

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH



Mallard Ducks

September 2023

Letter from the Minister

Dear all,

One of my favourite short lines from the bible is, perhaps somewhat surprisingly, *The summer is over, and we are not yet saved.* (Jeremiah 8:21) I love it simply because it's so Old Testament and so gloomy. It doesn't speak to me in any theological way, I very definitely don't turn to these words for comfort or solace, and I think we all know by now that 'salvation' isn't something Unitarians (certainly this Unitarian) are very heavily into. I just love how fierce it is, and its fierceness makes me laugh a bit. It feels like one of those phrases a minister should intone whilst thumping on the lectern. (I think it perhaps has an undercurrent of being about the harvest not being in, but that's for a sermon one day!)

Salvation or not (and in a nutshell I don't think we need saving because we're all utterly beloved by creation anyway), the summer is, indeed, pretty much over. I imagine we have mixed feelings about that. I don't really love August, so in the last couple of years I've started to try and see it as a sort of Advent for Autumn, a month of preparation, of waiting, and of looking out for the signs that the lovely mellowness of September is well on its way, bringing with it that hint of coolness, the glories of ever-ripening fruit (this time, for the first year, Ade and I are planning to make something with some of the hawthorn berries from Holebottom) and that internal feeling, however long ago we left school, that we need to go and buy a new pencil case and possibly a protractor and compass set, in a smart tin. Note to self: I do not need either. I just think I do.

In some traditions, it's September, not January, that marks the start of a new year, and so it's appropriate that The Calendar is, as always is at this start-of-a-new-school-year time, full of news of upcoming events in various places. I do hope that you'll be able to take advantage of some of them. The Harvest Festival is always a joy.

I hope that you will find September to be nourishing and that you will find moments of joy within it, and I hope to catch up with you all at some point.

As ever, I send you my love.

Kate.

Minister's schedule, September 2023

I will be off work from the morning of Thursday 14th September to the morning of Friday 22nd September. I'm taking that specific time because I'll be recovering from major dental surgery, so it's very likely that I won't be available even in an emergency. Of course, in an emergency I'll do what I can, but I don't expect to be up to anything at least for the first few days!

My colleague Rev Cody Coyne, from Cross Street in Manchester, has kindly offered to provide pastoral care in my absence. I will provide his contact details nearer the time.

Please remember that both Kate and Ade take Thursdays as a Sabbath, and try not to contact them on that day except in an emergency.

News of our community

Connie Diggle

Connie is currently in hospital having experienced a few small strokes. She is keen to get home, but she's comfortable and says that the staff and the place are excellent. I saw Connie last week and will be visiting her again: if you'd like to be in contact with her it's probably best to do so either via myself or her daughter, Karen.

Connie has made me absolutely promise to send her love and best wishes to everyone at church.

Norah Hickton and Peter Whewell

We've missed Norah and Peter at church for the last few weeks: Norah has been unwell, and struggling with pain in her joints, and Peter has also been experiencing some pain. They hope to be back with us soon.

Norah has recently heard that her son, Andrew (known to many of us from the Lunch Circle, and from sometimes coming to meet Norah and Peter at church) has been diagnosed with dementia, and is in residential care where he is likely to remain.

I know that we will hold Norah, Peter, Andrew and all the family in our prayers as they come to terms with this distressing news.

Robin Ainsworth

Robin's condition remains changeable: he is still sleeping a lot but with occasional days where he is able to have good chats, work on his stamp collection, and, apparently, spot typos in the Calendar. I know that both he and Brenda very much appreciate your phone calls and visits.

Percy Isherwood: 5th April 1927 – 17th August 2023

Many of you will remember Percy Isherwood, widower of Jillian Eve (nee Healey) and father to Zenobia Critchley and Chris Isherwood.

He was for some time a regular visitor at our Christmas morning services with his family.

Percy Isherwood died unexpectedly on Sunday 20th August 2023.

We send our love and condolences to his family.

This 'news of our community' section is here for anything you would like to share with us: sad or happy news, updates, birthdays, and memories are all welcome.

Regular Social Events

Book Club

The Book Club will meet on Wednesday, **27th September** at **3.30pm** (please note the unusual time!). The book to be discussed will be *Silas Marner* by George Eliot. All are welcome, whether you have read the book or not.

Parking will be very limited (4 cars at the very most), so please liaise for lifts etc. We will be experimenting with our meeting times over the next few months, so please watch out for announcements about future meetings.

For information, we get the books we read at the Book Club from Bury Library who supply sets of books for readers' groups, absolutely free of charge.

Pam Gilbert

Camera Club

The Camera Club has two extra meetings coming up:

We're meeting at the church at 2.00 pm on Monday afternoons of **28th August** and **4th September**. It would be useful if as many Camera Club members as possible could join us then. After that will be the usual Camera Club meetings online on the **11th** and **25th of September**.

Roger Mills

Social Gatherings.

The next Gathering will take place on **Saturday 30th September**, 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

On **Sunday 10th September**, you're invited to join Kate for coffee, a drink, or lunch, at the Art Picture House after the service. If you'd like to join us but either can't afford it or have just forgotten your purse that day, speak to Kate: money should never be a reason not to join us.

If you'd like to come along to these lunches but would like to suggest somewhere else for us to go, please let Kate know.

Notes from the building.

If I had to describe the most difficult part of managing a building, I'd say it was building a rapport with new contractors. I suppose that seems odd, that seems like it should be an easy task, or at least, certainly not the most difficult. The fact is that trusted contractors make things a lot easier than might be immediately obvious, and on the whole we have had, and still retain, many great and trusted contractors who make themselves available within a reasonable time period, and act in a manner you would expect of those who recognise that a church is not the same as a business..

But we face now, for many reasons, an ever-decreasing number of people providing real world services in the construction and contracting market. Some have retired, some found new, less demanding work during the lockdowns, and still others are moving from commercial work to domestic work where the regulations covering them are less costly and demanding.

Right now we are in the process of working with quite a few new contractors, and because of the ever decreasing number of people working in the industries we need cover for, the contractors are busy, and getting time with them is proving difficult and that makes building trust difficult, and that means managing the building is more difficult.

Soon, we will have a set of trusted new contractors for the building, ones who understand that we are a church and not a business and that is a good thing, it will just be a longer road to travel than we are used to taking.

Property manager's working pattern.

As a contractor I do not have set working hours, and I'm not "on call", though I will, of course, respond when I can.

I generally work Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons, and Sunday mornings, with flexibility to meet the needs of the church. Except in an emergency, I do not work on Thursdays.

I don't always check my emails outside of the times when I'm working, so if you need to contact me in an emergency, please use my mobile.

Ade.

Harvest Festival and Harvest lunch, Sunday 24th September

After the service for the Harvest on the **24th September 2023**

There will be a lunch to be held in the upstairs room costing £6.00

If you would like to join us for this meal would you please put your name on the list which is on the notice board in the lounge.

Glass of wine/juice

Melon

Chicken, garden peas and new potatoes

Apple pie and ice cream

Tea/coffee

The Harvest Festival will take place at our usual worship time (11.15am) in church. It's always a lovely service, and I'm very grateful that Susan Holt has offered not only to provide the harvest display in church, but also to organise and cook lunch afterwards.

Many of you will know that these meals are always lovely occasions with great food, so please do try to come along.

At the service we will, as always, be collecting for the local Foodbank. Foodbanks have really struggled over the last couple of years, with donations falling and need increasing. I know that prices are rising for everyone and many of us in church are struggling ourselves, but if you are able to bring in any donations in the weeks leading up to the service, I know that the foodbank and their users will be hugely grateful.

Stewards for Sunday services, September 2023

Sunday 3 rd September	Barbara Bamford Jean Brookhouse
Sunday 10 th September	Howard Maden Jean Maden
Sunday 17 th September	Ewen Sim Janine Hurley
Sunday 24 th September	Beryl Bowden Marian Price
Sunday 1 st October	NO SERVICE AT BURY
Sunday 8 th October	Betty Kenyon Neville Kenyon

Tea and coffee rota, September 2023

Sunday 3 rd September	Jean Maden and Howard Maden
Sunday 10 th September	Lois Williams and Pam Gilbert
Sunday 17 th September	Marian Price and Susan Holt
Sunday 24 th September	Norah Hickton and Peter Whewell.
Sunday 1 st October	NO SERVICE AT BURY
Sunday 8 th October	Lois Williams and Pam Gilbert

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!

Vestry Days: most Fridays, and one Saturday a month

Kate is generally in the vestry on Fridays, between at least 10am and 3pm, although she does sometimes pop out to get some fresh air or pop to the market. She loves it when people drop in for a cup of tea, a chat, or just to drop something off or have a quick (or leisurely) cup of tea.

She's also now in the vestry on one Saturday a month, generally the second Saturday.

Vestry Days will be a bit disrupted during September – please see the What's On pages and listen out for announcements and updates.

September Calendar

The deadline for entries for the July edition of the Calendar will be teatime on **Tuesday 26th September** and we'll collate it on **Saturday 30th September**.

Because there is no service at Bury on Sunday 1st October, many of you won't get your Calendar until the following week. If you want it quicker than that, please let Kate know and she can post it, or, even better: join us for the Saturday Social Gathering and you can take yours home hot off the press!

Tuesday 5th September: New sound system

I am delighted to report that we have a date for the installation of the new sound system in the worship area: it will be being installed on Tuesday 5th September, and the work will take all day. There will be no parking available that day (this won't have an effect on the minibus pickup and drop-off for the visit to the Elizabeth Gaskell House – this will be outside the library).

Saturday 9th and (hopefully) Saturday 16th September: Heritage Open Days

Rita, Betty, and Kate are opening the church for Heritage Open Days on Saturday 9th September, and are hoping to do so on Saturday 16th September. It will be a fairly low-key event, though we hope that we will be able to display some of the record books (baptisms and funerals) and that there will be various other documents available for people to read through. The camera club has put together an exhibition in the worship area. We're also hoping to show some of the older videos of church life, and to get hold of the documentary that was made in 2019.

The kettle will be on, of course!

If you have any other ideas for things that could happen on those days, and if you are able to organise them, we'll offer any help we can.

If we're to open on Saturday 16th we need more people to steward. Please speak to Rita or Kate if you can help with this.

Sunday 17th September: service to be led by Ewen Sim

The service on Sunday 17th September will be led by Ewen Sim.

Ewen is a member of our congregation, and an experienced worship leader, having taken services all over the country. He has completed the Worship Studies Foundation Course run by Unitarian College, and is currently undertaking the Advanced Worship Studies course.

Thank you to Ewen for offering to step up to the pulpit for this service, and to Val who has worked hard to find worship leaders for this and other services.

Sunday 1st October: No service at Bury

Because of the Bury Festival of running, which will make it extremely difficult to get into church (either on foot or by car) we have decided that there will be no service at Bury on Sunday 1st October.

We have previously moved that service to the afternoon, but the Church Council decided that after the problems and difficulties with doing that last year, it makes much more sense to give that one day a miss.

However, Shirley Horrocks, at Ainsworth chapel, has very kindly invited members from Bury to their Harvest Festival at 3pm that day.

News from around the district and denomination

Findhorn Unitarian Network:

You may have heard the news that the Findhorn Foundation will be ending its educational operations by the end of September. This will have an impact on many Unitarians, as well as potentially meaning some Findhorn staff will be made redundant.

This is not the end of the Findhorn Community: residents will still live in the village and the holiday park will still be open.

The network (FUN) will also continue, and is, in fact, even more important than before. FUN will work to keep the two-way connection between the Findhorn Community and UK Unitarians vibrant. They will support the Foundation as it works through this transition.

In the first instance they will respond to the Foundation's request: "*We ask that you hold ..[the staff and co-workers impacted by the announcement] in your thoughts and meditations with compassion and kindness*" and respond to their requests for ideas and input.

FUN will also continue to offer monthly meditations which reflect the spirit and core principles of the Foundation and to communicate news of any other relevant Community activities (e.g. Taize, Angel Meditations) as they become available.

FUN will continue to keep the Network's aim in mind of drawing inspiration from the ethos and practices of the Community to inform renewal and growth among UK Unitarians. As the Community engages with profound change, we will seek to learn how the process of change can be an opportunity for new directions – surely of relevance to our UK Unitarian movement.

Blessings and Love

The FUN Committee

(This article is part of a longer email: if you would like to see that, or if you'd like further details, please speak to Val Chamberlain, who is a member of FUN, or to Anne Mills, who forwarded the email).

Next Rochdale concert:

(You're invited to bring your own drinks to this event).

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Friday 8th September - 7.30pm



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FRIDAY

29

SEPTEMBER

1 PM

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Service at Chorley Unitarian Chapel: Sunday 15th 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

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 3rd September

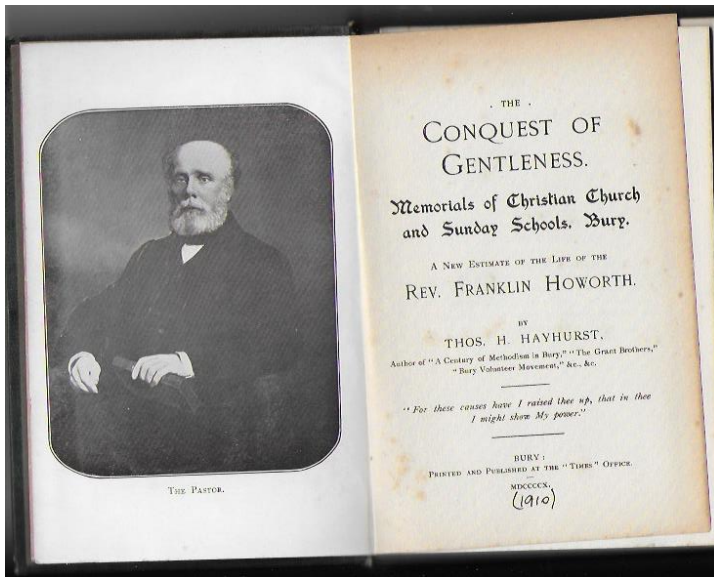
Preacher: Mrs Anne Mills

3.00 pm Sunday 1st October Afternoon Harvest Festival

Preacher: Rev John D Allerton

By-Gone Times no. 39 by Betty Kenyon

Recently, I've been reading 'The Conquest of Gentleness' by T.H. Hayhurst, published in MDCCCXC.



It was a surprise to find photos of Rev Franklin Howorth and his wife.



In many aspects it is fascinating to read about old Bury, buildings and places, Doctor's Lane, Crooked Billet, Toll Bar, the Wylde, Birchen Bower. In 1800 the population was 7,072. Today it is 195,000!

There was more information about our chapel. Leading families in the town associated with the Silver Street Chapel were; Philips, Grundy, Wrigley, Gregs, Parks, and Holker. They possessed the financial ability to maintain our church.

Franklin Howorth was minister at Bank Street 1832-1853. His evangelical methods brought new listeners to the church. He married his second wife, Bessie Holland on 24th Sept 1839.

Working conditions in Bury were dire. Even women were doing manual labour. People toiled for 16 hours a day. Bury exhibited a startling amount of intemperance among the well-to-do and the working people. Franklin was appalled, he set to work. He conceived the idea that all men come into the world in a state of depravity.

He started The Bury Total Abstinence Society and had much to do with the Bury Ragged School and the Y.M.C.A.

He gradually withdrew from the church of his youth and became a Trinitarian. He set up his new church in Commercial Buildings in Spring Street, (later called Union Street). A larger building was needed and on 10th July 1859 the foundation stone was laid for the New Church, Rochdale Road. More recently this building was used as an auction house and now is an Asian supermarket.

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 September):

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

Second Saturday of each month:

10.am til 3pm approx.: Minister's Vestry Saturday

Last Saturday of each month:

11am-1pm (approx.): Saturday Social Gathering

What's on: September 2023

Monday 28th August 2pm: Camera club meeting in church
Friday 1st September 11am: Ministry Support Group
Rest of day: Minister's vestry day

Sunday 3rd September

10.30am Ainsworth: Service. Preacher: Anne Mills
11.15am, Bury: Service in church

Monday 4th September 2pm: Camera club meeting in church
7pm: Trustees meeting

Tuesday 5th September All day: Piranha AV Audio System installation
11am: Trip to Elizabeth Gaskell House

Friday 8th September 10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day
7.30pm: Rochdale concert series

Saturday 9th September: 10-4: Heritage Open Days event
7.30pm: Padiham concert

Sunday 10th September

11.15am Bury: Service in church
12.30 approx: Second Sunday lunch

Monday 11th September 9.30 – 2.30: *British Red Cross booking (entire building)*

7pm: Camera club, meeting online

Tuesday 12th September: 7pm: Church Council meeting

Wednesday 13th September: 11-1pm: *Lounge booking*

Friday 15th September: No vestry day

Saturday 16th September: 10-4: Heritage Open Days event (provisional)

Sunday 17th September

11.15am Bury: Service in church led by Ewen Sim

Monday 18th September 9.30 – 2.30: *British Red Cross booking (entire building)*

Friday 22nd September 10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day (provisional)

Sunday 24th September

11.15am Bury: Service in church: HARVEST FESTIVAL

12.30pm: Congregational lunch (please book in advance)

Monday 25th September 7pm: Camera club, meeting online

Tuesday 26th September Teatime: Deadline for entries for the October Calendar

Wednesday 27th September 3.30pm: Book club meeting in church to discuss *Silas Marner*, by George Eliot

Friday 29th September 10-3 at least: Minister's Vestry Day.

1pm: Cross Street Concert Series

Saturday 30th September 11am onwards: Saturday social gathering and Calendar collating

Sunday 1st October

11.15am Bury: NO SERVICE AT BURY

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

Monday 2nd October 9.30 – 2.30: *British Red Cross booking (entire building)*

Church Information:

Minister:

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Church phone: 0161 761 3785

Website: 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



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