

CHURCH INFORMATION

Church address 1 Bank Street, Bury BL9 0DN
Church telephone 0161 761 3785
Charity Reg. No. 1078570
Church Website <http://www.bury-unitarian-church.org.uk>
Minister's telephone 0161 460 3363, 07751 240 886 (mobile)
Minister's Email revkatemckenna@gmail.com
Editor's telephone 01706 822651
Editor's email pam_gilbert66@btinternet.com

CHURCH OFFICERS

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

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2017



**Large metal models of poppies at Gallipoli Gardens,
Fusilier Museum, Bury, 2017**

MINISTER
REVEREND K MCKENNA

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2017

CHURCH SERVICES

5 November 11.15am	The Minister
11 November 11.50am	The Minister – a short service
12 November 10.50am	The Minister – Remembrance Sunday
19 November 11.15am	The Minister
26 November 11.15am	The Minister

Following the Harvest Service we will be making a collection for *Porch Boxes*. Please try and bring along one can or one packet of food on the first Sunday of each month – or any other Sunday: the box for offerings is in the entrance hall.

Communion services are a little disrupted between now and Christmas, but there will be a communion after the main worship service on Sunday 5th November. Apologies from Kate for the late postponement of the October communion, but she lost her voice.

There is a sleeping bag under one of the chairs in the vestry, and a small stock of bags of long-life snacks behind the same chair. If someone visits us needing food or warmth, please offer them a bag of food or/and a sleeping bag. Kate and Ade are providing the food bags, so please let her know when a bag is given out so she can replace it. Two members of the congregation have also offered sleeping bags to give out, so a big thank you to them. If you have a spare sleeping bag, or a warm coat or socks lying around, I'm sure we can find a good home for them, particularly now that the weather is getting nasty.

CHURCH STEWARDS

5 November	Sue McMullen & Roger Mills
12 November	Alf Howson & Roger Mills
19 November	Jean Brookhouse & Susan Mitchell
26 November	Lois Williams & George Scaife

If the given date is not possible for you, please change with another steward.

CHURCH FLOWERS

5 November	George & Di Scaife – in memory of Alice & John Scaife
12 November	George & Di Scaife
19 November	Church Flowers
26 November	Edna & Roy Wilkinson – in memory of Joshua

Distributors: Barbara Bamford, Jean Brookhouse, Anne Evitts, Sue McMullen

If you would like to donate flowers for church, the Sundays of 10th, 17th and 31st December are still available.

CHURCH FLOWERS

Many thanks to those who have made donations towards church flowers during 2017. These donations have covered about 80% of the cost of the flowers.

It is now time to start thinking about donations to the Flower Fund for next year and particularly the months of January, February and March. If you

wish to make a donation, forms and envelopes will be available in the lobby and from Janet Thatcher.

I shall start 2018 with a blank calendar. If there is a date you would like to mark, please tell me this date on the form and I will pick the nearest available Sunday. I will do my best to ensure that as many people as possible are able to pay for flowers on their preferred date.

Janet Thatcher

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

4 November	Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard
11 November	June Clarke & Sue McMullen
18 November	Brenda Ainsworth & Jean Taylor
25 November	Pam Gilbert & Di Scaife

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

5 November	Anne Mills(M), Beryl Bowden & Rene Hollos
12 November	Norah Hickton(M), Peter Whewell & Barbara Bamford
19 November	Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Lois Williams & Di Scaife
26 November	Marian Price(M), Jean Taylor & Susan Mitchell

CALENDAR DEADLINE for the Dec/Jan edition is Sunday 19 Nov.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER

Weds. 8 November Worship, Communications, Junior Church at 7pm

Sunday 19 November after the service – Social & Fund-raising

Weds. 22 November – Finance & General Purposes at 7pm

MANY THANKS

Jean Taylor has, reluctantly, decided to resign from her duties at church---at least for the time being. We owe her a tremendous amount of gratitude for all the work she has done, over the years, in various spheres; she is a member of Church Council, the Secretary of the Social and Fund Raising Committee, the organiser of the Saturday-morning coffee-rota, and on the rotas on Saturdays and Sundays; clearly, Jean will be a hard act to follow, and replacements for the tasks she has so willingly carried out will need to be found. Can you help?

We wish Jean well, in the future, whilst acknowledging her contribution to our church-life with appreciation. **Thank you, Jean!**

MANY THANKS also...

Many thanks to Anne Mills for conducting our service on Sunday, 24th September - a very well-prepared and presented service with a theme of 'Kindness'. Anne went on to say how kindness can be shown in so many different ways, large or small. She reminded us how God can come to us in little ways and 'like a rainbow at the end of a storm' when we are most in need. A very meaningful service and very thought-provoking. Well done, Anne.

100 CLUB

The 100 club was first started by Derek Worthington and has been running for a number of years.

The actual outlay in prize money is £400 per year which when it was started was half of the total amount raised. The remainder was passed onto the church to go towards its funds.

Over the last year the number of people taking up numbers for the draw has sadly diminished to a point where we are not covering £400 for the Church whilst the prize money remains the same. To keep the prize money at this rate we need more people to take up some more numbers. We are currently £152 short of our £800 total. (13 numbers)

WE have a number of alternatives.

One is to reduce the amount of prize money paid out each month to be £20 with extra payments of £20 in July and an extra payment of £50 in December.

Taking the total prize payments to £310.

The other alternative would be to increase the cost of each number to £15 which would take the amount raised above the £800.

This is the quandary I am in, and I shall be handing out a questionnaire in the near future as to what would be acceptable to you all.

George H Scaife

FANCY A LIFT?

Rawtenstall Unitarian Church, Bank Street, Rawtenstall BB4 7QY, has recently undergone a massive refurbishment. Included is a lift of a similar design to the one we are looking towards installing in our Bury church. Anyone from Bury who would like to test the lift at Rawtenstall may take the opportunity to attend the **3pm service on Sunday 19th November**. This will be conducted by Mark Hutchinson, ministry student at Unitarian College Manchester who has

offered to welcome us and take us on a tour of the building after the service. All are welcome.

Neville Kenyon has further information and can arrange transport where required.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 2 November at 7.30pm

Mike Connerly

TRAIDCRAFT

The stall will be open on November 5th and 19th; if you require items at other times, please speak to Anne or Jean. Orders for Christmas should be handed in by November 19th, at the latest; thank you.

LUNCH CIRCLE

We meet, this month, on Tuesday, November 21st, at 12.30 p.m. Anne and Roger will act as hosts. In all probability, we will go out for a meal, but arrangements are not yet in place. Please watch the notice-board, and listen for pulpit-announcements, for details; there will be a list to sign, in due course.

Please note that there will not be a meeting in December.

LETTINGS SECRETARY

Please note that Margaret Fitzpatrick is responsible for arranging lettings of our premises; all enquiries should be addressed to her, rather than to the Church Secretary.

SUNDAY STEWARDING

We are short of stewards on Sunday mornings; if you can help with this, please speak to Anne Mills, as soon as possible. We need three more stewards, at present, and a new rota, for 2018, is due to be drawn up shortly.

HELP! Rene would like small, unused pieces of Christmas wrapping-paper (not full sheets!) suitable for shredding, to line the Christmas Hamper basket; if you can help, please let her have anything you can spare.

We need additional dishes for the new cooker; if you have a casserole dish or two lying unused, which will fit, please speak to Susan (Holt) or Anne.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

We are proposing to hold a Grand Christmas Raffle, once again, this year, and tickets will be on sale, on Saturdays and Sundays, from the beginning of the month; the tickets will be in books of 5 which will cost £5.00, but single tickets, at £1.00 each, can also be purchased. Prizes will include a Christmas Hamper, a Christmas Cake, a bottle of whisky, bottles of wine, a box of chocolates, and many more; the main prizes will be on display in the lounge from early November. The raffle will be drawn on December 9th.

If you have promised an item for the hamper, please make sure that it is handed to June Clarke by November 1st, at the latest. *Thank you.*

SUNSHINE SMARTIES

Tubes full of 20p pieces should reach Brenda Ainsworth before the end of the year and may be handed to her, at any time. There will surely be more sunshine still to come in 2017, so have your money at the ready!

DEFIBRILLATOR

Church Council has taken the decision to buy a defibrillator, and Kate is currently researching a suitable model. The probable cost will be in the region of £1,300. We have recently received a donation from our church in Horwich---now closed, sadly---of £1,000, which Council has decided to put towards the defibrillator-purchase; the remainder will be taken from the profits of fund-raising events, as necessary. We are grateful to the congregation at Horwich for their generosity and felt that the donation should be used for a specific purpose.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

On Saturday, November 25th, The Corps and Drums of The Royal Lancashire Fusiliers will entertain us with their music; the concert will begin at 7.30 p.m; and will include a demonstration by the special drums. Tickets are priced at £10 per head and will be on sale, in the lounge, each Sunday, from October 22nd. This is an opportunity to hear a first-rate band performing stirring music, and the special drums are sensational---make sure you don't miss it!

On Sunday, December 17th, the morning-service will be followed by a Soup and Sandwich Lunch, after which Gordon and Veronica Walker, from Bank Street Bolton, will perform their reading of "A Christmas Carol", by Charles Dickens. The reading will be in two parts, and coffee and mince pies will be served during the interval. Gordon and Veronica have declined a fee, but will be requesting donations for Prostate Cancer UK and Fortis---two charities which are very important to them. Please keep this date free; further details will be available, next month.

RAWTENSTALL

Our church at Rawtenstall has recently undergone massive refurbishment and is now open for services, once more. These take place on the first and third Sundays of each month, at 3 p.m; additional gatherings of a spiritual nature

take place at 7.30 p.m; on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month; and, on the last Friday of the month, at 7 p.m; Letting Go Celebrations are held.

The Formal Opening of the new look church will be held on Saturday, December 16th, when the building will be open to the public, during the morning; coffee and mince pies will be served then, and a Reopening Service is planned for 2.30 p.m; to be followed by a meal. Further details will be available, in due course.

Mark Hutchinson, now in his second year of ministry-training at Unitarian College, Manchester, will take some of the responsibility for events at Rawtenstall, during the next few months, as part of his student-pastoracy. The congregation at Rawtenstall would be delighted to welcome visitors from Bury--and the premises are most impressive---well worth a visit!

INVITATION FROM MANCHESTER DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

The MDA has issued an invitation to us to join them for a Celebratory Dinner, in honour of Rev. Charles VanDenBroeder's Presidency of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches. This is to be held on Saturday, March 24th, 2018, at The Chancellors Hotel, Fallowfield; the evening will begin at 7 p.m; dinner will cost £21.00 per head. If you wish to attend, Anne Mills can supply booking-forms; these must be completed (one per person, please!) and returned to Rev. Penny Johnson, by December 10th. Full details are on the notice-board.

SPECIAL GA BURSARY

Essex Hall has announced that a Bursary is to be offered, in respect of the 2018 GA ANNUAL MEETINGS, which are to be held at Staverton Estate, on April 4th to 7th. Thirty such bursaries will be available for those aged between 22 and 50, who have not attended the Meetings before, and who have been members of a congregation for between one and five years. If anyone wishes to apply, please speak to Anne Mills; the deadline for applications is December 8th. Full details are on the notice-board.

BURY: PAST AND PRESENT

The evening was voted a great success---interesting, as well as different---and, at the end, nobody was in any hurry to leave, preferring to chat about the photographs and their own memories. The sum of £300 was raised for Prostate Cancer UK, the Women's League National Charity for 2017/8. Many thanks to Roger, Ade and Howard for all their hard work; they put in many hours of preparation, before the event, and on the night itself. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the evening.

MINISTERIAL SUPPORT GROUP The group is due to meet next, on Saturday, November 4th; members of the group are Susan Holt, Betty Kenyon and Anne Mills; if you have any matters which you would like them to raise with the Minister, please let them know; alternatively, you could approach Kate directly; she welcomes feedback of all kinds.

CONGRATULATIONS.....

...to Anne Mills, whose children's story has been included in a collection of stories compiled by Rev. John Harley, the GA Youth Officer. Those who were present for the service which Anne conducted, on September 24th, will remember hearing the tale of Cathy, who loved to dance, written specially by Anne to fit the theme of her service: Kindness.

The story can be accessed by calling up www.unitarian.org.uk

clicking on the section entitled "Youth Programme" and selecting the item headed "Weaving Stories into Worship---Youth Sunday---5th February, 2017.

Scroll to the end of the information there and open the pdf attachment; six stories are included altogether. Roger will set up a link to this from the church website, in due course.

BOOK CLUB – Weds.29th Nov. At 7pm – *The Time-Traveller's Wife*

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

I can't quite believe I'm writing the calendar article for November – I've barely got used to the fact that the summer is over!

But November it is, and that means I've been living in Bury for a year now – we moved in to the manse on the 31st October, and I started work on the 1st November.

It's been quite a year – settling into a new home in a new town is always going to have its challenges, and I did wonder at first whether I'd just miss my home in Norwich. I do – but what I always notice, and point out – is that although I miss things in Norwich, I've never been homesick for it. I genuinely do now think of Bury as my home. A few weeks ago at a ministerial gathering someone said something slightly sneery about Bury (nothing awful, just a jokey comment- he was from Yorkshire!) and I was instantly defensive and proud. It's like that thing where you can criticise your own family – I do perhaps moan about the road systems sometimes – but if anyone else does they're in trouble!

There are some things that have surprised me over the last year. I'm used to the North West, coming from Liverpool stock and having family still on the Wirral, but there are still some things that always strike me: I love that people here dress up for church on a Sunday. That's quite rare, and I think it's a good thing. And I love that beetroot is routinely served as an accompaniment – I love beetroot so any opportunity is good! I already liked black pudding, but I doubt I'll ever be fully converted to black peas. Sorry!

We have an exciting month ahead, as always. We're preparing for Christmas events already, and I know the raffle is already underway. But before that we have the Fusiliers concert on the 25th November, which I know will be a big attraction, and which I'm definitely looking forward to.

We're also looking forward to a visit from the President of the General Assembly, the Rev Charles Van Den Broeder, on Sunday 26th. I know we'll have a good turnout and make him welcome.

If you were at the Harvest Festival you'll know that we're starting a Food Bank collection, and the main day for offerings will be the first Sunday in every month. But items are welcome at any time, and there's a box in the hall for contributions. I've also spoken recently about the fact that the basic duty we have as humans, and as religious people, is to feed the hungry, help the poor, and befriend the

stranger. We're very, very, good at the last bit. I've always been awed by the welcome we offer people here, including those who may be more challenging. And as I mentioned in a service last month, there is now a small collection of carrier bags in the vestry containing long-life food which needs no preparation. If someone visits us and is hungry, please give them a bag of food. If someone is sleeping in our doorway and you've arrived for a meeting, please give them a bag of food and put the kettle on!

Obviously, if you are alone and not sure that the person is safe, wait for someone else to join you in making the tea and giving the food. If you think the person is unwell, you should phone the emergency services. But otherwise, treat them like you'd want to think a family member of your own would be treated if they were in that horrible situation.

By next month we'll be into the whirl of Christmas again, so watch this space for details of what we're up to!

With love, **KATE.**

SATURDAY 25TH NOVEMBER

AT 7.30PM

THE CORPS AND DRUMS OF THE ROYAL
LANCASHIRE FUSILLIERS

WILL ENTERTAIN US AND WILL INCLUDE A
DEMONSTRATION OF THEIR SPECIAL DRUMS

TICKETS ON SALE IN THE LOUNGE PRICE £10

THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR A FIRST-RATE
BAND PERFORMING STIRRING MUSIC AND THE
SPECIAL DRUMS ARE SENSATIONAL!!

