are entirely acceptable. Please speak to Susan Holt or Kate Brady McKenna if you might be interested.

Lunch circle: If you'd like to either come along to lunch circle, or help out occasionally (either once every three months or just every so often), Susan Holt, Anne Mills, or Kate Brady McKenna would be delighted to hear from you!

Give or take days: From 10am on Saturday 7th March until around 1.30pm on Sunday 8th March we will be holding a 'give and take' stall in the upstairs hall.

It will work like a bring and buy sale, but there will be no charge for the items: it is about finding homes for unwanted things, and about

sustainability. You don't need to bring something in order to take something.

It will be a good way to find new homes for unwanted Christmas gifts, toiletries, homeware, and good quality clothes. What you don't want might be just what someone else is looking for!

We won't be accepting anything which won't fit into a normal bin bag, although you can bring as many items as you wish.

You can bring items in during Kate's vestry day on Friday, and anything which hasn't been re-homed by Sunday afternoon will go either to the Bury Homeless Project or to a charity shop.

Church WiFi The church WiFi has been upgraded, and is now much faster and more reliable. The new password is on a notice on the lounge noticeboard. The WiFi is available for anyone using the building.

Thanks to Ade Brady, John Fitzpatrick, and Roger Mills for making this happen.

Everything you always wanted to know . . .

The first two years I was at Norwich, people talked about "the Hapton picnic and service" and I didn't ask what it was. And after the second year I felt a bit stupid for not knowing. So after ten years preaching there, I never did know. There are probably things like that about our church that you know you don't know, but now don't want to ask. And the fact is, you won't be the only one. So some time later in the year (probably May or June) I will be doing a service in which we'll try to answer questions about Unitarianism, the Unitarian movement today, church life: in fact, anything which you hear bandied around but don't quite understand and now don't

like to ask. (What's the GA? Why do we light a chalice? Who writes our hymns? Where do the bin bags live? What do we believe (yeah, no, not that one)? Who is [prominent Unitarian, current or historical]? What is Holebottom? Why do we have three hymn books?)

I will be putting a box for questions on the vestibule table, and you are welcome to pop your question in there: there's no such thing as a silly question, and if you're wondering it, so is someone else!

Dear all,

As I write this we're all wondering if Storm Dennis is going to have the same sort of impact on us as Storm Ciara did last week, and very much hoping it won't. Last week's weather was really quite extreme, and even though the storm didn't last long, while it was here it did a fair bit of damage. Quite a lot of you took the sensible decision to stay at home, and whilst I love a good attendance on Sundays, I absolutely applaud that decision: it's not worth the risk to our own selves to go out in that sort of weather, and it's not worth the potential extra strain on the emergency services to have more vehicles on the road than necessary.

I know that none of the congregation were affected too badly by the storm, and I give thanks for that. I also know, though, that large areas of Bury were very badly flooded, and that people have had to move out of their homes due to the damage. I hope that if the flooding (or any other emergency) happens again, you will all know that anyone in the congregation will do what they can to help. I also know that

we will extend that compassion to the rest of the community at Bury.

One of the things I love about our community here is that we are not insular. We have a good, steady, regular congregation, and an amazing group of regulars who attend events, help with functions, and generally give of their time and energy to the community. We also have, and they're very important, another group of people who are part of our community but not members of the congregation, or even regular attenders at church. I'm thinking of people like the regular customers of Saturday coffee mornings, and the people who regularly come to events and functions (of course, some of those are the same people). I love that our church is important to so many people who probably wouldn't say that our church is "the church they go to". I recently attended the funeral of Ray Ewers, who only came to us for a few months, but who first came in to church for coffee, and stayed. He wasn't with us long enough to become a formal member, but I know that he felt of us as his community. We should be really proud of the way our fellowship extends beyond our Sunday congregation, and the way people feel an affinity with us.

The first couple of months of this year have been hard for many of us in several different ways, and I am glad that we have this community to nurture and support us through problems and difficulties. It truly is a mark of a good community that its people can hold each other through sadness, and rejoice in each other in joy.

I started with the weather, and will finish by saying that by end of the month the clocks will have changed, the evenings will be longer, and spring will feel much more believable. The cycle of the year is truly an exciting thing to witness!

With love, Kate

CONGREGATIONAL AGM

Notice is hereby given that the 51st Annual General Meeting of the Congregation will be held in the worship-area, on Sunday, April 5th, 2020, commencing at 12.30 p.m. 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 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.

Any items for the agenda relevant to an AGM should be notified to Anne Mills, in writing, no later than Sunday, March 22nd.

It is usual to hold this meeting during March, but that has proved impossible, for 2020. Church Council settled on March 22nd, but later realised that it was Mothering Sunday then; key-people are unable to attend on the Sundays before and after the 22nd, and the treasurers cannot have their figures prepared and audited until a later stage in the month. It was felt that the later, more convenient, date should be chosen.

*During last year, we have spent a great deal of time discussing how Church Council might be restructured; our decision must be ratified by the Congregational AGM, so we hope for a good attendance. The new Church Council will consist of The Minister, the 5 Church Officers, and one representative from each of the three sub-committees; the representatives will serve for one year, and they will be appointed at sub-committee level;

the church-officers will be elected, as usual, to serve for one year; the Chairman of Trustees may attend Council-Meetings, as an ex officio member, and will be sent copies of all the minutes. Meetings will be held quarterly, rather than every other month. The new system, we hope, will be more manageable, lighter on manpower, and more workable than the previous one; please support it.

*Anne Mills has decided not to stand as Church Secretary, in April 2020, because of her rôle as GA President, which will run from April 2020 to April 2021. This means that we will be looking for nominations from other quarters; please consider volunteering for this key-position; further information is available from Anne, Betty, or Kate.

Anne Mills: Church Secretary.

NEWS FROM RAWTENSTALL

Rawtenstall's Film Club's next film to be shown is on March 6th; the selected film will be "Hidden Figures"; the session begins at 6.45 p.m. These events are free, although donations are welcome; refreshments are served during the evening, and each session lasts for just over 2 hours.

The next Interfaith Service at Rawtenstall will take place on Sunday, March 15th, at 5 p.m. The theme of the service is "Women". All are welcome.

For further information, please see the notices on our board, or consult the Rawtenstall website.

We have also received a request from Marta Pacini, on behalf of the LCM, and Rawtenstall: during March, the Pashupati Ashram Animal Sanctuary, near Crawshawbooth, is planning to plant 500 trees in order to create an Ahimsa Peace Forest in Rossendale. "Ahimsa" means "non-violence" and is one of the guiding principles of Mahatma Gandhi. Each tree costs £10.00. Marta and two representatives of The Shiva Trust will be coming to speak to us about this project, on March 1st, during the service, at the end

of which, a retiring-collection will be taken.

VICE-PRESIDENTIAL DUTIES

On January 19th, I was present, at Bury, for the Junior Church Prize-giving. It was an honour to be asked to present the prizes, and pleasing to me, too, that all six of our Sunday School "regulars" were able to be present, and supported by family-members. I compared present-day Prize-givings with those I remembered from my youth (incredibly, in the 1950's and 1960's!) The children's eager anticipation of their books never changes, and I was able to bring the last prize I ever received from Bank Street to show them; I realised that my name was spelled wrongly, and I'd never noticed, in all that time! Prize-giving allows us to appreciate our Junior Church members' presence and gives us the opportunity to see how they've developed, during the past year. They are all a credit to us, as well as an important part of our church-life. Ashleigh-Jade has decided to remain in church throughout each service; she has been stewarding for some time now, and is keen to be involved in our readings---the first of which took place at the Prize-giving, and we thank her for that. We also showed our appreciation of June's hard work with the children, and her willing contributions were rewarded by a bouquet of flowers.

January 26th found me conducting the service at Stand Chapel, and it was good to meet the members there again. Owing to a misunderstanding over the start-time of the service, I was a minute or two late, but all was well, eventually, and I was able to reassure the congregation that, by the end, they had heard all the right bits, but not necessarily in the right order! No harm was done, but, nevertheless, I shall double-check, from now on!

At the end of January, I found myself in print---twice! The article I had written about the Pretoria Pit Disaster appeared, on its own, on the back page, of that week's issue of The Inquirer; there is a spare copy in the stand, in the foyer, if anyone would like to read it. I had also contributed an article about "Simplicity" to the Midland Union magazine (MU Now); there is

a copy in the lounge; I may use this as the basis of a service, in the future.

February 1st brought the Manchester District Women's League Lunch, Service and AGM; my contribution was to conduct the service; on the following day, I conducted the service at Ainsworth---a cheering occasion, as several red-letter days were being celebrated; there were balloons, too!

AINSWORTH'S ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

This will be held on Sunday, April 5th, at 3 p.m. All are welcome. The service will be conducted by Rev. Lynne Readett.

NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Please note that the next meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 15th, at 7 p.m; in the worship-area.

NELUM

The next NELUM Meeting will take place at Unity Church, Bolton, on March 2nd; Susan Jordan is to attend an Appreciative Inquiry training-event, run by Simon Bland, Director of Ministry, and will report back to delegates, who, in turn, will report to their own congregations. The next General NELUM Meeting will be held on March 23rd, at 7.15 p.m; at Rochdale.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Important: please note that we shall be replacing our switchgear, during April, as what we have, at present, does not comply with current regulations; also, it makes operating our heating-system very complicated. Roger has arranged for this work to be carried out between April 13th and 15th, and again between April 20th and 24th: 8 full days, in total. During this time, there will not be any power available in the building, at any time (except on the two Wednesday evenings, after 6 p.m; when lettings are honoured). The switch room will be out of action continuously from April 13th to April 24th.

Members are asked not to access the premises at all, whilst the work is being carried out; nor will there be any daytime parking available, as the contractors will be using both spaces adjacent to the church. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

ROCHDALE FILM EVENING

The next film Evening will be held on Saturday, March 21st; no film has yet been chosen, so please be alert for further information! There will be a poster on the board, in due course.

G.A. DELEGATES

The Annual Meetings take place in Birmingham, between April 7th and 9th. This year, our delegates will be Roger Mills and Betty Kenyon. Damion will also be attending, as he has been awarded a Newcomer Bursary. Kate, Susan (Holt), Neville, Val and Anne (Mills) will also be there.

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Roger has now ordered tickets for the May 5th evening-performance of the show, at the Palace Theatre; 20 tickets, at a cost of £60.50 each, have been reserved; he has now sold most of these and collected money for them; if you have not already paid him, please do so, as soon as possible; tickets will not be secured unless payment has been received. Full details are on the notice-board. The last few tickets still need to be sold and will be made available to people outside the church; if you or anyone you know would like to attend, speak to Roger, as soon as possible; thank you.

APOLOGIES:

For a late Calendar for March and some gaps, etc. I have been beset by difficulties with Windows 10. If anyone in the congregation is computer-savvy with W.10 I would appreciate some advice. Pam G.