

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR MAY 2014

CHURCH SERVICES

4 May	11.15am	The Minister
11 May	11.15am	4 Church members – Readings & Meanings
18 May	11.15am	Diane Bennett from our Rochdale Church
25 May	11.15am	The Minister

CHURCH STEWARDS

4 May	Margaret & John Fitzpatrick
11 May	Betty Kenyon & John Allerton
18 May	Marian Price & Jean Taylor
25 May	Beryl Bowden & Jean Jackson

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

4 May	Church Flowers
11 May	Betty & Neville Kenyon – in loving memory of George Kenyon
18 May	In memory of Rhona & John Smith
25 May	Pauline – in loving memory of Mary Warburton

Distributors: Barbara Bamford & Jean Brookhouse

Sunday 1st June 2014 at 11.15am

Celebratory 40th Anniversary Summer Service and Lunch

In the presence of the Mayor who will also be joining us for lunch.

The buffet lunch will be free of charge but a donation towards the cost (approx £4.00) would be most appreciated.

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

3 May	Betty Kenyon & Molly Ratcliffe
10 May	Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard
17 May	Brenda Ainsworth & Jean Taylor
24 May	June Clarke & Freda Worthington

LUNCHEON CLUB

We will meet on Tuesday, 6 May at 12.30pm. Susan and Margaret are hosts. There will be a list on the lounge notice board for those who wish to attend to sign up. New members are always welcome, whether for single visits or in the longer term.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We had a very good meeting again in February. Steve Horrocks gave a slide show and talk on The History of Ainsworth Chapel. He had done a fantastic amount of research and consequently his talk and insight into the Chapel's history was extremely interesting.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 28 May. Usual meeting time of 11.00am and the usual format. Gordon Walker is to give us the second of his papers on Bomb Disposal. Looking forward to seeing you all on 28 May. ***Derek Worthington***

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 1 May 7.30pm An illustrated talk by Bridget Park on the National Parks of the West Coast of America

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN MAY

Monday 5 May 7.00pm Communications, Worship & Young People

Saturday 24 May 11.00am Charity

CALENDAR DEADLINE

The last day for items to be included in the June Calendar will be Sunday 18 May.

TRAI DCRAFT

The stall will be open, this month, on May 4th and May 25th. If you require items at any other times, please ask me. Thank you. ***Anne***

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Monday 26 May at 7.00pm. The book to be discussed will be available from the cupboard in the lounge from Thursday 1st May. New members are always welcome.

SUNSHINE SMARTIES

There are still some full tubes of Smarties, if anyone wishes to take them away and fill them with 20p pieces. Smartie-tubes are available from the Traidcraft Stall, when it is open, or from Brenda Ainsworth or Anne Mills. If you wish to return tubes full of money, this can be done at any time; please hand them to Brenda.

ELECTIONS

Our Congregational AGM was held on March 17th; the following church-officers were elected:

Chairman of the Congregation, and Church Secretary: Anne Mills;

Chairman of Council: Betty Kenyon;

Church Treasurer: John Fitzpatrick;

Assistant Treasurer: Freda Worthington.

Barbara Bamford, Val Chamberlain, Susan Mitchell and Peter Whewell were elected to Church Council, to serve for three years, and Lois Williams was elected to serve for one year.

We still need a Vice-Chairman and one person to serve on Council for three years; if you can help, please speak to Betty Kenyon or Anne Mills.

NOTES FROM 1974 (5)

A recent tidying of the loft-space, by John and Roger, resulted in the unearthing of the church-calendars for the 1973---1978 period, so I now have a new source of material! I feel a little backtracking is justified, at this point.

In February, Mr. R.M. Barlow was congratulated on his 40 years as a Trustee of the church; he had first taken office in 1934, at Bank Street, and had served “faithfully and expertly” from then on.

The Congregational A.G.M; in March, went smoothly, it was noted, although it lasted so long that consideration was given to adjourning and reconvening at a later date!

On March 26th, the wedding took place of James C. Fletcher to Nora Jackson, with the Minister officiating; this was the first wedding in the new church, as was reported in the May calendar.

In April, on the day before Maundy Thursday, the United Choir of the Bury Free Churches performed excerpts from “Messiah”, and Bury Unitarian Church felt very proud to have had its premises chosen as the venue.

Also, in April, on the 28th, the Spring Anniversary Services were held, at 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Both services were conducted by Rev. Graham Murphy, of Stockport. A week later, on May 5th, also in the evening, the Women’s League held its annual service; this was conducted by Mrs. Edith Tarr, of Mossley.

On May 9th, an intriguing-sounding Outdoor Rummage Sale took place; this was in aid of church-funds---but no further details survive. During May, the Women’s League’s speaker was Major Lund, of the Salvation Army; the Men’s Fellowship paid a visit to the Helmshore Textile Museum which was much enjoyed. The Minister made his first visit to Kendal Unitarian Chapel, in order to attend the NELUM A.G.M. and was impressed by the beautiful

church, hidden away and sheltered from the hustle and bustle of this busy market town. (Roger and I have spent a goodly amount of time at our Kendal church, over the past few years, and always enjoy attending services when we manage to escape to the caravan.)

Despite all the activities that occurred in May, 1974, it was noted that this was an unusually quiet month. Of major significance was the agreement by the congregation to become involved in the local Christian Aid collections, that month, for the first time---a practice that was to continue for many years, until we ran out of collector-volunteers.

I have been interested to read through John Allerton’s “Minister’s Month” contributions and return to his April article for words that seem to me to be as relevant today as they were 40 years ago: “So many Unitarians seem to devote their talents and energies to the organisation and finance of the denomination, as though such things are an end in themselves. Our denomination is top-heavy, with too much attention paid to its many organisations and committees; conversely, there seems no urgent realisation that many of our churches are starved of energy. But, when it comes to the crunch, what really matters is the local church. The life of the individual in his own church must always be our priority.” Wise words, indeed, which go right to the heart of the matter!

Anne Mills

MOTHERING SUNDAY

On the first official day of British Summertime (March 30th), we celebrated Mothering Sunday. Spring sunshine filtered into the worship-area, and the magnolia tree, in the garden, promised a fine display in the very near future. Beryl had worked hard on presentation-posies of daffodils, ready for the children to distribute to the congregation, and the Junior Church members had helped June (or vice versa?) to bake a Simnel cake, which had been beautifully-iced by a relative of June’s.

During the service, we were reminded of the many aspects of motherhood and of the special qualities of mothers; God's blueprint achieved miracles!

The ladies of the choir performed "Turn Around"---a song which indicates the circle of life, when daughters grow into mothers, with children of their own, seemingly overnight.

Beryl's address dwelt on the important rôle of mothers---and mother-substitutes---in life and extended to a consideration of the huge numbers of street-children in the global village; an estimated 100 million such children exist in the world, deprived of a loving environment and obliged to fend for themselves.

This was an excellent service, for which we thank Beryl and all who contributed to it. **Anne**

NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 7 APRIL 2014

Holebottom Memorial Garden: There was considerable discussion about memorial plaques, after which it was decided to provide one large plaque to contain all names; the first name to be inscribed will be Barbara Ashworth's. The congregation are asked to note that such inscriptions are only for those whose ashes are buried at Holebottom; requests for inscriptions must be made to the Minister or the Church Secretary. A Holebottom Memorial Book is also to be provided, and this will be kept in the church worship-area.

A new Congregational Photograph will be taken after the Harvest Festival Service.

Our Lettings Policy was considered; Margaret Fitzpatrick is our Lettings Officer, and bookings should always be cleared with her; Derek Worthington books the Music Exams; officials of church-organisations write their requirements in the church-diary, and the Minister, Church Secretary and other church-officers add other dates, as necessary. If you are booking

a date, check the diary to ensure that it is free; if there is a clash, this needs careful negotiation so that resolution can be achieved.

Council-members were allocated to sub-committees; a full list should be available shortly.

The Efforts Committee has arranged its programme for the year, beginning with a Book Auction, on May 8th.

Communications and Worship, with Young People; The post-service discussion of the GA AGM Motions proved positive and informative; the Junior Church Plates Project, which explores feelings, is going well.

The Minister reported a very busy period and a full diary! She had attended a Prayer Breakfast, organised by Bury Council, and found it interesting, despite the early start. Beryl is researching the First World War records of those whose names appear on our War Memorial, including one person who was awarded the Military Medal; the results of her work will be used in the Remembrance Sunday service; although the research is interesting, it is proving harrowing, too.

The NELUM Dinner will be held on Friday, May 30th, at our Rawtenstall church.

The Halliwell Road Special Memories Service, on April 5th, was attended by 5 members from Bury and felt to be excellent.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 9th, at 7 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE!

We now have two new water-boilers. These do **not** need to be switched off at the socket; all that is required is to ensure that the left-hand button on the front of the machine is in "Standby" mode when the boiler is not in use.

BALLOT: SAME SEX WEDDINGS

Same Sex Weddings in church are now legal, and each church needs to decide whether it wishes these ceremonies to be performed on its premises. The April Church Council decided that the best way of determining how the congregation feels about this subject is to conduct a ballot, and this will be held, during the month of May; if 75% of members are in agreement, this will constitute a democratic decision, and we will be able to offer such weddings, should they be required.

Beryl has consulted the local registrars and is to assemble a handout which will contain all the information she has, to date; a voting-slip will be included on each handout; it will be necessary to tick your name on a list when you vote, so that we know who has, or has not, voted; otherwise, the ballot will be secret.

Please give this subject your consideration. Thank you.

MINISTER'S MONTH

I can think of few better ways to spend a warm, sunny Easter Monday than watching cricket at Old Trafford, except perhaps if there had been more runs and more wickets. Relaxing in the sunshine with egg butties and a flask of coffee, the scent of sun cream and only the occasional ripple of applause to wake you from the odd doze, Mmmmm. Just what was needed after a week of GA meetings and Easter Services.

The GA this year was held in a large hotel/conference centre in Northamptonshire on the edge of a small village called, Whittlebury, hence the name of the venue. Only a short distance from the motorway but surrounded by beautiful countryside, looking at its best in fresh spring green. It was an excellent and very comfortable place with very good facilities a nice change from the usual, rather Spartan, university accommodation. Little wonder then that the meetings will return there next year.

The highlights of the meetings for me were some new and very good hymns, which you will be hearing and possibly singing soon. An excellent Anniversary Service full of music, laughter and wise words, a winning combination. A very interesting Social Evening with an intellectual stand-up comedian, not to all taste but definitely to mine. A Motion that could have been very contentious and hurtful was well handled for the best possible outcome in the circumstances. Personally, it seemed to me that there was a good feeling about the meetings, friendlier than it has sometimes been, maybe the accommodation played a part in this because we were all under one roof. Bill Darlison, in his, inimitable way signed off his President's year with excellent and moving words of goodbye. Eric and Ernie, in the guise of Ern Baker and Colin Parkinson, proposed our new President in a rather unusual and sometimes hilarious way. Marian Baker speaking for the first time as President was clearly both nervous and emotional as she took her first steps into a busy year. We will welcome her to a service at Bury in December

The Maundy Thursday communion, the day after I returned from GA, saw thirteen of us gather to share bread and wine, an appropriate number for the occasion. A number of people expressed appreciation for the Easter Sunday service recognising that it is a somewhat difficult one for a Unitarian minister. The cherry tree full of blossoming outside the window in the spring sunshine was the perfect picture to accompany the choir's 'Loveliest of Trees', is the cherry'. In fact the gardens around the church are beautiful with a canopy of pink blossom.

Finally a few family matters. Thank you to John for conducting the Palm Sunday Service while I was driving down the M6. He could have sold his services to the highest bidder so much in demand was he on this Sunday when most preachers were at the GA. And I am feeling rather old as I have just become the grandmother of a teenager. How did that happen so quickly ?

Beryl

I will be on holiday from 11th – 25th May.

FUNERAL

On Friday 28th March at Rochdale Crematorium the Minister conducted the funeral service for Marjorie Atkinson. Some people will remember Marjorie as a member of Bank Street as a child and young woman. To her family we offer our sincere condolences.

DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL GARDEN AT HOLEBOTTOM

May 4th 2.30pm

There will be short service of dedication at the new memorial garden conducted by the Minister.

At this service the ashes of Barbara Ashworth will be interred. It is fitting that Barbara's ashes should be the first to be placed in the Memorial Garden as she worked so hard to make the Burial Ground safe and a pleasant place for people to visit.

BOOK AUCTION

THURSDAY 8 MAY AT 7.30PM

TICKETS £2 includes a glass of wine and nibbles – available from members of the Efforts Committee

EVERYONE ATTENDING IS ASKED TO BRING AT LEAST ONE BOOK WITH THEM TO BE AUCTIONED OFF

This is a light-hearted way of exchanging books and finding out what other people thought of the books they bought.

CHURCH INFORMATION

Church address	1 Bank Street, Bury BL9 0DN
Church telephone	0161 761 3785
Charity Reg. No.	1078570
Church Website	http://www.bury-unitarian-church.org.uk
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CHURCH OFFICERS

Chair of Trustees	Susan Holt	078767 16563
Chair of Church Council	Betty Kenyon	01204887222
Chair of Congregation	Anne Mills, 5 Arley Avenue, Bury BL9 5HD	0161 762 0943
Church Secretary	Anne Mills	
Church Treasurer	John Fitzpatrick, 2 Heapy Close, Bury BL8 2HW	0161 764 6374