

# **BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH**



**OCTOBER 2022  
CALENDAR**

## Letter from the Minister

Dear all,

In my last letter, I mentioned that things were never going to be exactly as they used to be and now, with the death in September of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, we have all experienced another change, and one which was, for some of us, bigger than we'd expected it to be.

Many of us have followed the queen since her (and our) childhood, and for some of us she is the only monarch we have ever known. Some of us are fond royalists and follow the royal family closely, and others, I know, are not monarchists. And yet we have all, I think, been affected by the news of the death of Elizabeth Windsor who was, as well as the queen, a mother, grandmother, and great grandmother.

And I know that for some of us, this – coming as it does so soon after the lockdowns and all of the difficulties and upheaval that they brought about – has just felt like too much. I can't make any of that go away, of course, but please know that I do sympathise with you, and I understand if you're feeling sad, depressed, bereaved, or even angry. Of course, we can always say, and we'll always be right, that there are people worse off than we are, but that doesn't mean that we're not going through something of our own as well, and it's perfectly valid to be upset on our own behalf.

I think that things and feelings will start to settle down soon: as I say so often, life is a cycle, and the death of the queen leads the way for the coronation of Charles III, and we can, perhaps, soon start to become excited by what changes the new reign will bring about.

And we are now, of course, very clearly heading into autumn: I'm writing this on the day of the Autumnal Equinox, that time of year where the day and the night are in perfect balance and where we turn from 'early autumn'

to 'proper autumn'. It's a time, perhaps, tinged with sadness, but also full of hope and expectation.

When you get this month's Calendar, we'll either be about to celebrate our Harvest Festival, or have just celebrated it. You may even be reading this in a dull moment in the sermon! The time of gathering in, closing in, drawing in, is sacred and important, and I hope that we can use these few weeks to centre ourselves and relax back into a balance. Harvest time is a great opportunity to be grateful for all that we have, as well as to remember those who have less. I hope that you can find some delight in these weeks.

As you'll read elsewhere, I will be away for much of October. My leave allowance has built up, so I'll be on leave for just over three weeks. Once I'm back I'll then be at a ministerial conference for a few days. As always, you can contact me if there's an emergency: I'll be away for some of the time (we're visiting Ade's parents more these days, and we've also planned a few days at Butlins in Minehead, thus fulfilling a childhood dream of mine), but whilst I'm at home you will be able to reach me *if you need to*. I know that you're all very good at knowing what is and isn't an emergency! Whilst I'm at the Ministerial Conference I'll be available: that's something I'm doing in work time. You'll find details of pastoral cover for the time I'm off later in the Calendar.

And once I'm back, we will be well into the comfort of our regular winter activities, leading from Remembrance Sunday through to Christmas.

I'll end my letter in the same way I ended the last one: *things won't ever be exactly as they were, but we are always moving gently forward*.

As ever, I send you my love.

Kate.

## **News of our community**

### **Karen Hampson**

Karen is recovering well from her recent surgery, and hopes to be back with us soon: she sends her love and best wishes, and I know that we send ours back to her.

### **Hannah Stephenson**

Several of you met Hannah, her husband Ritchie, and their son Isaac, when they came to visit us in late September: it was a lovely chance to get to know her a bit before she starts her studentship with us later this month. I'm sure that – just as we can support Hannah as she studies for the ministry – she will bring fresh ideas and fresh energy to us.

If you would like to use the Calendar to let people know what is happening in your life – whether to ask for our prayers, to celebrate good news, or to mark an anniversary or other event – please let Kate know: she is always happy to print personal news, providing, of course, that the person the news is about is happy for that to happen.

We hold all of those who are in need of support and love in our prayers  
and in our thoughts.

**A tribute to Her Majesty the Queen, from Shirley Horrocks, Ainsworth  
Unitarian Chapel**

**The death of HM Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September, aged 96 years,  
has been greeted, nationally and internationally, with much sadness,  
quiet reflection and due ceremony following her long and devoted 70-  
year reign.**

**For most of us, she has been there throughout our whole lives and we've  
now lost her constant, gracious and steadying presence in an ever-  
changing world.**

**We give grateful thanks for her life of exceptional, dutiful service and, as  
the heavy burden of Monarchy now falls to King Charles III with Queen  
Consort Camilla by his side,**

**we look forward with confidence as the new Carolean Age begins.**

**GOD SAVE THE KING!**

Flowers have been placed in Chapel in tribute to HM Queen Elizabeth II.



## **Social Events**

### **Book Club**

The Book Club will meet on Wednesday, 26th October at 2.00pm at church. Note that parking at church will be strictly for those with accessibility needs

The book to be discussed will be *The Seagull* by Ann Cleeves. It will be available at the September meeting and afterwards from the lounge cupboard.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available, and you are welcome to bring your lunch if necessary. All are welcome, and no need to have read the book!

### **Camera Club**

The Camera Club normally meets either on Zoom, in person, or both, on the second and fourth Monday of each month, at 7pm. Everyone is very welcome to join them for these sociable and productive evenings.

The October meetings will be on 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Saturday Social Gatherings.**

We're continuing to hold our Saturday Social Gatherings on the last Saturday of each month.

These Gatherings are still slowly turning into what they are meant to be, which is whatever we want and need them to be.

We are also taking tentative steps toward bring coffee mornings back: watch this space for updates.

The next Saturday Social Gathering will be on 29<sup>th</sup> October.

## **Workshops**

Although there has been some interest in the planned series of workshops, it's proved really difficult to combine topics and timings in a way which works.

I still have enthusiasm for these, and I know that some of the rest of you do, so although I'll be giving the planning some fallow time, we will have another look at this in January: I know that it's also something Hannah is very interested in getting involved in, so I'm hopeful that after a bit of a rest for the topic, we can start again in the new year.

## **Autumn tidy-up**

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to help with the "spring-clean" over the past couple of weeks. We've made really good headway on clearing out several areas, and found several things which had gone unseen for many many years.

The project will continue as and when everyone has the energy, so please let me know if you're interested in getting your hands slightly grubby and helping to unearth treasures.

Betty's Bygone Times this month talks about one of the treasures we found.

## **Worship:**

### **Sunday Services**

We continue to meet on Sundays at 11.15am to worship together (the service lasts around an hour and is followed by refreshments and conversation) and on the second and fourth Sunday of each month we also meet on Zoom at 2pm (the service lasts around half an hour, and you are welcome to stay for a chat afterwards).

There will be a Zoom service on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

### **Inclusive Communion Services**

Kate will be away on the first Sunday in October, but there will be a Communion service on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Monthly midweek online meditations**

There will be no midweek meditation in October, but there will be an in-person celebration of Samhain and All Hallows on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November, and a meditation on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Advance notice**

The Bury Run, which was due to take place on September 18<sup>th</sup>, was postponed until November 20<sup>th</sup>: we will face the same difficulties in accessing the building on that day, so the service will take place at 2.30pm



## **Samhain and All Hallows**

We will be marking Samhain (Halloween) and All Saints' Day on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November.

If the weather is conducive to meeting outside, we'll gather at Holebottom, and if not we'll meet in church to celebrate this important moment in the year, when we honour and celebrate our loved ones who have died, and our ancestors.

Whether you see yourself as someone who is attuned to the cycles of the year or not, you are very welcome to join us as we mark the constant movement of the world.

Further details will follow.

## **November Calendar**

The deadline for entries for the November Calendar is a few days earlier than normal, because I'll be at a conference during the time I'd normally put it together: please let me have things by teatime on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October if you possibly can. I can accept things up to teatime on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> if necessary!

I'll be collating it in church during the Saturday Social Gathering on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>, and I would love some company and some help with doing that!

## **GDPR**

Thank you all for being so helpful in getting your GDPR forms back to me so promptly: I only have a couple left to chase, and I'll do that once I'm back from my holiday. Shortly after that I will be able to produce the much-promised and long-awaited list of names and addresses: bear in mind that not everyone wished to have their details printed in that, and only those people who've actively agreed will be there.

## Regular Events (all subject to change)

### Sundays:

11.15am                      Worship in person at Bury

### First Sunday of each month:

10.30am                      Worship in person at Ainsworth

12.30pm                      Inclusive Communion Service at Bury

### 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. We'll all be buying our own (if you would like to come and the cost would be a problem please have a quiet word with Kate).

### Second and fourth Sundays of each month:

2pm:                              Zoom worship

### Second and fourth Mondays of each month:

7pm                                Camera club (normally online)

### Second Tuesday of each month:

7pm                                Online midweek meditation session

### Last Wednesday of each month:

7pm:                                Book club

### Most Fridays:

10am til 3pm (approx.) Minister's Vestry Day

### Last Saturday of each month:

11-1                                Saturday Social Gathering

## What's on: October 2022'

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October:** 11am: Ainsworth open to receive harvest gifts.

### **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October**

11.15am, Bury: Service led by Hannah Stephenson  
*No communion today*

3pm, Ainsworth: Harvest Festival, led by Rev Beryl Allerton

### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October**

11.15am: Service led by Susan Holt

As this is the Second Sunday of the month, Kate encourages you to go out for lunch together!

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October:** 7pm: Camera club, on Zoom

### **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October**

11.15am: Service led by Janine Hurley

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October** Preferred deadline for items for November Calendar.

## **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October**

11.15am Bury: Service in church, led by the minister.

2pm: Zoom service (Zoom 849 7456 6116)

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October:** 7pm: Camera club, on Zoom

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October:** Teatime: absolute deadline for items for November Calendar.

**Wed 26<sup>th</sup> October:** 2pm: Book club, meeting to discuss *The Seagull*, by Anne Cleeves.

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October:** 11am-1pm approx: Saturday Social Gathering, and calendar collating party.

1.30pm: Cross Street Chapel Manchester Anniversary Service.

## **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October**

11.15am: Service in church

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November:** 6pm: Samhain / All Saints celebration. Details to follow.

Kate is on leave from after the Zoom service on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September, until the morning of Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October. She will be working from home on that Friday.

She will be at a ministerial conference from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October.

## Church information

Minister: Rev. Kate Brady McKenna  
0161 460 3363 / 07751 240886  
[revkatemckenna@gmail.com](mailto:revkatemckenna@gmail.com)

Church address: 1 Bank Street, Bury, BL9 0DN

Church phone: 0161 761 3785

Website: [www.bury-unitarian-church.org.uk](http://www.bury-unitarian-church.org.uk)

Facebook: Bury Unitarian Church

## Church officers

|                          |               |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Chair of trustees:       | Susan Holt    | 07876 716563  |
| Chair of church council: | Betty Kenyon  | 01204 887222  |
| Church secretary:        | Karen Hampson | 0161 766 2283 |

*Chair of congregation:* Vacant

*Church treasurer (pro tem):* Roger Mills 0161 762 0943

## Contact for room bookings and building maintenance

|                  |              |              |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Property Manager | Adrian Brady | 07736 107143 |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|

Charity reg no: 107857

## Notes from the building

Many moons ago, back when I was at university, the concept of 'time' was the central part of one of my degree proposals. The proposal was titled 'the deconstruction of time'. It was a remarkably pompous thesis (hence the remarkably pompous title) and one that I eventually discarded in favour of another proposal because I couldn't fit the research I needed to do into the time available to me! I still love the idea of time though and recently I've been thinking that I'd like to do that research one day; who knows, maybe tomorrow I'll have the time to start working on it.

Tennessee Williams once said that 'time is the longest distance between two places'. This quote has been banging around in my head a bit lately, mostly as it perfectly reflects my very long 'to-do' list of jobs. I have them all listed from most important to least, and all planned out in the hope that I can start the next one very, very soon.

I recently replaced the loft ladder in the boiler room, a job that has been moving up and down the top of that list since February. There is still some work to do around it, largely to do with securing the loft roof properly, but the ladder itself has now been replaced and I'm awfully glad it's done, because some of my other 'to-do list' jobs are actually dependent on it being in place.

Removing the old ladder and replacing it with the new one took a lot longer than I thought it would too, I was in the building for much of the afternoon and well into the evening, and I had no idea I had been there that long until members of the Trustees turned up for a meeting, There was me, stuck in the boiler room with a screwdriver in my mouth and the top part of a ladder in my hands as someone I didn't expect to hear from called out a greeting from below me... reminding me again of the absurdity of time, and also of a favourite Dr Seuss quote, 'How did it get so late, so soon?'

Hopefully, I'll have some more time tomorrow, if anything it should at least help out with my to-do list!

*Adrian Brady*

## **The Minister's schedule, October 2022**

I will be on leave from after the Zoom service on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September until the morning of Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October.

My colleague Rev Shammy Webster, (Minister at Stand Unitarian Chapel) has kindly agreed to cover any pastoral care needs which crop up during my absence, so if you want to speak to a minister and it's not the sort of emergency you'd need to speak to me about, please contact her at [revshamster@virginmedia.com](mailto:revshamster@virginmedia.com) or on 07791 721295. Shammy works part time, and also needs time off, so please be patient if you try to contact her.

After I've been back a few days I will be going to a Ministerial Fellowship Conference, and will be there from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October. This is a work gathering, so I will be available during the time I'm away.

I know that this conference comes very shortly after a lengthy period of leave, but unfortunately it was all unavoidable. Hopefully next year will have fewer disruptions and I'll be able to pace my time away better!

My 'official' day off in the week is Thursday, and I try very hard to avoid work commitments of any sort on that day: Ade also tries not to work on Thursday. I sometimes also take Wednesdays off, but I'm a bit more flexible about that. Of course, if there's an absolute emergency I want you to contact me even on a day off!

I am usually in the vestry between at least 10am and 3pm on Fridays, and if you'd like to pop in for a chat you would be very welcome: the kettle is always on.

## **News from Ainsworth Chapel**

Dear Members and Friends of Ainsworth Chapel

Anyone is always welcome to go in to Chapel at any time; just phone me to open up for you.

We thank Mrs Veronica Walker for taking our September service in which she spoke of different interpretations of The Bible and also challenged us to imagine what Jesus might say to us today.

A new, green, pole-mounted Chapel Notice Board has been ordered and will be delivered in about 6 weeks.

We look forward to welcoming Rev Beryl Allerton to take our Harvest Festival Service at: 3.00 pm Sunday 2nd October and hope you'll be able to attend. Please join us for tea, coffee and cakes following this special service.

The Chapel will be open for an hour or so from 11.00 am Saturday, 1st October to receive your harvest gifts.

Any help you can give to decorate The Chapel will be very welcome.

with good wishes to you all

*Shirley Horrocks*



## **News from around the district and the denomination**

### **Community Fridge at Rawtenstall Unitarian Church**

The Lancashire Collaborative Ministry has launched a Community Fridge Project, which is now running at Rawtenstall Unitarian Church; the project has arisen directly from initiatives discussed at the Interfaith Services, held every two months, at the church. Community Fridge sessions are now being held, twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, between 10 a.m. and 12 noon, and donations of fresh food (such as milk, cheese, cooked meats, fresh fruit and vegetables) are being sought. to distribute to those who are in need. If you are able to be in the vicinity of Rawtenstall Church when the sessions are being held and could spare a few minutes to drop contributions off, they would be very welcome, and much appreciated. Financial contributions would also be acceptable. Further information, as the project develops, can be obtained from Anne Mills.

### **Cross Street Anniversary Service**

Cross Street Chapel is excited to invite you to our 350th(ish) Anniversary on **Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> October at 1:30 pm!**

In 1672, the Rev'd Henry Newcome was granted a license to preach in Manchester. This was after having been "ejected" from the Manchester Collegiate Church (now Cathedral) 10 years previously. Although earlier worship was held in secret, this year marks a special anniversary, as it begins our long history of providing public worship in Manchester.

We hope you will be able to join us for an afternoon of celebration, recognising the contributions Cross Street and its members have made to the city and world. **The service starts at 1:30 pm and will be followed by an afternoon tea.**

With care,

Rev'd Cody Coyne and all at Cross Street Chapel

**By Gone Times No. 29, by Betty Kenyon:**

### **Embroidered Signatures**

Recently, a group of us were busy tidying the corridor cupboards at church. Hidden away on the top shelves, only accessible by ladder or very tall people—ancient, exciting, useful, dust ridden items!



Chesham Bazaar 1907

Chesham Sunday School 1933.

Bank Street Unitarian Chapel and Sunday School 1951.

Bury and Ainsworth Unitarian Churches Flower Festival 1986.

They are tablecloths! Definitely exciting finds.

All four signed by people present at those events, so many signatures!

Later, these were embroidered by Susan Holt and Di Scaife on the 1986 cloth.

You may find your own name or family members.

There are so many interesting and historic people from times gone by.

The table cloths will be displayed in church.

See if you can find:

the Grundy Family and past minister

Rev. Priestly Evans at Bury 1904-1921,

Susan Holt and Di Scaife.



## **“From the Old Codger”**

Keep the Head Cool and the Feet Warm.  
Guard the Foot and the Head will Seldom Harm.  
Better Pay the Cook, than the Doctor.  
Hunger is the Best Sauce.  
Violent Passions lead to Great Depressions.  
Health is the reward of Cleanliness.  
Moderation is a Great Safeguard.  
A Fool or a Physician at Forty.  
Despise School and remain a Fool.  
The Healthiest Feast costs the Least.

### **Parking**

New parking restrictions are now in place for all the spaces which are leased to local businesses and staff.

These arrangements are in place every weekday up until 6pm, and cover the area by the railway wall and the area outside by the garden, with the exception of our own two spaces.

Parking in those spaces during the day is very likely to result in a ticket and a fine, and we do not have power to override those fines.

You should already be aware that we do not have use of the spaces under the Exchange building at any time.

### **Advance notice: Remembrance, Advent, and Christmas.**

Early though it undoubtedly is, it will happen more quickly than we like to think, so here are some diary dates you may like to make a note of:

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November, 10.55am: Remembrance Day observance in the worship area.

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November, **10.55am**: Remembrance Sunday service, beginning at the war memorial.

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November, after the main service: laying of poppies at the Holebottom War Graves.

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December, 11.15am: Christingle Service

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 3pm: Carols and Readings by candlelight.

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December, 12.15pm approx: Congregational Christmas Lunch.

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December, 11.15am: Christmas worship, preceded by a light breakfast.

We are gathering a choir, facilitated by Alan Taylor, to support the singing at the Carols and Readings service: if you would be interested in being a part of the choir, whether you were previously in the choir or not, please contact either Alan, or Kate (who will put you in touch with Alan).





