

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR MAY 2011

SERVICES

Sunday 1 May 11.15am Rev John Allerton (minister on holiday)

SUNDAY 8 MAY AT 11.15AM

MUSIC SERVICE

THERE WILL BE ITEMS FROM THE CHOIR
MUSIC FROM CELLIST RICHARD BOARDMAN
KATE THATCHER WILL SING FOR US
THERE WILL ALSO BE FAVOURITE HYMNS
AND READINGS FUNNY AND SERIOUS ABOUT MUSIC
Please come along and bring family and friends

THE SERVICE WILL BE FOLLOWED BY LUNCH

Homemade soup

Sandwiches

Apple Pie

Tea and Coffee

Please put names and numbers on the list on the board to help with catering. Pay on the day.

Sunday 15 May 11.15am The Minister

Sunday 22 May 11.15am The Minister
6.30pm The Minister – **A Short**

Evening Service

This will be a short devotional service of a quiet reflective nature lasting about 40 minutes.

Sunday 29 May 11.15am The Minister

BAPTISM

On Sunday 10th April Callum Alister Robert, son of Amanda and Alister Hodgson, was baptised by the minister,
Our thoughts and prayers are with Callum and his family as he undergoes tests to assess his heart condition this month.

STANDING AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SERVICE

Because the Women's League Service will follow the month's trial on 15th of May, congregational opinions will be sought following the service on Sunday 22nd May.

NELUM MEETING

Monday 16th May at 7.15pm. at Chowbent Chapel, Atherton

CHURCH STEWARDS

1 May Margaret & John Fitzpatrick
8 May Jean Jackson and Beryl Bowden
15 May Marc and Philip Peters
22 May Alfred Howson and Roger Mills
29 May Barbara & Joe Ashworth

If you are unable to fulfil your duties on the date given, please inform Harry so that stand-in steward(s) can be allocated to that date. Thank you.

CHURCH FLOWERS

1 May Church Flowers
8 May In loving memory of George Kenyon
15 May Barbara and Vera – In memory of Rhona and John Smith
22 May Church Flowers
29 May In memory of Mr & Mrs S Warburton

Distributors: Barbara Bamford and Sue McMullen

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

7 May Barbara Ashworth and Vera Stephenson
14 May Rene Hollos and Alison Hollos
21 May Molly Ratcliffe and Betty Kenyon
28 May Anne & Roger Mills

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN MAY

Saturday 14 May 11.00am Charity
Tuesday 24 May 7.00pm Communications, Worship and Young People

CALENDAR DEADLINE

All contributions for the June Calendar should be in the yellow folder by Sunday 22 May. No late items can be included this month due to editor's holiday.

LUNCHEON CIRCLE

The Luncheon Circle meets on Tuesday 17 May at 12.30pm. The organisers are Harry, June and Marc. Please inform Harry if you are unable to attend.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 12 May 7.30pm Talk by Mr Alan Hayhurst
entitled 'Ladykillers' - a light-hearted look at crimes and criminals
Any non-league members are welcome – there will be a £1 charge.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday 25 May 7.30pm Speaker to be announced.
All men cordially invited.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club meets twice this month.

Monday 9 May at 7.30pm The book to be discussed is – ***Small Island*** by Andrea Levy
This book is now available in the lounge cupboard.

Monday 23 May at 7.30pm ***Salmon fishing in Yemen*** by Paul Torday
This book, which is 'a short read' will be available from approximately 12 May in the lounge cupboard.

All are welcome – it's not necessary to have read the book or to be a church member. We share refreshments during the evening and usually finish around 9.00pm.

There is a poster on the lounge notice board with details of the books and dates for June and July.

CONGREGATIONAL AGM

Thanks were expressed to retiring Church-Officers: Neville Kenyon, who served as Chairman for 5 years; Ron Thatcher, who served for 2 years as Vice-Chairman; and Marian Price, Church Secretary for 10 years. Retiring Council-members were thanked for their 3 years' service: June Clarke, Margaret Fitzpatrick, Rene Hollos, Miriam Murphy and Vera Stephenson. The Rev. Beryl Allerton was also thanked for the energy and enthusiasm she brought to her Interim Ministry.

The efforts of all the above people are greatly appreciated.

We now have a new Council and Church-Officers; please give your representatives your full encouragement and support during the coming year.

WHAT IS A MOTHER CHURCH?

It is a sanctuary where we feel secure, it is a home, and its people are a family. It is a house of the spirit, a community of faith in God and in each other. It is the place where your body recovers its resilience, your mind its bearings and your spirit its strength. We feel the collective power of our companions, the warmth of their welcome, the support of their caring. It is the place we bring sorrow to be comforted and the place we celebrate our joy. It welcomes the baby, nurtures the child, blesses the bride, encourages parents, respects the wisdom of life-long experience and, at the end, mourns its loss.

It is a place to be totally yourself, to be accepted for who you are and not what you are. It is a place where truth, love and loyalty count for more than wealth, or fame, or fortune.

It is a place that hands down the heritage of heart and mind, a place where we build memories in our children and impart our knowledge and ideals so that they will understand all of us that is wordless and full of wonder. We live not by things but by the meaning of things, and it is needful to transmit the password from generation to generation.

Here, we share the gifts of life: air to breathe, food to eat, companions to love, beauty to behold, faith to cherish, causes to serve. We give something back, if we can: something of ourselves, some love, some beauty, some grace, some memory. We give back in gratitude for those who have gone before, for those who abide with us, for those who will follow.

This is the place where you are always welcome, no matter how seldom you visit; here is the welcoming embrace of outstretched arms, tender voices speaking our names, reminding us that we matter.
One of the readings at our Mothering Sunday Service.

WORKING-GROUP REPORT

The group hoped to meet during April, or early in May, in order to assess, with Beryl, the success and progress of her Interim Ministry.

We have now reached the stage at which we ought to place our names on the vacant pulpit list; however, we must ensure that what we advertise is precisely what is wanted and needed. We should decide whether we require a minister who will serve in a full-time or a part-time capacity; whether we should re-enter a joint ministry with Ainsworth; whether we could consider a joint-ministry with another, reasonably local, church.

At the Congregational AGM, and at the Mothering Sunday service, members were asked to indicate their thinking; 44 people were in favour of a joint-ministry, and 3 were against. This response will be taken into account when discussions are held.

We shall also consider the desirability of a Congregational Assessment Process, in due course; Beryl wishes to be actively involved, if we do undertake this, but there is a great deal of preparatory work to be done first.

We shall continue to report back to the congregation; in the meantime, if you have concerns, or if you wish to raise points, please speak to Anne Mills or Janet Thatcher.

BOOKS WANTED

Fiction and non-fiction books are wanted to sell from the bookcase in the coffee lounge. This is a good fund raiser for church as many of our visitors buy the books. Please speak to Margaret Fitzpatrick if you can help.

MINISTER'S MONTH

One of the things I have enjoyed being part of since I began my Interim Ministry is the Book Club. The meetings are good humoured and there is lots of laughter (especially from the men when we were discussing 'chicklit') and it is interesting how opinions on the same story can differ enormously. Which makes me think we should not be surprised when our opinions on the church, and what happens in it, differ for we have far more invested in that than in any book. Another pleasure of being part of a book group is that you read books you never normally would and this can either change your mind about a particular author or genre or confirm your opinion. But as in all things the opportunity to experience something lets you make an informed decision upon it.

Many people have remarked on the 'spectrum', displayed in the lounge and compiled following the seminars. The numbers changing their initial position has been more than half and I think it gives both an idea of the diversity in understanding but also where the main theological understanding within the congregation is positioned. A number of people have remarked that it would be good for all congregations to undertake this exercise.

There is a line in a prayer which says, 'Everyone must lose their heart to a child' and I think we did on two recent occasions. One of these was when Callum was baptised and smiled his way round the congregation. The other was on Mothering Sunday when the children sang. I may not have lost my heart to the choir but I was full of admiration for their lovely singing of 'The Lord's my Shepherd'. With excellent readers and coffee and simnel cake to finish it was a good day.

Today Monday I am looking out of the study window where the weather is uncertainly sunny-ish and hoping that the sun will shine with greater assurance on the righteous at Harrogate on Thursday.

The thrush is still singing every morning but now also afternoons and evenings as well. *Beryl*

TRAIIDCRAFT

The stall will be open on May 1st and May 15th; if you require Traidcraft items, on other occasions, please ask.

Just Trading Scotland has been in touch about problems with Kilombero rice supplied; the rice has been grown and harvested, but transport-problems have arisen, and the rice is not expected until May, at the earliest. Malawi, where the rice is grown, is a landlocked country; routes to ports on the Indian Ocean, through neighbouring countries, can be troublesome, and the port of choice, Beira, has been silting up. The Just Trading Scotland miller has had trouble getting paid in Zimbabwe; another route chosen through Durban has proved very expensive, particularly when a strike of the South African Transport Workers caused extra difficulties and costs.

I should prefer to purchase Kilombero rice, on account of its quality and value for money, but may have to seek an alternative---at least temporarily. I hope the news will be more positive shortly.
Anne.

COMMUNICATIONS & WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Thank you for subscribing for church flowers. As you will be aware, at the moment, monies for flowers are collected throughout the year but this makes forward planning rather difficult because the flower-secretary does not know which weeks may be covered by subscriptions. It also means that claiming tax back through Gift Aid is more complex. We would like to change to a system whereby all subscriptions for flowers will be paid at the same time, normally in January, for the year. This year we would like subscriptions to be paid during May. (If you have already subscribed this year then please ignore this.) We would be most grateful if you could help us with this. Thank you.

There are weeks when church flowers are not subscribed and if anyone would like to make a donation towards flowers then please see Molly Ratcliffe.

Cost for church flowers per week is £20.00.

Donations to cover the cost or any part of the cost are much appreciated.

Subscriptions to the flower secretary Mrs Molly Ratcliffe

NOTES FROM COUNCIL 11.04.11

New members were welcomed, and thanks were recorded to retiring members.

In order to give guidance to our delegates at the GA Annual Meetings, 3 of the more contentious Motions were discussed; it will be interesting to hear how Conference votes.

Fire alarm testing, on March 6th, was mainly successful, although some improvements remain to be implemented.

Lunch will be served after the "Full Church" Service, on May 8th. Members of the Efforts Committee will assist with the catering, but other offers of help are welcome.

The Finance Committee is still awaiting details of costings for new A-boards, and for decorating some areas of the church.

Communications and Worship is considering a visit to our Belper church. Clarification is to be sought about the UCM Student Fund, as to whether its funds are available to all students. Concern was expressed about the introduction of Sunday parking-charges, in Bury, and its implications on our own car-park.

Sunday-school prizes were presented on March 6th. We need to note details, if unaccompanied children are dropped off at church.

The Charity Group had a successful Quiz Evening, and £771.89 has been raised so far, this year. If you have money in collection-boxes, please hand it in to Colin Smith.

The minister reported that her seminars had been worthwhile, and the Spectrum results very informative. She is introducing more music to services, of different types. The Spirituality Course starts on April 12th. An evening service will be held on May 22nd.

The University of the Third Age may be interested in hiring our premises, for one afternoon per month; discussions are ongoing.

Responsibilities for lettings have been allocated to various people, in the hope that we will not need a specific Lettings Officer.

We have received a request from our church at Dunham Road, Altrincham, to visit us and learn about our church; this will be arranged for an evening in July.

The message on the answerphone is to be changed, to give Beryl's details, so that callers may contact her.

We still need: a Vice-Chairman, one Council member to serve for 2 years, and a Publicity Officer; if you can help, please speak to Anne Mills or Harry Taylor. Stewards for Yoga are always needed; speak to Marc Peters.

NEWS FROM AINSWORTH

SERVICES

1 May 10.00am Mrs Connie Diggle (Halliwell Rd Church)

15 May 10.00am Mr Granville Leather (Bolton Bank St Chapel)

Visitors are always welcome.

We send our kind thoughts and best wishes to any member or friend of The Chapel who is not well at the moment.

CHURCH OFFICERS

Chair of Trustees	Susan Holt 078767 16563
Chair of Congregation	Anne Mills 5 Arley Avenue Bury BL9 5HD 0161 762 0943
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CHURCH INFORMATION

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CONGRATULATIONS TO: *and thank-you for the coffee*

Neville and Betty Kenyon on their Golden Wedding in April.

David and Pam Gilbert on their Golden Wedding in May

To Beryl Boden and Sheila Houghton on significant birthdays.

