

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH



Three Bury and Rochdale Presidents

May 2022

Letter from the Minister

Dear all,

Well, April has turned out to be a very busy and active month in church!

As you'll read elsewhere in the Calendar, several of us were at the Annual Meetings of the General Assembly, and I'm pleased to say everyone behaved impeccably! I was privileged to see Anne Mills (supported, as always, by Roger's off-stage presence), do a stellar job as President for the meetings; and to be at the opening worship which was beautifully led and held by a small team including Janine Sim. Unfortunately I wasn't able to see Susan Holt installed as President of the National Women's League, but we should all be very proud of her nomination and election, and I hope that we will hear more from her about this during the year. I was also unable to be at Val Chamberlain's session about the Findhorn Unitarian Network, but I heard very good things about both the sessions I missed.

For my own part, I'm very proud to tell you that I won an Easter Egg at the Ministerial Fellowship pre-conference gathering. I still maintain that it was a prize for good conduct, but others will tell you it was in fact a raffle prize: I'll leave it to you to decide which you think is more likely. Apart from that moment of glory, I was a part of the launch session for the new book from Summer School which was mentioned in last month's Calendar, and spoke in favour of the motion on trans rights (which was, as were all the motions, passed overwhelmingly).

You will see various mentions of other aspects of the Annual Meetings throughout the Calendar, and at some point in the near future there will be a service reporting back on everything which happened. Maybe you'll be inspired to join us next year, although I think it will be a few weeks before any of us can really start to think about that!

Back in church we've also had some busy and joyful times. We marked Easter, of course, with services for Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Day itself: Easter Day marked a year since we started to reopen in 2021, and it feels so good that things are so different now.

We've also started moving back to social events: we held a successful Give and Take Event early in the month, and it was a delight to see people's pleasure both in donating items and in going away with something new to them which they were clearly going to enjoy. It's definitely something which we'll repeat, and once we're into the pattern of doing them as a more-or-less congregational activity, I hope that we can spread the word and invite others in. I genuinely feel that receiving things generously is an important spiritual practice, and one which will bless the world as it spreads.

And in April we had the delight of our first congregational lunch in over two years: around forty of us gathered for a delicious meal (thanks to Susan Holt and her team) and to enjoy the enormous blessing of sharing food and drink together with our beloved community. Sometimes you don't know how much you've missed something until you start to do it again, and I know that when I looked around the room and saw everyone smiling, chatting, and eating and drinking together I really felt quite emotional.

Perhaps we savour these things more now that we know what it's like not to have them for a while? None of us would wish to go through the last two years again, with their restrictions and deprivations, but perhaps, when we look back, we'll see that we learned about what is truly precious and valuable to us, and that community, and gathering, and joyful social occasions (which are, genuinely, so often enhanced by food and drink) are very high up on that list. If we've learned not to take for granted the many many blessings we have, it will be one positive outcome from a bad situation.

As I write, it's pretty chilly, but the signs up at Holebottom suggest that we're not far at all from the loveliness of early summer: the daffodils are over but the bluebells are coming up to take their place, and the trees are changing day on day. The year will always do its thing!

As ever, I send you my love

Rev Kate Brady McKenna

Presidential matters

This will be my last PM column---one which I've written, every month, for the last three years, to let you know what I've been doing whilst on my travels; it's become a unique diary of events, on which I can look back with a certain amount of pleasure and satisfaction. As of noon, on April 21st, 2022, when I installed Rev. Sue Woolley, as the new GA President, I relinquished my post; more about the Annual Meetings, later.

On April 3rd, I conducted a zoom service for Newcastle Unitarians, the last in a series of several---or so I thought! I'd barely finished, when I was booked again! Newcastle have been trying to complete the sale on their premises, since 2020, and have had to be very patient, during this time. Over this past winter, they have met on zoom, as they were unable to heat their premises, and keep them covid-free, at the same time. They hope to complete by the end of April, this year, and will then hold live services --- but only for a short time; I was asked whether I'd like to conduct one last, live service for them, in June, before their refurbishments begin: an invitation I accepted gladly. I've been asked to conduct several other services, this year, at different places, and am pleased to do so, although I shall limit myself, in order to rest and relax, and to take plenty of holidays!

During May, I have accepted four post-Presidential engagements: to an Anti-Slavery Service, at Cairo Street, Warrington; to the Closing Service, at Bank Street Bolton; to the Re-Opening Service, at Chorley; and to the Induction of Rev. Stephanie Bisby, at York. I shall have a contribution to make, on each occasion. This year, we have no incoming Vice-President, so it may be that I shall be asked to assist Sue Woolley, from time to time.

Much of April (and March, too) has been spent in preparation for the Annual Meetings, with zoom meetings of all kinds, with different groups of people. I was invited to attend a meeting of The Stipend Review Committee, which sets the levels of various payments, including the Ministers' stipends.

I attended The Newcomers' Reception, for the Annual Meetings, which was held during the previous week, for which I was asked to make a short speech. I devised the Ceremony of Welcome and Thanksgiving, which formed part of the Anniversary Service; eight new ministers were welcomed; six ministers who had retired were thanked; and six ministers who had died were commemorated. I met several times with The Chief Officer, Liz Slade, and our Operations Manager, Andrew Mason, to establish how the Agenda was to be organised and implemented, and, on different occasions, these meetings involved the members of The Steering Committee, and our Youth and Safeguarding Officer. As the programme for the three days of meetings emerged, I constructed a detailed running-order and read our Constitution, By-laws, and Standing Orders (many, many times!) I also prepared my speech for the Associate Members' Reception, which constituted one of the breakout sessions. People, generally, were prepared for the Meetings to be troublesome and difficult. One person wished me luck, adding that I would need it; a few days later, he commented on how well I was doing---much better than he had thought I'd be able to do! With friends like that, who needs enemies!

I was apprehensive about chairing our Annual Meetings, to say the least, and there was a certain amount of concern amongst people to whom I spoke that the Motions would prove contentious, and that those present would feel quite nervous and unsettled about participating in the sessions. We need not have worried, as everybody seemed glad to be able to gather together, after a three-year gap, and the business was generally conducted in a civilised, pleasant atmosphere. From my point of view, everything went very smoothly; there were few hitches (which nobody noticed!) and the plenary sessions ran more or less to time. As about a quarter of those present were first-time attenders, extra explanations were necessary, at times, but the old hands were very patient; maybe there was information even they had forgotten, after such a lengthy interval! I received many appreciative comments, as we went along, and it was wonderful to be able

to chat with so many Unitarians. Everybody was extremely supportive, and, in the final session, I received not one, but two, standing ovations. Given that we all---the Chief Officer, the three members of the Steering Committee, and I---were all first-timers, too, we did surprisingly well; this was an excellent team-effort, and my memories of that particular day will remain with me, in the long term.

Finally, my term of office was over; I handed my medallion to Sue Woolley and retired (gracefully, I hope) from the stage. My feelings were mixed: I was sorry to have finished, as my three-year reign had been full of amazing experiences, but I had to admit to being ready for some time to myself. On April 24th, I attended morning-service at Bury, when, for the first time, the original plaque from the 1719 church was on display, in the worship-area. Betty Kenyon explained the history of both church and plaque, in order to demonstrate the plaque's importance. It has now been mounted and framed, and a small legacy from Jean Taylor, who died late last year, has been used to cover most of the cost; an explanatory note will be fixed to the back of the plaque, so that its historical importance, and the legacy, are noted. At the same time as our service was taking place, Padiham's was in progress; Padiham's GA delegates were reporting back to their congregation; my role at the Annual Meetings was to be discussed, and the hymn that I wrote, just over a year ago, and dedicated to the memory of Pam Oxley, was to be sung. These two memories were more poignant, and made the weekend feel quite emotional.

It has been customary for me to thank Kate for everything she does for the congregation at Bury, and I do so, finally, as I express my gratitude to her, particularly, for her tremendous support, both before, after, and during the Annual Meetings. I also thank her for describing my work, in very complimentary terms, to the congregation, and for arranging gifts of flowers, for me, and whisky, for Roger, in acknowledgement of my GA Presidency. I thank Ade, too, for the many, varied tasks that he undertakes, on behalf of our church; this included, on my return from the GA, re-

assembling our banner, which had taken pride of place during Tuesday's procession. I send, too, my congratulations to Sue Woolley, the new GA President, and to our own Susan (Holt), who was installed , at the Meetings, as the National Women's League President; for a few hours, Bury Unitarians possessed two Presidents, and that was well worth celebrating. My task, now, will be to decide what avenues I wish to explore, in the future; many matters have had to be put on hold, especially during the past year, so they need attention; but I must establish my priorities, before I proceed on my way. May and June will be busy, for a start; after that, I shall take life as it comes.

Roger and I send you all our love, thanks, and very best wishes; let us hope that covid is behind us, and that life will become more certain and settled, as we contemplate the future.

Anne.

Worship:

Inclusive Communion Services

There will be a communion service after the main service on Sundays May 1st and June 5th. Everyone is very welcome to join us for this simple and sacred sharing of grape juice, bread, and community.

Monthly midweek online meditations

We continue to meet for meditation on Zoom on the second Tuesday of each month, now at 7pm

The May session will be at 7pm on Tuesday May 10th.

Readers

If you'd like to be added to the list of people who give readings during services, please just let Kate know. Having someone else's voice during the service enlivens it for everyone, and you'll never be asked to read something you disagree with!

News of our Community

Stephen Ramsay

Stephen is making good progress; he's now walking well, playing the pinao, driving, and, even, gardening! I keep in touch, as does Kate, and we are glad to see so many signs of healthy recovery; well done, Stephen. Stephen sends his best wishes to everybody at Bury Unitarian Church and hopes that it won't be too much longer before he is able to come and play at our services, once more. We send our greetings and good wishes back to him, as ever, and hope to see him, very soon.

Anne Mills.

Anniversaries and remembrances

Although we are not currently in a position to dedicate church flowers to individuals each week (because the arrangements have changed), please know that we would all love to see anniversaries and remembrances in these pages: if you would like someone mentioned, please let either myself or Janet Thatcher know.

Kate

Bury Unitarian Church Congregational AGM 2022

Notice is hereby given that the 52nd Annual General Meeting of the Congregation will be held in the worship area on **Sunday 29th May 2022**, starting at 12.30pm. Coffee and biscuits will be served beforehand, at the end of a slightly shorter than usual service. The meeting should not last for more than an hour. The quorum for the meeting will be 25 people.

Nomination sheets for the election of Church Officers will be posted on the lounge notice board during May. The posts to be filled are

Chairman of the Congregation

Chairman of the Church Council

Church Secretary

Church Treasurer

Assistant Church Treasurer

We will also be seeking volunteers to serve on the Finance and General Purposes Committee and on the Worship Committee.

Please seriously consider giving up some time to help with the running of the church. This year we have struggled along with no Church Secretary and no Assistant Treasurer, and our current Treasurer has indicated that he wishes to relinquish the post at the AGM. Nomination forms will be on the church notice board from Sunday 1st May.

Any items for inclusion under Any Other Business must be notified to Janet Thatcher in writing by May 15th

Important AGM notice

You'll have seen the formal notice of the church AGM on the previous page: please make a special effort to attend this year!

Church rules mean that we still need twenty-five voting members present in order to be quorate, and these rules were set when that was a far more realistic number. We hope to change the quorum at these meetings to make it more realistic (probably to 50% of membership plus one), but we can't change the quorum if we're not quorate!

If you can't make it to the meeting in person, Val Chamberlain will be asking you to arrange to vote in absentia, either by post or by informing her of your choices: please do see Val so that she can make sure you get the relevant paperwork.

Gift Aid Records

Thank you for your clear and prompt responses to the request to complete and return an updated Gift Aid form. If you are eligible to donate through the Gift Aid scheme and haven't yet had an opportunity to return your form, please return it to Val Chamberlain via the box under the post table which will be available for another 2 weeks. There are some spare forms and envelopes in Church if you need them.

Val Chamberlain

Unitarian Code of Ethics

You may remember that at the 2021 Annual Meetings, we passed a resolution that we would work, as a denomination, on creating a Code of Ethics for everyone involved in the denomination: congregations, individual members of congregations, ministers (lay and ordained); committee members, trustees, GA staff, volunteers and everyone else.

The group who are steering this work have produced a survey for congregations to complete so that they can get a picture of what behavioural covenants are already in place.

The deadline for this survey is at the end of May, so I hope that after the service on May 22nd we can have a short meeting over coffee so that anyone who has an interest can fill the survey in together.

Watch out for further details in notices.

Kate Brady McKenna (on behalf of Val Chamberlain)

Notes from the church property

If you haven't read the Rime of the Ancient Mariner by Samuel Taylor Coleridge, you are likely at least familiar with its most famous line '*Water, Water, every where, ne any drop to drink*'.

It's a reference to being surrounded by something useless that should otherwise be life giving and - as Kate would say - holy. I have always loved her idea of all water being holy, because water is the fount of life and it needs nothing special or mystical for it to be so, it simply is. As much as the Mariner was beset by water that appeared unholy to him, his shrinking wooden boards were holding him just above creatures for whom that same salt water was an imperative. It is not just our lives after all for whom water is, in its most essential form, a true, and essential, sacrament.

For all the truth in this idea, of the essential holiness of water, it is also very true that water is a sacrament that our building could really do without. Our building, like the Mariner's ship and indeed, like anything else we humans build from elements of the earth will, if left to our worlds devices, eventually begin to succumb to the pressures introduced to it by water.

So, much of my time as property manager has been taken up with repairing the damage caused to our wonderful building by water, and doing my best to keep what I can of it out in the first place. From re-plastering the walls, to re-grouting the bricks and repairing the window seals, the work of keeping out water is being constantly chased around our beloved building.

Every now and again however, I become aware that I am acting against what some of us, myself included, call God, busying myself in chasing out of the building the most primordial of sacraments, the holy water that powers life itself. It's a dichotomy, and one I have been mulling over in my mind as I continue through the building chasing the effects of this beautiful, holy and essential sacrament away.

Ade Brady

Bury Unitarian Church

Saturday 14th May

7pm for 7.30 start

Quiz night,

with pie and pea supper

£5 per head

Bring your own drinks: glasses provided

Please see Betty Kenyon for tickets

Book Club

The book club will meet on Wednesday, 25th of May at 7pm. The books to be discussed are *The Whistler* by John Grisham (postponed from the April meeting) and *Life After Life* by Kate Atkinson. Our evening meetings have resumed so there is parking available. Copies of the book are available from the cupboard in the coffee lounge. Please sign up if you take a copy. All are welcome at our sociable book evenings, no need to have read the book!

Pam Gilbert

Camera Club

The Camera Club normally meets on Zoom and in person in church on the second and fourth Monday of each month, at 7pm. Everyone is very welcome to join them for these sociable and productive evenings.

The meeting which would have been on May 9th has been cancelled, so this month there will only be one meeting, on Monday May 23rd.

Zoom coffee mornings

From May onwards I'm only going to be going to the Zoom coffee mornings once a fortnight, on the first and third Saturdays (there isn't the same call for them as there was when we couldn't meet up in person). You are still more than welcome to use the room at the same time each week, but I won't always be there. And, of course, if you'd like a chat with me on the Saturdays I'm not due to be there, just ask!

Regular Events:

Saturdays:

11am Zoom coffee morning (Kate will only be at the coffee mornings on the first and third Saturdays)

Last Saturday of each month (subject to change):

11-1 Saturday Social Gathering

Sundays:

11.15am Worship in person at Bury

2pm Zoom worship from Bury (except first Sundays)

First Sunday of each month

10.30am Worship in person at Ainsworth

12.30pm Inclusive Communion Service at Bury

Second Sunday of each month

12.30 (approx.) Second Sunday Lunch. Please join Kate at the Robert Peel pub for lunch, coffee, or a drink (please buy your own drinks and food!)

Second and fourth Mondays

7pm Camera club (online and in person)

Second Tuesday of each month:

7pm Online midweek meditation session

Last Wednesday of each month:

7pm: Book club

Most Fridays:

10am til 3pm (approx.) Minister's Vestry Day

What's on: May 2022

Sunday 1st May	10.30am Ainsworth: Service, led by Rev Janine Hurley 11.15am Bury: Service in church 12.30pm: Inclusive Communion service. 2pm: No Zoom service today.
Friday 6th May Saturday 7th May	Minister's vestry day Kate will be at the Zoom coffee morning (you are welcome to use the room on other Saturdays!) 2pm for 2.30pm start: Prayer workshop (in the church lounge)
Sunday 8th May	11.15am Bury: Service in church 12.30pm: Second Sunday Lunch (see details in Calendar) 2pm: Zoom service (Zoom 849 7456 6116) 3pm Cairo Street Unitarian Chapel, Warrington: Anti-Slavery service
Monday 9th May Tues 10th May: Friday 13th May Saturday 14th May	7pm: NELUM AGM <i>at Bury Unitarian Church</i> 7pm: Meditation (Zoom 812 3292 6975) Minister's vestry day 7pm for 7.30pm: Quiz night (tickets from Betty Kenyon)
Sunday 15th May	11am: Chorley Unitarians' reopening service 11.15am Bury: Service in church 2pm: Zoom service (Zoom 849 7456 6116) Deadline for AGM AOB items (to Janet Thatcher)

Friday 20th May	Minister's vestry day
Saturday 21st May	Kate will be at the Zoom coffee morning (you are welcome to use the room on other Saturdays!) 2.30, Rochdale Unitarian Church: Jubilee Afternoon Tea.
Sunday 22nd May	11.15am Bury: Service in church 12.30pm: discussion of the proposed Code of Ethics, and joining together to fill in the Findhorn Unitarian Network survey. 2pm: Zoom service (Zoom 849 7456 6116)
Mon 23rd May:	7pm: Camera club (please contact Janet Thatcher for further details)
Tuesday 24th May:	Teatime: deadline for entries for the June Calendar.
Wed 25th May:	7pm: book club, meeting to discuss <i>The Whistler</i> , by John Grisham and <i>Life After Life</i> by Kate Atkinson. All welcome.
Friday 27th May	Minister's vestry day
Saturday 28th May	11am – 1pm: Saturday Social Gathering
Sunday 29th May	11am Bury: Service in church 12.30pm: Bury Unitarian Church AGM 2pm: No Zoom service today.

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
<i>Church secretary:</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	
Church treasurer:	Roger Mills	0161 762 0943

Contact for room bookings and building maintenance

Property Manager	Adrian Brady	07736 107143
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Charity reg no: 107857

Saturday Social Gatherings

Bury Unitarian Church Saturday social gatherings (in person)

**Please join us on the following Saturdays between
about 11am and about 1pm.**

**Saturday 28th May
Saturday 25th June
Saturday 30th July**

**the kettle will be on; there will be biscuits, and there will be
good company. Parking is available, and free.**

**Why not bring your knitting, your lunch, your book, or a project you're
working on? And bring your friends. And maybe some cake . . .
You can also help us collate the next month's Church Calendar.**

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

We have now held a few of our Saturday Social Gatherings, and they have been well received. The gatherings are a chance to be together in a social space, with the kettle on and normally with cake (and always with biscuits) available. It is an evolving event: over time we will form it into what it needs to be.

In the meantime please join us: some of us use the time to collate the church Calendar, others of us just come to chat. Whatever you need from the space, we will try to provide.

Second Sunday lunches

Before the lockdown, some of us had got into the habit of going for a very informal trip to a local pub once a month after the service: some people had lunch, some people just had a quick pint, and some just had a coffee. I have really missed these lunches, and am going to start them again, on the second Sunday of each month, so the first one will take place on Sunday 8th May.

I'm going to try the Robert Peel opposite the marketplace: I know that we used to meet at the Art Picture House, but I'm personally avoiding Wetherspoons pubs now, and the Robert Peel is newly independent. If we don't like it there, we can always find somewhere else!

If you'd like to join us but the cost of a coffee or a lunch would be difficult for you, please speak to me.

Kate

Workshops



Bury Unitarian Church Workshop series Saturday 7th May, 2.30pm Talking about Prayer

**a chance to engage with our feelings around prayer,
and to write our own, in an inclusive, open-hearted
and open-minded atmosphere.**

***these workshops will normally be on the last Saturday of the
month, but this one has been moved so that we can go to the
Pride parade.***

in the church lounge

**you can find us behind the Victoria Wood statue, less than five minutes'
walk from trams and buses. We have plenty of free parking, and
refreshments will be available.**

There won't be a workshop in late May, because it would fall on the same weekend as the AGM and be a bit too much! The next workshop – a Death Café – will be on Saturday 25th June. Details to follow.

Have you got ideas?

Is there a workshop or a social event you'd like to run at church?

Is there something new you'd like to try in worship?

Is there something you'd like us to be doing that we're not currently doing?

We want to be a community which is open to new ideas and new initiatives, so if there's something you've been wishing we did, we would love to hear about it and see what we can do to help you make it happen.

Not everything we try will work, and some things may work but only as one-off events, and that's absolutely fine. No one gets hurt if a workshop isn't a huge success.

Please speak to Kate or one of the church officers if you've got an idea: we probably won't do it for you, but we'll do what we can to help you do it.

The Minister's schedule, May 2022

I don't have any planned work trips or gatherings during May, so apart from a couple of days away towards the end of the month, I should be around and available.

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.

Some weeks I don't manage a day off, so occasionally I'll take an extra one here or there.

I am usually in the vestry between at least 10am and 3pm on Fridays, and if you'd like to pop in for a chat you are very welcome. I do sometimes pop out to run errands, so it's wise to call first!

June Calendar.

The deadline for articles for the June Calendar will be teatime on Tuesday May 24th, and I will be editing it later that week. The church will be open for coffee and (I hope) cakes on Saturday 28th, and if you could join us that day to help collate and staple, that would be deeply appreciated!

The Calendar should be available to collect in church on Sunday May 29th, and posted shortly after that (if you normally pick your copy up in church, I leave it there for two Sundays and then post it).

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).

Accessibility

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 have also recently taken possession of a new lightweight, easily collapsible, sturdy wheelchair. The wheelchair lives in the cupboard under the front stairs, and you are free to use it at any time it would be useful in church.

If you have a short-term need at home and would like to borrow it, please speak to one of the church officers.

News from around the district and the denomination

News from Ainsworth

Ainsworth's May service takes place on Sunday, May 1st, at 10.30 a.m; when Rev. Janine Hurley, a qualified interfaith minister, will again lead worship. Everyone is welcome, on this occasion. Shirley sends thanks to all who attended the Anniversary Service on 3rd April, with special guest preacher, Rev. John Allerton. As usual, all the downstairs box pews will be open and you may sit wherever you feel comfortable. Mask-wearing is now optional, but please allow 1 metre distancing from others, unless in the same bubble. The service, in June, will be held on the 5th, at 10.30 a.m. and will be taken by Anne Mills.

Chorley Unitarians reopening

Chorley Unitarians will be opening their doors, for the first time since lockdown, in 2020, on Sunday, May 15th, at 11 a.m. Further details are on the notice-board.

Warrington Unitarians anti-slavery service

Cairo Street Chapel, Warrington, has invited us to attend the above service, on Sunday, May 8th, at 3 p.m. The service will be led by the Chapel Lay Leadership Team, and the address will be of interest to all Unitarians. Fuller details appeared in our April Calendar

Rochdale Unitarians:

PLATINUM JUBILEE AFTERNOON TEA
(with interactive entertainment by "Valody")
Rochdale Unitarian Church
Saturday, 21 May 2022 2.30-5.00 pm

Numbers required by Friday, 13 May
Tel: 01706 649015 Email: helen@illingworth.org.uk

NELUM

NELUM's AGM will be held on Monday, May 9th, 2022, at 7 p.m; **at Bury Unitarian Church**; all are welcome. A potato pie supper will follow the meeting; names should reach Beryl Allerton by April 30th.

I have papers for this meeting, and they are also on our notice-board; please let me know if you require a copy.

Anne.

Lancashire Collaborative Ministry book

Copies of "Our Extraordinary Year" are still available; see last month's Calendar for details. If you are interested in purchasing a copy, please contact Rev. Shannon Ledbetter, whose email address is: scledbetterosprey@gmail.com

It was a joy, at the General Assembly meetings, to see the Lancashire Collaborative Ministry accepted as an Affiliated Society of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christians. Congratulations to all involved.

David Dawson Musical

On Sunday, 14th August, at 5pm, the Unitarian Music Society is presenting the world première of "Oliver's Journey Home", a musical with libretto by Nick Morrice and music by the late David Dawson. This was due to have been performed at the Nightingale Centre in 2020, but the pandemic and David's untimely death intervened. This public performance will be a belated tribute to David and will take place at the Clarke Foley Centre in his home town of Ilkley, with many members of his family present, local friends, and members of his orchestra taking part. Contact Nick Morrice on 01904 765424 for tickets; these cost £10.00 each.

General Assembly Annual Meetings

These took place between April 19th and 21st, and we were represented by Anne and Roger Mills, Rev. Kate Brady McKenna, Susan Holt, Val Chamberlain, and Janine Hurley.

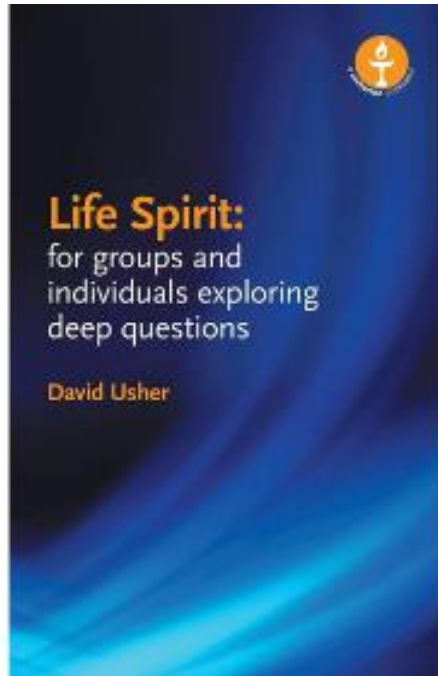
The Meetings debated four Motions, and all were carried; Motion 2, on Transgender Rights, was emotional, for speakers and audience alike. Motion 4, in support of the "We The Peoples" campaign, seemed to perplex many, and there were few speakers from the floor; however, this was carried very convincingly; let's hope that the proposers do a substantial amount of work on it, in the immediate future, and can report significant progress.

The Anniversary Service collections raised a magnificent £5,300.00 for Ukraine; these are not the final figures but should be confirmed in approximately three weeks' time.

Susan Holt was installed as the National Women's League President, and Anne Mills installed Rev. Sue Woolley as the National GA President; both will serve for the next year.

The Meetings were judged to be very successful; the atmosphere was relaxed and pleasant, and everyone was glad that we were able to meet in person, once again.

Life spirit



We have received some free copies of *Life Spirit* by David Usher: the book works as a series of workshops and discussions and is a great tool for a conversation series.

Let me know if you'd be interested in a short-term group looking at the contents. I know that some of you may have worked your way through it before, but there's no harm in looking at these sort of questions several times during our lives!

Dive, Dive, Dive

Dive, dive, dive
Deep into the dim dark where
You fall into the arms of an ending
Which is a new, unknown beginning
Of separate existence beyond
And over everything before,
The welcome is obvious,
But to you tentative,
As you descend away from anxiety
Through a breaking barrier
Of letting go.
There is unlocking of control,
Unbinding of ties,
Here is a free hand to guide you
Into the realm of goodness
Without a stain or blemish,
There is no before or after,
Just now, this moment,
Which stretches out
As a golden thread
Into the calm
Of eternity.

Bill Grimke Drayton

**From a Birthday Book of 1897,
submitted by 'the Old Codger', who says "as true today as then".**

The Poor Man Fasts Because He has no Meat,
The Rich Man Fasts Because He does not eat.

The Miser Fasts with a Greedy Mind to Share,
The Glutton to eat The Greater Share.

The Hypocrite will Fast to seem more Holy,
The Righteous Man will Fast to Punish Sin & Folly.

A photo from Vera Stephenson

Vera has shown me this photo of a Women's League outing to London in (she thinks) the 1980s.

I wonder who you can identify?



By-Gone Times, by Betty Kenyon, No 24.

From the Calendar: December 1890

Our Thursday Evenings Have attracted audiences averaging about 70 persons. The lectures and entertainments have been so good, that we are tempted to express the hope that if these and those of our young people were not there, it was because they were busy with something still better. We wish we could believe it.

Here are some of the Lectures:

Songs by the choir with music from Midsummer Night's Dream

Steel and its manufacture

Life and work in England and Germany

Readings from an American humourist: Hans Breitman(satire)

The Biglow papers (political satire)

Beggars and Begging

Food with special reference to invalids and infants

America and some of its industries

What Technical Schools can do

There were other evening and daytime talks on:

Gambling

Impurity

Luxury and Self Seeking

The Problems of Poverty

Is a man responsible for his own character?

Niagara Falls

The Fleshpots of Egypt

Some of these topics are still relevant and would make for interesting discussion. Which would be your choice to attend?



Bank Street Chapel 1852

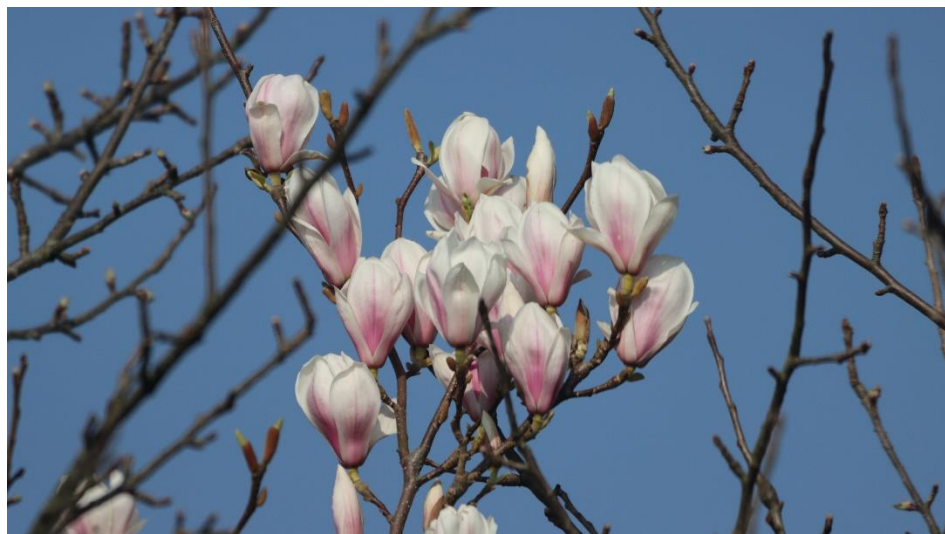
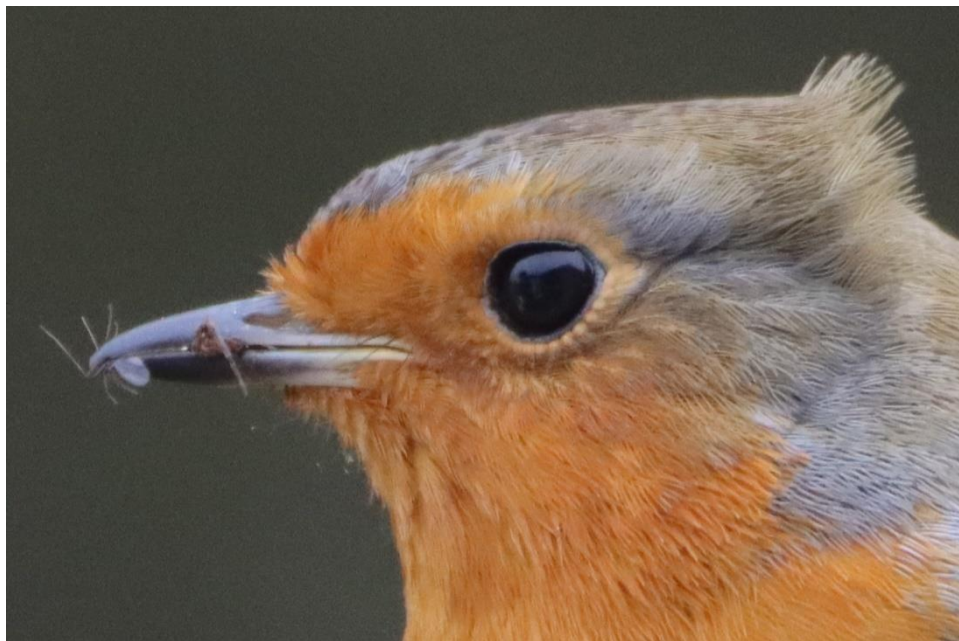
*** note from the minister: I am definitely up for a talk on the fleshpots of Egypt.*

Calendar Club Pictures



Flowers that bloom in the spring, tra la!







Anne Mills installs her successor, Rev. Sue Woolley.

On the front cover are

**Joyce Ashworth (Past Women's League President),
Anne Mills (GA President) and
Susan Holt (newly-installed Women's League President)**