

Bury Unitarian Church



Welcome to our new G.A. President!

The virtual handover took place, on zoom, on April 24th, 2021;
the live handover followed, in Cumbria, on April 26th.
Thanks to Celia Cartwright, the outgoing President, and
congratulations to Anne Mills!

May 2021

Welcome!

Dear All,

Welcome to the May edition of the Bury Unitarian Church *Calendar*. Thanks to everyone's generosity, it's another nice thick edition.

We have some of our regular contributions (for which, as always, I am very grateful) and a few new items. And if you've been sweating over the £/S/D puzzle from last month, you'll find the answer here.

There is also an update from the General Assembly meetings, and information about services in person (don't worry: it's good news).

Once we are able to meet together with fewer restrictions, I am planning to hold monthly 'collating parties' so we can set up a production line to put the *Calendars* together. So watch this space!

You'll see an article in this edition about Abi Elliott-McGuffie's recent charity head-shave: it should have been in last month, and it was my fault it was missed. Apologies to Abi for that, and huge congratulations, again.

There may be some changes to how you receive the *Calendar* over the next few months: if I think you're likely to be in church on a Sunday I'll bring your copy in, and then if you're not there I'll post or deliver it. This might mean that you sometimes get it a few days late. If you ever don't get a copy, please let me know – it's a really important way of keeping in touch, so I will make sure you get one!

On that note, the June *Calendar* will be a few days late: I am off work the week before it's due, so I won't be putting it together until after the weekend you'd normally have got it. I hope that won't cause too much disruption.

I hope you find the *Calendar* interesting and useful. As always, anything missing is probably my fault. I'm always open to feedback!

Kate Brady McKenna (editor).

Letter from the Minister

Dear all,

I can't decide whether it's more unbelievable that it's May *already*, or that it's *only* May. Time always has a habit of moving in odd ways, and that's particularly true of this last year-and-a-bit. It sometimes seems like we've always lived like this, and sometimes like it all only started a week ago.

It's been a long old journey, and we're not finished with it yet. I think it's going to be a long time before we fully relax and start to feel that big gatherings are a good idea, and I think the days of hand gel and face coverings are here to stay. Who would have imagined, fifteen months ago, that some of us would have a variety of face masks for different occasions? I have a specific mask that I wear for church!

But we are seeing constant progress: more and more of us have had our second vaccinations now (Ade and I will be having ours on May 7th), and we've all got more used to how we need to behave to keep each other safe.

One result of that is that this month we're making another step forward with our services in church: from the beginning of May, you'll no longer have to book in advance to come to church (although you'll still be able to book if you choose to).

Of course, we all still need to be really careful, and to keep wearing masks and avoiding physical contact (I know we all want to be able to hug each other, or shake hands, but we need to hold out a bit longer), but every bit of progress is good.

And nature is making progress too. Although it's a bit overcast as I write this, we are definitely entering what I always think of as the 'stable' part of spring. It's definitely here: not in that tentative way it's here in March, but in a definite, proud, irrepressible way.

And now that we're able to meet friends and family outdoors, it's even more welcome. It hasn't yet rained on a Sunday (although it did snow quite hard one Sunday morning, but it was all gone by the time the service ended), so those of us who are coming to services in church have been able to chat out in the garden afterwards. I actually hope that's something that might continue even when we are able to have tea and coffee indoors. I think the garden feels more loved for it, too.

For the last couple of years I've been keeping a particular eye on the tree which was attacked. I love watching how it is quietly healing itself, and it's currently giving us a lovely show of blossom. I generally go and spend a few moments with it after the service, before the congregation joins me, and I'd miss that if I stopped!

I do know that it will be a while before everyone feels ready to come to church in person, and as I keep saying, I absolutely respect that decision. Although I hope the services are nourishing, the truth is that they cannot yet be as rich as we would all like them to be, and, with that added to the fact that some people are still very vulnerable, I absolutely get that some people prefer to remain at home. Please be assured that the Zoom services will continue (and for the foreseeable future they will be at 2pm on Sundays) and that for as long as it is wanted, I will still deliver services to those of you who aren't coming to church (if you normally get the service through your door and you know you're coming to church that Sunday, we can always miss you out for just that one week).

Please know that you are always welcome to contact me. It doesn't have to be for the big things, though of course it can be. It won't be long until we can meet for proper conversations in person, but in the meantime my contact details are in the middle of the *Calendar*.

As always, I send you my love.

Rev Kate Brady McKenna.

Presidential matters

What a busy month April has been! The fact that we can socialise a little more, and that this has had to be incorporated into my accustomed routine has rather complicated matters! On Easter Sunday, I conducted the service at Blackpool and received a very warm, friendly welcome from the congregation there; all went well; we weren't apprehended by the police for travelling outside our area (allowable because I was working), and the roads weren't jammed with tourists. Once the service had finished, we walked into central Blackpool, as far as the pier, and enjoyed the views from the promenade; we noted how clean everywhere looked, especially when compared with Bury. We drove on, past Fairhaven Lake, to Lytham, and, finally, home. It was Roger's birthday, so presents and birthday tea had to be factored in, but he enjoyed his long day, in the end.

A week later, I attended a Book Launch and Poetry Workshop, in connection with Rev. Cliff Reed's new book, "Beyond Darkness" (available from The Lindsay Press for £9.99). Cliff was interviewed and talked knowledgeably about his writings, and, later, suggested topics for us to consider, to encourage our creative juices. I enjoyed the evening and am looking forward very much to reading and thinking about the book's contents.

The Lancashire Collaborative Ministry held its AGM and Committee Meeting, that same week, and I had suggested that I, as the Vice-President, could propose the customary vote of thanks to those present; as I'm the Secretary, I didn't like to thank myself, but the Chairman, Dot Hewerdine made good the deficiency; modesty forbids me to quote her, but I felt very flattered by her words; appreciation is always a very welcome commodity, I find.

I learned, from Val Chamberlain, who is the Secretary of The Findhorn Unitarian Network, the sad news that the two main buildings in Findhorn, in northern Scotland, where there is a successful centre of spirituality, had been destroyed, quite deliberately, by fire, mid-April. This had shocked and

distressed the many people who have visited the centre and come to love it. FUN's AGM was held on April 17th, and I conveyed a message of sympathy to its members, on behalf of the GA, which was well-received; the text of this was sent out to all the members, when the Minutes were circulated, and I was asked, also, to send a similar message to the CEO of the Findhorn Centre.

We had known, in advance, that we would be unlikely to be able to attend Pam Oxley's funeral, on April 20th, on account of restrictions on numbers, but we were able to watch the webcast, which took place, at the same time--and a beautiful service it was, conducted with dignity by Kate, and including an excellent prayer by Rev. Beryl Allerton, and a reading by Kirsty, one of Pam's grand-daughters. I will miss Pam for her humour, her conversation, and her sharp wit; whenever we discussed lock-down, she would always comment, after a while, "It's a bit of a beggar, isn't it?" I think I will always remember that, and smile.

There were many preparations to be made, in advance of the Annual GA Meetings, and these consumed a great deal of time; my Acceptance Speech was recorded, about two weeks before the event, and this caused some continuity-problems: I had to wear the same clothes, despite very different temperatures on the day of recording and the actual day, and my hair kept growing! I also had to prepare the Closing Devotions for the Meetings and to liaise with the technical support team; in the end, my script was a marvel of colour-coding: black for the items to be delivered; red for my links from one to the other; and blue for instructions to the technical folk. All went smoothly, in the end, as the very first virtual Meetings took place, on April 24th. The Inquirer requested a copy of all my material, plus photographs, which had to be supplied, in order to meet the deadline for the next issue. I'll be interested to see what is actually printed, in the end.

Finally, at the end of proceedings, I became the new President; it wasn't the quite same as a live installation, but what took place was sufficient to satisfy

the constitution, and I was duly elected, as was Rev. Sue Woolley, who became the new Vice-President. The entire day went surprisingly smoothly, despite a few problems with the electronic voting; Rev. Celia Cartwright did an amazing job, staying calm and self-possessed, as she chaired the entire event; and the Motions were debated with good humour, and in a pleasingly pleasant spirit. We drove to Cumbria, to collect the President's medallion from Celia, on the following Monday, to complete the handover and take more photographs, two of which can be seen in this issue. Maybe now, the facts will start to sink in, and the event will seem more real!

By now, as many of us have had two jabs, and the figures continue to fall, it seems that we might have cause for cautious optimism. We hope that restrictions on churches will continue to relax, but, for the time being, demands on Kate continue to be high; every week, now, we can choose from in-person services, zoom ones, or read-at-home ones, and we are assured that this situation will remain until we are fully-open, once more. This, of course, asks a great deal of our Minister, and I do thank Kate for all her efforts to ensure that no church-member is excluded or neglected, and for the time and trouble she expends, as she carries out her duties. Ade, too, is working very hard on all sorts of projects; he is covering a great deal of ground, in the process, and much is achieved. He should also be thanked for stewarding in-person services with calm authority, so that each person present reaches the correct seat before the start of the service. Thank you, both, for everything you do.

The cherry-blossom on the trees at the back of the church is a reminder that spring is proceeding apace; recent days have been sunny and pleasant, but the nights have been chilly; nevertheless, summer will soon be here, we hope. Roger and I send you our love and best wishes, and hope that we will see everyone soon.

Anne Mills

Notes from the church building.

Right now, as you read this, whenever you read this, there will be a beautiful stillness in a tiny green pocket of land that was, is, and always will be Unitarian. There's nothing quite like standing in that small, small field and looking up at the sky. It's a wonderful contemplative, tiny little wedge of peace that will always belong to us.

I speak of course, of Holebottom Cemetery and it is a truly beautiful space now, and a note of thanks should be made from all of us to the trustees and other members of the church, both past and present, who have spent so much time making it so. There are 1,940 registered interments in that tiny space. Nearly two thousand of our predecessors, including, in many instances I suspect, the late family and friends of the present congregation are laid to rest in that little stretch of land. Walk across that land and they will always be with you.

I've taken to greeting them whenever I reach the gate out of respect for the fact that, not only are they there, but that they are a large part of why we are here too. If Kate is right that the church is not the building, but the people who come to it; then it's also true that those who came before us were the church we are now, they were the church that we came from, they are our church, and this is true regardless of any blood ties we may have to them.

They too, are the church that we have become, and I hope you too can celebrate that the next time you find yourself on that tiny slip of peaceful green, that little space, that little wedge of peace that will always be Unitarian, that will always be us.

Ade Brady

News of the congregation

A not so 'hair raising' fundraiser for Water Aid!

My gratitude to everyone who supported my head shaving antics, your generosity was overwhelming and helped smash the £360 target I'd set myself.

The little drop in the ocean that I hoped to contribute to the work of this charity became a much larger drop very quickly. Water Aid are enormously grateful for this contribution which will go to help make people's lives healthier, safer and happier - all for something we take for granted every time we have a drink or use a toilet, as I said it's madness!

I might have been their star supporter, but I couldn't have done it without your help, so thank you from my heart.

Abi xx





Tweet



WaterAid UK 
@WaterAidUK



A HUGE well done to brave Abi who shaved her head to raise £1380 which will transform lives with clean water!

Abi said: "It's utter madness in this day and age that anyone should be without clean water."

We couldn't agree more, Abi!

Thank you for being a Star Supporter! 

The 'tweet' from WaterAid thanking Abi for her efforts: I know that we all join them in congratulating her (and, not that this was any part of Abi's brave decision, she looks amazing!).

Pam Oxley

Pam's funeral took place at the East Lancashire crematorium on Tuesday 20th April. Because of Covid restrictions, only five members of Bury Unitarian Church were able to be present, but others were able to watch online.

The service was led by the minister, Rev Kate Brady McKenna, and the beautiful prayers were led by Rev Beryl Allerton: Kate would like to thank Beryl for her involvement, and knows that this was important to the family.

Pam's daughter says that Pam very much valued and loved her involvement at Bury Unitarian Church, and that it very much enriched her later years.

Pam was deeply loved and will be much missed: it is a blessing to know that we, as a community, were as important to her as she was to us.

Sunday services

We are now settled into our pattern of meeting at 11.15am on Sundays for worship in church, and at 2pm for a Zoom service, and this pattern will continue until further notice.

Up 'til now, you have needed to book to come to services in church, but from May 2nd you will no longer have to do so.

It is *possible* that there may be weeks when there are more people than we can safely accommodate: if this happens, you might be asked to sit in the lounge or, at worst, to give up your place in church. I know that you will all be kind about this, and that those of you who have managed to attend more services will be willing to give up your seat.

Although you will no longer *have* to book a place, you still *can*. If you let me know by Saturday evening that you'd like to come, Ade and I will reserve a place (I know that some of you travel some distance, or use public transport, and that being asked to leave would be horrid).

We'll see how this goes during May: but in a nutshell, you no longer *have* to book, but you still *can* book.

Midweek meditation services

The Midweek meditation services are continuing, at 7pm on Tuesdays (with the exception, this month, of May 4th and May 25th). Everyone is welcome, even if you're unsure if meditation is for you.

Communion Services

There will be an online Communion Service at 3pm on Sunday May 30th, to which everyone is very welcome.

Zoom details for all our services are in the What's On section in the centre of the *Calendar*.

Music in services

Although we still can't sing together in church, and it looks like it'll be quite some time until we can, I think it's nearly time to include hymns in the service in some way.

There are two options, and I'd be interested to know which you'd all prefer (or maybe you'd like a mixture?): we could ask our organist to play the tunes for us, whilst we follow the words on paper, or we could play recordings of the Unitarian Music Society singing the hymns (those of you who have been at Zoom services will be familiar with these recordings).

There may be a third option, of course, that I haven't thought of yet. If you have an idea (*so long as it doesn't involve congregational singing*), please let me know!

We'll probably introduce this change from mid-May.

The minister's time off

I generally try to take Thursday as my day off, and sometimes Wednesday as well. This does change when necessary, and of course if there's an emergency I'm available even on days off.

I'll be taking two longer periods of time off in May (neither of which includes a Sunday!): I'll be off from the evening of Monday 3rd until the morning of Friday 7th, and then from the evening of Sunday 23rd to the morning of Sunday 30th.

There won't be a meditation session on Tuesday 4th or Tuesday 25th, unless someone would like to host one, and I'll let you know about arrangements for coffee on Saturday 29th.

Worship in May 2021

We meet to worship in church on Sunday mornings at 11.15 and there is no need to book in advance.

If we are ever too full, someone may be asked to listen to the service from the lounge, or to miss that one service: we'll try not to have that happen!

If you want to make sure there's a seat for you (it might be a particularly important week for you, or you might have further to travel, or you might use the bus), just let Kate know by Saturday evening and she'll make sure there's a space for you.

We meet to worship on Zoom on Sunday afternoons at 2pm, and some of us stay for a chat afterwards

The Zoom services will continue to run even as we open more fully.

Log in details are the same for every service: Meeting ID: 849 7456 6116
Phone numbers: 0203 901 7895; 0131 460 1196; 0203 051 2874; 0203 481 5237; 0203 481 5240

Midweek reflection, sharing, and chat.

Our midweek meditations continue every Tuesday at 7pm. After a short time to introduce ourselves and check in, we have a guided meditation on a theme which changes from week-to-week. After the meditation you're welcome either to leave during some music, or to stay for some quiet conversation.

Log in details are the same every week: Meeting ID: 812 3292 6975

Zoom communion

There will be an online communion service at 3pm on Sunday 30th May. Log in details are the same as for the main Zoom service.

What's On, May 2021

- Sat 1st May:** 11am: Coffee morning. (Zoom 839 0159 23)
7pm: Spring Jamboree, hosted on Zoom by the Lancashire Collaborative Ministry
- Sun 2nd May:** 10.30am: Service at Ainsworth
11.15am: Service in church.
2pm: Zoom service. ID 849 7456 6116
- Tues 4th May:** *No meditation session this evening*
- Weds 5th May:** 7pm: Book club (see article)
- Sat 8th May:** 11am: Coffee morning. (Zoom 839 0159 23)
- Sun 9th May:** 11.15am: Service in church.
2pm: Zoom service. ID 849 7456 6116
- Mon 10th May:** 7pm: Camera club (see article)
- Tues 11th May:** 7pm: Meditation (Zoom ID 812 3292 6975)
- Sat 15th May:** 11am: Coffee morning. (Zoom 839 0159 23)

- Sun 16th May:** 11.15am: Service in church.
2pm: Zoom service. ID 849 7456 6116
- Tues 18th May:** 7pm: Meditation (Zoom ID 812 3292 6975)
- Sat 22nd May:** 11am: Coffee morning. (Zoom 839 0159 23)
- Sun 23rd May:** 11.15am: Service in church.
2pm: Zoom service. ID 849 7456 6116
- Mon 24th May:** 7pm: Camera club (see article)
- Tues 25th May:** *No meditation session this evening*
- Sat 29th May:** 11am: Coffee morning. (Zoom 839 0159 23)
Deadline for items for the June *Calendar*
- Sun 30th May:** 11.15am: Service in church.
2pm: Zoom service. ID 849 7456 6116
3pm: Zoom communion (id as above)

Next month:

- Tues 1st June:** 7pm: Meditation (Zoom ID 812 3292 6975)
- Sat 5th June:** 11am: Coffee morning. (Zoom 839 0159 23)
- Sun 6th June:** 11.15am: Service in church.
2pm: Zoom service. ID 849 7456 6116

Church Information

Minister: Rev. Kate Brady McKenna
0161 460 3363 / 07751 240886
revkatemckenna@gmail.com

Church address: 1 Bank Street, Bury, BL9 0DN

Church phone: 0161 761 3785

Website: www.bury-unitarian-church.org.uk

Facebook: Bury Unitarian Church

Church officers

Chair of trustees: Susan Holt 07876 716563

Chair of church council: Betty Kenyon 01204 887222

Chair of congregation: Anne Mills 0161 762 0943

5, Arley Avenue,
Bury, BL9 5HD

Church secretary: Vacant

Church treasurer: Roger Mills 0161 762 0943

Charity reg no: 1078570

Book Club.

We meet next on Wednesday, May 5th, at 7 p. m. For a change, we shall not be discussing a book, as "Frankenstein" and "The Time Machine", last month, proved rather a challenge, and we felt the need of a rest! We will each be bringing a short piece to read, with the month of May (if possible) as its theme. All are welcome; for joining-details, contact Anne Mills.

New Book

If you enjoy reading books about spirituality, you may be interested in a recently-published one: "Soul Talk", written by Simone Marie Cowgill, a member at our Blackpool church. Copies are available from Amazon and cost £9.99 each. The book took more than 40 years to write and covers a wealth of spiritual topics. Simone writes from her own experiences as a spiritual practitioner, teacher and speaker.

Anne Mills.

Camera Club.

Meetings, this month, take place on Monday, May 10th, and Monday, May 24th; both are by zoom and start at 7 p.m. All are welcome; further details may be obtained from Janet Thatcher. As well as selecting suitable photographs for the monthly calendar-covers and continuing to plan for a live exhibition, later in the year, the group will follow a further GIMP lesson, which will demonstrate how to improve pictures by deleting some of their unnecessary parts.

Anne Mills.

‘Leading change in the congregation’ course.

The course held its final session, on April 26th, with a round-up of all material used in previous sessions. This has been a demanding course, in terms of time and concentration, but it has been fairly helpful; the course book, written by Gilbert Rendle, was not always fully-relevant, and the writer certainly never imagined what it might be like to operate a church during a pandemic, with all those implications! But we have learned a significant amount about what we might do, once restrictions end. What is less clear is how we achieve what is necessary. Kate, Val and I will be taking some time out, in order to consider this question; we have found our own, discrete, sessions very useful, as new avenues of thought have opened up, and we hope to continue to meet regularly. We also plan to involve the congregation, at some stage, and will circulate information, when we feel the time is right for everybody.

Anne Mills

Coffee

The Traidcraft Stall has an excess of ground coffee and is hoping to sell off some of its stocks. The coffee is suitable for cafetières; it is an excellent Cafedirect product---its "Intense" brand---and costs £3.30 per packet. If you are interested in buying some of this coffee, please contact Kate or Anne. Thank you.

Help needed

Since our Congregational AGM, at the end of March, we have been without a Church Secretary. If you feel able to offer a limited amount of time to help out with part of this work, please speak to Anne or Kate. A useful job might involve a once-a-week collection of the post which arrives at church, and dealing with it; that could mean passing it to another person, putting a notice on the board, or sending a brief reply. Nothing too complicated, and consultation is always possible! Even a small amount of help would be appreciated; thank you.

News from around the denomination.

GA Annual Meetings 2021

The General Assembly Annual Meetings took place over Zoom on Saturday 24th April, and were attended by some 300 members, around 110 of whom had voting rights.

Six motions had been submitted, of which only four could be discussed:

- 1. From Kendal Unitarians, regarding alcohol misuse. Not selected for discussion (Bury Unitarians voted for its inclusion).
- 2. From Cardiff Unitarians, on fossil fuel divestment. This was passed with 91 votes for, 3 against, and 10 abstentions. (Bury did not vote for its inclusion, but voted for the motion).
- 3. From Stockton, on provision for young people. This was passed with 52 votes for, 27 against, and 31 abstentions. (Bury voted for its inclusion, and for the motion).
- 4. From the FOY society, on gender identity. Not selected for discussion (Bury did not vote for its inclusion).
- 5. From the Findhorn Unitarian Network, on a Code of Ethics. This was passed with 73 votes for, 25 against, and 17 abstentions. (Bury voted for its inclusion, and for the motion).
- 6. From the LDPA, the Peace Fellowship, and 12 members, on supporting the Red Cross Interfaith Appeal. This was passed with 92 votes for, 11 against, and 11 abstentions. (Bury voted for its inclusion, and for the motion).

Thank you to Betty and Neville Kenyon for acting as our delegates at this meeting, and for providing us with a breakdown of the voting. Full details of the motions and the discussion at the meeting are available to anyone who would like to see them.

As a Minister on the Roll, Kate has a separate vote, and voted for the inclusion of motions two, three, four, and five. Of the motions which were discussed she voted for motion two, and abstained on motions three, five, and six.

Presidential installation

At the GA meetings, Anne Mills was formally installed as the President of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.

There will be a full report in the *The Inquirer*, which I will print in the next edition of the *Calendar*.

As Anne's minister, I seconded her nomination as President: the text of my seconding is below.

I'm the Rev Kate Brady McKenna, minister with Bury Unitarians, in Lancashire, the home congregation of Anne Mills, whose nomination as the President of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches I am privileged to be seconding today.

Anne is a lifelong Unitarian, and the daughter of Unitarians. More than that, she is a lifelong and loyal Bury Unitarian. She was baptised (several years ago) and married (also several years ago) in the former church building, and has been active, involved, and committed ever since.

*Church roles are no mystery to Anne: she has been Chairman of the Congregation, Church Secretary, a member of three consecutive Ministerial Appointment Groups, and a delegate to the General Assembly Annual Meetings on several occasions. Even prior to becoming a member of the GA Presidential Team she frequently led worship at Bury, and around the North East Lancashire Unitarian Mission churches and within the Lancashire Collaborative Ministry, of which she is the secretary. She has spoken and sung at GA gatherings, and contributed to *The Inquirer* and *The Unitarian*. Since taking on the vice-presidential role she has led worship in many more places, arriving at some by car, and at others from her living room, over Zoom.*

Anne's ethics and principles are Unitarian through and through: she is an active member of the Bury Fairtrade Forum, and if this presentation were

taking place in person it is not altogether impossible that she would have arrived with stocks of Fairtrade coffee to sell to you. And you would likely have ended up buying it, too!

Her professional background is in teaching languages and literature, and she has been the deputy manager of a busy Citizen's Advice Bureau, and a debt counsellor.

Anne is rightly proud of her two daughters, her three grandchildren, and her great-grandchild. And she is both proud of and grateful to her loving, supportive and hardworking husband Roger, without whom her role would have been even more difficult. I know that Anne will concur that Roger has been – and no doubt will continue to be – a huge support to her both personally and in her new role.

And she has, of course, also served as part of the Presidential Team over the past two years. I won't say that she has done this work tirelessly, because I know that the work – for Anne, Celia, and Sue – has been extremely tiring, but she has done it uncomplainingly and with enthusiasm and passion.

I know that Anne will bring this hard work and dedication, as well as her many other skills, to her role as the President of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, and that she will serve the denomination with love and energy.

I am pleased to second this nomination, and I wish Anne a successful and fulfilling year.

I know that we all send Anne and Roger our congratulations, and our best wishes for the busy year which lies ahead of them.

New GA Branding

You may have seen the new 'branding' for The Unitarians: it appears on the website, on official communications, and on The Inquirer. There has been considerable debate about how appropriate it is, and Robin Ainsworth wrote to The Inquirer to raise some questions and air his opinion. Although the letter was not printed in the Inquirer, he has asked me to publish it here.

I'd be interested to hear other people's opinions.

Dear Madam,

I am not computer literate, therefore I am forced to print my letter to you and Inquirer readers. My wife and I are third generation Unitarian and Free Christian Church members here in Bury, and I write to complain about 'the new symbol' appearing on the front cover of The Inquirer.

Why has the Chalice been replaced with an image of a barbecue? Or is it a slave trading branding iron? Whichever, it is an example of computerised rubbish.

Question 1: Who has authorised this imposition?

Question 2: Who has paid for it?

We hope and pray the GA will not be asking the GA members to pay. After all, due governance has not been complied with.

Yours sincerely

Oliver R Ainsworth

(58 years a trustee).



the unitarians

North West Provincial Assembly

The next meeting of the NWPA is scheduled to take place, by Zoom, on Tuesday, June 15th, 2021, at 11 a.m. This will be the AGM, to which everyone is welcome. Joining-details will be published in next month's calendar. One item on the agenda will be the future of the NWPA, who are considering their future, as the Unitarian College is now offering both Foundation, and Rites of Passage, Courses. Clearly, this is a matter of considerable seriousness.

News from Ainsworth

Morning service at Ainsworth will be held on Sunday, May 2nd, at 10.30 a.m; when Paul Hubbard, who is involved with our Rochdale church, and with The Lancashire Collaborative Ministry, will lead worship. All are welcome

Anne Mills.

Spring Jamboree: a Lancashire Collaborative Ministry Service

The Lancashire Collaborative Ministry has invited us all to join them in a Spring Jamboree Service, to be held by zoom, on Saturday, May 1st, at 7p.m. The service will be light-hearted, consisting of favourite hymns, humorous poems and readings, and wonderful music. It will be conducted by Rev. Dr. Shannon Ledbetter; all are very welcome.

The joining-details follow: Meeting ID: 833 0046 4206

Passcode: 313995, Phone numbers: 0203 901 7895; 0131 460 1196.

Rites of Passage course

This is to be organised by Unitarian College and will be conducted on zoom. There will be two evening sessions, between 7 and 9 p.m; on June 24th and July 1st, plus a weekend residential course, at The Nightingale Centre, between July 16th and 18th, 2021. The course-leaders will be Rev. Ant Howe and Rev. Michael Dadson. The course costs £250.00, although a subsidy of £125.00 is offered to members of congregations affiliated to The North West Provincial Assembly. If you are interested in this course, Anne Mills has full details. *(Please see the advert for this on the next page).*



Unitarian College

Growing our faith from the inside

Launch of Rites of Passage Course

As the UK opens up after lockdown more and more people will be looking to Unitarian communities to host Rites of Passage for them. From weddings, blessings, memorial services and child welcomings we anticipate an increased demand from people to mark significant life milestones that may have been reached during lockdown.

To coincide with this, Unitarian College is delighted to announce we will be offering a course in how to lead these celebrations to a high standard.

The course will be offered in a blended way, through meetings on ZOOM followed by a residential weekend at the The Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow, Derbyshire.

The relevant dates are:

**ZOOM meetings - Thursday 24th June 7pm - 9pm and
Thursday 1st July 7pm - 9pm**

**Residential weekend at The Nightingale Centre:
Friday 16th July to Sunday 18th July 2021**

The course will be led by Rev Ant Howe and Rev Michael Dadson of Unitarian College along with other visiting experts.

Places are limited and will be offered on a first come, first served basis as payments are received. Thanks to a subsidy from the Hibbert Trust, the cost of the course is £250. This includes all tuition along with food and accommodation at The Nightingale Centre (but not travel costs). Participants are encouraged to approach congregations and Districts to help with funding. If you would like to take the course but cannot afford the fee, please contact us and we will see what we can do to help.

If your congregation is affiliated to the North West Provincial Assembly, you will be entitled to a £125 subsidy. To book your place and find out more, please email

HMason@unitarian-college.org.uk or send an enquiry via the Unitarian College website.

Do you find this easier to read?

Almost everything we provide in print at church (including services, Calendars, letters, reports, and the minutes of most meetings) is available in a large-print format, and a recorded version of the Calendar is available on CD and on memory disk.

(We make these anyway, so it's easy to get them to you: just let Kate know).

Kate Brady McKenna

Accessibility

We want our church and our community to be as accessible to everyone as it possibly can be. As well as providing everything in large print, we have a hearing loop, wheelchair access at the back of the building, and an accessible toilet. We are awaiting delivery of a new wheelchair for our members and visitors.

But we'd really like to know what we're missing: is there something which would make you feel more welcome, or make you feel more comfortable when you get here?

Please let us know, and we will do our very best!

*stop press: thanks to hard work by Roger and Anne, the new wheelchair has been obtained.

By-Gone Times (number 11): Bazaars

Do you remember the Bazaar which we used to have the first weekend in November?

The stalls: plants, cakes, books, rainbow, bric-a-brac, bottle stall, guess the name of teddy, how many marbles in the jar, the café, etc.

In the 1950s the Gift weekend; Friday night a concert, Saturday the Bazaar with a variety of stalls and Sunday a special service.

Further back in the early 1900s the Calendars tell of an American Tea.

"Every person attending is expected to bring an article for sale. The price shall be not less than 6d and also is expected to buy one.' Admission including tea 6d each".

The Flower and Refreshment Stalls held various events.

Sewing meetings were held on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month from 3.00pm with tea at 5.00 o'clock—orders for pillow cases and undergarments will be gladly received by the stall members.



Cake and Apron Fair. Admission was 2d and £23 was raised.



Hatpin and Handkerchief tea.

Tea was from 3pm-6pm admission was 6d including tea.

Again, each person was expected to bring a hatpin or handkerchief or both and then to buy of their choosing one or either or both.

I think the money made would then buy plants and refreshments for the Bazaar Day.

(Bear in mind 2d in 1910 is about 60p today.)

Answers to last month's quiz.

Thank you to Betty for this quiz, which sparked interest on Facebook!

Morning collection recorded as 390 coins made up of:

	£	s	d
1 sovereign	1	00	00
5 half-crowns	1	02	06
3 florins		06	00
36 shillings	1	16	00
79 sixpences	1	19	06
128 threepenny pieces	1	12	00
111 pennies		09	03
27 halfpennies		01	1½
	6	16	14½

Evening collection recorded as 497 coins made up of:

	£	s	d
1 Sovereign	1	00	00
4 half-sovereigns	2	00	00
2 crowns		10	00
8 half crowns	1	00	00
15 florins	1	10	00
40 shillings	2	00	00
114 sixpences	2	17	00
163 threepenny pieces	2	00	09
122 pennies		10	02
28 halfpennies		01	02
	13	08	11

Ed's note: astonishingly, this equates to over £1500 today!

More historical finds

Sue McMullen found this article (from the Bury Times, March 19th 1966) in the middle of an old book. The text reads:

One of the many colourful exhibits on display in the arts and crafts section of the exhibition at Stand Unitarian Church on Saturday was this sapphire blue table cloth made by Mrs E. Winifred Cronin, of Clarkes Hill House, Ringley Road, Commissioner for the Prestwich, Radcliffe, and Whitefield Division of the Girl Guides Association. Mrs Cronin is presenting the cloth to the Division. She had embroidered it with five badges – the World Guide Badge and the World Brownie Badge in gold and blue, the Guide Enrolment Badge and the Brownie Enrolment Badge in buff, and the Lancashire Rose in red and gold. She has been working on the cloth in her spare time since the New Year. Holding the cloth with the minister of Stand Unitarian Chapel, the Rev Leonard Smith, are Mrs E.M. Ramsbottom (left) and Mrs D. Taylor.

Whitefield



Worked by Guide Commissioner

One of the many colourful exhibits on display in the arts and crafts section of the exhibition of Stand Unitarian Church on Saturday was this sapphire blue table cloth made by Mrs E. Winifred Cronin, of Clarkes Hill House, Ringley Road, Commissioner for the Prestwich, Radcliffe and Whitefield Division of the Girl Guides Association. Mrs. Cronin is presenting the cloth to the Division. She had embroidered it with five badges – the World Guide Badge and the World Brownie Badge in gold and blue, the Guide Enrolment Badge and the Brownie Enrolment Badge in buff, and the Lancashire Rose in red and gold. She has been working on the cloth in her spare time since the New Year. Holding the cloth with the Minister of Stand Unitarian Chapel, the Rev. Leonard Smith, are Mrs. E.M. Ramsbottom (left), and Mrs. D. Taylor.

LIBERALS' EXP Vital t Comm

AFTER 13 years of d the Labour Party Instead the country f of the same kind of for Middleton, Fred Crilly in an attack o strations in his adop

The Liberal Party, bei zoned into the election o solving the task in regim social services, and runn of the country's markets. Liberals believed in an income policy, not only include a policy but the emphasis on productivity.

MORE COMPET

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We want to national insur tion system and a social security pay roll-subsid by the employ by the emplo would then not crease as wages

Liberals would i ngs rule. "We that a pensioner earn something discouraged from

EARNIN

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MOST POINTS BUT NOT ELIGIBLE FOR TROPHY

Hymn-pondering.

Anne Mills' new hymn was sung at our Easter Sunday service on April 4th, at Uni-sing! on April 17th, and at Anne's installation as G.A. President, on April 24th.

Tune: Aurelia ("The Church's One Foundation"): 76.76.76.76.

Words: Oxley; written by Anne Mills, and dedicated to the memory of Pam Oxley, who died on March 22nd, 2021.

Our time of celebration
Has come to pass, at last.
Then let us all be joyful
That sorrow now has passed.
We've stayed at home, and lonely,
When friends we could not greet;
And spent our days in silence,
Whilst living incomplete.

The year turned round, but slowly;
The winter brought us rain,
And snow, and frost, and coldness,
In time of grief and pain.
But Spring came creeping o'er us,
As life returned once more;
Green buds we saw with pleasure---
And sun---and flowers galore!

We'll relish every freedom;
Together we will thrive.
Our families we'll cherish---
'Tis good to be alive!
We'll congregate at leisure---
Community unite.
In deep appreciation,
We'll welcome in the light.

Now may our hearts be opened,
In hope, and joy, and love,
And let us sing, rejoicing,
As praise we send above.
In hymn and song and story,
Our voices we should raise;
In church, we stand triumphant---
Thanksgiving, all our days!

The deadline for entries for the June edition of the Calendar is Saturday 29th May, at around teatime: it will be available by the following Sunday at the latest, depending on how you receive your copy.

Although the deadline isn't until Saturday, I'm always thrilled to receive things early so that they can be slotted into place.

You'll notice that this is later than normal: I will be away the previous week, which will delay things by a few days. Please keep your eye on emails and the pastoral letter for anything urgent.

Bury Unitarian Church

Zoom worship

Every Sunday at 2pm

Meeting ID: 849 7456 6116

Please join us for a service of words, music, prayer, and silence. The service lasts around forty minutes, and then we gather for conversation.

If you would like to join us, we would love to see you: everyone is welcome, no matter what.

Bury Unitarian Church

**Coffee morning, on Zoom,
every Saturday from
11am**

Meeting ID: 839 0159 0623

Pop in and out as you please: the room opens at 11 and we keep chatting til we're done or our lunches are ready: normally around noon or 12:15.

The refreshments are home-made quality. Your home. Your quality.





