

# BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH



## SEPTEMBER 2022 CALENDAR



## Letter from the Minister

Dear all,

I know that there wasn't going to be a September issue of the Calendar, but life is a roller coaster sometimes (I changed the date of my annual leave by a week, which meant that I was able to do this before I finished work).

I am always glad when September comes about: it's one of my favourite months, for several reasons. I much prefer the feel of the air as we move towards autumn, and it always feels like just as much of a new start and a new year as does the beginning of spring: in the Jewish tradition, of course, new year happens in September, and that makes perfect sense to me.

As you'll have read before, we walk our dog at the former burial ground at Holebottom most evenings, and although we've seen the grass getting yellower and dryer (and not even bouncing back in the very heavy rains over the past few days) we've also seen the berries start to appear, and the leaves turn gorgeous deep colours. We'd hoped to make some blackberry jam to share at harvest, but the crop of fruit wasn't as good as it can be. We have managed to eat a few on our way round, though. These last two facts might be connected.

As we move into autumn it feels as though more plans are being made and coming to fruition: you'll see details of a few events in the Calendar, including some very early announcements about Christmas activities. Every time we arrange something new to do or to share together it feels as though we're getting more and more able to relax after the trauma of the last two and a half years. Things won't ever be exactly as they were, but we are always moving gently forward.

As ever, I send you my love

Rev Kate Brady McKenna

## **News of our community**

### **Stephen Ramsay**

It was a real pleasure to welcome Stephen back to church after such a long absence, and to be accompanied by the piano again after a long gap.

We are all very grateful to Alan Taylor for stepping in to cover the first Sundays of the month, and for continuing his connections with the congregation now that Stephen is back, and to Barrie Brailsford for providing such steady continuity in our services.

### **Terry Brady**

As many of you will know, Terry has been unwell and in hospital for a while. He is feeling better, and hopes to be home soon (possibly by the time you read this). He and Marguerite are grateful for all the messages of love and support they've received.

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.

## Social Events

### Book Club

The Book Club will meet on Wednesday 28th September at 7.00pm at church. The book to be discussed is *Cold Comfort Farm* by Stella Gibbons. Please pick up your copy from the lounge cupboard. If you have any copies to return - they may be handed in at any Bury Library or returned to the lounge cupboard. Everyone welcome.

### 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 September meetings will be on 12<sup>th</sup> September and 26<sup>th</sup> September.

### 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 24<sup>th</sup> September.

## **Women's League: Bury Branch**

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2022: 2.00pm in the church lounge

We have not had a meeting since the lockdown and now many other branches have reopened and started meeting again I thought it would be a good idea if we had a meeting.

There will be decisions to be made as to consider what we would like to do in the future. Do we want to restart the branch, do we want to change the meeting time perhaps to an afternoon rather than the evening?

This invitation is for all league members and any new ladies that might be interested in joining the women's league, please come along and enjoy a chat, cup of coffee and a piece of cake.

*Susan Holt*

## **Workshops**

Thank you to everyone who has responded to my requests for details of when would be good to hold workshops.

I've planned a workshop on the topic of Prayer, which will take place in the church lounge at 2pm on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September, if there is enough interest. I'll put a sign-up sheet on the board in the lounge, and so long as at least four people want to come along, it will go ahead (smaller numbers than that can be a bit inhibiting!).

I know it's been a long road to get to where we are, but we will keep walking that road until we find something that works!

As always, please let me have feedback both on timing and on any topics you'd be interested in pursuing.

**Autumn tidy-up**  
**Saturday 10th September, 10am – 2pm**

Following on from a successful clean-up of the attic after the lift was installed, Betty, Kate, and Susan are organising an Autumn tidy-up day.

We plan to sort through and clean the following spaces:

Cupboards in the downstairs corridor  
Cloakroom  
Cupboards and drawers in the downstairs kitchen  
Vestibule coat-rack  
The 'telephone cupboard'

Anything we think is no longer of any use will be laid out on tables in the lounge for the following three Sundays for everyone else to check:

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September:** your chance to retrieve anything you think should remain at church, and to discuss storage ideas with us, and also to retrieve anything which belongs to you but got left behind!

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September:** your chance to take any items which you can use at home.

After Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September Kate and Ade will take anything left over to charity.

The kettle will be on, there will be biscuits and all equipment (and bin bags!) will be provided. Bring lunch if you'd like to.

Clearing out the attic was surprisingly enjoyable, and this could be good fun too.

Stay as long as you like, and you're even welcome to join us just to provide moral support and make the tea.

## **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).

**The service on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September will be at 2pm, to accommodate the Bury Fun Run.**

There will be Zoom services on August 28<sup>th</sup>, September 11<sup>th</sup>, and September 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Inclusive Communion Services**

Kate will be away on the normal dates for communion in both September and October, but there will be a Harvest Communion on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Monthly midweek online meditations**

We normally meet for meditation on Zoom on the second Tuesday of each month, now at 7pm

We will meet on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September. Zoom details are in the centre pages.

## **Autumn Equinox**

We will be marking the Autumnal Equinox on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September, at 7pm.

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 the day and the night are of equal length and the light of summer starts to develop into the dark and quietness of winter.

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.

## **Harvest Festival**

We will be holding our annual Harvest Festival on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September.

Susan Holt has kindly offered to create the harvest display at the front of the church: she would be very grateful if you could bring any offerings in to church on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>, during the Saturday Social Gathering and up until about 3pm.

This year we would be really grateful for offerings of fresh food, as well as tins and packets: the Foodbank can now distribute fruit and vegetables. It would be helpful if anything you bring is likely to last until the following Thursday: anything which will perish before then will be distributed amongst members of the congregation.



## Notes from the building

The circulatory system is part of the piping of our being, and it is pipework that pumps everything around our bodies. Blood, food, water, all travel through pipes that have evolved inside us for very particular and very important reasons distributing those things that need to start in one place and need to end in another. Pipes are an important part of what keeps living beings such as us alive, and any disruption to them can be very bad news indeed.

Like our bodies, so too our buildings have circulatory systems. They are altogether more basic, man-made variations on the theme perhaps, but similar systems nonetheless. In a building they move such things as water, heat and electricity all around our building, and, like with our bodies, any disruption to those systems can be very bad news indeed

Most of you know by now that I get very animated when water appears in the building where it shouldn't. Well, rather too recently, I discovered that I can get even more animated when water isn't appearing where I do expect it to be.

I won't go into details, because the details involve the pipework to a cistern, let's just say that through a very tedious process of elimination I can tell you that even our pipes in the soft water haven that is the North West aren't always free of calcium and if it wasn't picked up when it was it could have been very bad news indeed!

*Adrian Brady*

## 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: September 2022

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September

10.30am, Ainsworth: Service led by Veronica Walker

11.15am, Bury: Service led by Geoff Levermore

*No communion today*

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Sept:** 7pm: Trustees meeting.

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> Sept:** 10am: Autumn Tidy-up  
2pm: Women's League planning meeting.

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September

11.15am: Service in church

12.30 (approx.): Second Sunday lunch. Location to be decided

2pm: Zoom service (Zoom 849 7456 6116)

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept:** 7pm: Camera club, on Zoom

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> Sept:** 2pm: Workshop – Prayer.

7pm: Zoom meditation

(Zoom ID 812 3292 6975)

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Minister's vestry day

## Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September

2pm Bury: Service in church

*Please take note of the change of time.*

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Teatime: deadline for items for the October Calendar.

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> Sept:** 7pm: Equinox celebration, either at Holebottom or in church.

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept:** Minister's vestry day

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Sept:** 11am-1pm approx: Saturday Social Gathering, and a chance to drop off offerings for the Harvest Festival (until 3pm)

## Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September

11.15am Bury: Service in church: HARVEST FESTIVAL

12.30pm: Harvest Communion

2pm: Zoom service (Zoom 849 7456 6116)

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> Sept:** 7pm: Camera club, on Zoom

**Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Sept:** 7pm: Book club, meeting to discuss *Cold Comfort Farm*, by Stella Gibbons. .

**Kate is on leave from after the Zoom service on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August, until the morning of Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September. She will be working from home on that Friday.**

## 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
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## The Minister's schedule, September 2022

I will be on leave from after the Zoom service on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August until the morning of Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September: I'll be working at home that day and in church on the Saturday.

Ade won't be taking any time off during that time, so please can I gently remind you that even though he'll be around, and even though I know it's tempting to ask him to pass messages on to me, it's not fair on either of us when people do that. If there's an emergency you can contact me directly, and unless I'm away I'll deal with it.

My colleague Rev Cody Coyne (Minister at Cross Street Chapel, Manchester) 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 him on [rev.c.coyne@gmail.com](mailto:rev.c.coyne@gmail.com) or on 07786 820383. Please remember that Cody has days off too!

I will also be away from after the service on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September until the morning of Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October, and the same arrangements will apply.

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.

## GDPR

Thank you to everyone who has already returned your GDPR update forms.

If you were already in our records and haven't returned your form yet, you should have received a new one with your copy of the Calendar. If you weren't previously in our records you should have received a new one to fill in.

I know that this can feel like a tedious piece of admin, but it is important that we know which bits of your personal information you are happy for us to have, and which bits you are happy for us to share.

You are, obviously, absolutely entitled not to give us any of the information on the forms, and we will entirely respect that decision: it will mean that we can only get in touch with you in person.

We are hoping to produce a contact list to share with members of the congregation: please be assured that this will be an opt-in document, and that only those people who wish to be in it will a) appear in it and b) receive a copy. Everyone receiving a copy will be asked to sign to confirm that they won't share any of the information within it.

Full details of how we keep and store your information are on the form you should receive: if you have any questions, please do ask Kate.

Consent and confidentiality are key principles for the minister, and this occasional exercise helps to make sure that we are all acting in accordance with those principles.

This is also a good opportunity to remind you that information you give the minister is always kept confidential, unless she has your absolute specific consent to share it.

## **News from Ainsworth Chapel**

Dear Members and Friends of Ainsworth Chapel

Thank you to Mrs Betty Kenyon for taking our August service, when we were delighted to welcome various visitors. Betty spoke about the beauty and solace of gardens and how we should nurture ourselves, as we would tend flowers in the garden.

We are very grateful to Bolton Bank St Chapel for the gift of about 40 x comfortable chairs for The Schoolroom, and also a special 1854 Preachers Chair, all of which Steve has carefully cleaned. The Preacher's Chair now sits in pride of place in Chapel.

Using a much-appreciated legacy gift from Mr Allan Hodgert, we have made a donation to Bolton Chapel Women's League.

Sadly, Bolton Chapel has now closed and the premises will soon be sold.

We've had no room hire income since before lockdown, and need to consider ways of updating the building and attracting new room users. We welcome any ideas and suggestions, including possibly changing the name of 'The Schoolroom' to something like 'Ainsworth Unitarian Chapel Hall'. The Parish Church already has a Village Hall/ Community Hall. Enquiries for a new Chapel Notice Board are in hand.

We look forward to welcoming Mrs Veronica Walker (Chowbent Chapel) to lead our next service:

10.30 am Sunday 4th September, and hope you'll be able to attend.

with good wishes to you all

*Shirley Horrocks*



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

### **A message from Cairo Street Chapel, Warrington**

Dear Secretary,

Could you please inform your members of our Heritage Open Days. Saturday 17th of September 10am to 4pm and Sunday 18th of September from 12noon to 4pm. Further details are attached.

Your members may also be interested in our Academy Service on Sunday 2nd October at 3pm which will be led by Ray Beecham on the subject "Who were the Gaskells?" He has researched their history from labourers and woollen weavers in Upholland to prominent citizens of Warrington.

Please pass this email on to any interested person.

Regards

Peter McGuigan  
Cairo Street Chapel, Warrington

### **Information from Essex Hall on The Salvation Army Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Unit**

We've received an email from Lizzie Kingston-Harrison, Congregational Connections Lead for the General Assembly, with some useful and interesting information regarding the work the Salvation Army are doing on the issues of trafficking and modern slavery: you may remember that this subject has been raised in previous services at Bury.

The representative from the Salvation Army is keen to hear from any Unitarians who would like to become involved in their work, or to hear more about it. The email was too long to print in the Calendar, but I am very happy to forward the email to anyone who is interested, or to print a copy to give to you.

## By Gone Times No. 28, by Betty Kenyon:

### Music through the Ages

We get the clues for the music for the first chapel from the Treasurer's Book of 1799.

1799 Clough, for repairs to the Bass viol: 10s 6d

1802 Skelton, for instructing P. Mason in the bassoon £1 1s 0d and so forth.

Samuel Wild played the cello in the first chapel. He died in 1870.

From this we learn that instrumental music was played in the chapel. It is fairly certain that flute and violin were also played. A big flute was an absolute necessity in the early non-conformist chapels.

1810. The first organ was put in the chapel. It was a small instrument and it would seem to have cost £30 4s 0d.

The first organ was sold to Padiham for £20 in 1838.



An organ of the 1800's

The second chapel opened in 1837 and a new organ was bought.

The third chapel opened in 1852. Mr Edmund Grundy kept the 1837 organ at his works while the third chapel was built. The organ had undergone alterations and improvements. The cost was £129 18s 0d.

1859 A fire broke out in the chapel. Much damage was done and the organ had £85 spent on it.

1878 the organ was further enlarged at a cost of £425.

1902 more stops added which cost £95.

1913 again the organ was reconstructed and enlarged at a cost of £923.

A special event was held on 19th November 1913 for the opening of the organ.

The fourth chapel opened on 9th March 1974. Some, but not all of the pipework from the Victorian Bank Street organ, was used, losing the choir pipes so it only has great, swell and pedals. It had new bellows and, of course, a new electrically-connected console.

It is quite possible that somewhere on the console of the organ is a little plaque with 'Smedley' on it; the company that rebuilt it.



Between 1972 and 1974 the congregation worshipped at Bury Ragged School.

Does anyone know what happened to the organ during these dates? If so, please let me know.



## **“From the Old Codger”**

A bad broom leaves a dirty room

He who never tries cannot win the prize

The best physicians are Dr Diet, Dr Quiet, and Dr Merryman

Excess calls in the doctor

Disease is soon shaken by physic soon taken

Keep the blood pure and spare the leeches

Loose habits leads to tight bandages

Be temperate in all

### **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).

### **October Calendar**

The deadline for entries for the October Calendar is teatime on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September (this is a week earlier than it would normally be, to fit round my holiday).

I'll be collating it in church during the Saturday Social Gathering on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>, and I would love some company and some help with doing that!

