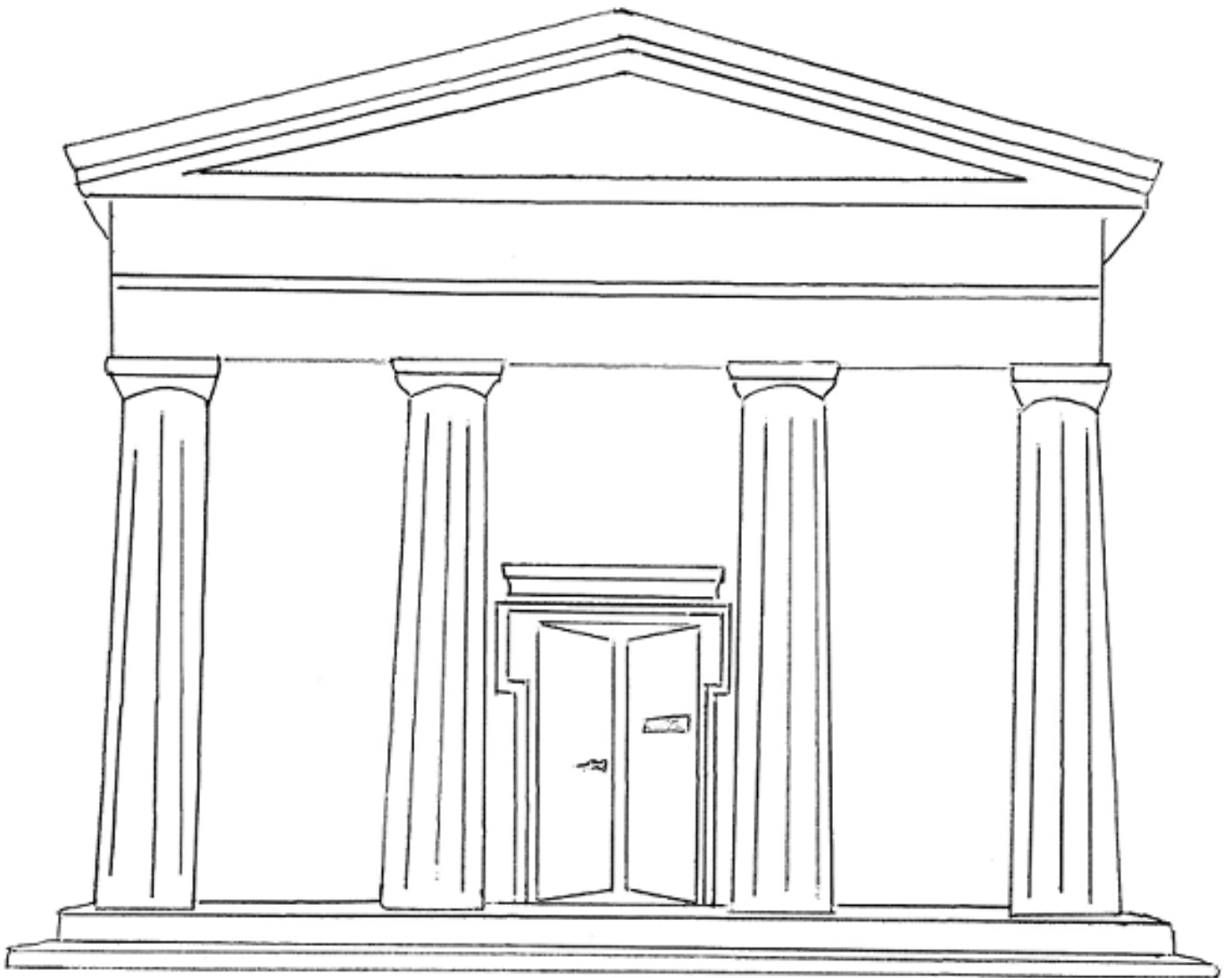


Brighton Unitarians

Newsletter
May 2012



*Sustaining a sacred space
in the heart of Brighton*



Welcome

We welcome all who seek a better life through spiritual and intellectual exploration.

We have respect for all faiths, coupled with a modern religious outlook that encourages freedom of individual thought and conscience.

We welcome all who believe that religion is wider than any one sect and deeper than any one set of opinions.

We do not impose a particular creed on our members or ministers.

We affirm the worth of all people regardless of age, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, ability or background.

We seek to provide strength and encouragement for the spiritual journey and daily living.

We believe that all life on our planet is interconnected.

We believe that how a person lives is a measure of their faith.

Pulpit arrangements for month

All services start at 11 a.m.

- 06 David Francis Darling
Piano: Kathy Pitt
- 13 Jef Jones. Festival Service
Piano: Pamela Nickels
- 20 Francis Clark-Lowes
Organ: Nick Andrews
- 27 Jef Jones. Civic Service to celebrate the start of the Mayor of Brighton's Term of Office
Piano: Kate Walsh
In the evening: 6.30-7.30 p.m.: Quiet Reflection & Candle Lighting

Members and visitors are politely reminded that our church is a sacred space. If you need to speak to others before a service starts, please do so as quietly as possible. Thank you.

Worthing Unitarians

Worthing Unitarians meet at The Friends Meeting House, 34 Mill Road, West Worthing, the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at 2.45 p.m. To contact the Worthing Minister, the Reverend Jane Barton, email barton.445@btinternet.com or telephone 01903 202477.

- 06 **Reflective meeting** *with music, candle-lighting, silence, readings and commentary*
- 20 **Talk – The Image of Light in Journeys of Faith**
Speakers: Sharon Garbett, Jenny Baker and Estelle Taylor

Dates for your Diary (All events take place in Brighton Unitarian Church unless otherwise stated)

Thursday 3rd May, 2 p.m.: **General Baptist Assembly Annual Meeting.** This historic body will hold its annual meeting at Dr. Williams' Library, London. Nine extant congregations in the South East District (Billingshurst, Brighton, Chatham, Ditchling, Dover, Godalming, Horsham, Lewes and Sevenoaks) trace their historic roots to General Baptists, as do others in Hampshire, Somerset, Wiltshire and south Wales.

Friday 4th May, 8 p.m.: **Sound Screen.** Pop-up Brighton and F.L.A present their first ever collaboration of ambient electronic music and video art projections. The evening will involve five unsigned, up and coming bands and producers from Brighton, who have each, over the past month, been working together with Brighton based video artists to create a show of live art and music installations in an unfamiliar space. This will be a one off night. Tickets are £4 (pre-booked) or £5 on the door. Tickets available via the Facebook event's page (Sound Screen) or through Pop-up Brighton's web page, where more information is also available. Go to www.popupbrighton.com.

Saturday 5th May, 12 noon - 5 p.m.: **Fringe City.** Festival Fringe event. Free.

Saturday 5th May, 8 p.m.: **Petra Jean Phillipson.** Festival Fringe event. £5 on the door (conc £3).

Saturday 5th May, 8 p.m.: **Folk Club Evening** with Brighton based guitarist and singer Mike Reinstein and others. Come along and enjoy listening or bring an instrument and play something yourself. Evershed Arts at the Unitarian Chapel, High Street, Billingshurst.

Sunday 6th May, 5 p.m. (matinee) and 8 p.m.: **Hullabaloo Community Quire.** Festival Fringe event. £12 (conc £10) from Brighton Dome Box Office on 01273 709709.

Monday 7th May, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.: **Art Exhibition.** Festival Fringe event. Free entry.

Wednesday 9th May, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.: **Church open for peace and quiet reflection.** All welcome.

Thursday 10th May, 7 - 11 p.m.: **Great Escape.** Festival Fringe event. 3 day

Early Bird ticket £45.

Thursday 10th May, 7 - 8.45 p.m.: **Foundations of our Faith** study group, Central London. First of a 3-evening study group exploring the origins of our liberal Unitarian and Free Christian faith, from the early Bible translators to Victorian social reformers. Starting with the Great Ejection and other Nonconformist Roots. This study group aims to deepen understanding of our political and religious origins and reflect on their message for us today. Each session will focus on an inspiring character, a key social issue and a piece of legislation that changed British society. The course is free but please book a place on it in good time. We'd ask people to commit to attending at least 2 sessions. Contact Sarah Tinker to book or for more information: 020 7221 6514. The other two sessions will be held on Thursdays 17th and 24th May.

Friday 11th May, 7 - 11 p.m.: **Great Escape.** Festival Fringe event.

Saturday 12th May, 7 - 11 p.m.: **Great Escape.** Festival Fringe event.

Saturday 12th May, 8 p.m.: **Classical Music Concert** with Andrew Wickens and Elizabeth Hills. Tickets £5 on the door. Evershed Arts at the Unitarian Chapel, High Street, Billingshurst.

Wednesday 16th May, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.: **Church open for peace and quiet reflection.** All welcome.

Thursday 17th May, 1 - 5 p.m.: **RYico.** Youth of Rwanda charity event. Fair Trade shopping. Festival Fringe event.

Friday 18th May, 7.30 p.m.: **Jam Tarts.** Festival Fringe event. £7; tickets from Resident Records, Kensington Gardens, North Laine (booking fee) or on the door if any left.

Saturday 19th May, 12 noon - 5 p.m.: **Fringe City.** Festival Fringe event. Free.

Saturday 19th May, 11 a.m.: **Kent & East Sussex Spring Meeting.** The congregations of Kent & East Sussex (KESUU) will be holding their Spring meeting at Hastings. Afterwards to the home of David Embry, Lyndhurst Farm, High Halden, Kent TN26 3JP for his Annual Garden Party, always a splendid occa-

sion and starting at 3.00pm. Visitors would be most welcome at both events.

Saturday 19th May, 7.30 p.m.: **Dave Stewart.** Festival Fringe event. £8 (conc £6).

Sunday 20th May, 3 p.m.: **Glee Club.** Festival Fringe event. Tickets from Marion Bance at BUC or Kate on 07970 071751: adults £7, children £3; family ticket (2 adults, 2 children) £16.

Wednesday 23rd May, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.: **Church open for peace and quiet reflection.** All welcome.

Thursday 24th May, 10 p.m.: **Jeremy Radvan Art Projection.** Festival Fringe event.

Saturday 26th May, 12 noon - 5 p.m.: **Fringe City.** Festival Fringe event.

Saturday 26th May, 7 p.m.: **Charity Concert** at St George's Church, Kemp Town. Trios by Beethoven and Brahms; solo pieces by Chopin. In aid of the Niemann-Pick Disease Group (UK). Tickets £20 from Brighton Dome Box Office, 01273 709709, or apply to Tony Jellings, Chichester House (The Penthouse), Chichester Terrace, BN2 1FM, for special deal of 5 tickets for the price of 4.

Sunday 27th May. 12.45 p.m.: **Treading the Boards in New Road.** Talk by church member Evelyn Hale on "Sower" stained glass window. See page 9.

Friday 1st June. **Mark Watson 'Soul Connection Tour' 2012.** An evening of deeply touching musical sound healing, inspiring meditation and spiritual bonding. See page 14.

For details of all events taking place at the church during the Festival Fringe, see the April issue of the Newsletter

Committee meetings are held in the evening of the second Tuesday of every month. If you would like to have something raised, please see a member of the committee (see inside back page or a member in church)

Jef Jones is available in the church on Wednesday afternoons from 1 p.m. if you wish to see him.

Civil Partnerships at BUC

We have started the process of application for approved premises status to hold civil partnerships at Brighton Unitarian Church.

The cost would be £650 for three years, which, it is felt, we could recoup from the charge we'd make for ceremonies. The approval process is similar to the one for weddings so, as we're already licensed for them, we don't anticipate any problems with our application.

We'll keep you up to date with developments.



Civic Service, May 27th, 11am

We have been invited by the Mayor of Brighton to host the Civic Service at our Church on Sunday May 27th. The Civic Service is an annual event to mark the start of term of the new Mayor and we are honoured to be asked to hold it in our Church. This will be a Unitarian service led by our lay leader Jef Jones, on a theme of citizenship, with readings and contributions from members of other faiths.

There will be some changes to our normal service and there will be lots of visitors from the council. The Mayor will attend in full regalia and shortly before the service, the Mayor and Mace Bearer will process into the Church. However the service will include the familiar elements of our regular services: chalice lighting, hymns, prayers and a time of shared of shared stillness.

Hall available to hire

A slot has become vacant on a Wednesday afternoon, when the hall (and church) will be available to hire from 1 - 6 p.m.

The hall floor is sprung, making it ideal for dance or exercise.



If you or anyone you know has a workshop or exercise class, or any other event, for which a comfortable space is required, then please contact our administrator, Marion Bance for details and the hire cost.



Telephone 01273 696022 or e-mail buc@brightonunitarian.org.uk

LDPA District Summer Quarterly

Saturday 16th June, 1.30 p.m. Westgate Chapel, Lewes

The LDPA (London District and South Eastern Provincial Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches) Summer Quarterly meeting will be held in Lewes this year.. Westgate has historic associations with Thomas Paine, who lived next door for a while and attended the chapel.

The full programme for the day is still in the planning stages, but will include a service led by Rev. Andie Camper, the minister associated with Westgate Chapel, time to explore the chapel and the town, and time also to network with each other and enjoy the congregation's hospitality.

Church member and co-editor of the BUC Newsletter, Francis Clark-Lowes, who was successful in his bid to be elected to the LDPA Council this year, plans to attend the above meeting.

Car Parking Space for Hire

From 1st June 2012, Brighton Unitarian will have one parking space, directly outside the church, available for hire.

The dedicated space will be available Monday to Saturday with no time limits and Sunday from 1 p.m. onwards, 365 days per year. The total cost is £216 per calendar month.

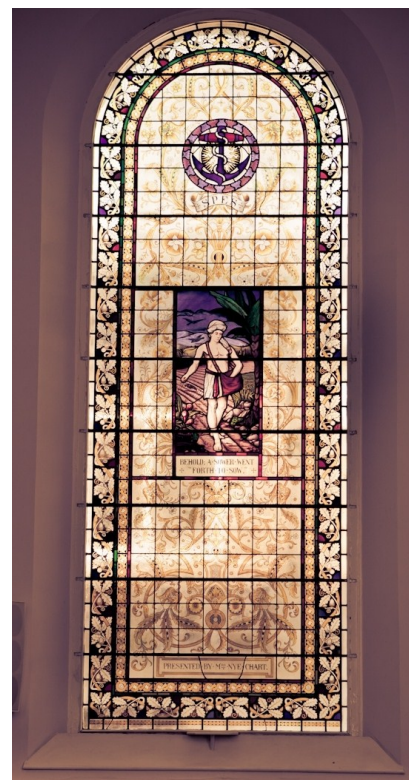
If you are interested in finding out more about this parking space and the terms and conditions of hire please call Marion Bance on 01273 696022 or email buc@brightonunitarian.org.uk. If you know of someone in the area who might be interested, please pass on the contact details.

Treading the Boards in New Road

Sunday 27 May 12.45 p.m.

What links our "Sower" window, the Theatre Royal, other buildings in New Road, one of the oldest amateur theatre societies in the country, and several members of our congregation?

Come and hear Evelyn Hale explain it all, with a display of memorabilia, after the Service on Sunday 27 May - bring a snack and some cash for our Building Appeal Fund !



All articles submitted for the Newsletter remain the copyright of the author and the Editors reserve the right to edit copy if it is felt it will enhance it or simply to make it fit into the space available.

Should you have any concerns or comments about anything you read in the Newsletter, please speak to Jef or a member of the committee.

Spring Fair Report

The Spring Fair held in the Brighton Unitarian church on March 17th this year turned out to be a great success.

At a meeting in November last year, the fund-raising committee decided that a fair would be a good idea and asked me to organise it. The general consensus was that it be primarily a table sale, but with a sideline of refreshments. We chose the date to coincide with a chocolate fair to give us a good footfall going past on the day.

Subsequently, I asked the church members to take on the provisioning and running of the tables - with two people sharing the responsibility for each table. I suggested some ideas, and other people came up with their own plan. On the Friday before the event, we gathered in the hall to set up the tables, and it was pleasing to see that a camaraderie emerged between the stall holders amidst the buzz of activity in getting everything ready.

The Saturday dawned with the weather being overcast. We opened at ten and it was a bit quiet at the start. However, by moving a couple of stalls outside, people browsing the chocolate fair outside gradually moved into the building – no doubt encouraged by the showers.

Things got busier as the afternoon went on and we ended up staying open an extra hour until 4 o'clock.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the fair: all those who gave bottles for the tombola, books and bric-a-brac to be sold, and made cakes. Also, thanks to all the stall-holders who worked so hard to make products to sell and made such an attractive display. Thanks to all the helpers in the kitchen serving tea and coffee, the piano players who gave a lovely atmosphere to the event, and all those who helped setting up the tables and putting them away again at the end. And, of course, all who came and supported us

on the day by buying something.

It was a privilege to work with such a supportive group of people, and good for all of us to get to know other church members better. I am sure that if another fair takes place in the future, that some things will be done differently; someone else's ideas will prevail and hopefully be just as successful.

Katherine Malthouse

Dilemmas when Raising Funds: a personal view

There's a short piece in the Inquirer (Issue 7792, 14 April 2012, page 8), in John Midgley's section, about a Unitarian Universalist congregation in Massachusetts selling its communion vessels and other pieces of silver in order to raise funds for their building project. They made over a million dollars - a fifth of the cost of their restorations - and the senior minister was reported as saying that it wasn't an easy decision to sell. However, he added: "...the building is more important than the silver."

At the end of his piece, John Midgley asks: "Can we imagine any of our congregations selling off treasures like these?" Well, I think it depends on where the 'treasures' came from, the attachment that a congregation might feel to them (that might dissuade them from parting with them) and their monetary value. I'm sure many of us have been in a similar situation when sorting out family or personal treasures - do we keep them because they hold sentimental value and, even if they do, should we feel guilty about selling them if we need the money? It might be noble to hold on to them for future generations; however, who's to say that they will be appreciated or used by our successors? Perhaps they won't have any qualms about selling them should the need arise.

If it's a matter of raising funds for day to day living or for a specific project, then I think any asset should be considered as a possible source of income. The final decision to sell might not be easy, but the idea shouldn't be dismissed without some serious consideration.

Christine Clark-Lowes

Nearer to Thee

Last month's centenary commemoration of the sinking of the RMS Titanic did not appear to mention the author of the hymn 'Nearer, my God, to Thee', which was allegedly played and sung by those on the stricken ship.

We have since learned from various sources that it was Sarah Flower Adams, an English poet and Unitarian hymn-writer! Written in 1841, it was first set to music by Sarah's sister, Eliza, and in later years by Lowell Mason: 'Bethany'; J. B. Dykes: 'Horbury'; and Arthur Sullivan: 'Propior Deo'.

While there is some debate about which tune was used, at least we now know that the words were by a Unitarian!

Thanks to Evelyn for this piece

Rites of Passage

There have been four weddings this year so far, with another five already booked up to December and one for 2013. We've also had enquiries from two families about Child Naming ceremonies - see back cover for our new promotion of this celebration.

Church sitting during the Festival

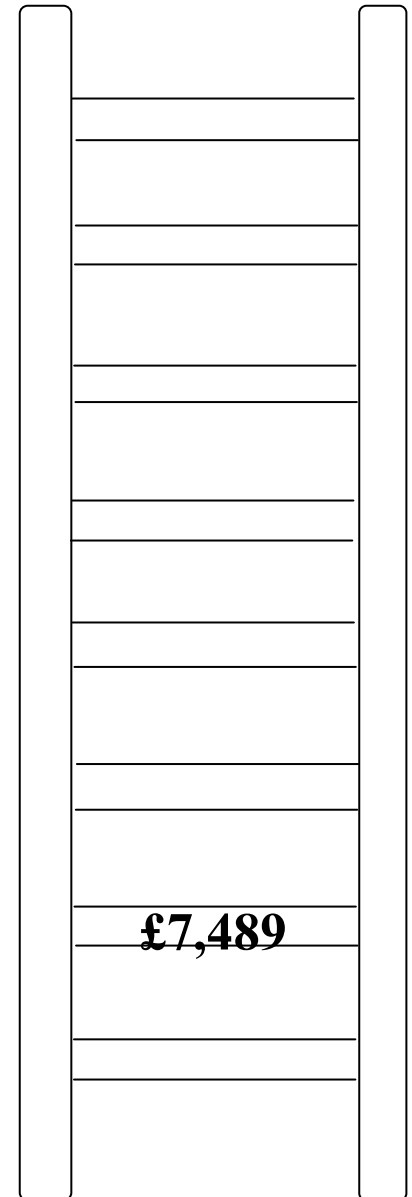
Volunteers are still needed to spend some time in the church during May, to speak to visitors or allow them to enjoy the peace of our calm space.

If you're free for a couple of hours on Wednesdays 9th, 16th or 23rd between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., please contact Jef.

Fundraising update

Money raised so far

- ◇ The Spring Fair raised £1,521.39! See Katherine's report on pages 10 and 11.
- ◇ Attendance at the March-April series of Lunchtime Concerts was up on the first series, which is encouraging. The Committee is considering a ticket price increase for the next one, which is being planned for June and July.
- ◇ We continue to receive donations from other Unitarian churches throughout the UK, bringing the amount raised to just over £1,500 (at the time of printing). The generosity of the congregations and individuals has touched many of us.
- ◇ The Fundraising Committee meets once a month, to discuss raising funds for the roof repairs specifically and ideas are already coming up for future events. These include a Winter Fair - the momentum from the success of the Spring Fair is still going - and a themed service to bring more people into the church and raise awareness.
- ◇ We're closer to appointing a Project Manager for the roof repairs, having received tenders from local businesses. Members of the Committee are looking at the shortlist and will make a decision in the very near future.
- ◇ As well as the roof repairs, there are other considerations for the upkeep and future use of our sacred space, not least the heating system and the piano. A decision on how to proceed with the heating repairs is close to being made. We are still on the lookout for a replacement piano, so please let a member of the Committee know if you or someone you know has one - to donate or sell.
- ◇ Many members and friends have made personal donations, including an anonymous one for £100. Our heartfelt thanks to all.



The Appreciate Life Project
is a celebration of life in its myriad of forms.



Join us to co-create with dolphin
consciousness ... and move from mind
intelligence to heart intelligence.

Our meetings in Brighton take place here, at
the Brighton Unitarian Church. Come, join in!

Dates: (Saturdays) 14 April, June 23, August 4 and September 15

Time: from 10.15am to 12.30pm

Cost: in the region of £10

Register your interest and for up-to-date
schedules, visit www.appreciate-life.com.

'Soul Connection Tour' 2012

Friday 1 June - Mark Watson

During his 2012 'Soul Connection Tour', Mark Watson will be performing songs from his latest albums, including 'Archangel Themes', Goddess Series' and 'Night Shades'.

Join Mark for an evening of deeply touching musical sound healing, inspiring meditation and spiritual bonding. The 90-minute sound healing performance is followed by a meet-and-greet with Mark Watson and CD-signing.

For more information and music download please visit:
www.angelearthmusic.com. For ticket sales, go to <http://in-light-events.com/mark-watson-soul-connection-tour/>

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All items for the June Newsletter
by Sunday 20th May please

**Brighton Unitarian Church is the ideal
place for all kinds of ceremony**

Thinking of celebrating a Child Naming?

Come and talk to us

Contact

Marion Bance

for details and

booking

arrangements

01273 696022

Email:

buc@brightonunitarian.org.uk

