

CHURCH INFORMATION

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BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2018



Three brave members of our congregation, George (for whom it was a 'first abseil'), Damion, and Alison (George's daughter) abseiled down Peel Tower, Holcombe on 7th July 2018, all in aid of our Toilet Twinning Charity.

MINISTER

REVEREND K MCKENNA

CHURCH SERVICES

2 September 11.15am	The Minister
9 September 11.15am	The Minister – Heritage Weekend
16 September 3.pm	The Minister (due to 10K Fun Run)
23 September 11.15am	The Minister
30 September 11.15am	The Minister – followed by Communion

CHURCH STEWARDS

2 September	Lois Williams & George Scaife
9 September	Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert
16 September	Roger Mills
23 September	Betty & Neville Kenyon
30 September	Marian Price & Di Scaife

CHURCH FLOWERS

2 September	Vera Stephenson	In memory of Rhona and Johnnie Smith and Gordon
9 September	Church Flowers	
16 September	Di & George Scaife	In memory of Alice and John Scaife
23 September	Church Flowers	
30 September	Church Flowers	

Distributors: Barbara Bamford, Jean Brookhouse, Anne Evitts, Sue McMullen

Contemplative Worship

Our quiet contemplative worship service is currently held on the first Friday of every month, from 6.15pm.

The service lasts around 45 minutes, and is followed by refreshments and fellowship.

Listen to music, hear and join in with readings, and share a time of reflection and meditation

Everyone is welcome no matter your religious background or belief system.

Our next gathering is on

Friday 7th September 2018,

and our theme is

'All Shall Be Well'.

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

1 September	Brenda Ainsworth & Susan Holt
8 September	Pam Gilbert & Di Scaife
15 September	Margaret Fitzpatrick & Norah Hickton
22 September	Betty Kenyon & Kate McKenna
29 September	Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

- 2 September Anne Mills(M), Beryl Bowden, Damion Langford
- 9 September Norah Hickton(M), Barnbara Bamford, Peter Whewell
- 16 September Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Lois Williams, Di Scaife
- 23 September Marian Price(M), Susan Mitchell, Fred Mitchell
- 30 September Jean Maden(M), Brenda Ainsworth, George Scaife

LUNCH CIRCLE

We meet, this month, on September 11th, at 12.30 pm. Susan and Margaret will act as hosts. Please note that this month's meeting is a week early, owing to chef's holidays. New members are always welcome. Remember to bring along any extra drinks you would like; water is served with the meal, and tea and coffee are available, afterwards. Sign up on the list on the notice-board, if you intend to join us.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 6th September at 7.30pm **Maureen Hawksworth, Emmanuel Crafts (Nepali Women)** will give a talk on the status of women in Nepal and their way of life. She will also have some Nepali craft items to show us and sell in order to raise funds for this project. We look forward to seeing our members.

CAMERA CLUB

The group meets next on September 10th, at 7 pm; when a trip to our Ainsworth Chapel is planned; please note, however, that this is still to be

confirmed. New members are always welcome; if you wish to come along, you do not even need a camera, as the group is fortunate enough to have more cameras than people!

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Wednesday 26th September at 7pm. This will be a special event when Paul Kenyon will talk to us about his latest book *Dictatorland – The Men Who Stole Africa*. This will be a very interesting evening and members and friends of the congregation are invited to join us. We have also invited local book clubs and any local folk who are interested to join us. There will be refreshments. There will be a small charge £2.50 payable on the night, to cover expenses. Please put your name on the list on the notice board if you plan to come.

COMITTEE MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER

Monday 3 September at 7pm – Social & Fund-Raising

Tuesday 4 September at 7pm - Worship

Advance notice – Monday 1 October at 7pm – Finance & Gen. Purposes

CALENDAR DEADLINE

All items to be included in the October edition of The Calendar should be with the editor by **Sunday 23 October, please. (at the latest** as this will probably be half-term and time is limited!).

TRAI DCRAFT

The stall will be open on September 9th and 23rd; at other times, if you need any items, please speak to Anne or Jean. Christmas cards and gifts will soon be on sale, and the new Traidcraft brochure should be available to browse from the middle of the month.

ALF

Alf Howson is currently residing at Bankfield Care Home, Gigg Lane, and it is possible that he may remain there permanently. He is being well cared-for, and family-members are visiting regularly. The staff have asked that we do not visit, at present, to give Alf time and opportunity to settle in. A card has been sent, on behalf of all church-members. We wish Alf well.

COURSES

There are full details of two courses, on the board. The first takes place at our Essex church, on September 1st, on the subject of "Circles of Connection and Engagement Group Facilitation"; booking must be made by August 31st. The second takes place at our York church, on September 29th, and deals with "Working on our Welcome"; advance booking for this is also required.

UNITARIAN COLLEGE MANCHESTER

We have recently received a detailed letter from Rev. Lynne Readett, the College's President, outlining the current situation there. Those on email should already have received a copy; please speak to Anne Mills, if you would like one. There will be a meeting to discuss what is happening at UCM on Thursday, October 25th, at 11 am; at Luther King House.

COUNCIL MATTERS

Church Council meets on alternate months, beginning in February. Once the meeting has taken place, the Minutes are circulated, to Council-members, and a copy is placed on the notice-board. After two or three weeks, that copy is removed and placed in a special wallet in the bookcase cupboard, where it remains, so that all members may consult it. If you have queries about Council matters, you should speak to Betty Kenyon, Council Chairman, or Anne Mills, Church Secretary.

The new 2019 church-diary is now in the bookcase cupboard; if you have entries to make for next year (already!) please put them in, directly, rather than writing in the back of this year's diary. Thank you.

FILMS AT ROCHDALE

Our Rochdale Church will be screening the film, "Darkest Hour", in the evening of Saturday, September 22nd. A Pie and Peas Supper will be served, and ice-cream will be available, during the interval. The evening costs £6.00 per head, and the proceeds will go to Henshaws, a charity which supports the Blind. If you wish to go, please sign the list on the board; we will try to make sure that transport is available for those who wish to go. The deadline for booking is Sunday, September 9th.

THE FUTURE OF FAITH

Rev. Jim Corrigan is organising a series of lectures on this theme, on behalf of the Lancashire Collaborative Ministry; there is a poster on the board, with full details, and there are also leaflets on the lounge-tables. All the sessions will be held at Rawtenstall Unitarian Church; dates and speakers are as follows:

October 6th, 2018: Paul Razor: The Challenge of Liberal Theology in a time of declining liberalism;

December 1st, 2018: Matt Carmichael: Rekindling the Spirit of Community--- Restoring Depth in an age of Screens;

March 23rd, 2019: Alastair McIntosh: Towards Third Millennium Christianity: Activism, Nonviolence and the Mystical Imperative.

EDNA

Edna Wilkinson died, on July 8th, after a short illness. I had known her, all my life, and vice-versa. She was a lovely lady---always smart and bright, kind, generous and loving, but there was common-sense, humour, and more than a hint of mischief underlying her many other qualities. Edna was a very long-standing member of Bury Unitarian Church, and of Bank Street Chapel, before that; she worked tirelessly for the church, mainly for the Efforts Committee, which organised social and fund-raising, and Edna must have brewed many a cup of tea, and washed up, too, in the course of her duties!

Edna will be greatly missed by all of us; she was held in very high affection. Our sympathies and good wishes go to Roy, Adele and Mandy, and their families. A minute's silence, in memory of Edna, was observed, at the August Church Council Meeting. **Anne Mills**

SPONSORED ABSEIL

Congratulations to George and Damion for raising more than £720 with their Sponsored Abseil, which took place on July 7th---what a magnificent total, and what a display of courage from them both! Part of the monies raised will go towards our Toilet Twinning Project, and it is hoped that we can twin with a whole village or a particular school from this fund. Many thanks to both men, and to all those who participated by sponsoring them. Well done, everyone!

MUSIC EXAMS

The recent Music Exams were held in June and July, and we are already making arrangements for the next ones, in late autumn. Lois wishes to thank all those who helped with the exams by organising and stewarding; the exams raise a considerable amount of money for our funds, as well as bringing our excellent facilities to the attention of the general public. Unfortunately, there was some confusion over which dates had actually been booked. If there is doubt, the only person who has definite information is Lois; please make every effort to check the situation with her, before altering arrangements. Thank you.

NELUM

Beryl (Allerton), in her capacity as NELUM Secretary, has let us know that there will be a special NELUM Meeting, on Thursday, September 13th, at 7.15 pm; at Rochdale Unitarian Church. Simon Bland, the Ministry and Congregational Support Officer at Essex Hall will attend, in order to discuss a variety of important topics with NELUM members. All are welcome. Please see the notice on the board for items to be dealt with, as well as other arrangements.

325TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AT STAND

We have received an invitation from Stand Unitarian Chapel to a Special Service, to be held at Stand, on Saturday, October 27th, at 2 pm. All are welcome to attend, and full details are on the board. Please note that, if you wish to stay for refreshments afterwards, you must let Geoff Waywell know, in advance; contact-details are also on the board.

GRAND CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

During September, we will be starting to make arrangements for our Christmas Raffle, and decisions will be taken at the next Social and Fund Raising Meeting. Please keep eyes and ears open for notices on the board and pulpit-announcements. We will be appealing for raffle-prizes---for items for a Food Hamper, and for bottles of wines and spirits, toiletries, boxes of chocolates, tins of biscuits, fancy goods, and any other suitable, good-quality items. If you wish to contribute, please speak to June Clarke or Anne Mills, and bring your prizes in as soon as you can; items for the Food Hamper must reach June by the end of September, at the latest, so that the Hamper can be made up and displayed; sign up on the list for this. **Thank you.**

IS IT A BIRD?

IS IT A PLANE?

NO!

Well it certainly wasn't Superman.

Was it Spiderman?

You couldn't be blamed if you thought so. No it was George Scaife, Damion Langford, and George's daughter Alison Middleton, abseiling down Peel Tower on the top of Holcombe Hill.

The Young Peoples Committee of the East Lancashire Freemasons had organised an abseil down the Tower to raise funds for various children's charities, to take place on the 7th July 2018. In a moment of complete recklessness George said he would do it if Julie Ward did it. Julie manages the East Lancashire Masonic Charity and knows George's grandchildren very well. Unfortunately for George, Julie stood behind him and a tap on his

shoulder with the words “I’ve already signed up for it” sealed his fate. He could not get out of this.

Meeting Damion at Bury Unitarian Church soon afterwards George was confessing his recklessness, and Damion announced that he would also like to take part.

Somewhere in the gene pool some of George’s genes had passed to Alison and she very bravely stated that if Dad can do it so can I. The fateful triangle was formed and they set out to get sponsorship for the event.

One of the recent charities that Bury Unitarian Church was supporting was Toilet Twinning and it was agreed that this would be the Charity to support.

We met up at Hewlett Court on Newcombe Road, Holcombe Brook on the 7th July amongst many other dare devils to be transported up to Holcombe Hill. Luck would have it, a friend of George’s just happened to own a Rolls Royce and he was providing transport. Guess which car transported them to the base of the hill. So after a trundle up the hill to the tower, getting kitted up, they then had to walk up the numerous steps to the top of the tower. George was heard several times croaking “where’s the oxygen?”

The top of the Peel Tower offers magnificent views over the areas of Bury, Manchester and beyond. The weather was excellent but there was some haze.

The hardest part was getting over the top and overcoming the butterflies in the stomach. It was difficult to resist looking down. There were some who had got to the top and decided to walk back down the stairs. They were thought no less of. It was a great exhilarating feeling to reach the ground.

Family and friends were there to witness the event. Lois and Freddy had also trekked up the hill to ensure we did the deed.

Besides the sponsor form that was on display in Church, friends and work colleagues were also cajoled into sponsoring the brave three. In total the sum of £726 was raised between them.

The East Lancashire Masonic Charity who organised the event were also in receipt of £480 from George, Damion and Alison, for the Children’s Charities.

The three of us would like to thank all those who have been so generous in their sponsorship donations.

If anyone has an idea of a daring challenge for them to complete in the future, please keep it to yourself. The heart rate has just got back to normal.

George Harry Scaife

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP

Kate will be putting a notice on the board in the lounge for your suggestions for days and times for contemplative worship sessions. If you’re interested in attending the sessions but Friday evenings don’t work, please don’t be left out: if we can’t find a time that suits everyone it may be that we can vary the times and days throughout the year.

All (kind) comments are welcome!

Also please see the notice about this month’s gathering.

COMMUNION

There will be a communion service on Sunday 30th September. Everyone is welcome to attend this sacred but non-magical sharing of bread and wine.

HUCKLOW

We hope to repeat last year’s visit to The Nightingale Centre for a Christmas Lunch (and we may be able to stay overnight). Watch this space – further plans will be made after the next Social and Fundraising Committee meeting and details will be available on the board and in pulpit notices so that we can make a booking in good time.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear all,

I think I've said it before, but September is definitely my favourite month. Better people than me have remarked on the mellowness of this time of year. I love that our thoughts can start to turn towards winter, but that we don't yet have to face the wind and hail.

I hope everyone's had a good summer. Our region suffered greatly with the heat, and whilst it was uncomfortable for many of us as individuals, we should remember the devastating effects on Winter Hill and at Saddleworth. Amidst the shock of seeing such beautiful landscapes on fire, I'm sure we were all moved by the efforts of professional and volunteer firefighters who were out there battling it for us. Within days of the fires being under control, shoots were already beginning to force their way up from the charred earth: a sign of hope and strength if ever there was one.

I spent two periods away over the summer, both connected with Unitarians. At the end of July I visited the congregation in Norwich, to lead their Pride service. The first half of my sermon was about things at Bury I'm proud of, and it won't surprise you to know I could have gone on and on about them (though I like to think I didn't).

The other trip was to Summer School: it's always the highlight of my year (although it's incredibly hard work), and I would honestly recommend it to anyone. This year was beset with what should have been huge problems (two key people couldn't come; there was a period with no running water due to a burst water main in the village; and we had an outbreak of Norovirus which took quite some managing). But as always at Summer School the spirit of the community kept everything afloat.

I'm enjoying seeing how much involvement we have in the wider movement: several of our members lead worship in other churches, which is a thing to be proud of, and over the last year several of us have had our words published in *The Inquirer* – most recently Abi's excellent article.

It's good to look outside of our own congregation sometimes and remember that we're a part of something bigger.

I'm hopeful that the upcoming Heritage Open Days will help spread our fame locally, as well. I know a great amount of work has gone into it, and I know that we're going to be showing ourselves at our best. If you're free at all on the Friday or Saturday, do please come in and help show us off (or at least come in and see what's on offer).

I will be away for a few days in the middle of the month, at Hucklow again for a ministers' conference. But as always – particularly as this trip is in work time, if you need me you shouldn't hesitate to contact me.

With love, **Kate**

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HERITAGE LONG WEEKEND – 7, 8 & 9TH SEPTEMBER

Come along, enjoy, and discover facts about our church – building, activities, etc.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH AT 7PM

THE BOOK CLUB IS TO HAVE A GUEST SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION AND FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US.

PAUL KENYON will talk and invite discussion on his latest book

DICTATORLAND – The Men Who Stole Africa

This will be a very pleasant evening and it will be particularly good to welcome Paul again – all welcome.

There will be a small charge £2.50 to cover expenses – payable on the night.

Please write your name and that of any friends who may come on the list on the notice board in the lounge