

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH



Garden Gates - Hutton in the Forest

*“Welcome, sweet November the season of
senses, and my favourite month of all”*

November 2023

Letter from the Minister

Dear all,

This month I'm writing to you from a very rainy Great Hucklow. Some of you – but not all of you – will know that the Unitarian movement has a conference centre in this beautiful, quiet, remote corner of Derbyshire and that it is, for many Unitarians, a spiritual home and place of solace. This time I'm here at a conference of the Unitarian Ministerial Fellowship, and being in a gathering of ministers (active, retired, and in formation) is, as it always is, proving nourishing and inspiring. We have two gatherings a year, one in spring immediately before the General Assembly meetings, and this autumn conference. This year I am joined at the conference by Janine Hurley, who is a member of our congregation and in her first year of ministry training with Unitarian College, so Bury is being well represented (and although the conference isn't yet over I can report that so far we haven't disgraced you in any way).

The Nightingale Centre at Hucklow was originally set up as a convalescence home for soldiers returning from World War One, and every time I arrive and am greeted by the beauty and serenity of this place, I am mindful of what an astonishing change it must have been for those men returning from unimaginable horror and fear. Of course, the buildings have changed and developed over the last more-than-a-century, and even in many of our lifetimes, but I feel very strongly that the building stands as a tribute and as a memorial. It is a very special place in very many ways.

And with so much conflict and so many atrocities in the world at the moment, it feels all the more poignant. I know that we are all horrified by the unfolding events in the Middle East and the continuing events in Ukraine, and I also know that some of us are very closely affected by what is happening in these places. It can feel as though we are hopeless and helpless in the face of all of this, and to a certain extent we are: but as a

people of faith many of us will feel able to pray, or to send our good intentions out into the world.

We also need to know that when the news is too much for us to cope with, we are perfectly entitled – and indeed it is sometimes the only emotionally healthy thing to do – to turn the news off for a day. That can be hard, I know: the news flies at us from all directions these days, but sometimes it's what we need to do. Not exposing yourself to distressing news all the time is not the same as not caring about those involved in these situations.

There is still more beauty in the world and in its people than there is ugliness. Sometimes it might be hard to grasp that, but I firmly believe it to be true. Many of you know that I was raised Quaker, and that one of the central tenets of Quakerism is that there is that of God in everyone. That is a belief to which I cling strongly to to this day, even though there are some people in whom it might be hard to find.

By the time most of you read this (apart from the lucky few who come to the Saturday Social Gathering to help collate it and therefore get their copies a day early) the clocks will have changed and the nights will be very much longer all of a sudden. For the first week or so we'll perhaps be so pleased by the hour's lie in that it won't affect us too much, but I know that some of us face this time of year with dread. To those of you for whom that is the case, I send my hopes that the effects will be as gentle as they can be, and that you find ways of going through this time with as much peace as possible. And to those of you who are excited by the cosiness of the upcoming longer nights, I send my blessings that you are able to appreciate them fully and that they bring peace and nourishment.

As ever, I send you my love.

Kate.

News of our community

Fred Clarke

Fred Clarke, husband of June Clarke for 67 years, died on 3rd October, peacefully, with his family around him. He will be much missed by June, their five children, and their grandchildren and great grandchildren. His family and those who loved him the most will be in our prayers.

Norah Hickton

Norah had a stroke earlier in October, and at the time of writing was at Fairfield Hospital. It seems likely she will not be well enough to return home when she is discharged.

We send our love to Norah, and to Peter as they experience this major change in their lives.

Thanks from Brenda Ainsworth

Brenda would like to thank everyone for their cards, messages and visits during Robin's illness and following his death, and to everyone who made his funeral go so well – particularly those who worked so hard on the floral arrangements, the stewards, the organist and everyone who provided refreshments and cleared up afterwards.

Remembrance Events

Saturday 11th November,

10.45am: Act of Remembrance.

We will meet in the worship area, and then (weather permitting) make our way out into the garden to observe the two minutes' silence with those gathered in the Gallipoli Memorial Gardens.

Sunday 12th November,

10.50am: Remembrance Sunday Service

We will meet in church **at the earlier time of 10.50** to allow us to gather at the War Memorial to observe the silence at 11am, after which we will move back inside for the rest of the Remembrance Sunday service.

12.45pm: Laying of poppies at Holebottom Burial Ground

Kate and Ade will be honouring the war graves at Holebottom by laying poppies: you are very welcome to join them. Parking is available in the yard opposite, and lifts are also available (we can take you home after the ceremony, which will only take a few moments).

Minister's schedule, November 2023

Kate will be on a retreat with her ministerial covenant group from Wednesday 1st to Friday 3rd November. She will be off on Saturday 4th, and preaching in Norwich on Sunday 5th, before travelling back on Monday 6th. After this period in which she's been away or off a fair bit, she then has no plans for leaving Bury until the new year!

Vestry Days: most Fridays, and one Saturday a month

Kate will be in the vestry on **Fridays 10th, 17th, and 24th November, and 1st December**. She will also be in on **Saturday 11th** for a Saturday Vestry Day and the Remembrance observation, and on **Saturday 25th** for the Saturday social gathering. If you'd like to pop in for a chat, a cup of tea, or to use the worship area for quiet prayer and reflection, she would love to see you.

Minister's regular day off

Please remember that both Kate and Ade take Thursdays as a Sabbath, and try not to contact them on that day except in an emergency.

Regular Social Events

Book Club

The Book Club will meet on **Wednesday 29th November**, at 2pm, in the church lounge. The book to be discussed is *The Mango Orchard*, by Robin Bailey. Tea and coffee will be available. Parking will only be available in case of a real need, so please check beforehand.

Everyone is welcome: you don't even need to have read the book!

Camera Club

The Camera Club will continue to meet during November, at 7pm on two Monday evenings, on Zoom. Please listen out for details in church notices and in the weekly email.

Social Gatherings.

The next Gathering will take place on **Saturday 25th November**, and is a chance to drink coffee, socialise, and help to collate the following month's Calendar. It's also a time and space just to "hang out" in company, and it's there to be used in any way we would like. Please feel free to drop in!

This will be the last Calendar Collation Party for 2023, but you are of course welcome to meet in church on the last Saturday in December, although Kate won't be there so you will need to bring your own crumpets!

Second Sunday lunches

The second Sunday in November is Remembrance Sunday, so there won't be a Second Sunday Lunch.

It's been a while since we joined together for lunch, though, so Kate will go for a third Sunday lunch on **Sunday 19th November**, and you are very welcome to join her.

December and January Calendar

The deadline for entries for the December and January edition of the Calendar will be teatime on **Tuesday 21st November** and we'll collate it on **Saturday 25th**.

This will be a double issue for December and January, and will include Christmas greetings from members of the community.

Service leaders in November

The service on **Sunday 5th November** will be led by Rev Lynne Readett, who is known to many of us. Lynne is a retired minister, from Chowbent. *Apologies for the incorrect information in the last edition!*

The rest of the services in November will be led by the minister.

Looking ahead, the service on **Sunday 28th January 2024** will be led by Vince McCully, president of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.

Notes from the building.

It seems a long time ago now that the bell and date board from the first chapel were moved to the back of the sanctuary to make way for the installation of the sound system. The speakers that were on the wall, also had to be escorted out of the sanctuary, as these were part of the sound system that was being replaced.

This left behind quite a bit of wall damage from the mounting screws, and that damage needed filling and painting to not create an eyesore in our worship space. It took quite a while to colour match the cream paint that is on the walls, I took a paint swab and mixed paint to that colour before realising that the colour was darker now it had aged. This left me slowly darkening the paint in slight steps as it was drying to try and get a better match.

Watching paint dry does have a bad reputation and I'll admit, it certainly deserves it, but even after careful watching, the paint still dried too light on the wall. I spent a small amount of time being cross about this before I realised that trying to colour match paint that's been on the walls for a very long time, probably wasn't the smartest idea I'd ever had.

This was when I started painting age into the walls. I did this to get the colour to the point where the obvious bright spots were calmed into the rest of the walls current colour, I had to paint what is essentially fake dust. If you really want to know, I achieved this by black-washing the fresh paint, and wiping this off to create a shadow depth, and then dry-painting the peaks of the artex walls with a reddish brown colour in a downwards motion to create the 'aged' look that would match the rest of the wall.

You may think that now I'm aging paint, that my love for the building may have gone a bit too far, and it's okay to think that, but let's keep in mind that the sanctuary walls are three stories tall and covered in artex dappling. Cleaning fifty years of age off of them really isn't an option, if indeed it's even possible, painting age onto any new paint is the way we have to go because its quite unlikely that any of us have the requisite fifty years to wait for the colour to match more naturally.

Ade Brady

Members' name and address directory

Kate will soon be creating a new edition of the name and address directory which was produced last year.

This booklet contains names, addresses, and contact details of those members and friends of the congregation *who wish to have their details shared. It is entirely on an opt-in basis, and the booklet only goes to those people who have agreed to be in it.*

Please watch out for a form to complete: Kate may be able to get the forms done during November, but if not it will hopefully be in your December Calendar, and the plan is for the booklets to be available some time in the new year.

Zoom services

The Zoom services have been in abeyance over the last few months, and I'd like to get an idea of what the appetite is for them to continue. They served a very useful purpose during the lockdowns and for a while after that, but attendance had become very small before they faded away (and most of the people there were visitors rather than people from the Bury congregation).

If you would like a conversation with Kate about whether they should continue, and if so in what form and how often, she would be very happy to have that chat.

Otherwise, we will offer thanks for the existence of the Zoom meetings when we needed them, and put them to rest at least for a while.

Stewards for Sunday services, November 2023

Sunday 5 th November	Ewen Sim Janine Hurley
Sunday 12 th November	Beryl Bowden Marian Price
Sunday 19 th November	Norah Hickton Peter Whewell
Sunday 26 th November	Betty Kenyon Neville Kenyon
Sunday 3 rd December	Faye Casey Susan Mitchell

Tea and coffee rota, November 2023

Sunday 5 th November	Howard Maden and Jean Maden
Sunday 12 th November	Lois Williams and Pam Gilbert
Sunday 19 th November	Marian Price and Susan Holt
Sunday 26 th November	Norah Hickton and Peter Whewell.
Sunday 3 rd December	Howard Maden and Jean Maden

If you would like to be included on the rota either for stewarding or for setting up and serving tea and coffee after services, please ask Kate to put you in touch with the relevant people: if you'd prefer not to be on the rota but can offer to help out on occasional Sundays, that would also be very gratefully received!

News from around the district and the denomination

News from Ainsworth

10.30 am Sunday 5th November

'Service of Remembrance'

Led by Shirley Horrocks, with Barry Scanlon on his keyboard.

You are invited to do a reading or say a few personal words during this special time of remembrance.

Padiham Unitarian Chapel
BB12 8JH



**LARGE SCALE MODEL
RAILWAY EXHIBITION**

Sat 4th Nov. 10 am - 4 pm

Live Steam, Narrow Gauge and more

£4.--chn. £ 1.50

Homemade Refreshments available

info. 01282 773336



Fun for all ages

Christmas Fair

Walmsley Unitarian Chapel

Saturday 11 November
11-2pm

Find us at BL7 9PR, near Ciao Baby

Free Entry

For more information call 07493 988731 www.walmsleyunitarianchapel.org.uk

FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC

Clover Street Unitarians

The Earthquakers

Friday 17th November 7.30pm



This great band combine the soul and grit of English traditional music with the passion of the protest song and the deep feeling of country and blues. For many years The Earthquakers have been making audiences smile, think and move their feet...

All this and good food too. Please bring your own bottle (or two?).



£10 (inc. refreshments)

Tel. 01706 649015 or on the door

Clover Street, Rochdale, OL12 6TP

www.rochdaleunitarians.org.uk

Looking ahead to Advent and Christmas

We will be putting Christmas greetings in the December Calendar, as we have done the past few years. Please let Kate have your greetings sometime between Remembrance Sunday and the Calendar deadline date. Further details to follow.

Saturday 2nd December, 2pm (time can easily be changed):

Christingle-making workshop.

Sunday 3rd December, 11.15am:

Christingle Service (the one with the oranges!)

Sunday 10th December, 11.15am:

A quiet and reflective service for those who might be struggling, or who just want a moment's respite from the busyness of this time of year.

Sunday 10th December, 3pm:

Carols by Candlelight

Saturday 16th December, 2pm (time can be changed):

Kate is hoping to organise a festive sing-song around the piano

Sunday 17th December: 11.15am

Morning worship

Sunday 24th December, 11.15am:

Morning worship.

Monday 25th December, 11.15am:

Worship for Christmas morning, with a light breakfast beforehand.

Kate would really like your input into the Carols by Candlelight service: please offer to read (or sing!) and please let her know of any readings you would like to hear (whether you're willing to read them yourself or would rather someone else did!)

By-Gone Times by Betty Kenyon. Number 41.

Recently I found this 1919 Calendar. Here are some items from that Calendar.

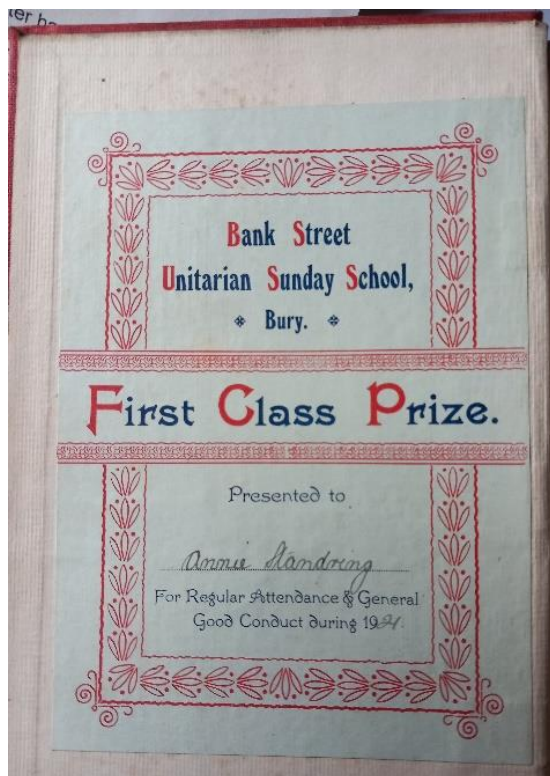
W.W.1 ended on 11 November 1918.

Bank Street Chapel and Sunday School, Bury.

Calendar 326 April 1919

Primary Department— 'Owing to the better facilities now prevailing for providing food, it was found possible to revive the Annual Party, on Tuesday, March 11th, much to the delight of the children, who, along with teachers, numbered about 100. After tea a concert (given by the children), competitions and games. At 8.30pm-they formed a circle for the 'good-bye'.

The children having had a right royal time'



The Sunday School prizes earned during 1918 were distributed in chapel on 16th March by Mr J.W. Holt of Stoneholme, Walshaw. On reading the list of names, I recognised several in our present congregation. Just to mention two however— Violet Haygarth and Hughie Haygarth. You will I'm sure know their connection with B.U.C.



Another item: The names of those who gave their lives for their country and also those who served during the war. You will have all have seen the hand-painted memorial on display for the Heritage weekend. Again, some names we still have at B.U.C.

An appeal was made for the destitute People of Northern France and Flanders,—

The Belgian Funds Committee are asking for help for the 400,000 men women and children, immediately behind the German lines who are left literally with only what they stand up in. Many without boots, few have blankets and all are in need of clothing. Shoes for little children are especially needed.

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 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).

Last 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:

Various times: 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: November 2023

Saturday 4th November 10-4: Model Railway Exhibition, Padiham Unitarian Chapel.

Sunday 5th November

10.30am Ainsworth: Service of Remembrance, led by Shirley Horrocks

11.15am Bury: Service in church, led by Rev Lynne Readett

Monday 6th November 9.30 – 2.30: *British Red Cross booking (entire building)*

Wednesday 8th November 11am – 2pm: *Bury VCFA booking (entire building)*

Friday 10th November 10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day

Saturday 11th November 10.45am: Act of Remembrance
12-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Saturday
11-2: Christmas Fair at Walmsley Unitarian Chapel

Sunday 12th November

10.50am Bury: Remembrance Sunday service in church

Please note the earlier time of starting

12.45pm: Laying of wreaths at Holebottom.

Monday 13th November 9.30 – 2.30: *British Red Cross booking (entire building)*

Friday 17th November 10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day
7.30pm: Friday Night Music, Rochdale Unitarian Church

Sunday 19th November

11.15am Bury: Service in church
12.45pm approx: Third Sunday lunch

Monday 20th November 9.30 – 2.30: *British Red Cross booking (entire building)*

Tuesday 21st November 7pm: Church Council meeting
Teatime: Deadline for entries for the December and January Calendar

Friday 24th November 10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day

Saturday 25th November 11am onwards: Saturday social gathering and Calendar collating

Sunday 26th November

11.15am Bury: Service in church.
12.30 approx: Inclusive communion
1pm: Trustees meeting (upstairs hall)

Monday 27th November 9.30 – 2.30: *British Red Cross booking (entire building)*

Wednesday 29th November 2pm: Book club meeting to discuss *The Mango Orchard*, by Robin Bailey

Wednesday 29th November 6pm-8pm: *Sanctuary booking (private hire for concert)*

Friday 1st December 10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day

Saturday 2nd December 2pm (subject to change): Christingle-making workshop

Sunday 3rd December

11.15am Bury: Christingle Service

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: 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



Bay at Amlwch, Anglesey



Metal Deer in the wood!



“Goal keeper – Mary saves the day, again!”



“Fancy a Drink”!



***Fly Agaric Mushroom
- found in Walmersley!***