

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH CALENDAR



Sand & Stones at Silverdale

September 2024

Letter from the Minister

Dear all,

We've passed the August Bank Holiday, the schools are about to go back, and we are definitely heading into autumn. The days are still warmish, and some of them are even quite dry, but I've felt that autumnal pinch in the air on a couple of mornings, and I've definitely noticed that if I don't close the blackout blinds in my bedroom, it doesn't really matter.

At Holebottom things have definitely shifted in the last few weeks: there's a sprinkling of brown crunchy leaves on the ground, and it's lovely right now, though I know that I'll go through the usual stages of 1) oh, look at these lovely leaves here and there; 2) it is so much fun crunching through these leaves and kicking them about; 3) we probably need our wellies now, but that's okay because my wellies are actually excellent; and then 4) this is just wet slush now and I wish they'd mulch down!

It remains a massive treat to visit Holebottom so regularly and to fall in love with both the site in general and various trees in particular. We're so lucky to have this space, and I hope that more of us can get to know it.

I do know that the end of summer and the coming of autumn and winter is very difficult for some of us. Many of us struggle physically and emotionally as the world darkens and the days become shorter. I hope that for those of you who experience this, the slide into and through winter is a gentle and comfortable one, and that there are moments of joy and lightness within it.

As there always are in any community, there have been times of struggle for many of us recently. Some of us have experienced loss, of people or of communities that were important to us, and others have known illness, either their own or that of someone beloved by them.

I know that as a community we pray for everyone who is suffering, and that we hold each other in love and concern, and I also know that that isn't nothing. So often, I hear people commenting on how loved they feel by this

community, and how being a part of it has made their life easier and warmer, and has brought them comfort.

Churches serve several purposes, of course: we're a place to gather in worship, or prayer, or song; we're a place to gather with our friends for a good chat and a cup of tea; we're a community of love and support, who can hold each other in the times where that is needed, and celebrate with each other in times when that is offered to us. It warms my heart every time someone makes a comment – sometimes just as an aside – about how much they've felt supported by this community, and how much love and care they've received. These are marks of a good, healthy church.

And another purpose is to spread that love and community outside of the group we think of as 'us'. I've always been delighted by and proud of the way Bury Unitarians welcome visitors and new people, and particularly when we welcome and love those people who might otherwise be marginalised. Spreading our love, care, and respect to those we don't know, and to those who might never, or seldom, join us for a service, is exactly what we're here to do. If church is here to be part of building a Kingdom (I know this is a very gendered term) of love, justice, and peace, and I believe it is, then every time we welcome in someone new, we are being part of that work.

Every week, at the very end of our service, I say the words "our time of worship is over. Let us be about the work". They're not empty words: we worship together to give us the strength to go out and work for a world of justice and peace for all.

As we head forwards out of the summer and into the mellower part of the year, I know that we'll be presented with opportunities to work for that world, and I hope that we can see them, seize them, and do what we can.

As ever, I send you my love.

Kate

News of our community

Ian Barlow

Ian is recovering from a bout of pneumonia, and we send him our love and hope that he is back with us soon.

Peter Whewell and Norah Hickton

After another hospital admission, Peter is spending a couple of weeks at Bank House residential home, on Brandlesholme Road, while he recovers his strength before returning home. I know that he would love to see any of his many friends from church if you are free to pop in.

Norah remains well and happy in Bridge House. She doesn't know about Peter's situation, and wouldn't retain the information if we did tell her.

Stephen Ramsay

Stephen has recently undergone heart surgery, and as I write he's still in the Intensive Care Unit as he begins his recovery. I know you will all keep him in your prayers and your thoughts as he continues on this journey, and I hope that we will see him back at the piano before too long.

Molly Ratcliffe

I recently received an email from Molly's daughter Lis, who included this lovely photograph of Molly enjoying last month's Calendar, in the sunshine.



No service at Bury on Sunday 15th September

There will be no service at Bury Unitarian Church on Sunday 15th September: the Bury Festival of Running will close all the streets around the church building, meaning that no one can access the building by car, and even pedestrian access will be extremely difficult.

We have been very kindly invited to join our friends at Rochdale Unitarian Church, for their service at 10.30am.

Once Kate has worked out whether she can get there with the road closures, she'll happily arrange lifts for anyone who needs them!

Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival will take place on Sunday 29th September, followed by a Harvest Lunch.

As always, your gifts for the Foodbank would be much appreciated.

We will also be holding a Fifth Sunday breakfast that day.

Communion

This month's Inclusive Communion will take place on **Sunday 22nd September at 12.30**. Everyone is welcome. Please note this isn't the last Sunday of the month!

Ainsworth

Sunday 1st September, 10.30am: Service to be led by Rev Helen Mills.



Bury Unitarian Church

Harvest lunch

**Sunday
29th September**

**after the
Harvest Festival**

**Tickets £6 per person,
available from Susan Holt**

Please don't let money be a reason not to
join us: just have a word with Kate

Gifts of Growth

Sunday 22nd September

On Sunday 22nd September, you are invited to bring along any indoor or outdoor plants, cuttings, flowers, seeds, or shoots which are ready to be shared.

You absolutely don't have to bring anything in order to take something home: these are gifts, freely offered.

The service will be about continued growth, and everyone who wants to will go home with at least one plant.



Mid-month mid-week meditations

I'll be offering an online meditation, probably on **Tuesday 10th September**, but the date is always flexible depending on people's availability. The sessions last between half an hour and forty minutes, and everyone is very welcome.

Minister's schedule, September 2024

Kate doesn't have any plans to be away during September, so barring emergencies, all the September services will be led by the minister.

As many of you know, we are still awaiting hospital appointments for Ade, and also his father is unwell: either of those situations might mean that my plans have to change at short notice, but obviously I will keep everyone informed should that happen.

Vestry Days: most Fridays, and one Saturday a month

I plan to be in the vestry between **10am and 3pm** on **Fridays 6th, 13th and 27th September, and also on Saturday 14th.**

It's worth bearing in mind that people are often in and out on a Friday (which is the point of the vestry days), so if you want a more in-depth or confidential and uninterrupted chat, it would be better to arrange this on a different day.

Second Sunday lunch

Kate will be going to the Art Picture House for her lunch after the service on **Sunday 8th September**.

There are normally between two and five of us, and we each pay for whatever we're having, but please don't let money be a reason not to come: have a quiet word with Kate and we'll sort it out.

October 2024 Calendar:

The deadline for entries for the September edition of the Calendar will be teatime on **Tuesday 24th September**, and we'll collate it on **Saturday 28th September**.

"Soul Deep"

Kate will be in touch very soon to start arranging some dates for this course. It has fallen a bit by the wayside with everything that's been going on, but she is really committed to carrying on with it!

Regular Social Events

Book Club

The Book Club will meet at **2pm on Wednesday 25th September**. The book to be discussed is *Notes on a Scandal*, by Zoë Heller.

Please note that this a return to our daytime gatherings: parking will be tricky! We welcome snacks and drinks to share.

Pam Gilbert

Camera Club

The Camera Club will meet on **Monday 9th September at 7pm** in person, and on **Monday 23rd September at 7pm** on Zoom. Everyone is welcome to join the group: please speak to one of the members for details (if you don't know who is in the Camera Club, Kate can tell you!).

You'll have noticed that one of the cover pictures from the Camera Club is unidentified: the members would love it if anyone can tell them what it is!

Social Gatherings

The next gathering will take place from **11am on Saturday 28th September**: you are really welcome to join us, whether you'd like to get involved with collating the next edition of the Calendar, or just fancy joining us for a cup of tea, coffee, or hot chocolate and some friendly companionship.

Notes from the building.

When I was younger, much, much younger than I am now, my parents brought me a Sinclair ZX80, then advertised as the world's first affordable home computer. They had, rather cleverly, foreseen the rise of the computer and the importance it might have in the world by the time I was old enough to work. I on the other hand, just wanted to play video games.

I found a second hand book of games for the computer and started programming the computer with other people's games every time I wanted to play something: it was one of the many things you needed to do to make such a basic system actually work back then. It was this that taught me the fundamentals of coding and I dreamed of someday being someone who wrote games for a living.

I did realise that dream, in a manner of speaking at least. When I joined a television company as an on-screen animator and designer, I eventually found my way into knocking together a system for text to screen that I used to create an awful lot of very basic games for that company.

It's always bothered me though, that I never got to write a game with one of the early computers I started out my journey with, but I have started doing that recently. You may be wondering why I mention all of this, and what that has to do with our beloved building, and that is a sensible query.

Recently, I started a bucket list. It's not a very big list right now, but it may grow over time. We'll see about that. But, along with 'Make a Video Game', right at the very top of that list is a job I'm doing for the church. And that is called 'Make the User Manual'.

The User Manual will be a written work describing how to look after the building, so that regardless of what the future may hold, anyone from the congregation will be able to look up how to work all of the elements of the building, from heating to lighting to audio systems and of course, a list of all the people to call whenever something goes wrong.

All of that information is presently in my head, and it can't be, not forever, so right at the top of my bucket list is a User Manual, for our property.

Ade Brady

Gift Aid for 23-24

Thank you for your generous financial donations to Bury Unitarian Church. We have been able to claim Gift Aid on all these donations whether they are made through online banking, weekly envelopes, visitor envelopes or general donations on Sundays at coffee time. The total amount this year is £1605.31 which is even a slight increase of £25.00 over last year.

These amounts are made possible by the accurate records we are able to keep – so if you know anyone (often visitors) who use the Gift Aid envelopes available in the back of the Sanctuary chairs, please encourage them to fill in the all information on the back of the envelope so we can include their donations in our claim.

Thank you to Susan Holt and our treasurer Lynda Arthur for keeping clear and helpful records.

If you have any questions about Gift Aid, please do have a word...I can talk for hours on the subject if pressed but promise I'll keep my answers brief!

Val Chamberlain
Gift Aid Administrator.

Church Council

Church council meets on **Tuesday 3rd September.**

Church Secretary

Karen Hampson has recently decided to step down as Church Secretary.

We are really grateful to Karen for the work she's put in over the years, and we've greatly valued her friendly efficiency. We're very glad that she'll be remaining on the Church Council.

This does leave us with a vacancy for the Church Secretary post. If you would like to consider this really important job (or any of its many parts) we would love to hear from you!

Membership secretary and NELUM representative

As well as a Church Secretary, we are also looking for someone to take on the role of Membership Secretary, and for a second representative to NELUM. If you're interested in what NELUM is and what it does but don't want to commit to being a formal representative, it would also be great if you wanted to attend meetings on an ad-hoc basis and report back to us.

Website update

We've received a 'draft' of our new website, and sent back a list of queries and alterations. We're meeting early in September to choose photos for the site, and we're hoping it won't be long now until we can launch it.

Stewards for Sunday services September 2024

Sunday 1 st September	Ade Brady and Damion Langford
Sunday 8 th September	Beryl Bowden and Marian Price
Sunday 15 th September	Faye Casey and Susan Mitchell
Sunday 22 nd September	Barbara Bamford and Jean Brookhouse
Sunday 29 th September	Howard Maden and Jean Maden

Tea and coffee rota, September 2024

Sunday 1 st September	Howard Maden and Jean Maden
Sunday 8 th September	Lois Williams and Pam Gilbert
Sunday 15 th September	Marian Price and Susan Holt
Sunday 22 nd September	Rita Boardall and Susan Mitchell
Sunday 29 th September	Faye Casey and Janet Thatcher

News from around the District and around the Denomination

the unitarians



Talk to the Treasurer



18:00 / 4 September 2024 / Online

We invite you to join an open Zoom call with John Bates, the GA's Honorary Treasurer on **Wednesday 4th September at 6pm**, if you would like to learn more about the GA's accounts or ask any questions. We welcome questions by [email](#) in advance.

PADIHAM UNITARIAN CHAPEL
BB12 8JH

2nd ROSSENDALE
SCOUT GROUP BAND

A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL LOCAL
BRASS BAND doing Last night of the proms

7th September 7.30

Admission £8

**For NW Air Ambulance,
Children's Heart Surgery Fund & the Chapel**
INFORMATION
01282 773336 or barryrbrown@gmail.com

Faith in our Future II

Saturday, 14 September

10:30-16:00

Cross Street Unitarian Chapel, Manchester

We're taking the show up North! Join an enriching, informative gathering of climate-conscious Unitarians for discussion, workshops, and connection.

£10 suggested donation, £5 concessions
Lunch provided.

More info and to register:
www.tinyurl.com/faithfuturell

UNITE FOR JUSTICE!

SOCIAL
JUSTICE
NETWORK



The **Social Justice Network** is inviting Unitarians and allies who are passionate about making the world a fairer place to come together and inspire each other our ideas, examples, and vision for the future. How deeply can we live our values?

DATE AND TIME

5 OCTOBER 2024

FROM 11:00 - 15:00

LOCATION

KENSINGTON UNITARIANS

112 PALACE GARDENS TERRACE,
LONDON W8 4RT

THE EVENT IS FREE AND TRANSPORTATION
BURSARIES ARE AVAILABLE.

TO REGISTER EMAIL: ahowell@unitarian.org.uk



**National Unitarian Fellowship:
Saturday 28 September 2024, 10am-4pm
Cross Street Chapel, Manchester
Annual One Day Open Conference**

Join the National Unitarian Fellowship for their annual get-together!

The morning talk will be by **Rev. Andi Phillips** on 'Artificial Intelligence and Human Values', and the afternoon speaker will be **Rev. Claire MacDonald** on 'Unitarian Values, Art and Community'.

All are welcome for a fascinating event! £10 to attend, including lunch and refreshments. Please register in advance by email at: nuf@nufonline.org.uk or text / call: 07769 895 396. Thanks!



Rev. Andi Phillips



Rev. Dr. Clare MacDonald

the unitarians

By Gone Times no 50, September 2024, by Betty Kenyon

Bury Unitarian Church some more recent items

17th April 1973

We held a 10mile sponsored walk: the youngest walker was 4 years old
Dawn Beckwith!



2003 Here we are under our magnificent Cherry Blossom Tree.

What happened to it you may well ask!



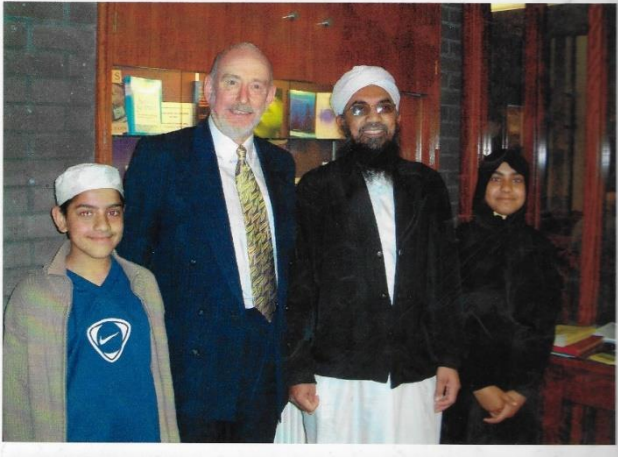
2003. A well-played game of indoor bowls enjoyed by the men.



Renee Hollos,

needlework artist of repute, designed and made the church banner, the reverse shows the "Family of Five". Its first outing was to the G.A. Meetings 2005 at Chester.





Yusef,
Rev'd John Allerton,
Abdul Lambada and
Ayesha.

In the summer 2004
a Service at BUC was
led by Abdul
Lambada, Principal of
Darul Uloom.

Adam Partridge, auctioneer of Fine
Art and Antiques and from the TV
shows, Flog It, Bargain Hunt and
Cash in the Attic came to talk and
give valuations on items brought
along.

This was in aid of HomeStart our
charity for 2009



A Reminder of more Past Events

The Football Club, Cycling Club, Badminton, Table Tennis, Indoor Bowls.

We have had Bazaars, Handicraft Exhibitions, Christmas Tree Festivals,
Auctions, Sponsored Walks, Conversaciones, National Heritage Weekends,
Drama Productions, Wine and Cheese, Seminars and Workshops,
Strawberry Teas, Quiz Nights,

A Smoker Event. Does anyone know what this last item involved?

Regular Events (all social events are subject to change)

Sundays:

11.15am: Morning service at Bury

First Sunday of the month:

10.30am: Morning service at Ainsworth

Second Sunday of the month:

12.30 (approx.): Second Sunday Lunch. Please join Kate at a local pub for lunch, a coffee, or a drink.

Fourth Sunday of the month:

12.30pm: Inclusive Communion Service at Bury

Fifth Sunday of the month (when there is one!)

10am: Fifth Sunday breakfast

Second Monday (in person) and Fourth Monday (online) of the month:

7pm: Camera Club

Second Tuesday of the month (very variable!):

7pm: Online meditation

Last Wednesday of the month:

2pm (winter): Book club

Most Fridays:

10am-3pm (approx.): Minister's Vestry Day

Second Saturday of the month:

10am-3pm (approx.): Minister's Vestry Saturday

Last Saturday of the month (this sometimes moves to the first Saturday of the following month):

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

What's on: September 2024

Sunday 1st September

10.30am Ainsworth

Morning service, led by Rev Helen Mills

11.15am Bury

Morning Service, led by the minister

Monday 2nd September

9.30 – 2.30: BRC booking (*entire building*)

Monday 2nd September

7pm: Website meeting

Tuesday 3rd September

7pm: Church Council

Wednesday 4th September

6pm: GA 'talk to the treasurer' session

Friday 6th September

10-3: Minister's Vestry Day

Saturday 7th September

7.30: Brass band concert at Padiham

Sunday 8th September

11.15am Bury

Morning service, led by the minister

12.30 approx.

Second Sunday Lunch

Monday 9th September

9.30 – 2.30: BRC booking (*entire building*)

Monday 9th September

7pm: Camera Club, **meeting in person**

Tuesday 10th September

7pm: Zoom meditation (link to follow)

Wednesday 11th September

11am: Bury Older Persons Network meeting

Friday 13th September

10-3: Minister's Vestry Day

Saturday 14th September

10-3: Minister's Vestry Saturday

Saturday 14th September 10.30am Cross Street: Faith in our future

Sunday 15th September
No service at Bury.

Monday 16th September 9.30 – 2.30: *BRC booking (entire building)*

Sunday 22nd September

11.15am Bury: Morning service, led by the minister

12.30pm: Inclusive Communion

After the service: Plant exchange / giveaway

Monday 23rd September 9.30 – 2.30: *BRC booking (entire building)*

Monday 23rd September 7pm: Camera Club, **meeting on Zoom**

Tuesday 24th September Deadline for entries for the October *Calendar*

Wednesday 25th September 2pm: Book club meeting

Friday 27th September 10-3: Minister's Vestry Day

Saturday 28th September 10am Cross Street: NUF conference

Saturday 28th September 11am onwards: Saturday Social Gathering
and Calendar Collation Party

Sunday 29th September

10am: Fifth Sunday breakfast

11.15am Bury: **Harvest Festival**

12.30 approx: Harvest lunch (please book in advance)

Monday 30th September 9.30 – 2.30: *BRC booking (entire building)*

Church Information:

Minister:

Rev. Kate Brady McKenna

0161 460 3363 / 07751 240886

revkatemckenna@gmail.com

Church address: 1 Bank Street, Bury, BL9 0DN

Church phone: 0161 761 3785

Website: www.bury-unitarian-church.org.uk

Facebook: Bury Unitarian Church

Church officers

Chair of trustees: Janet Thatcher 01204 846573

Chair of church council: Jean Maden

Church secretary:

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



“A little bit of bread, and some cheese!”



Coral tree



Does anyone know what these are?



Turkish Tutsan



towards Cat Bells -in the Lake District



Cottage looking across to Cartmel Priory – Cumbria