

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH



CALENDAR

MAY 2024

Letter from the Minister

Dear all,

Spring feels like it's been very slow in coming this year: February and March each seemed to last about fifty years. April, though, feels like it's finishing before it's really even got going: it feels like five minutes since I last wrote this letter!

Last time I wrote, the daffodils were fading. They've gone now, but in their place we're seeing the irrepressible loveliness of dandelions. I can't not be cheered up by dandelions. The manse is in an area of terraced houses with back alleys (rumours that I often find myself singing the Coronation Street theme tune whilst driving down the alley behind our house may or may not be true), and although the alleys can sometimes be a bit unlovely, they're currently home to thousands of flowers and it's a delight.

Holebottom, too, is springing forth. The trees have softened from their beautiful winter starkness, and the buds are become huge and sticky. One tree has flowered, and the brambles are getting very lively now. And, maybe loveliest of all, there are bluebells (and some pale pink flowers very like bluebells: maybe someone knows what they are!). Because the ground isn't used as much as some other places, the bluebells spread over the grass: I know we're not meant to trample on bluebells but it's actually really hard not to. The ground is firmer than it has been since about October, and I suspect that Tony, who deals with the mowing, will be trimming it soon. I'm always a bit sad when it's first been mowed (though I do understand why it needs doing), but the sadness only lasts a couple of days because nature will have its way, and the flowers are back almost before I've missed them.

We are really blessed to have this space for our use, and I know we haven't made much use of it in worship lately: that's mainly been because, beautiful though it is, it hasn't half been muddy recently. Hopefully now that it's drying out we'll get back up there.

Meanwhile, church life continues to be busy and exciting.

Early in April several members of the congregation spent time at the General Assembly meetings in Northamptonshire, gathering with some 300 other Unitarians from around the UK and further afield. It was a tiring and nourishing time, and it's always encouraging to be amongst fellow Unitarians. Our congregation is entitled to send two delegates to the conference, so that we can be represented in any voting which arises and so that our views as a community can be heard. If you're interested in attending next year's meetings on our behalf, please speak to me or to someone else who's been, and when the dates and location of the next meetings are announced we can keep you informed. Delegates' places and expenses are paid for by the congregation, so please don't let money be what stops you from going.

I'm very excited that in a couple of weeks' time we'll be gathering for the annual Quiz Night, and I'm grateful to everyone who's working to make this happen: it's always an enjoyable evening, and it's one of those events where we see several people who are part of our community but don't tend to come to services (and it's always a joy to welcome them). I think many of you know by now that although I'm genuinely a pretty gracious loser, I am an absolutely obnoxious winner: so if you're going, please watch out for that! Mind you, I've only been on the winning team once in the last seven years, so I wouldn't worry too much!

Several of our members have been unwell over the past weeks, and I know that we all send them our love and our best wishes. We want to see everyone in church because we miss people's faces and their presence, but I think I'm safe in saying that we'd all rather everyone rested well and recovered fully rather than coming back too soon. You're still in our hearts and our prayers when we don't see you.

As we head more deeply into . . . I nearly said spring but we're flying into summer . . . I send you my love, and I hope that you can feel and witness some of the joys of increasing warmth and light.

As ever, I send you my love.

Kate.

News of our community

Norah Hickton

After several months in a very busy ward in the North Manchester General Hospital, Norah has moved into a residential home in Topping Fold. She seems more settled there, and she has a lovely sunny room. It's also much easier for Peter to visit her now, and I know that if any of you would like to pop in and see her she'd really enjoy the visit.

Andrew Shepherd and Julia Hose

Many of you will know Andrew and Julia, who've been members of our congregation for a while now.

I am really happy to be able to share the news that they will be married in church on Saturday 26th October this year. Everyone from church is invited and I'll let you all know about timings when they're sorted out.

We're particularly hoping that some of our stronger singers (you don't have to have been in the choir!) will join us to support the hymn-singing so that we can truly make a joyful noise to celebrate this joyful event.

We send our love to all those who are struggling with loss, or who are dealing with illness, whether that's their own or that of someone close to them, and we rejoice with those who are rejoicing.

Worship

All the services in May will be led by the minister, with the exception of **Sunday 19th May**, which will be led by Ade Brady.

Communion

This month's Inclusive Communion will take place on **Sunday 26th May**, at around 12.30 or 12.45. Everyone is welcome.

Ainsworth

Sunday 5th May, 10.30am: Service to be led by Veronica Walker.

Mid-month mid-week meditations

Although it's out of synch with our normal meditation routine (such as it is!) and although it will be late for Beltane, I'll be offering an online Beltane mediation on **Tuesday 7th May** from 6pm to 6.40pm. Please let me know by teatime on Monday 6th if you'd like to attend.

If you're interested in taking part in a long-running and much-loved regular online meditation session from the Findhorn Unitarian Network, please talk to either myself or Val Chamberlain.



NIGHT

at Bury Unitarians

Saturday 11th May 2024

7.00pm for 7.30pm prompt start

Tickets £5

Pie and pea supper

BYO drinks – glasses provided



Minister's schedule, May 2024

I will be taking a few days off in the week starting May 13th (and will probably be away for some of that) but am otherwise around and working to a fairly normal schedule. I will be in church on Sunday 19th, but that will still be during my time off, so I'll be sneaking in at the back and sneaking off straight afterwards!

I try to take Thursday as a Sabbath, and sometimes take another day off in the week as well: please listen out in notices for details of my days off.

Vestry Days: most Fridays, and one Saturday a month

I plan to be in the vestry between 10am and 3pm on **Fridays 3rd, 10th, 24th and 31st May, and Saturday 11th May**

It's always worth checking ahead of time before coming in: although I always plan to be in on a Friday, other things sometimes crop up, and whilst I love seeing people on Fridays, I'd hate for you to waste a journey!

The heating and the kettle will be on on all those days, and I'd love to see you if you fancy popping in. You're also welcome to pop in if you don't particularly need to see me but either just want somewhere to hang out for a while, or want to use the worship area for quiet prayer and reflection.

It's worth bearing in mind that people are often in and out on a Friday (which is the point of the vestry days), so if you want a more in-depth or confidential and uninterrupted chat, it would be better to arrange this on a different day.

Regular Social Events

Book Club

Our book club is now meeting in the evening at **7.00pm** with plenty of parking available. The May meeting will be on **29th May** when we'll discuss *The Girl in the Pink Raincoat* by Alrene Hughes. The author has lived in Manchester for most of her adult life. She worked for British Telecom and the B.B.C. before training as an English teacher. After teaching for twenty years, she retired and now writes full-time.

Everyone is welcome to come to book club: we chat about the book, then the chat becomes more general, very friendly, etc. Refreshments are available. There's plenty of parking and a lift home if required. Books we read are from the Bury Library who provide free sets of books for Readers' Groups. If you feel you may be interested do come along - you will be welcome.

Refreshments are available, as are lifts home if required.

Pam Gilbert

Camera Club

The Camera Club will meet at 7pm on **Monday 13th May** in person at church, and on **Monday 27th May** on Zoom. Everyone is welcome to join the group: please speak to one of the members for details (if you don't know who is in the Camera Club, Kate can tell you!).

Social Gatherings

The next gathering will take place on **Saturday 1st June**: (it's always tricky to decide which weekend to hold the gathering when the Saturday is the first day of the month, but the Camera Club preferred this week to the week of the 26th, to give them extra time to create the Calendar cover). You are really welcome to join us, whether you'd like to get involved with collating the next edition of the Calendar, or just fancy joining us for a cup of tea, coffee, or hot chocolate and some friendly companionship.

Second Sunday lunch

Kate will be going to the Art Picture House for her lunch on **Sunday 12th May**, and would love you to join her. We generally have a really chatty and happy little gathering, and you're welcome to join us whether you want your lunch (or dinner – call it what you will!), just a coffee, or a drink.

We normally each pay for whatever we're having, but please don't let money be a reason not to come: have a quiet word with Kate and we'll sort it out.

Fifth Sunday breakfasts

The informal breakfast on Easter Sunday seemed to be popular – we gathered before the service for tea, coffee, and hot cross buns, so I'm planning to keep them going at least during this year, to see if they prove to be something people want to do.

They'll take place whenever there are five Sundays in the month, so the next one will be on **Sunday 30th June**.

My original plan was to serve croissants, but I've rethought that given how crumbly and flaky they are: we'll think of something more appropriate!

Notes from the building.

I've mentioned before that there seems to be an ever decreasing circle of small business contractors out there today. Following the Covid Lockdowns a significantly smaller group of people are offering the services required by us at the church. This doesn't, I must say, apply to the larger organisations that we use for the really big jobs, but they also seem to have a hand in draining the pool of small contractors as they reach out ever further to get the few qualified people in their area of expertise they need to keep their businesses afloat.

This is no doubt a good thing if you are a trained builder, electrician or plumber, as demand for your services is presently high, but for us, for our purposes at the church, our pool of skilled professionals is drying up faster than ever before.

There are lots of reasons for this, and I was given to consider them at length when I was looking for a new electrician. There are lots of little electrical jobs around the building that really, really need doing, and it isn't a specialty I myself have. Some of the external lights are in dire need of replacement, and we have a beautiful blue glass panel facing the library that clearly used to light up at night and would look wonderful over summer now the trees have been removed from the area.

That the council asked me to get a quote for this some six months ago and it still hasn't happened is extremely frustrating for me, and no-doubt for the council as well, but the simple fact of the matter is we need a professional of some calibre to do the work and they can't be found as simply as they used to be... not even at an unreasonable price! So we have to wait until they can be, and we need to remember that we are allowed to be a little frustrated about it.

For my part, as the liaison for church contractors, I am truly sorry that this is currently the case, and I am aware that a lot of the work around the church is on a back-burner because of this. I do promise you that I am working on it, but if you know a builder, a plumber or an electrician who is looking around for work; please give them my number, or give me theirs. I'd be genuinely happy to hear about them.

Ade Brady

Thank you.

There are many things to be proud of and grateful for about our church – our beautiful building, our friendly community and a never ending supply of tea and cake!

However, I'd like to express my gratitude for a more humble resource that I was able to take out for an airing recently. I've been having some problems with walking and was due to go on a short break with friends and was worrying about how, or if, I would be able to get around. The worry was taking the pleasure out of anticipating the event.

And then I remembered the offer of the loan of a wheelchair in the Calendar. What a relief to know there was an easy answer. In the end I didn't actually need to use it, but having it with us in the car took the worry out and enabled us all to relax. In fact there was a queue of keen volunteers ready to push if needed.

So yes, I was grateful for the opportunity to borrow the chair. But proud too – to say to friends that it had come from our church, and of belonging to a church that makes it so easy to ask for help of all kinds when we need it.

Thank you (especially to Ade for lifting assistance).

Val

May 2024 Calendar:

The deadline for entries for the April edition of the Calendar will be teatime on **Tuesday 28th May**, and we'll collate it on **Saturday 1st June**

Copies of services

If you're on our email list, you get a copy of the service every week, and a list of the week's notices.

If you don't use email and would like to see a service that you've missed (or that you particularly enjoyed) please let Kate know and she'll make sure you get a paper copy either next time you're in church or by post.

Fire evacuation practice

The fire evacuation practice planned during April wasn't able to happen, but we will try again one Sunday in the next couple of months.

Church Zoom account

At the last Church Council meeting it was agreed that we no longer need a paid-for Zoom account: this was something we obtained during lockdown, and it was very important and valuable for a while, but we no longer use it enough to justify the costs involved.

We still have a Zoom account (with the same log-in details) and can host meetings of up to forty minutes long: after the forty minutes the room will close, but everyone present can then simply enter again.

If, at any point, there's a feeling that we should resume the premium account, then the Church Council will, of course, be very happy to consider it again.

Stewards for Sunday services May 2024

Sunday 5 th May	Ade Brady and Ewen Sim
Sunday 12 th May	Beryl Bowden and Marian Price
Sunday 19 th May	Betty Kenyon and Neville Kenyon
Sunday 26 th May	Faye Casey and Susan Mitchell

Tea and coffee rota, April 2024

Sunday 5 th May	Howard Maden and Jean Maden
Sunday 12 th May	Lois Williams and Pam Gilbert
Sunday 19 th May	Marian Price and Susan Holt
Sunday 26 th May	Rita Boardall and Susan Mitchell

There is a vacancy on the stewarding rota if you'd like to be part of the team: have a word with either Betty or Kate. Stewarding is a really good way to get to chat to everyone as they come in to church, and fulfils a really important role, particularly when we have visitors.

If you don't want to be on the rota but are happy to help out occasionally, that would also be great!

NELUM news

The NELUM AGM takes place at Walmsley Unitarian Chapel, on **Saturday, May 11th, from 2.30 p.m.** Tea will be available afterwards but must be booked, in advance.

Rev. Beryl Allerton and Karen Diggle will be stepping down from their respective roles as Secretary and Treasurer of NELUM at this meeting: thanks and congratulations are due to both of them for their many years of work and commitment in these roles.

Bury Pride, 1st June 2024



I'm hoping that a group of us will, once again, be able to join in the Pride Parade. Several of us have taken part in the last few years, and it's been a lot of fun, as well as being a great way to witness to our progressiveness and inclusivity.

We're also going to be opening the church again as a safe and quiet space for those people taking part who need a break, a space for quiet contemplation, or just a cup of tea.

We will also be hosting the General Assembly's travelling LGBTQIA+ exhibition, showing the history of our denomination's work in this area. Full arrangements are yet to be made.

If you'd like to join us for the parade, or to be in church so we can keep our doors open, that would be wonderful: we'll be collating the Calendar in the morning, so the kettle will be on all day!

Unitarian events in the local area

Bolton Walmsley Garden Festival:

25th June 12-4pm
Free Entry


310 years
Unitarian
Chapel

Incredible Unitarian Garden Festival

Incredible • Unitarian • Garden

- Pond Dipping
- Live Music & Dance
- Family Entertainment
- Food, Drinks & Craft Stalls

Walmsley Unitarian Chapel, BL7 9PR

walmsleyunitarianchapel.org.uk  Walmsley Unitarian Chapel

Cross St Chapel Manchester concert series



Emily Howard (violin)



Sam Rodwell (guitar)

Friday 31 May, 1 pm

Violin & Guitar Recital

A lively mix of Spanish, Argentine, Italian and American music
arranged for violin and guitar!

Piazzolla | Paganini | Pujol | Manuel de Falla | Robert Beaser

CROSS STREET UNITARIAN CHAPEL

Manchester City Centre, M2 1NL

Music@CrossStChapel.org.uk | #CrossStMusic



Free Entry

By-Gone Times by Betty Kenyon: number 46

Rev Ewan David Priestly Evans at Bury 1904-1921

He was born on 29th April 1862 near Merthyr Tydfil, Wales.

He spent 4 years at University College, Aberystwyth followed by 3 years at Manchester New College London, training to be a minister.

He was then minister at various churches and then came to Bury in 1904.

He retired in 1921 due to ill health.

While at Bury he was on the National Committee and also secretary of North East Lancashire Unitarian Mission. He co-edited the Jubilee volume of NELUM 1909.

He also wrote two chapel histories: Kidderminster New Meeting 1782-1900. and A History of the Presbyterian Chapel Bank Street, Bury 1719-1919.

This book has 561 pages. There are only 2 copies of it. Bury Library archives have a copy.

(continued on next page)

If you would like a copy of the booklet *A Brief History of Unitarians in Bury*, written by Betty Kenyon and presented to everyone who attended the Anniversary Service in March, please speak to Kate who can provide you with one.

From the Calendar January 1908

Rev Priestly Evans wrote that he had been able to visit America in the Autumn.

He wished to place on record his many thanks to all concerned. He said: "It was instructive and interesting and had been a great education and the memory of it would be a source of pleasure. But the memory of the warm and hearty welcome on my return to the dear old country will be a source of even greater pleasure."



In 1908 the journey from England to America cost \$30 and took 5 days.

Meet Sam and Sam's grown up



If you join us in church, you've probably met Sam and Sam's grown up.

Sam and Sam's grown up join us quite frequently on Sunday mornings, and help us to talk about Sam's adventures, and feelings, and friends, and school, and Sam's favourite hobby, which is being a member of a Secret Plasticine Society, which meets under Sam's grown up's kitchen table.

We've heard quite a lot of stories about Sam:

Sometime Sam celebrates Harvest
Sometimes Sam does very little harm
Sometimes Sam doesn't know what to think
Sometimes Sam doesn't like change
Sometimes Sam gets a new frock
Sometimes Sam goes out for tea
Sometimes Sam hears stories
Sometimes Sam helps others
Sometimes Sam isn't certain
Sometimes Sam is sad and scared
Sometimes Sam just breathes

Sometimes Sam learns something
Sometimes Sam loves something
Sometimes Sam makes a decision
Sometimes Sam only does okay
Sometimes Sam Says Something
Sometimes Sam spoils things
Sometimes Sam teaches philosophy
Sometimes Sam's Christmas
Sometimes Sam's spring
Sometimes Sam wants to live with robots
Sometimes Sam's school is splendid
Sometimes Sam's secret society

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.

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.

Our services and other events are fidget-friendly!

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.

We know that there will be needs we haven't accounted for: if there is anything which would make it easier for you to engage with what we do, please do tell us!

Regular Events (all social events are subject to change)

Sundays:

11.15am: Worship in person at Bury

First Sunday of most months:

10.30am: Worship in person at Ainsworth

Second Sunday of each month:

12.30 (approx.): Second Sunday Lunch. Please join Kate at a local pub for lunch, a coffee, or a drink. (If the cost would be a problem please have a quiet word with Kate).

Fourth Sunday of each month:

12.30pm: Inclusive Communion Service at Bury

Second and fourth Mondays of most months:

7pm: Camera club (normally online)

Last Wednesday of each month:

7pm (summer): Book club

Most Fridays:

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

Second Saturday of each month:

10am-3pm (approx.): Minister's Vestry Saturday

Last Saturday of each month:

11am-1pm (approx.): Saturday Social Gathering

What's on: May 2024

Monday 29th April 9.30 – 2.30: BRC booking (entire building)

Tuesday 30th April 7pm: Church Council meeting

Friday 3rd May 10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day

Sunday 5th May

10.30am Ainsworth

11.15am Bury

Morning service, led by Veronica Walker

Morning Service

Monday 6th May

9.30 – 2.30: BRC booking (entire building)

Tuesday 7th May

6pm: Zoom meditation (link to follow)

Friday 10th May

10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day

Saturday 11th May

10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Saturday

Saturday 11th May

2.30pm, Walmsley: NELUM AGM

Saturday 11th May

7pm for 7.30: Quiz night

Sunday 12th May

11.15am Bury

12.45 approx

Morning service

Second Sunday Lunch

Monday 13th May

9.30 – 2.30: BRC booking (entire building)

Monday 13th May

7pm: Camera Club, **meeting in person.**

Sunday 19th May

11.15am Bury:

Morning service, lead by Ade Brady

Monday 20th May9.30 – 2.30: *BRC booking (entire building)***Friday 24th May**

10-3: Minister's Vestry Day

Friday 24th May6.30 – 8.30: *Piano recital in worship area: private booking.***Saturday 25th May**

12-4: Walmsley Garden Festival

Sunday 26th May

11.15am Bury:

Morning service

12.30pm approx.:

Inclusive Communion

Monday 27th May9.30 – 2.30: *BRC booking (entire building)***Monday 13th May**7pm: Camera Club, **meeting on Zoom****Tuesday 28th May**

Teatime: deadline for entries for the June Calendar

Wednesday 29th May7pm: Book club meeting to discuss *The Girl in the Pink Raincoat* by Alrene Hughes.**Friday 31st May**

10-3: Minister's Vestry Day

Friday 31st May

1pm: Cross St Chapel (Manchester) concert series

Saturday 1st June

11am onwards: Saturday Social Gathering and Calendar Collation party

Saturday 1st June

pm: Bury Pride

Church Information:

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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: Neville Kenyon 01204 887222

Chair of church council: Jean Maden

Church secretary: Karen Hampson 0161 766 2283

Chair of congregation: Betty Kenyon 01204 887222

Church treasurer: Lynda Arthur

Contact for room bookings and building maintenance

Property Manager Adrian Brady 07736 107143

Charity reg no: 107857





Orange Butterfly cake
 2oz Meringue
 2oz sugar
 1 egg large beaten
 Grated orange rind
 2oz sieved S.R. Flour

icing
 2oz meringue beaten with
 8oz sieved icing sugar
 2 tsp orange juice rind

Method
 1 Cream meringue & castor sugar together until light & fluffy
 2 Beat in egg gradually
 3 Add rind & fold in flour
 4 Place spoonfuls of mixture into paper cases on a baking sheet
 Bake in pre heated oven N°5 175° on 2nd shelf for 15-20 mins
 5 When cool slice off top halves
 Decorate cakes with orange icing & replace tops to form butterfly wings
 10-12 cakes.

