

SUNDAY SERVICES:

- 3 November: The Minister
10 November: The Minister: Remembrance Sunday. The service will begin at 10.55am, at the War Memorial.
17 November: George Scaife, with The Minister
24 November: The Minister

CHURCH STEWARDS:

- 3 November: Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert
10 November Susan Holt & Roger Mills
17 November Betty & Neville Kenyon
24 November Marian Price and Di Scaife

CHURCH FLOWERS:

- 3 November Connie Diggle, in memory of all her loved ones and Harry Taylor
10 November anonymous
17 November anonymous
24 November Roy Wilkinson, In memory of Joshua

During Advent (4 weeks), the crib will replace flowers.

This year we have also been fortunate to enjoy flowers that were provided for weddings of members of our congregation on two occasions. Flowers were sponsored for forty weeks by members of the congregation and this covered over 90% of the cost of providing the flowers which add so much to the ambience of the church. So, warm thanks to those who have given so generously this year and special thanks to those who give their time and energy to purchasing and arranging the flowers

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA:

- 2 November Pam Gilbert & Di Scaife
9 November Norah Hickton & Margaret Fitzpatrick
16 November Betty Kenyon & Kate Brady McKenna
23 November Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard
30 November June Clarke & Sue McMullin

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA:

- 3 November Jean Maden(M), Beryl Bowden, Damion Langford

10 November Norah Hickton(M), Barbara Bamford, Peter Whewell
17 November Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Lois Williams, Di Scaife
24 November Marian Price, Susan Mitchell

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER:

5 November – Tuesday Finance & General Purposes
14 November - Thursday Worship

DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY CALENDAR:

Sunday 24th November.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 7th November at 7.30pm: A talk by Susan Holt "Guy Fawkes"

SPECIAL SERVICES:

Sunday 10th November: Remembrance Sunday

The service on Sunday 10th November will begin at 10.55, outside at the war memorial, to honour the two minutes' silence at 11am. After the silence we will make our way back into the worship area.

If the weather is awful, then please bear your health in mind, and consider honouring the silence from inside the worship area: we will then all join for the rest of the service.

We will, as is traditional, be laying poppies in memory of our own members who died in the two world wars. If you would like to lay a named poppy for a specific person, please could you take that poppy from the piano prior to the service.

Following the service, and after tea and coffee, there will be a short service at Holebottom Burial Ground where poppies will be laid on the war graves. Everyone is welcome to join us: parking is limited, but lifts can be arranged.

We will also be marking Remembrance Day itself with a short service on

Monday 11th November, starting at 1050am. This service will be reflective.

Sunday 17th November: International Men's Day

The service on November 17th will mark International Men's Day, and will be led by George Scaife, with support from Kate.

Sunday 1st November: 300th Anniversary Service

A Special Service will be held on Sunday, December 1st, at 2 p.m. Every member of the congregation has now been invited to attend the service, as well as the afternoon tea and entertainment that follow. The deadline for names is now past; if you decide to attend, please check first with Susan Holt, as acceptances have been very numerous, and space could be at a premium. Several VIP guests have already accepted our invitation for what promises to be a momentous occasion.

COMMUNION:

The next communion service will be on Sunday 24th November. Everyone is welcome, whatever your religious or spiritual background: it is a chance to share bread and wine together in the spirit of community and love.

PRAYER WORKSHOP:

The prayer workshop which was previously postponed will now take place one weekend this month: date to be notified.

The workshop is a chance to discuss what prayer means to us, to look at some different types of prayer and, if participants wish to, to write our own, either to be shared with the group, used in church, or kept as private prayers.

Everyone is welcome, no matter their religious or other beliefs, and no matter what they currently think about prayer: no one wants to convince anyone of anything or to change anyone's mind, but it's always good to hear varied viewpoints.

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP:

There will be no contemplative worship session in November: Kate would value comments on whether this is something which should continue monthly, or be held less frequently (perhaps once a quarter) and on what day and time would suit people best.

NEWS FROM RAWTENSTALL UNITARIANS:

The next Interfaith Service will be held on November 17th, at 5 pm; all are invited to attend; refreshments will follow. The first two Interfaith Services have attracted a goodly number of people, from different faith-groups, and have been very successful. The next Film Discussion Evening will take place on Friday, November 1st, at 6.45 p.m; when the film in question will be "The Insult"; refreshments will be available; there is no charge for these evenings, but donations are always welcome.

LUNCH CIRCLE:

We meet, this month, on November 19th, at 12.30 p.m; when Anne and Roger will host. **Please** sign the list on the board, if you intend to be present. All are welcome, whether occasionally or regularly.

PADIHAM:

A Model Railway Exhibition will be held at Padiham Unitarian Chapel, on Saturday, November 2nd, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Full details are on a poster on the board. This is always an interesting event, and our support would be welcomed.

TRAIDCRAFT:

The stall will be open on November 3rd, 10th and 24th. The new Autumn brochures are now available, but it would be appreciated if orders could be placed sooner, rather than later, as items do run out quickly. Christmas cards will be on sale, too, this month, so please think about supporting people in developing countries by buying a Traidcraft pack. The launch of the Kilombero Rice Challenge is now planned for November 21st; the Bury Fair Trade Group would be grateful for support (see separate item). If you need items when the stall is not open, speak to Anne or Jean.

QUITA BROOKS:

News has reached us that Quita has taken the decision to relocate to Scotland, to be nearer some of her family-members. She has sold her house in Ainsworth but has yet to complete her house-sale in Fife; she attended Ainsworth's Harvest Festival, on October 6th, and it may be that this will prove to be her last service there. Quita has promised to keep in touch with us about her removal-date, and to let us know how she fares in her new home. We wish her well and God-speed; she has been attending Ainsworth Chapel, very regularly, for more than 50 years, and will be greatly missed, both at church and in the village.

CAMERA CLUB:

The group will meet on Monday, November 11th, at 7 p.m; when plans for the end of this year and the beginning of next year will be discussed. The current Exhibition is very impressive; if you have not yet viewed it, feel free to do so; it's well worthwhile, as it demonstrates great skills and sensitivity for subject-matter. All the photographs are based on ideas explored during this year, and are a delight to see. Congratulations to a very talented group of people!

LIBERTY:

At this year's Congregational AGM, the decision was taken to discontinue our financial support for Liberty, on the grounds that the organisation had become overtly political. It was suggested that we should, as an alternative, support an

environmentally-friendly charity, and Church Council has agreed to select a suitable one. If you have suggestions as to which charity we should choose, please speak to Anne or Betty; a decision will be made at the December Council Meeting. To date, no suggestions have been received; if this remains the case, the suggestion will have to be abandoned.

ROCHDALE FILMS:

The next film evening, at our Rochdale Church, is on September 14th, when the film, "Wonder", will be shown. The evening will begin at 7 p.m; ice-cream will be served during the interval, and pie and peas, and cakes, afterwards. The cost is £6.00 per head; proceeds to charity. Places need to be booked; details are on the poster on the board.

PARKING ON FRIDAYS:

Although all church members are very welcome to use the two car parking spaces next to the church, our Flower Team would be grateful if you could avoid doing so on Fridays between around 12 and 2.30 unless you are on church business: this is their normal time for doing the flowers, and they have a lot of things to carry in and out of the building. There is room for three carefully parked smallish cars, but no more than that.

VICE-PRESIDENTIAL DUTIES:

Picking up from where I left off, last month, I can report now on my visit to our churches at Hale Barns and Dean Row, in Cheshire, on September 15th. Since the first service began at 9.30 a.m; this occasioned a very early start for Roger and me! However, both services that I conducted went very well, and I returned home with beautiful flowers from both congregations; we were made extremely welcome. Rev. Jeff Gould kindly invited us to lunch, and it was good to chat and catch up with his news; he is nicely-settled in his new apartment and happy in his ministries; he sends good wishes to everyone at Bury who remembers him.

Now---two services in one day sound like enough, but we also attended Rawtenstall's Interfaith Service, at 5 p.m. These services are becoming well-established, and friendships are being forged; I am in touch with a lady at St. Gregory's R. C. Church, in Chorley, and we intend to visit each other's churches there, in due course. Two members of Rawtenstall's Spiritualist Church were present for the first time, on this occasion, and very pleasant and interesting we found them.

On September 29th, I conducted Aberdeen Unitarians' 186th Anniversary Service; they are a very friendly, generous and hospitable congregation---a pleasure to be with! Their Chairman, Dr. John Robinson, asked me, specifically, to convey the greetings of the Aberdeen congregation to everyone at Bury, and I am very pleased to be able to do so.

Rev. Dr. Ann Peart attended our Women's League Project Evening, on October 3rd, when she discussed her latest book, about eminent Unitarian women; as the reviewer of the book for "The Unitarian", I helped to entertain Ann.

On October 5th, I attended Kate and Ade's wedding, where I acted as the Authorised Person. On the following day, I conducted Padiham's Harvest Service, which went very well, and was invited to lunch afterwards. In the afternoon, we attended Ainsworth's Harvest Festival, conducted by Rev. Lynne Readett; afternoon tea was served, afterwards, so the weekend comprised a great deal of eating. I have already been warned to buy a size bigger in clothes, in preparation for next year!

My next duty will be to meet and greet our national President, Rev. Celia Cartwright, when she visits Bury to conduct our Harvest Festival, on October 13th. My calendar is already filling up with engagements for next year, so busy days are ahead!

Anne

FAIRTRADE RICE CHALLENGE LAUNCH EVENT:

Thursday 21st November, 6pm: Bury Fairtrade Forum, who have close links with our church, will be launching their Fairtrade Rice Challenge. We're introducing the Rice Challenge to Bury schools, businesses, places of worship and individuals. Every 90kg of this fairly traded rice we can sell pays for a year's education for a child in Malawi. We're going to sell lots - with your help! Please come along, find out more, and buy some rice!

[This rice is not technically Fairtrade, but it is super ethical, and we are delighted to be promoting it!]

The event will include talks, discussions, and your first chance to buy a pack of rice – or several packs of rice. At least one member of the forum is giving rice as Christmas presents . . .

FROM CHURCH COUNCIL:

At the October Council Meeting, the decision was taken to find and appoint a Premises Manager, to be responsible for Fire Safety issues, stewarding, administrative matters, practical matters, and other associated tasks. As we all grow older, it is becoming more difficult to organise such work ourselves, and jobs are regularly left to a very small number of volunteers who remain fit and willing.

In the first instance, we need to establish whether any of our members themselves would be interested in such work, or whether they have family who might wish to be considered. The person appointed would need to be flexible and reliable. Hours, pay, and an exact job-specification will be agreed with this person.

We hope that everyone in the congregation will give careful thought to this matter, as the time has come to address an increasingly urgent problem. If you require further details, please speak to Roger or Anne Mills, as soon as possible; if nobody comes forward, we will look further afield.

CHOIR:

Kate would be very grateful if as many of the choir who are here could meet with her after the service on Sunday 3rd November to discuss music for the Anniversary Service on 1st December, and also all the other December services, including the Carols by Candlelight service.

If you can't be there but have any suggestions, requests, or ideas, please let Kate know beforehand!

KATE AND ADE'S WEDDING:

This took place on Saturday, October 5th, and a splendid occasion it was! More than 100 people attended the ceremony, and the attendant refreshments, and it was pleasing to see the church so very full. This was a special day for everyone, and the ceremony reflected that: music, readings, sermon, and specific wedding-elements all combined to perfection. Rev. Cody Coyne's sermon caused both laughter and a tear in the eye, as he reminded us that love was the most important element in the world, by quoting songs such as "Love is all around" and "Love is in the air". Kate and Ade blessed each other with water---an important personal tradition for them; also, they particularly wished their first act as a married couple to involve the sharing of bread with the congregation; 12 ministers assisted with distributing the bread, and it was good to witness their support of the bride---their colleague and friend. Over and above all these elements, however, what was most impressive was the care and concern demonstrated by Kate and Ade for all their guests; they appreciated the presence of everyone there, but we appreciated their kindness, warmth, generosity and hospitality, throughout the day. To say that a good time was had by all is a considerable understatement! Personal wedding-presents were not requested; instead, Kate and Ade asked for donations to charity, and items for the homeless and the local food bank, and each guest received a thoughtfully-chosen and compiled box of favours, as a reminder of the day. (The choir were delighted with their bags of mints!)

To Kate and Ade, we express our thanks for a wonderful day, and we offer them congratulations, love and very best wishes, as they embark on their married life together.

CHRISTMAS POMANDERS:

On Saturday 16th November, starting at 12.00 (just as coffee morning finishes) Kate will be running a craft group in the lounge: we will be making orange and clove pomanders, and possibly other scented Christmas decorations. No charge, but a donation towards materials would be very welcome. This is suitable for all ages.

It seems very early, but scented items take time to mature and dry!

There will be a sign up sheet in the lounge just to get an idea of numbers, but if you forget to sign up, please come along anyway!

Kate's new name:

Following her marriage, Kate would now prefer to be known as Kate Brady McKenna (no hyphen). She won't be upset if people use her old name, or get the hyphens wrong, or make any other mistakes, but Kate Brady McKenna is her preference.

MINISTER'S LETTER:

Dear all,

Although this letter is normally just from the minister, this one is from the minister and her new husband!

Our wedding last month was incredibly special and precious to us, and that was due, in large part, to the support we received from you, the congregation. If it hadn't been for your help, your support, and, basically, your love, the day would not have been nearly as wonderful as it was.

Although we tried really hard not to ask for 'jobs' from people (you don't invite people to a party and then get them to clean up!) the help we received was amazing: people lent stuff (it really wouldn't have been the same had half the party been eating their lunch standing up!), and even delivered it to us or to church; people shifted to work round us (we needed all the tables, which made the coffee morning difficult for the volunteers that morning); and people did all sorts of other small favours. The work of the florists and the choir made us cry (in a good way!) and it was lovely to have someone propose a toast. Hope's musical performance was, of course, vital. And we wouldn't be legally married without the services of the Authorised Person.

We were overwhelmed, too, by the amount of cards and gifts we received: Bury Homeless Project have already distributed a lot of things to a lot of people, and the Foodbank will soon be receiving a very stuffed carload of tins and packets. On top of that, we have so far raised over £1000 to be shared between the Motor Neurone Disease Association and Send a Child to Hucklow. They will receive that money in January, once the online appeal closes. Again, a huge amount of that support comes from you. But it's not what you did or what you gave that matters the most, it's who you were. Many of our guests had never been to Bury Unitarian Church before, and a lot of them had never met any of you. And – and this doesn't surprise me – everyone commented on how lovely the building is, and on what a welcoming atmosphere we have. Although they were there by our invitation, it very much felt like a Church event, and you definitely all added to that special atmosphere.

Your witnessing to our wedding vows, and your presence at such a sacred and personal moment, helped to make it what it was, and we honestly cannot thank you sufficiently: it was a huge blessing to us, and we will always remember the day with love.

Whilst we were getting married and then enjoying a very rainy honeymoon in the Lake District, life continued, and Kate, particularly, is very grateful for all the hard work that went on in her absence. Life also continued to be hard for several members, and love goes out to everyone who is struggling.

It wouldn't be the minister's letter without a comment on the seasons or the weather: the clocks will have changed by the time you read this, and I hope that you all manage to find comfort and cosiness as the days shorten.

With love,

Kate and Ade.