

# BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH



*Penmon Point – Anglesey*

## **October 2023**

*When the trees their summer splendour change to raiment red and gold,  
When the summer moon turns mellow, and the nights are getting cold,  
When the squirrels hide their acorns, and the woodchucks disappear,  
Then we know that it is autumn: liveliest season of the year.*

## Letter from the Minister

Dear all,

The last few weeks, since the September Calendar, have been busy and sad for our little community.

In late August and early September we experienced the deaths of two of our longest-term members, both of whom were hard-working and passionate trustees of the church. Roy Wilkinson died on 27<sup>th</sup> August, and Robin Ainsworth on 9<sup>th</sup> September. Both of these men were much-loved in our community, and will be much missed.

I am glad that we were able to honour them both in the way they would have wished to have been honoured, with funerals in our church, Roy's officiated by Beryl Allerton and Robin's by myself.

I am hugely proud of how the church (and by "the church" I mean, of course, its members) responded to what turned out to be a very busy few weeks. Everyone worked to make sure that these two events, as well as the Harvest Festival and lunch, and Heritage Open Days, went well, and that everything which needed to be done was done.

I don't mean only the practical things, of course, though the amount of work that went into the practical things was incredible (rooms being arranged; food being prepared, cooked, and served; flowers being made even more beautiful than flowers already are; cleaning being done; .and the myriad of other things that have to happen – and if I missed out a job that you did, I'm genuinely sorry).

I mean the pastoral things, the 'looking after each other' things. The phone calls, the cards, the letters, the visits, the quiet mention to the minister of someone who might need something particular or who has a specific need (sometimes the minister already knows, but often she doesn't, and she's always grateful to be told).

It has been very moving to see how that 'machinery' (for want of a much better word!) moves into place when it's needed.

Although it has come amidst great sadness, it really has been wonderful to see just how well we do as a loving community when we need to.

I also want to thank everyone for their kindness, and their cards, messages and even flowers, while I was off recovering from dental work (the timing of which was, frankly, a bit rubbish). It meant a great deal. I'm not yet fully recovered (I think that will be a little while yet) but I'm certainly improving. I'm very grateful, as well, that the worship rota was covered for that period and that it will be covered while I'm off in October. I know that there is a lot of work in making the cover happen, and also that it is a big thing to lead worship in a church where you don't usually do it.

So we're sad just now, and it's important to acknowledge that: grief is how we love people when they're no longer here with us. And woven amongst our sadness is our strength, our love for one another, and our willingness to do the work we need to do. And in this case, at this moment, the work that we need to do is to continue to love one another, and by doing that to continue to love the world.

It wouldn't be my 'letter from the minister' if I didn't go on a bit about the seasons and the weather and the glories of Holebottom. It is, finally, autumn, in every way: not only are we finally getting some lovely autumnal weather, but it's meteorologically and astronomically official now. The blackberries are long finished at Holebottom, but the haws are more than making up for it – we've spotted at least three different colours of berries. We tried to make some ketchup, but it wasn't our biggest success (I'm being polite: it was a bit of a disaster).

And so, to end, I send you blessings for the upcoming month.

As ever, I send you my love.

Kate.

## **News of our community**

### **Roy Wilkinson**

**26<sup>th</sup> January 1925 – 27<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

We were very sad to hear of the death of Roy Wilkinson. Roy was an active and beloved member of the church for many years, and a trustee for over sixty years. Along with his wife Edna, he was a stalwart of our community, and he will be much missed.

Our love and prayers are with his daughters Adele and Amanda, and with their families.

### **Robin Ainsworth**

**11<sup>th</sup> January 1934 – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

Robin died peacefully at home after a long illness. He was a lifelong Unitarian, and was a member and trustee of this church for over sixty years, and he will be much missed.

Our love and prayers are with his wife Brenda, their daughter Lesley, and their many children and great (and great-great) grandchildren.

Brenda would like to thank everyone for their love and support during Robin's illness and following his death.

### **Fred Clarke**

June Clarke's husband Fred is, at the time of writing, receiving end of life care at home. I know that Fred, June, and their family will be in your prayers as they spend this time together.

## **Molly Ratcliffe: an update from her daughter Lis.**

Mum continues to be relatively healthy and she has been quite stable of late but she is often aware of her lack of memory and it really does frustrate her. Her concentration span is very poor and she cannot focus on TV or read but she still loves music and we have a little sing song regularly.

Our daughter Amelia was married in July and mum was able to join us for the church service and a glass of bubbly which was lovely and meant so much to us all. All brothers from Ireland and Australia were in attendance which was incredible too. Last week we celebrated mum's 90th birthday , we had a lovely lunch in a local hotel on Ullswater.



## Sue and Graham McMullen

Congratulations to Sue and Graham McMullen, who celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.



### **Notice from Clover Street Unitarians (Rochdale): Eunice Smith**

Dear friends, it is with sadness that we wish to let you to know of the death of Eunice Smith. Eunice has been a much loved and respected member of the congregation for many years, and we will miss her presence among us. She was also known outsidess of the church for her involvement with the Women's League, both locally and nationally.

Eunice enjoyed a long and active life until fairly recently, and though she may not have been physically strong she remained mentally bright and well able to keep in contact with many friends by phone call or letter. She will be missed by many.

Eunice's funeral is to be held at Rochdale Crematorium on Thursday 5th October at 3.20pm

## **Minister's schedule, October 2023**

I will be on leave from the afternoon of Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October to the morning of Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October, and for some of this time I will be away in Dorset and Somerset and unavailable. While I'm in Bury I will, of course, be available if there's an emergency.

My colleague, Rev Cody Coyne, has very generously offered to provide emergency pastoral cover while I'm off, so if you want to speak to a minister and it doesn't have to be me, you can contact him on

minister@crossstchapel.org.uk or 0778 682 0383

Obviously there won't be Vestry Days on Friday 6<sup>th</sup>, Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, or Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October. I am unsure yet whether I'll be in on Friday 20<sup>th</sup>, but I definitely will be on Friday 27<sup>th</sup>.

I will then be at the Unitarian Ministerial Fellowship conference from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>, but this is a work event and I will be available should you need me.

## Service leaders in October

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October: No service at Bury**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October: Rev Rob Crompton**

Rob was ordained as an Interfaith Minister in 2010, having undergone the 2 year training at Gorton Monastery. He is Franciscan in his spirituality and is delighted to be given the opportunity to take the service at this time. It is the Feast Day of St Francis on 4<sup>th</sup> October. He will take that as his theme and one of the hymns will certainly be, 'Make me a channel of your peace.'

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October: Adrian Brady**

Ade is a member of our congregation, and works as our property manager. He has been a Unitarian for several years, and this will be the second service he has written and led for us at Bury.

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October: Rev Kate Brady McKenna**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October: Rev Kate Brady McKenna**

## Halloween / All Hallows / Samhain

Kate hopes to be able to do something to mark the festivals which fall, in all sorts of traditions, around the 31<sup>st</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November. She *really* hopes to be able to do something at Holebottom, because we haven't managed that this year!

Please speak to Kate or listen out for notices.



## Regular Social Events

### Book Club

The Book Club will meet on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October**, in the church lounge. The time is yet to be arranged, but will be likely to be daytime. As the September meeting was postponed, we will probably be discussing *Silas Marner*, by George Eliot, and possibly another, yet-to-be-announced, book.

Please listen out in notices for updates. Everyone is very welcome, no matter what time we meet or which books we're discussing!

### Camera Club

The Camera Club will be meeting on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October** and **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October**, on Zoom.

*Note from the editor: I continue to be really grateful for all the work the Camera Club does for the Calendar! Thank you to them, also, for the fantastic exhibition of their work which is back up on display in the worship area.*

### Social Gatherings.

The next Gathering will take place on **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October**, 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!

## Second Sunday lunches

A few of us normally go for lunch together on the second Sunday of the month (normally to the Art Picture House, but it doesn't have to be!). Kate won't be here on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October**, but you don't need her to be here in order to go!

### **Vestry Days: most Fridays, and one Saturday a month**

Kate will be in the vestry on **Fridays 20<sup>th</sup>** (possibly) and **27<sup>th</sup> October** (definitely) 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.

### **November Calendar**

The deadline for entries for the July edition of the Calendar will be teatime on **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October** and we'll collate it on **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>**.

### **New sound system**

The new sound system is now installed and running well, after a rocky start the first week we used it. If you have any problems hearing the worship leader or reader during a service, please attract Ade's attention: the sound levels can now be adjusted 'live' so we should be able to fix the problem immediately.

### **Calendar Photos**

I'm very aware that photos don't always come out well on the inside of the Calendar: if you want better copies of anything speak to me and I'll liaise with someone who might be able to sort it out.

## **Notes from the building.**

The building has shared in a lot of our grief lately. This is a big part of its job after all, this is, in large part, what the building was created for. While the weekly services are ostensibly its primary reason for being, the building is made for rites of passage. Sometimes it sees the joy of weddings, or of new parents bringing in their children for baptism, but in other times it's there to be witness to grief.

It has been a fabulous witness for these past few weeks, it has held the congregation as beautifully, as the congregation has held those who have been grieving the most. As two stalwart members came in to, and left the building for their final visit, the building has been there to hold us as we all say goodbye to our friends and family and it has done its job magnificently.

But as the Minister says, the building is not the church, the church is the people. The building is there as a witness to the church and what it has witnessed lately is a lot of hard work from that church. The funerals, as well as so much else that has been happening lately have been made perfect in that space by those able in the congregation to provide important ministry such as catering, flower arranging, cleaning and organising.

We are fortunate to have our building as our constant witness, but we have a wonderful church community and we should pay our thanks for that.

*Ade.*

Ade will be away from Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October until Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October, inclusive. If there are any emergencies in the building during that time, please contact one of the trustees, or someone you know has a key. Of course, in an absolute emergency, you should call the emergency services.

## Stewards for Sunday services, October 2023

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	NO SERVICE AT BURY
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Betty Kenyon Neville Kenyon
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Faye Casey Susan Mitchell
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Barbara Bamford Jean Brookhouse
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	Howard Maden Jean Maden
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Ewen Sim Janine Sim

## Tea and coffee rota, September 2023

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	NO SERVICE AT BURY
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Lois Williams and Pam Gilbert
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Marian Price and Susan Holt
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Norah Hickton and Peter Whewell.
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	Rita Boardall and Susan Mitchell
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	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!

## Elizabeth Gaskell House visit

Several of us, members of the congregation, family members, and friends, enjoyed a private tour of the Elizabeth Gaskell House in Manchester last month . It was fascinating and moving, and the tea and cake at the end was hugely enjoyed by all of us. It was also very pleasing to see what a good job the house is doing of promoting Unitarianism!

Thanks to Val for all her work on organising the trip.

(Photos by Janet Thatcher).



## Heritage Open Days

The church had a small number of visitors on both Saturdays and Sundays.

These ranged from people visiting all the open town centre buildings, to church enthusiasts, to people searching for their baptismal records from a church we have previously merged with.

Many members of the congregation called in for a variety of reasons because the church was open and it was lovely to have time to chat.

The weather was very strange as the first weekend I was handing out glasses of iced water and the second weekend hot drinks were needed.

Whilst preparing for the open days, Kate and I discovered a really old book in the cupboard, which is absolutely fascinating and even our historian Betty had never seen it: a real find which needs investigating!

I want to thank all the people who helped and supported me in what turned out to be a challenging time personally.

Opening the church up to visitors did entail more than I realised, and it created extra work for both Kate and Ade, but the visitors appreciated it and hopefully it gave us a little much-needed publicity.

The event provided me with the time and space to gain a better knowledge of the church history from Betty; I explored the attic with Kate; and learned a lot about the vagaries of our building from Ade. I've even discovered we have a cloakroom.

I will happily do it again next year, but will definitely start preparations much earlier!

Rita Boardall.

## Harvest celebrations, and thanks.

On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September we celebrated the harvest with a harvest festival service followed by a harvest lunch.



The church looked magnificent, thanks to the hard work of Susan Holt in creating the harvest display, and Jean Maden and Rita Boardall in creating beautiful floral arrangements.

Within the space of a week, we had three big events in church, all of which needed refreshments: thank you to Susan for organising and cooking the harvest lunch, and for ensuring there were refreshments at the funerals of both Roy and Robin.

And thank you to Jean and Rita for creating three lovely sets of flowers for the events.

## News from around the district and the denomination



# MULTICULTURAL EVENING, PADIHAM UNITARIAN CHAPEL, UNITY CENTRE

Join us for a very special evening of musical selections from Kazakhstan, Wales, classical pieces and other surprises.

**14 October 2023,  
5:30pm, £5**

The evening will consist of two halves with a musical performance by the Scott family followed by a meal with dishes from around the globe.

The Scott family is made up of a Kazakhstani, an Englishman with Welsh connections and their daughter who is a chorister at Blackburn Cathedral.

Contact information:

Freda Whittle,

[secretary@padiham-unitarians.org](mailto:secretary@padiham-unitarians.org)

07951 486794



## **Service at Chorley Unitarian Chapel: Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

This is a reminder that our congregation is invited to the above service, at which the GA President, Vince McCully, will be preaching; the service will start at 11 a.m; and will be followed by lunch, when Vince will speak about his Presidential year of office. Chorley Unitarians, in conjunction with The Lancashire Collaborative Ministry, is organising this event, and all the NELUM congregations have been invited.

If you are intending to be present at the service and the lunch, please let us know; the deadline for this is Monday, October 2nd, and it would be appreciated if you would contact John Hewerdine, by emailing him at

[john@hewerdinefamily.co.uk](mailto:john@hewerdinefamily.co.uk)

If you have special dietary requirements, you will need to let him know. Thank you for your co-operation.

We are looking forward to meeting everyone, on October 15th, and to an enjoyable and inspiring occasion.

Anne Mills, Secretary to the LCM

### **News from Ainsworth**

10.30 am Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **By-Gone Times no. 40 by Betty Kenyon**

### **Rev Douglas Walmsley, Minister of Bank Street Chapel 1874 - 1894**

Born 5th June 1848 in London. The family moved north in 1849.

Douglas Walmsley was educated at Peter Street British School, then Manchester Grammar School, then Manchester New College, London, then Heidelberg University, Germany.

He first married Sarah Helen Alcock and then later following Sarah's death, Susan Beatrice Squier.

1874 He returned to England and was invited to be minister at Bank Street Chapel. He took advice from Dr James Martineau, his college principal. He was concerned that for his first ministry; would he be able to meet the demands of such a large and important church and school and the many institutions supported by the congregation.

Bank Street Chapel led the way for many organisations in the town. Rev Douglas Walmsley was on the committees of Chesham Day School, Bank Street Day School, Bury Natural History Society, Athenaeum Library Committee, Bury Dispensary Hospital Committee, Bury High School for Girls, (now Bury Grammar School Girls), North and East Lancashire Unitarian Association.

The bowls club at Chesham became Chesham Day School, then the church used the same building.



On the day of the Chesham Unitarian Church's inauguration - Sunday, 29th October 1885 - a party of Bank Street members, led by Rev Douglas Walmsley walked in procession from Bank Street Chapel to Chesham Unitarian Church for a service of worship, at which the congregation was so large that the younger children had to be sent home because of shortage of room. The Sunday School opened the following week, with fifty-nine scholars, a number which, by the end of the year, had almost doubled.

In 1894 Douglas Walmsley accepted the invitation from the First Presbyterian Church, Belfast to be their minister. He was there for 12 years and returned to the Manchester area on his retirement in 1906.

## **This year's services**

One of the joys of Unitarian worship is that we don't work to a set annual pattern, and we get to choose our own topics every week. This year, so far, not including services by our student Hannah, or visitors and members of the congregation, we've had services on the following topics:

Every year, a new arrival  
Evidence and proof  
The prodigal son  
Walk in the light  
The Gender of God  
Bring your favourite self  
Betty Tebbs  
A growing congregation  
Palm Sunday  
Easter  
Splendid! (St George's Day  
Choicest Gifts (the coronation)  
Julian of Norwich  
Pentecost  
Love your neighbour  
On doing very little harm  
Flower communion  
The year keeps turning  
Joseph (the one with the coat)  
Faith and technology  
Faith and football  
John Newton, the man who wrote 'Amazing Grace'  
Letters  
Holy Water  
Favourite hymns  
I definitely had you in mind  
The joy of community  
Harvest

If there's something you'd really like to explore in a service, please ask Kate and she'll see what she can do.

# 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 Sundays of each month (not during October):

2pm: Zoom worship (Zoom link: 849 7456 6116)

### Second and fourth Mondays of most months:

7pm: Camera club (normally online)

### Second Tuesday of most months:

7pm: Online midweek meditation session

### 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: October 2023

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October

#### NO SERVICE AT BURY

3pm Ainsworth: Harvest festival. Preacher: Rev John D Allerton

### Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

9.30 – 2.30: *British Red Cross booking (entire building)*

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October

11.15am Bury: Service in church, led by Rev Rob Crompton

### Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October

9.30 – 2.30: *British Red Cross booking (entire building)*

7pm: Camera club, meeting online

### Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October

5.30pm: Multicultural evening at Padiham

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October

#### 11am Chorley Unitarian Chapel:

Service, to be led by the GA President Vince McCully

11.15am Bury: Service in church, led by Ade Brady

### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October

9.30 – 2.30: *British Red Cross booking (entire building)*

### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October

10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day (?)

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**

11.15am Bury:

Service in church, led by the minister

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October***9.30 – 2.30: British Red Cross booking (entire building)*

7pm: Camera club, meeting online

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October**

Teatime: Deadline for entries for the October Calendar

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

Book club meeting: time and topic to be confirmed

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October**

10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day.

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October**

11am onwards: Saturday social gathering and Calendar collating

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October**

11.15am Bury:

Service in church. Led by the minister

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October***9.30 – 2.30: British Red Cross booking (entire building)***Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October**

Evening: celebration of Samhain / Hallowe'en / All Hallows. Details to follow.

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November**

10.30am Ainsworth:

Service of Remembrance, led by Shirley Horrocks

11.15am Bury:

Service in church. Led by Val Chamberlain



## 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: 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



*The white anemone ("The wind's daughter")  
symbolizes sincerity*



*Halfway round the Great Orme, Llandudno*



***Red Wharf Bay - and reflection!***

## ***Views across the Menai Strait from Anglesey***



***Taken with “Low Key” camera settings***



***Using “Impressive Art”***