

CHURCH INFORMATION

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BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2018



Remembrance at Holebottom: our two Commonwealth War Graves

MINISTER

REVEREND K MCKENNA

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2018

CHURCH SERVICES

4 November	11.15am	The Minister
11 November	10.50am	The Minister - Remembrance Sunday
18 November	11.15am	The Minister
25 November	11.15am	The Minister – followed by Communion

CHURCH STEWARDS

4 November	Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert
11 November	Roger Mills
18 November	Betty & Neville Kenyon
25 November	Marian Price & Di Scaife

CHURCH FLOWERS

4 November	Church Flowers
11 November	Church Flowers
18 November	Kate McKenna – In memory of Pat McKenna
25 November	Edna & Roy Wilkinson – In memory of Joshua

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

Many thanks to those who have made donations towards church flowers during 2018. 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 for 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 2019 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

3 November	Betty Kenyon & Kate McKenna
10 November	Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard
17 November	June Clarke & Sue McMullen
24 November	Brenda Ainsworth & Susan Holt

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

4 November	Anne Mills(M), Beryl Bowden, Damion Langfor
11 November	Norah Hickton(M), Peter Whewell, Barbara Bamford
18 November	Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Lois Williams, Di Scaife
25 November	Marian Price(M), Susan Mitchell, Fred Mitchell

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER

Saturday 3 November at 10am Ministerial Support Group

Wednesday 7 November at 7pm Worship

CALENDAR DEADLINE

The deadline for the **December 2018 and January 2019 CALENDAR** will be Sunday 18th November.

REMEMBRANCE AT HOLEBOTTOM: OUR TWO COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES

On 1st October our minister Kate, together with Ade, Neville and I met with Mark Hone, the head of history from Bury Grammar School boys along with 12 boys from the school's Combined Cadet Force. It was 100 years to the day that BGS old boy Harry Greenhalgh had died. Arthur Ashworth died in January 1917. Both of these men belonged to Bank Street Chapel. Mark has lead many battlefield tours abroad. He particularly wanted to honour these men because they came from Bury. A Ceremony of Remembrance took place at the graveside of Harry, a wreath was laid on his grave; with the Last Post, a minute silence and concluding with Reveille. The same ceremony then took place in memory of Arthur. Both these soldiers were 22 years of age when they died. ***Betty Kenyon***

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

THURSDAY 1ST NOVEMBER AT 7PM. THERE WILL BE A TALK BY SISTER JOAN FROM THE FOOD BANK TO WHICH WE DONATE GOODS. THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING AND ALL ARE WELCOME. COME ALONG AND FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS TO THE ITEMS WE DONATE.

LUNCH CIRCLE

This will be held on Tuesday, November 20th, at 12.30 p.m. Susan and Margaret will act as hosts. All are welcome---just sign your name on the list on the board, if

you wish to come along. Offers of help with all aspects of the lunch are always appreciated---every little helps! Do bring with you any drinks you like, to accompany your lunch.

CAMERA CLUB

The November meeting will take place on Monday, the 12th. Last month, some of the club's members repeated their successful presentation of "Bury: Past and Present" for the members of Valley Court. This attracted a good audience and was very well-received---obviously, their fame is spreading! The club's members enjoyed a trip, recently, to our chapel at Ainsworth and took a great many photographs there; indeed, the pictures may well form the basis for an exhibition of church-photographs, next year. If you have any suitable pictures, do bring them in for the group---better still, go along to one of their meetings!

BOOK CLUB

On Christmas Day last year Paul Kenyon came to church and was chatting to some of the Book Club folk. He was pleased we'd discussed his book *I am Justice* and thereupon offered to give us a talk about his latest book *Dictatorland – the Men Who Stole Africa*. So, the book club agreed to host an event and arrangements were put into place. Bury library staff and the Bury Times helped with publicity and members of local book clubs were invited to join us.

What a fascinating evening it was! Paul is a relaxed, fluent and entertaining speaker and geared his talk to the content of the book; the factual historical aspects, aided by his minute character observations and anecdotal evidence. He explained his imaginative approach to some characters in an effort to render the book more interesting to the reader. His personal contacts, once tracked down, provided truthful evidence for the work and his travels relating to the investigations for the book proved demanding and dangerous at times. Research into the geology of the regions involved and the more recent history was meticulous. It was good to get some insight into the workings of B.B.C. investigative journalists Structuring and organising his writing within the time and space available was another aspect of Paul's life.

So...all in all a most interesting and entertaining evening. Thank you Paul and thank you to all who supported this event and who helped in any way.

The Book Club

NEXT BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Wednesday 28 November at 7pm. The book to be discussed is: *Cutting For Stone* by Abraham Verghese.

All welcome, come along and 'test the water'. It's not necessary to have read the book!!! We're a very friendly, welcoming group.

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP

The timing of the contemplative worship sessions is changing, having asked people what suits them. They will take place on the second Tuesday of each month, alternating between afternoon and evening. So the dates for the rest of this year and the first half of next year are:

November: no session (Kate has a prior booking, and apologises for this)

Tuesday December 11th, 2.30pm

Tuesday January 8th, 7pm

Tuesday February 12th, 2.30pm

Tuesday March 12th, 7pm

Tuesday April 9th, 2.30pm

Tuesday May 14th, 7pm

Tuesday June 11th, 2.30pm

After trying the pattern for six months we can see how the change of time has worked out.

COMMUNION

The next communion service will take place on Sunday 25th November, after the service.

The December communion service will be on the 23rd December, rather than the 30th.

HUCKLOW

We have provisionally booked 20 places for lunch at the Nightingale Centre in Great Hucklow on Saturday 1st December, at 1pm.

By the time you read this there will only be a very short time left to confirm the bookings: if you haven't already done so, please grab your place now.

We will sort out travel arrangements (probably a shared minibus), and any other details (it may be possible to arrange to see the switch on of the village lights, but we can confirm this later) nearer the time.

GDPR:

Thank you to everyone who has returned their GDPR forms so far. If you haven't, Kate will be chasing you soon (and no one wants that!): unless we have your written consent, we won't be able to keep any contact details for you – this includes the minister being unable to hold your phone number.

ADVENT CALENDARS

During November, I am hoping we can collect advent calendars for the Food Bank. Many of the people using the Food Bank have children, and whilst the food parcels are excellent, it can be hard to provide treats. We will aim to get the advent calendars to Sister Joan after the service on the 25th November.

ADVANCE NOTICE: SOCKS!

During December we will be asking people to bring in a pair – or (even better) several pairs – of new socks. People who are homeless or vulnerably housed have a particular need for socks, so Kate will be launching the collection at the service on 25th November, and collecting socks until the 16th or 23rd December, when they will be given to the Bury Homeless Project. More details on the 2nd December – but if you're shopping and would like to pop a pack of socks in your trolley as an extra, that would be appreciated!

CHRISTMAS PLANS:

Plans for Christmas services (including the carol service and Christmas Day worship) are underway, but if you have anything you'd like included, let Kate know in good time!

FOLDED STARS WORKSHOP

On Saturday 8th December, Kate will run a short workshop on making woven paper stars. Everyone is welcome, and no great skill is called for. The workshop will start around 1, and you're welcome from 12 with your sandwiches. Tea, coffee, and cakes will be available.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear all,

I'm writing this very early, as I'm due to go on holiday, so who knows what might have changed between my writing it and it being published?

At the very end of September I attended a workshop in York on the subject of 'improving our welcome': it was aimed at making sure that we are as welcoming as we can be to people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, or non-binary. Although this is a world in which I'm comfortable, there was still much to learn from it, and I hope that over the coming months I can start to spread some of what I learned.

During the month I also attended a lecture on the future of liberal faith, held at Rawtenstall Unitarian Church. The main speaker was Paul Raser, who some of you will have heard at the GA. He was joined by Ben Dandelion, a Quaker theologian from Clitheroe, and Rev Shannon Ledbetter, an Anglican priest who has recently been appointed to a post with the Lancashire Collaborative Ministry. There was some rich and varied discussion, and it was very good to meet with other local Unitarians as well as a good number of Quakers. There are more lectures coming up – one in December and one in March – and I would recommend them.

I also spent a few days on retreat with a small covenanted group of colleagues. Many ministers (probably most ministers) are in a covenant group, and everyone finds them a vital part of meeting their spiritual needs. The two nights I spend, twice a year, with the group are hard work, but nourishing and fulfilling.

We've also celebrated our harvest festival: harvest is always a highlight of the church year for me, and has been since I was child – this, despite the fact that I grew up on a council estate and have never ploughed a field in my life. There is something beautiful about taking a moment to be grateful for what we have, and to reflect on the fact that most of us have done very little to contribute to bringing it home. I was thrilled that the collection of tins and packets on the day nudged our collection during the year to just over 1,000 items, and it was particularly pleasing to see the practical offerings of food for the food bank alongside the more traditional harvest display of fruit and vegetables (for which we have Beryl Allerton to thank).

As we move into November our minds will, quite rightly, turn to Armistice Sunday. No one needs me to tell them that this year carries an even more than usually significant meaning, as we mark the 100th anniversary of the ending of World War One. We will, of course, be holding our Remembrance Sunday service on the 11th, and we will then visit Holebottom to honour the two war graves sited there. If you can't join us on that day, and haven't been, then I can recommend it as a quiet sacred space in which to meditate on the world-changing events of that period.

This will be published elsewhere in the calendar, but if you are able to bring in an advent calendar during the month of November, I know that the children of families who use the Food Bank would be very grateful for them.

With love, Kate

TRAIDCRAFT

The stall will be open on November 4th and 11th; if you need goods at other times, please ask Jean or Anne for help. Christmas-orders should be handed to Anne, as soon as possible---hopefully, before stocks run out.

Recently, there has been bad news about Traidcraft; it is no longer financially-viable, having lost £500,00 during the last year, and the organisation's CEO and Board of Directors have announced that it will cease trading on December 31st, 2018. Whether this will actually happen is open to some speculation. As far as Bury Unitarian Church is concerned, the fortnightly Fair Trade Stall will continue, but there may be items that can no longer be purchased---particularly Traidcraft's own brand. Please continue to support the stall, if you can.

Stop press: It is possible that considerable downsizing may save Traidcraft, but details will not be released until the week of November 5th; watch this space.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Tickets will be on sale, each Saturday and Sunday morning, throughout November, and the draw will take place on December 8th. We have a goodly selection of prizes, large and small, and the main prizes will include a food hamper, bottles of wine and spirits, a Christmas cake, boxes of biscuits and chocolates, and toiletries. It isn't too late for extra prizes to be donated; see June if you wish to contribute. Tickets cost £1.00 each, or £5.00 per book; please support this fund-raising venture.

DONATIONS

We have recently received a legacy of £1,000.00 from the estate of Robert (Bob) Alker, who died earlier this year. He was, for some years, a member at Bury, and, particularly, of our Men's Fellowship. Church Council will discuss what we might purchase, in memory of Bob, at its December meeting, on the 5th; if you have any suggestions for consideration, please speak to Betty or Anne beforehand. In the meantime, a plaque, in memory of Bob and his late wife, Joyce, has been bought and fixed to one of the worship-area chairs, in appreciation of this generous gift.

Following press-coverage of our Heritage Weekend events, Kate received a letter from Mrs. Margaret Nadin, a friend of the late June Seddon. Margaret offered us a copy of a book about Brunswick Methodist Church, which used to stand just behind the site of the current Tesco store. The book, which was written in 1896, by Thomas Poynton Dale, contains a most interesting history of the church, its founder-members, its congregation, and its activities. Both Betty Kenyon and Val Chamberlain had ancestors who attended Brunswick Methodist Church, so the book holds a special interest for them; maybe there are others? We are most grateful to Margaret for thinking of us in this way; she has received flowers from the congregation, in appreciation of her gift.

SING-A-LONG-A-WARTIME

On Saturday, November 10th, we are holding a light-hearted tribute to the First and Second World Wars by having a sing-song of some of the most popular songs of both eras. Stephen Ramsay is going to accompany the songs on the piano, on the day. Why not come and have your coffee and cake, at about 10.30, before the singing begins, at 11 a.m? The session will last for approximately three-quarters of an hour; if you enjoy singing, do join in. The sing-song is free, although there will be a retiring collection, the proceeds of which will offset the pianist's fee. This year sees the centenary of the end of World War 1, when such songs as "It's a long way to Tipperary" and "Roses of Picardie" were popular, and it seems appropriate to mark this, during our Remembrance Weekend events.

ROCHDALE FILM EVENING

Eleven of us enjoyed an excellent evening with friends at Rochdale Unitarian Chapel, in September; the next evening will be held on Saturday, November 17th, at 7 p.m; when the film to be shown is " The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peelers Pie Club". Ice cream is served, during the interval, and there will be a Pie and Peas Supper, afterwards. Tickets cost £6.00 each, and the proceeds from the evening go to charity. If you are interested in going, please sign the list on the notice-board, indicating whether you can offer transport, or would require it. The deadline for names is Sunday, November 4th.

THANKS

Our Harvest Festival saw the church decorated magnificently with displays of flowers, fruit and vegetables. Thanks are due to Beryl Allerton, who master-minded the entire operation (and even made the soup, afterwards!) Our worship-area looked beautiful, as befitted the season, and many appreciative comments were voiced. It is always good to be able to call on the special talents of church-members, and we are grateful to Beryl for her efforts, on October 7th.

The congregation are to be congratulated, too, on their generosity in contributing items to Bury's new Food Bank during the past year; when Harvest-gifts were added to what had already been collected, the total topped 1,000 items---a wonderful amount!

THANKS

In her service, on October 21st, Betty Kenyon tackled a difficult topic: "What is God?" This resulted in a most thought-provoking sermon, and we were all invited to consider our personal responses. Betty's story, about the Mullah Nasruddin, concluded with the thought that we must, at all costs, believe in ourselves, and in God. We find God all around us, in the physical world, as well as in the spiritual one, and the hymns Betty chose reinforced the aspects of spirituality mentioned: faith, spirit, and creation. She defined her God as a motive force of love and energy, but acknowledged that Unitarians, whose faith is based, to a great extent, on questions and doubts, might choose to differ; what matters is that we consider this idea and decide for ourselves. God, according to Betty, is what we most want him (and I choose the word for lack of a better one!) to be; he has his source in the heart and encompasses love, kindness and empathy. If we have moved on from traditional ideas of God seated on his throne, in heaven, we need our own opinions of what replaces the older belief.

Congratulations to Betty for another excellent service; this was a joy not only to hear, but to reflect on subsequently.

On October 28th, our service will be conducted by Val Chamberlain; thanks to her for offering to do this; details of her service will be reported in the next calendar.

Anne Mills

THE FUTURE OF FAITH

Rev. Jim Corrigan is organising a series of lectures on this theme, on behalf of the Lancashire Collaborative Ministry; there is a poster on the board, with full details, and there are also leaflets on the lounge-tables. All the sessions will be held at Rawtenstall Unitarian Church; dates and speakers are as follows:

December 1st, 2018: Matt Carmichael: Rekindling the Spirit of Community---Restoring Depth in an age of Screens;

March 23rd, 2019: Alastair McIntosh: Towards Third Millennium Christianity: Activism, Nonviolence and the Mystical Imperative.

All sessions begin at 11a.m. and end at 3.15 p.m. Lunch is on a bring-and-share basis.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

On Sunday, November 18th, at 3 pm; Rev. Celia Cartwright, the current GA Vice-President, will conduct the service at Rawtenstall Unitarian Chapel; all members from the Bury Congregation are invited to attend.

On Sunday, March 24th, 2019, after morning-service, we will be holding our Congregational AGM; please make every effort to attend.

MORE THANKS

Thank you to members of the Camera Club for the photographs which grace our covers of The Calendar each month. **Editor**
