

Bury Unitarian Church

Calendar for September 2019

CHURCH SERVICES

1 September	11.15am	The Minister
8 September	11.15am	The Minister
15 September	3.15pm	The Minister (Bury Fun Run)
22 September	11.15am	The Minister
29 September	11.15am	The Minister

CHURCH STEWARDS

1 September	Marian Price & Di Scaife
8 September	Beryl Bowden & Janet Thatcher
15 September	Sue McMullen & Ashleigh-Jade Jones
22 September	Jean Brookhouse & Susan Mitchell
29 September	Lois Williams & George Scaife

CHURCH FLOWERS

Vera Stephenson	In memory of Rhona & John Smith and Gordon
Janet Thatcher	In memory of Minnie & Tom Sharp
Di & George Scaife	In memory of Alice & John Scaife
Betty & Neville Kenyon	In memory of Vincent & Tilda Ashworth and to celebrate Betty's 80 th birthday
29 September	Church Flowers

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

7 September	June Clarke & Sue McMullen
14 September	Brenda Ainsworth & Susan Holt
21 September	Pam Gilbert & Di Scaife
28 September	Margaret Fitzpatrick & Norah Hickton

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

1 September	Marian Price(M), Beryl Bowden, Damion Langford
8 September	Norah Hickton(M), Barbara Bamford, Peter Whewell
15 September	Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Lois Williams, Di Saife
22 September	Marian Price(M), Susan Mitchell
29 September	Jean Maden(M), Brenda Ainsworth, George Scaife

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER

Monday, 2 September at 7pm	Social & Fund-raising
Tuesday, 3 September at 7pm	Worship
Wednesday, 18 September at 7pm	Finance & General Purposes

CALENDAR DEADLINE

The deadline for items to be included in the October edition of The Calendar will be Sunday 22 September. Thank you.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

THURSDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER AT 7.30 – A TALK BY MAUREEN HAWKSWORTH on her work with the women of Nepal, helping them to support themselves through the making and selling of various crafts, such as blankets, jewellery and lots of other lovely things which she will bring with her to sell. This is her second visit to Women's League, the first of which was thoroughly enjoyed, hence we've asked her back. The talk will include a power-point display. This is an OPEN MEETING – ALL ARE WELCOME. PLEASE COME ALONG AND SUPPORT THE WORK MAUREEN DOES IN NEPAL.

LUNCH CIRCLE This month's meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 17th, at 12.30 p.m. Kate will host; if anyone can help to put up the tables and lay them, beforehand, that would be very helpful. Please sign up for lunch on the list, once it is available. All welcome.

CAMERA CLUB The next meeting will be on September 9th, at 7 p.m; when members will begin to mount the pictures they have chosen for this year's exhibition. The display is to form part of this year's Heritage Open Weekend, which takes place between September 20th and 22nd.

BOOK CLUB The next meeting of the Book Club will be on Wednesday, 25th September at 7pm. The book to be discussed

is.....which should be available in the cupboard from 30th August, all being well!

TRAIDCRAFT The stall will be open on September 8th and 22nd; if you require items at other times, please speak to Anne or Jean. The new brochure should be available during this month.

HARRY TAYLOR Donations in Harry's memory totalled £340; thank you to everyone who contributed. Our donations have been gratefully acknowledged by Music in Hospitals, who have promised that they will be used to fund concerts at Fairfield Hospital, where Harry worked for so long.

Thank you to Kate who worked so hard to organise Harry's funeral; she supported and encouraged his friend, Phil, throughout, from immediately after Harry's death until after his funeral, and proved to be a tower of strength.

There are now memorial plaques to Harry, and to Fred Mitchell, on the backs of chairs, in church. Fred's is on the back of the chair where he always sat, and Harry's is in the choir, where it shares a seat with his mother's plaque.

CONGRATULATIONS....to Kate and Ade, on their forthcoming wedding, on October 5th; further details will be available, nearer the time.

ROCHDALE FILMS The next film evening, at our Rochdale Church, is on September 14th, when the film, "Wonder", will be shown. The

evening will begin at 7 p.m; ice-cream will be served during the interval, and pie and peas, and cakes, afterwards. The cost is £6.00 per head. Places need to be booked; details are on the poster on the board.

MUST/SHOULD/COULD QUESTIONNAIRE Kate has now collated the responses to this questionnaire, and information-sheets are available from the foyer-table. Most of the contributions were positive and constructive, and some of the suggestions have already been implemented. Thanks to Kate for all her hard work in delivering the preparatory service, formulating the questions, and analysing the answers.

300TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE A Special Service will be held on Sunday, December 1st, at 2 p.m. Every member of the congregation is invited to attend the service, as well as the afternoon tea and entertainment that follow. From September 1st, there will be a sign-up sheet on the board; please indicate your attendance and, if you have family or friends who were once involved in the life of our church and would be interested in joining us on that date, sign up on their behalf, as well. The deadline for names will be October 7th. Several VIP guests have already accepted our invitation for what promises to be a momentous occasion.

NEWS FROM RAWTENSTALL UNITARIANS The next Interfaith Service will be held on September 15th, at 5 pm; all are invited to attend; refreshments will follow. The first two Interfaith Services have attracted a goodly number of people, from different faith-groups, and have been felt to be very successful.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY Padiham Unitarian Chapel has again organised a series of concerts, between September 2019 and May 2020; there is a

leaflet on our notice-board, plus several more on the foyer table; please help yourselves!

The Unitarian Women's Group Conference has organised a course entitled "Women and Ageing". This will be held at The Nightingale Centre, between October 18th and 20th; full details are on our board.

LIBERTY

At this year's Congregational AGM, the decision was taken to discontinue our financial support for Liberty, on the grounds that the organisation had become overtly political. It was suggested that we should, as an alternative, support an environmentally-friendly charity, and Church Council has agreed to select a suitable one. If you have suggestions as to which charity we should choose, please speak to Anne or Betty; a decision will be made at the December Council Meeting.

ADVANCE NOTICE The Rivington Unitarian Chapel's Triennial Pilgrimage is to take place on Saturday, September 28th, 2019. Lunch will be served in the Church Hall, at 1 pm; when the Guest Speaker will be Rev. Celia Cartwright, President of the General Assembly; lunch will be followed by a service in Rivington Chapel, at 3.15 pm; and this will be conducted by Rev. Danny Crosby. Full details are on the notice on the board, and a booking-form is included; please let Anne Mills know if you need additional forms.

VICE-PRESIDENTIAL DUTIES July has been a less busy month--- fortunately, because I have needed time to gather material for services later this year. During early July, Cross Street Chapel, Manchester, staged an exhibition: The Forgiveness Project, which I visited, one morning, and found extremely moving. On July 11th and 12th, I attended the 60th Anniversary Celebrations at The Derby School, Bury, where I was a pupil, from its inception, in 1959, until 1965. I was invited in my official capacity, and met and conversed with Lord Derby, the nephew of the school's founder, and with The Mayor and Mayoress of Bury,

Councillor Trevor Holt, and his wife, Evelyn; I also spoke at length with the school's Head and Deputy Head. On July 13th, I attended the Formal Welcome of Rev. Shammy Webster, at Stand Unitarian Chapel, Whitefield, where I presented the greetings of The General Assembly to the congregation and offered some thoughts on Ministry, both of which were very well-received. The Mayor and Mayoress were also in attendance, on that occasion. On July 28th, I conducted a Flower Celebration Service at Bury, which was successful; footage of the service was filmed for inclusion on the special DVD, which is being compiled as a record of our 300th Anniversary events. During July, I have attended two funerals at Bury and one at Bank Street Bolton; all three services paid tribute to active members, who will be greatly missed.

Anne

WORSHIP SUPPORT GROUP SERVICE

On August 18th, Betty, Damion, Marian, Susan (Mitchell), and Val issued an invitation to "settle into a quiet place and simply be". We may not know whether that invitation originated within each of us, or whether it was prompted by some outside element, or even whether it was aimed at us, but it was suggested that we might all explore deeply into our conscious selves and relate what we found to the wider universe, thereby becoming better human-beings. Success would bring us energy, enthusiasm, perceptiveness, integrity, faith, care and concern, and we should become more fulfilled people in the process, as well as bringing benefit to others. To achieve this, we must begin by opening our hearts and minds, so that we can embrace whatever we find, gladly and willingly.

This service was inspired by the works of Oriah Mountain Dreamer, a Canadian writer, story-teller, and explorer of what is most spiritual in life, and Sarah Ban Breathnach, an American author, philosopher, and founder of the charity, "Simple Abundance"; our group, through their readings, reflections and hymns, encouraged us to "celebrate life, because it is God-given, sacred and wonderful".

GORDON B MCKEEMAN

Ministry is all that we do—Together.

Ministry is that quality of being in community that affirms human dignity—beckons forth hidden possibilities, invites us into deeper, more constant, reverent relationships, and carries forward our heritage of hope and liberation.

Ministry is what we do together as we celebrate triumphs of our human spirit,
Miracles of birth and life,
Wonders of devotion and sacrifice.

Ministry is what we do together—with one another—
in terror and torment—in grief, in misery and pain,
enabling us in the presence of death

To say yes to life.

We who minister speak and live the best we know, with full knowledge that it is never quite enough.....

And yet we are reassured

by lostness found

fragments reunited

wounds healed

and joy shared

Ministry is what we all do --- together .

Source; "Awakened from the Forest: Meditations on Ministry".

Read by Anne Mills tot Rev. Shammy Webster, at her Formal Welcome to her ministry at Stand Unitarian Chapel, on 13th July, 2019.

Dear all,

I'm writing this letter from the Nightingale Centre in Great Hucklow – a place I know is very special to very many of you.

The Nightingale Centre first opened as a convalescent home for soldiers in WW1. It is still remote, quiet and beautiful, and I can only imagine the balm those wounded men must have felt on arriving here from scenes of unprecedented horror. It is truly one of the things we should be proudest of about our Unitarian movement.

These days it is a conference centre and guest house: for several weeks of the year it is used for holidays for underprivileged children who would otherwise not get away. These breaks genuinely have an impact on the young people: actor Ricky Tomlinson was given a holiday here as a child, and although when he wrote his autobiography he couldn't remember exactly where it had been, he spoke of it as a formative experience.

The event I am part of at the moment is the Unitarian Religious Education Summer School. Sixty-five Unitarians, aged from not-quite-two to well over eighty, and from all over the UK as well as the USA and Germany, have gathered to build a spiritual community and deepen our religious and spiritual lives. There is a magic that happens at every Summer School, and it provides a model of how Unitarianism could be at its very best, and, perhaps, of how the world itself could be. People almost always go home inspired and enthusiastic, and with a passion to share for how our movement could be. I would be delighted to talk to you if you might be interested in coming along one year.

Whilst I am away the service back at Bury has been led by the Worship Support Group, and whilst I was away last time it was led by Anne Mills: I am always very grateful that, on the Sundays I'm not there I do not have to worry at all about the quality of the service, and that my only sadness is that I miss what I know is an excellent service!

This month we will be taking part in Heritage Open Days, and this is especially important to us given that this year is, as you all must know by now, the 300th anniversary of Unitarian worship in Bury. We are part of very proud tradition, and we are doing a good job of keeping that tradition alive. Every service we hold, every social event we plan and attend, and every improvement we make to the building, however small it is, is building something for those who come after us. It doesn't always feel as though we're part of history, but we genuinely are. Those people who built the first three chapels and who kept everything going for us to benefit from probably didn't think that either, but we know that they were.

My traditional monthly weather comments: this bit of the year always makes me very aware that we are at the tail end of summer, but I find that exciting and soothing, rather than depressing. Here in Derbyshire right now it is quite warm and fairly sunny, but the breeze has that enticing nip of autumn in it, and the evenings definitely have that feel (and smell) of autumn. I am glad that I have both an electric fan and a warm jumper with me!

I hope that your summer has been kind to you, and as we move into autumn and then winter we continue to find pleasure in cosiness and ripeness.

With love, *Kate*

Harry Taylor

Kate would like to thank everyone for their concern and their help in making sure that Harry's cremation service and service of remembrance were events which honoured him and expressed our love. Your patience and concern, as well as practical help with all sorts of refreshments, were genuinely noticed and appreciated.

We will make arrangements for the interment of Harry's ashes as soon as we are able to do so.

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP:

We are still struggling with finding a really good time to hold Contemplative Worship sessions. I know that there is no time which will suit everyone, and although I did experiment with switching times between Tuesday afternoons and Tuesday evenings, in all honestly this just seemed to confuse things further.

There has been a suggestion that it would make sense to hold the sessions on the same day as the lunch circle, as several people are already in church that day, and another that a Saturday lunchtime might work.

Both of those ideas seem worth trying, so I'm going to arrange the next contemplative sessions for **Tuesday 17th September at 2.30pm** and **Saturday 25th October at 12.30pm**.

Please let me know your thoughts about these new suggestions.

COMMUNION SERVICE

There will be a communion service on Sunday 29th September, directly after the main service. Everyone is welcome to join us for this sharing of bread and wine.

“PRAYER” WORKSHOPS

Watch this space for a November date for the much-postponed prayer workshops.

HYMNS:

Thank you to everyone who suggested a hymn for the 'favourite hymns' service last month: if your hymn wasn't sung on that day, I promise it will appear in the next few months.

At the same time as I asked for your favourite hymns, I asked about your favourite hymn books: I can announce that the favourite is the purple book, and that the green and red ones were tied for second place. As promised, I will take this into account when choosing hymns, but please bear in mind that when a hymn is in both the red and the green book, it makes more practical sense to use the green book, mainly because it

contains the music, which is very helpful to many people, including the choir.

DEFIBRILLATOR

I am delighted (and grateful) to be able to let you know that the defibrillator is now fully installed. As soon as it is registered with the Community Heartbeat Trust (which should be in the first week of September) we will be able to let people know it is there and start to make it available for use. Huge thanks to everyone who has helped make this happen: I hope we never need it, but serving the community in this way is part of the reason for our existence as a church community.

The members of Bury Unitarian Church

are cordially invited

to a Special Service

to celebrate the church's 300th Anniversary,

on Sunday, December 1st, 2019, at 2 p.m.

This will be followed by refreshments and entertainment.

We look forward to seeing you all.