

Bury Unitarian Church



October 2021

Letter from the Minister

Dear all,

It seems as though I start this letter every month by remarking on how it doesn't seem possible it's whichever month it is: but yet again, that's the case now!

We are past the Equinox, which we celebrated with a lovely small gathering at Holebottom: we talked about balance, and paid attention to the fact that from that evening on, the nights would be longer than the days. It always feels like quite a momentous evening, and I do believe – though I can't back this up with any actual facts or figures – the earth seems to circle more quickly at these times of Equinox and Solstice.

As the year progresses, so does our life at church. More than eighteen months after the first lockdown, before the world changed so much and in some ways for ever, things are getting more and more familiar. Some of this is that we are more and more able to add elements back into our lives: we have been singing hymns in church again for several weeks now, and it still feels so special after not being able to for such a long time; we have recently started gathering for refreshments after the services, which is something I know people have missed very much; and from the first Sunday in October we will once again be having the gorgeous flower arrangements we've been managing without for such a long time.

Of course, we still need to be cautious: we are still wearing masks in church (except when we're drinking tea, of course), and that's one small way amongst many ways in which we're showing our love for one another. Particularly as we enter into winter, when even under normal circumstances we have to be very careful about spreading cold and flu germs, we need to remain careful and cautious, and to do everything we possibly can to keep ourselves and our friends and loved ones safe. Wearing a mask seems like a small sacrifice!

As you'll see elsewhere in the *Calendar*, I am taking a fair chunk of time off during the month: there has been a bit of a concentration of Annual Leave in September and October, and this is a result of things being so ridiculously changeable earlier in the year and there not being as much opportunity as there normally is to have an extended period. We will be going away for some of the time – to Dorset and Cardiff – and spending some of it at home.

We will also, if everything goes according to plan, be getting used to a new car: my own car developed a serious fault on my way home from Hucklow a few weeks ago, and our brilliant mechanic (recommended to us when we first got here) said it really wasn't worth doing any more work on it. So, with a lot of help from various people to whom I'm very grateful, we've chosen a new one and should be picking it up around the time this *Calendar* comes out: with a bit of practice, I'll be back to visiting people at home very soon.

The saga of needing a new car comes with a heart-warming story which once again reaffirms my belief that people are basically brilliant. When the mechanic told us that my old car wasn't really safe any more, we were quite upset, partly because it has huge sentimental value and partly because I desperately wanted to make a trip to Norwich the following week. His response was to lend me his own personal car for a fortnight. I'm going to pack that story away for a future time when I'm feeling grumbly about people. It also made me realise, much to my surprise, that I rather enjoy driving big powerful cars quite fast. But legally fast!

Whatever is happening in your life at this precious moment of transition into the depths of Autumn, I hope that you are finding blessings. I know that many of our congregation are facing challenges just now, and my prayers and support go out to them all, of course.

As ever, I send you my love.

Rev Kate Brady McKenna

Presidential matters

Since I last compiled my report, I have continued to be busy, and often find myself dealing with three services at once---which can become pretty confusing, especially when all sorts of changes and adjustments are having to be made! Whenever I visit another church, I have to find out whether masks are still being worn, what the position is as regards singing hymns, what's happening about the offertory, and whether anything unusual is due to happen on the day. I feel inclined to ask what "usual" is, these days!

September began with a visit to the Swansea area of South Wales, when I offered the Greetings from the General Assembly at the Valediction and Ordination Services of two new ministers. Rev. Melda Grantham, who runs our Welsh Department, held her momentous event on the afternoon of Saturday, September 4th, at Llywnrhydowen Chapel; the service was conducted by its minister, Rev. Wyn Thomas; the congregation turned out in full force, and the event was attended by representatives from Unitarian College; by many Unitarian Ministers from all over the country; by the GA Chief Officer and its President; and by family and friends. Melda now holds the distinction of being the first ever female Welsh Unitarian Minister; many congratulations to her! Rev. Rory Castle-Jones, the GA IT Officer, celebrated his Valediction, Ordination, and Induction into the Ministry of Gellionnen Chapel, on September 5th, when Rev. Ant Howe led worship, which included an inspirational address; again, the service was attended by as goodly a gathering as on the previous day, and there was much rejoicing and well-wishing of the two new Ministers, from all quarters. The two occasions, although for the same, very effective, purpose, were quite different in atmosphere; both were very happy occasions, however, which were definitely celebrated in style. It was a great privilege to be present on two such important occasions, and to know that two more very capable and caring pairs of hands had joined the ranks of the Unitarian Ministry in Wales.

On the following Sunday, I conducted the service for Brighton Unitarians, whom I was pleased to meet again; I had delivered a message of congratulations and greetings, last year, when they celebrated their 200th

Anniversary; my service was much enjoyed, and I was thanked, at the end, for introducing them to four entirely new hymns from the purple hymn-book, and for supplying them with a service which lasted the full hour! This service was experimental, in the sense that it was a hybrid, or blended, one; the congregation were present, in person, but I delivered the service from my laptop, from home; my image was projected onto a large screen, which those present then watched. I was told that, technically, this had worked perfectly---a relief for all concerned.

September 19th saw me at Bolton, Walmsley, for my third service for them in three months; I have another to do, this month, and two more bookings, next year, so I shall need to write more services, soon. This service was special, as, after 18 months, Walmsley's organist, Jean, returned to play for them; she was applauded, at the start of the service, and rightly so. She commented, afterwards, that she'd almost forgotten how to play; she couldn't remember how the stops and pedals worked, but none of that really mattered; the splendid sound of the organ, accompanying the hymns and contributing to the service as a whole, created a magnificent atmosphere and gladdened all our hearts.

The last Sunday of the month was spent with Rochdale Unitarians, as they celebrated their Harvest Festival. The communion-table was beautifully-decorated with flowers, fruit and vegetables, as was the main church-entrance, but the congregation weren't asked to bring harvest-gifts, this year, for hygiene reasons; nevertheless, we celebrated a special season of the year with enthusiasm and sang the traditional hymns with gusto, as we considered several of the different kinds of harvests it was possible to have, whilst retaining the harvest-traditions to which we've become accustomed. This wasn't quite "back to normal", but it felt quite close to it---a good omen for 2022!

During September, I have written an additional message for the British Red Cross Appeal which one of our Annual Meetings' Motions agreed to support; following recent events in Afghanistan, the appeal has been extended to include this unfortunate country, where people have been rendered homeless and left with practically nothing; those who have fled the country, as refugees, have not fared any better, and practical and financial assistance are urgently sought. Please keep the people of

Afghanistan in your thoughts and prayers; for many of them, the situation is desperate.

On September 18th, Roger and I attended a course, organised by the Unitarian Digital Resources Network, about hybrid, or blended, worship, as we felt that it might be useful to gather information about its requirements. Basically, now that many of our churches are open, more or less as usual, it should be possible for in-person and online elements to be brought together, in the one event; for example, a group may gather in an inside space, where cameras and a computer are provided for those who wish to attend from elsewhere. There are many aspects of hybrid events to be taken into account, we discovered, and the session was very informative. This type of event would benefit both our Camera Club and our Book Club, and may also be useful for our services; the additional equipment would not be hugely expensive, but we would require a camera or two and a computer, and people would need to be willing and able to operate one or both. This course was also held, earlier in the year, in July; if you attended that, please contact us, to let us know; we ought to pool our information and make some decisions. We will share more details later.

Another event we attended was the Autumn Equinox Meditation, on September 21st, at Holebottom; a small group of us gathered together to celebrate the equinox and the solstice, and to reflect upon the period of transition represented. Once the meditation had finished, we chatted, quietly, as the sun went down, on a beautiful evening, which became more attractive as it proceeded, until the sun finally set behind the trees. Generally, we remain in transition, capably steered through it by Kate and Ade, who continue to monitor elements of our church-community life, whilst normality slowly returns; thank you to both of them for their care and concern.

October brings me another month of busyness, in various directions, but Roger and I hope to see some of you, before too long, and, in the meantime, send you our very best wishes; look after yourselves.

Anne Mills

Worship in October 2021

Sunday services in person

We continue to meet to worship in person on Sunday mornings at 11.15am in the worship area. We do still ask that everyone wears a face-covering: this is particularly important now that we are singing hymns.

The seating is all back-to-normal, and you are welcome to sit wherever feels safest and most comfortable for you.

After the service we meet for tea and coffee in the lounge, and you are very welcome to join us.

Midweek Zoom meditations

This month there will be only one midweek meditation, which will take place on Tuesday 26th October (Kate is away the other Tuesdays in October).

After that we will settle into a new pattern: we will meet online on the **first** and **third** Tuesdays of each month.

Where there are five Tuesdays in any given month, we will try to meet in person: either in church or – when practical – outdoors at Holebottom.

This means that we will, all being well, meet online on the following Tuesdays:

26th October,
2nd and 16th November,
7th December,
4th and 18th January,
1st and 15th February, and
1st and 15th March.

We will meet in person on 30th November, 21st December (for the Solstice), and 29th March.

There may also be an extra meditation session to mark Samhain (Halloween): watch this space for further details.

Other worship opportunities

As well as our regular Sunday services, held both in person and on Zoom, and our bi-weekly (every two weeks, not twice a week!) Zoom meditation services, we have started to develop a series of quarterly celebrations of the wheel of the year.

We met at Holebottom Cemetery in June and in September to mark the Summer Solstice and the Equinox respectively, and the plan is to continue to mark these 'quarter days' regularly.

We will meet on the evening of the Winter Solstice, then again for the Spring Equinox, and then continue to honour that cycle.

There may be times when the weather makes it impossible, but experiencing the elements is part of the celebration.

Please keep your eye on the Calendar for further details of upcoming events.



Autumn Equinox celebration 2021, Holebottom Cemetery.

Sunday Zoom

We meet for worship on Zoom on Sunday afternoons at 2pm. The Zoom service lasts around 30-35 minutes and is followed by a chance for a chat.

You are very welcome to join the Zoom by phone or over the internet, and if you haven't joined us before you're very welcome to come along.

Future worship events

Wednesday 11th November, 1045am: Remembrance Day service, in church

Sunday 14th November, 1055am: Remembrance Sunday service, to include laying the wreath at the war memorial

Sunday 14th November, approx. 1pm: Laying of wreaths at Holebottom Cemetery (timing to be confirmed).

The worship committee are hoping to meet in late October to confirm arrangements for worship and social events during Advent and Christmas.

News from our extended community.

Molly Ratcliffe

Molly Ratcliffe, who has been living at Burrswood for a while, is moving to a nursing home in Penrith very soon, to be nearer to her family. Molly is integral to our community here at Bury, and will be very much missed by everyone, but I know that we wish her every happiness and that we will remain in touch.

Molly will be moving to Winters Park Care Home, Pategill, Penrith, CA11 8RG on Monday 4th October.

Susan Mitchell

Susan is currently in Fairfield hospital with a broken pelvis, having had a fall at the airport on her way home from holiday. She says that she is being well cared-for and her family are being very supportive.

Susan has asked if people could please avoid sending cards and messages: she doesn't have much space around her and she's currently not very mobile.

I will keep you posted as much as I am able, and I know that we will all hold Susan in our thoughts and prayers and wish her a speedy recovery.

Roy Wilkinson

Roy is continuing to cope with lockdown, and is still shielding very carefully. His eyesight is deteriorating further, but he is still managing to sort out things in his garage. He's about to go away for a week with his daughter, and they'll still be shielding.

Roy sends everyone his regards, and he knows that people often ask after him and that he is missed at church.

Mike Connolly

Mike, who is known to many of us at Bury Unitarian Church, is now very unwell indeed, and his prognosis is poor. Please hold both Mike, and his husband Ian, in your prayers.

Notes from the church property

Living in a pandemic has been something many people would probably wish to forget. For me though, there are an awful lot of things I want to be able to remember from this time, and one of the things I really want to remember was something I found to be extremely vexing. I want to remember just how hard it has been to find some of the things I have needed for the building. I'm sure that the toilet paper rush, or the recent fuel crisis will go down as part of the lore of how this pandemic has affected Britain, but what will likely not go down in history, are the other shortages, felt all the way through the supply chain that not only feeds and fuels us, but allows us to build and better both our buildings and ourselves.

Wood, cement, sand and other heavy building products have, over the last year, taken me weeks, and in some cases months to source. I finally have the correct type of sand and enough cement to mix mortar to re-point the rear of the church. When I was building the stand for the screen on the reading desk, I had to hunt down the wood, it wasn't as simple as drive in to my preferred supplier, pick up exactly what I need and leave.

I'm used to that kind of convenience, disturbingly used to it. Which is odd, because it's certainly not a part of the natural order of things, it's not even something that we had thirty or so years ago. It's new, it's a new part of life, but it feels like it's been a part of us forever. It hasn't. It really hasn't and I need to remember that.

Ade Brady

Ade will be off work from the afternoon of Friday 8th October to the morning of Friday 15th October. He is going away with the minister, which would possibly be more of a scandal if it weren't that they're married to each other. Peter Whewell has very kindly offered to steward the service on Sunday 10th.

Book Club

The date of the October meeting will be October 27th; we will meet at 7 p.m; in the upstairs room, at church. Once we have details of the book for this month, they will be circulated, and the books will be distributed, as soon as they are available. For the time being, we are suggesting that people bring their own refreshments, if they wish, but do not share them. This will be reviewed, as we go along, as will the question of whether we meet in person, or by zoom, over the next few months. Further details can be obtained from Pam Gilbert or Anne Mills.

Camera Club

Our next Camera Club meetings will be held at the church and on-line (Zoom) at 7.00 pm on Mondays 4th and 18th of October and the 1st of November. You are most welcome to attend any of them, and here's what we will be doing:

Although we call ourselves a "Camera Club" we are mainly interested in pictures. From time to time we receive some interesting and useful tuition regarding cameras or photo-editing software but our main interest is in photographs. Indeed, many of our photo's were even taken on mobile phones! All the pictures on the front and back covers of our monthly calendar were supplied by camera club members and selected at one of our regular meetings.

In the next couple of meetings, in addition to reviewing pictures taken recently by club members we will be assembling printed pictures for our next exhibition. We will also be receiving some tuition from one of our members on the power of photo editing software.

If you would like to join us, just come along to the church or use the following: Meeting ID: 837 3432 6101 to join us on Zoom.

Roger Mills

Tea and coffee after services

It is an absolute joy that we are once again gathering for tea, coffee, and conversation after our Sunday services. Thanks are due to Marian for organising the new rota (which you can find in the centre pages), and to everyone who has agreed to be on it!

If you might be able to help out either regularly or just in an emergency, please speak to Marian: the rota is slightly precarious at the moment, and there may be some Sundays on which there is no one available.

GDPR

A couple of years ago we collected various information from those church members who wished to share it, and the details (which include names, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses, next of kin details, and willingness to appear in various publications) are held securely by the Minister.

At the time everyone was asked to specify how and with whom the information could be shared.

If you would like to change any details, or your consent to share any of the information, please let Kate know. The information will, of course, never be shared outside of the community, and only within the community if you have actively consented.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask!

Church Bookcase

Many thanks to Margaret Fitzpatrick for looking after the Church bookcase for many years, pricing and changing the selection of the book titles. I have now agreed to do this job and hopefully keeping the donations up to what was previously collected each year.

Over the last year especially during the lockdown period, many of the books which were in the church bookcase were taken round and read by members of the Congregation. These have now been returned and it was felt that many had been around for quite a while and so read by most people. A cull has been made and many bags of books have been taken to the local Charity Shops for them to give others a chance to read them.

Therefore, although we still have a full bookcase if anyone has any books at home which they have finished with and feel that other people would get some pleasure out of reading them, could you either bring them to church or let me know and I will collect them.

Susan Holt

2022 Church Diary

Next year's Diary is now in the book-case cupboard. Please enter the details of any events that are in the offing for 2022, on the appropriate pages. If anybody has entered dates for next year at the back of this year's diary, please transfer them to the new one, otherwise they may not be taken into account; thank you.

Anne Mills

Calendar deadline.

The deadline for entries for the November Calendar is teatime on Tuesday 26th October, and the Calendar will be with you either at church on Sunday 31st October or just before or just after that in the post.

The minister's schedule, October 2021

I generally try to take Thursday as my day off, and sometimes Wednesday as well. This does change when necessary, and of course if there's an emergency, I'm available even on days off.

Some weeks I don't manage a day off, so occasionally I'll take an extra one here or there!

I am generally in the vestry between at least 10am and 3pm on Fridays, and if you'd like to pop in for a chat you are very welcome. I do sometimes pop out to run errands, so it's wise to call first!

During October I will be off on the following dates:

Monday October 4th – Thursday October 21st

I will be in Bury for some of the time, and available in an emergency, but for the rest of the time I will be away.

(Ade will be off for some of that time, but not all of it. Please can I ask that *unless it is an emergency* you don't ask Ade to pass work-related messages on to me whilst I'm off: it's not very efficient and not really fair on either of us. If there is an emergency you are very welcome to contact me directly).

Rev Shammy Webster, minister with Stand Unitarians, has kindly offered to be on hand if anyone would benefit from a pastoral conversation with a minister during that time. She can be contacted on revshamster@virginmedia.com, or 07791 721295

The service on Sunday 10th October will be led by the Worship Group, and the service on Sunday 17th by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie. I am very grateful to Abi and the Worship Group for offering to lead the services, and I know that they will be in very good hands.

Our regular worship services

Bury Unitarian Church

In-person worship

Every Sunday at 11.15am

Bury Unitarian Church, Bank St, Bury, BL9 0DN
(by the Victoria Wood statue!).

Please join us for a service of words, music, prayer, and silence. We are a welcoming community from a variety of backgrounds, and our services cover a wide range of topics.

face coverings are required in the building, unless you are exempt

If you would like to join us, we would love to see you: everyone is welcome, no matter what.

Bury Unitarian Church

Zoom worship

Every Sunday at 2pm

Meeting ID: 849 7456 6116

Please join us for a service of words, music, prayer, and silence. The service lasts around forty minutes, and then we gather for conversation.

If you would like to join us, we would love to see you: everyone is welcome, no matter what.

October 2021

Fri 1st October: 10am: Minister's vestry day

Sat 2nd October: 11am: Coffee morning (Zoom 839 0159 23)

Sun 3rd October: 11.15am: Service in church

Rev Kate Brady McKenna

2pm: Zoom service (Zoom 849 7456 6116)

3pm: Service at Ainsworth: Harvest Festival

Anne Mills

Monday 4th – Thurs 21st October:

Kate on leave

Mon 4th October: 7pm, Camera club (online and in person)

Sat 9th October: 11am: Coffee morning (Zoom 839 0159 23)

Sun 10th October: 11.15am: Service in church

The Worship Group

NO ZOOM SERVICE FROM BURY TODAY

5pm: South African Evening, Rawtenstall Unitarian Church

Weds 13th October: 7pm: Church Council meeting

Sat 16th October: 11am: Coffee morning (Zoom 839 0159 23)

Sun 17th October: 11.15am: Service in church

Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie

NO ZOOM SERVICE THIS AFTERNOON

Mon 4th October: 7pm, Camera club (online and in person)

Fri 22nd October: Minister's vestry day

Sat 23rd October: 11am: Coffee morning (Zoom 839 0159 23)

Sun 24th October: 11.15am: Service in church

Rev Kate Brady McKenna

2pm: Zoom service (Zoom 849 7456 6116)

Tues 26th October: 7pm: Meditation (Zoom 812 3292 6975)

Teatime: deadline for entries for the October
Calendar

Weds 27th October: 2pm: Worship Committee meeting (*provisional:
details to follow*)

7pm: Book club, in church. *Book to be confirmed*

Friday 29th October: Minister's vestry day

Sat 30th October: 11am: Coffee morning (Zoom 839 0159 23)

Sun 31st October: 11.15am: Service in church

Rev Kate Brady McKenna

2pm: Zoom service (Zoom 849 7456 6116)

Sunday tea and coffee rota, October 2021

Sunday 3 rd October	Susan Holt (milk)	Volunteer needed!
Sunday 10 th October	Lois Williams (milk)	Volunteer needed!
Sunday 17 th October	Marian Price (milk)	Jean Maden
Sunday 24 th October	Norah Hickton (milk)	Peter Whewell
Sunday 31 st October	Volunteer needed!	Volunteer needed!

If you can offer to help with tea and coffee, either regularly or as a one off, it would be really helpful: we do understand that we are all getting older and tired, and it is really important that we don't ever feel pressured into doing a job we don't want to!

If there are Sundays on which we can't provide refreshments, we will think of alternatives (maybe we could bring our own flasks, or maybe we could pop out for lunch?)

Foodbank

As you will know, our church supports Trinity Foodbank, in Radcliffe. We have a collection box in the vestibule, and it's lovely to see how generous everyone is throughout the year.

The organisers really appreciate our donations, and I know that they make a huge difference to the people who use the Foodbank.

Occasionally the Foodbank run out of (or low on) various items. This month they have asked specifically for the following items, so if you are wondering what to add to your shopping, these are the things they would really appreciate:

All tinned items:

fruit

rice pudding

baked beans

baked beans and sausage

tinned veg

tuna

tinned meals (hot pot, chilli con carne etc)

Street kitchen

We were hoping to be able to start hosting one of the local street kitchens once a week from this month: unfortunately, the organisers haven't yet been able to make this happen, but they know that we will offer them any support we can until they are able to start making plans with us again.

News from around the denomination

News from Ainsworth

Our next service will be our usual, early, 'Service of Remembrance', at 10.30 a.m; on Sunday 7th November, led by me, with Barry kindly offering to bring his Yamaha Organ. Please let me know if you would like to do a reading.

With best wishes to you all; I hope you'll be able to join us.

Shirley Horrocks

Invitation from the Lancashire Collaborative Ministry

The LCM is to hold a South African Evening, on Sunday, October 10th, 2021, from 5 p.m; to which everyone is cordially invited. The evening will include a short service, entertainment, and refreshments, all with a South African flavour, and the venue will be Rawtenstall Unitarian Church. This promises to be an unusual but enjoyable event; please join us. Further details are available from Anne Mills.

North West Provincial Assembly

The NWPA Open Meeting took place on September 15th, at 7 p.m. Unfortunately, attendance was low; the Chairman was late, as he was stuck in traffic; and the connection between those actually at Cross Street, Manchester, and those joining by zoom failed after twenty minutes. Those present in person had one meeting, and those on zoom another; good ideas emerged from both groups, but no decisions could be taken. A further Open Meeting is to be arranged, but no date has been set, as yet. I will keep everybody informed, as soon as I receive further information.

Anne Mills

NELUM

The two delegates to NELUM (the North and East Lancashire Unitarian Mission) and the minister attended the NELUM meeting held at Bury on 13th July. The meeting opened with a very moving reading of the names of those members of NELUM churches who have died since the beginning of the Covid lockdown, which was a fitting tribute.

The minutes of the meeting will be available in due course.

Bank Street Chapel, Bolton

At the NELUM meeting, Janet Poole from Bank Street Unitarian Chapel, Bolton, shared the very sad news that the congregation have made the decision to close. The last service in the Chapel will be in Spring 2022, and at some point in the future the building and land will be sold.

This is a heart-breaking and difficult decision for the congregation to have made, and I know that we send them our love, prayers, and support as they work through this very difficult time.

Stand Incredible Edible – Community Project

Have you ever considered growing food to give to those in need?

What about being outside, in the open, do you need somewhere to go and others to be with?

Do you ever want to feel close to nature?

If you've answered 'yes' to any of these questions, come and join us. Our group is all about being outside, growing vegetables and flowers, and turning a blank canvas into somewhere special. Of course, nothing is compulsory, so if you only want to join us for a casual natter, that is just as good.

Stand Incredible Edible & Community Project is held on the field behind Stand Chapel on Ringley Road, Whitefield, M45 7JL. We meet every Thursday 1pm to 4pm. If anyone from Bury Church would like to join us, please contact Shammy on 07791 721295.



Rev Shammy Webster, Stand Unitarians

Commemorating 9/11 by saving lives now

An appeal shared by the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Red Cross Memorial Peace Appeal for the people of Afghanistan

18 million people in Afghanistan are in urgent need of humanitarian help owing to decades of conflict, years of extreme drought and weeks of heavy fighting.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has been supporting the people of Afghanistan for over 30 years and is on the ground in all 34 of Afghanistan's provinces – including isolated rural areas – providing essential relief and supporting hospitals and medical facilities. It runs over 150 health centres and clinics, including 36 mobile health teams who cover the entire country. The Red Crescent Covid-19 hospital in Kabul has treated thousands of patients and remains operational as cases continue to rise.

With its network of staff and 40,000 volunteers the Red Cross and Red Crescent is ready to support families through the multiple crises they're facing right now. Your donation will help us deliver food, water, basic medical supplies and medicines, water and shelter.

Your money will also help the work of the British Red Cross supporting the hundreds of families currently arriving in the UK from Afghanistan. British Red Cross staff and volunteers are providing emotional support and essential items, including warm clothes, blankets, soap, toothbrushes and nappies.

In recent weeks thousands of people have been injured in cities including Kandahar, Herat and Lashkar Gah. Critical infrastructure, like hospitals and water and electricity systems, have been damaged or destroyed.

This has only compounded the country's existing problems caused by decades of conflict, chronic poverty and drought. It's a combination of

disasters that has led to widespread displacement across Afghanistan.

Eleven million people – a third of the population – don't have enough food to eat, while the country is also trying to cope with spiralling cases of Covid-19.

If you wish to support this emergency appeal please send a cheque, payable to the British Red Cross, to the British Red Cross, 44 Moorfields, London EC2Y 9AL or call 0300 023 0825 or visit [redcross.org.uk](https://www.redcross.org.uk). Please kindly confirm that your donation is to the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal and you wish to credit it to the Red Cross Memorial Peace Appeal. Thank you.

This special appeal of the Red Cross Memorial Peace Appeal is commemorating not only all those killed in Afghanistan and the other wars over the last twenty years but the over 100,000,000 people who have died in wars over the past century.

'Whoever destroys a soul, it is considered as if he destroyed an entire world. And whoever saves a life, it is considered as if he saved an entire world.'
(Jerusalem Talmud)

'Whoever saves one life saves all of [humankind]'. (The Qur'an)

Anne Mills, President of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches; Rev. Sue Woolley, GA Vice-president and Secretary of the Unitarian Peace Fellowship; Rev. Michael Allured, Chair of LDPA Council; Rev. John P. Carter, Chair of the Unitarian Peace Fellowship and President of the Unitarian Ministerial Fellowship; Rev. Jim Corrigan, LDPA District Minister; Rev. Dr Peter Godfrey, Honorary Member; Robert Ince, Global President of the International Association for Religious Freedom; Rev. Jo James. Executive Committee member; Derek McAuley, Chair of IARF British Chapter (personal capacity); Rev. Feargus O'Connor, Honorary Secretary of the World Congress of Faiths; Rev. Charles VanDenBroeder, former GA President

Message from the President of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, Anne Mills

During the last few weeks, there cannot be many of us who have watched the news bulletins from Afghanistan and failed to be moved by the plight of the people there---those who have had no choice but to remain, under a regime they fear, or those who have fled, thus becoming refugees in other countries. This situation is heart-breaking, and quite contrary to the principles of freedom and human rights which we, as Unitarians, seek to promote.

I will be making my donation in aid of all those from Afghanistan who are suffering from poverty, injustice, disease, or distress, on account of current circumstances, in their own country or elsewhere. Please consider joining me by contributing, if you can, to a cause which is hugely worthwhile---which will support and assist human-beings who are so greatly in need. Your efforts will be appreciated more than you can ever possibly know.

I heartily endorse this emergency Red Cross appeal. My thoughts and prayers are with the people of Afghanistan, especially just now, and I trust that they will, with our help, achieve peace and feelings of greater security. Thank you all, in advance, for your generous response."

Anne Mills, GA President

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.

(We make these anyway, so it's easy to get them to you: just let Kate know).

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.

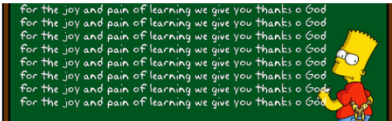
We have also recently taken possession of a new lightweight, easily collapsible, sturdy wheelchair. The wheelchair lives in the cupboard under the front stairs, and you are free to use it at any time it would be useful in church.

If you have a short-term need at home and would like to borrow it, please speak to one of the church officers.

Last month's services

Bury Unitarian Church
The Joy and Pain of Learning
Zoom worship
Sunday 5th September, 2pm

Meeting ID: 849 7456 6116



**If you would like to join us, we would love to see you:
everyone is welcome, no matter what.**

Bury Unitarian Church
**The sacred joy of being
silly**
Zoom worship
**Sunday 12th September,
2pm**

Meeting ID: 849 7456 6116

**If you would like to join us, we would love to see you:
everyone is welcome, no matter what.**

Equinox Celebration

(outdoors)

6pm, Tuesday Sept 21st, 2021

**You are welcome to bring drinks and snacks: after a
meditative ritual we can eat and drink together.**

**Holebottom Cemetery, off Rochdale Old Road,
Bury, Lancs (please contact us for directions) .**

The site is uneven: please bring sensible shoes,

**If you would like to join us, we would love to see you:
everyone is welcome, no matter what.**

Bury Unitarian Church
**The high cost of
being poor**

Zoom worship
Sunday 26th Sept, 2pm

Meeting ID: 849 7456 6116

**If you would like to join us, we would love
to see you: everyone is welcome, no
matter what.**

If you would like the text of these, or any other services, please let Kate know.

By-Gone Times, by Betty Kenyon

No 17: Holebottom

Bury Board of Health visited Bank Street Chapel Yard (graveyard) in 1853. In 1854 Whitehall, London gave notice that burials in Chapel Yard had to be discontinued. Brick grave vaults were exempt. At this time there was no Town Cemetery.

So, the field at Holebottom Farm, that belonged to Bank Street Chapel was the chosen spot. There was much disapproval. Eventually the site was approved but John Grundy complained in a letter regarding the horrid lane that was its access. (Some things never change!) The go-ahead was finally given. The cost would be not less than £350. Donations were asked for from the congregation. Subscriptions for a grave were £1. When the ground works were complete the final cost was £670. As Ade stated last month the first grave was for William Buxton aged 20months. Secondly was Martha Ann Wilde age 1month.

On the 5th August 1856 it was resolved that the pulpit from the first chapel built in 1719: (and often called the little yellow chapel because the inside walls were colour washed in light yellow), in Silver Street, be cleaned and repaired and be used at Holebottom Chapel.

The chapel was formally opened with a dedication service on 31st May 1857 at 3.30pm. There was a procession of 300 from Bank Street through the town to Holebottom. On arrival they formed a semi-circle outside the doors of the chapel. The final number attending was 800, friends coming from other places—Rochdale etc. Rev John Wright conducted the service. The chapel seated 56 people. There was room for 800 graves.

A strong desire was expressed to have outdoor services at Holebottom during the summer months.



The Chapel at Holebottom (now demolished)

Burials continued at Holebottom Chapel until 1972. It was closed and demolished in 1979 after being severely damaged by vandals. However, the land has been cleared and the war graves retained. Occasional outdoor services are held during the summer.



The plaque at Holebottom Cemetery.

War Graves at Holebottom

There are two war graves at Holebottom.



Arthur Ashworth



Harry Greenhalgh

Wreathes were laid on the war graves by Bury Grammar School students at a special ceremony in October 2018.



Rev Kate Brady McKenna led the ceremony.

Wordsearch

Five-minute wordsearch

Y	O	O	E	P	I	H	S	R	O	W	T	Z	C
A	R	I	B	M	N	L	N	I	O	L	S	O	N
N	K	A	B	O	E	B	I	C	C	I	C	O	M
O	H	B	U	T	U	U	O	H	N	R	O	M	F
I	G	N	N	T	O	R	I	G	Y	F	M	S	C
T	N	O	I	O	C	Y	I	N	O	W	M	E	A
A	I	C	T	B	N	N	C	O	R	P	U	R	M
T	Y	H	A	E	G	A	A	B	N	S	N	V	E
I	A	U	R	L	M	O	E	S	O	H	I	I	R
D	R	R	I	O	I	H	I	O	F	Y	T	C	A
E	P	C	A	H	T	M	W	E	C	E	Y	E	C
M	Z	H	N	C	H	A	T	T	E	R	R	S	L
C	O	F	F	E	E	A	N	D	T	E	A	U	U
E	S	U	U	T	B	U	L	C	K	O	O	B	B

COFFEE AND TEA
PRAYING
SINGING
CAMERA CLUB
COMMUNITY
HOLEBOTTOM
BOOK CLUB
SANCTUARY
WORSHIP
CHURCH
CHATTER
ZOOM SERVICES
BURY
MEDITATION
UNITARIAN

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/2819277/>

Church Information

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Facebook: Bury Unitarian Church

Church officers

Chair of trustees:	Susan Holt	07876 716563
Chair of church council:	Betty Kenyon	01204 887222
Chair of congregation:	Anne Mills	0161 762 0943

5, Arley Avenue,
Bury, BL9 5HD

Church secretary: Vacant

Church treasurer: Roger Mills 0161 762 0943

Charity reg no: 1078570





