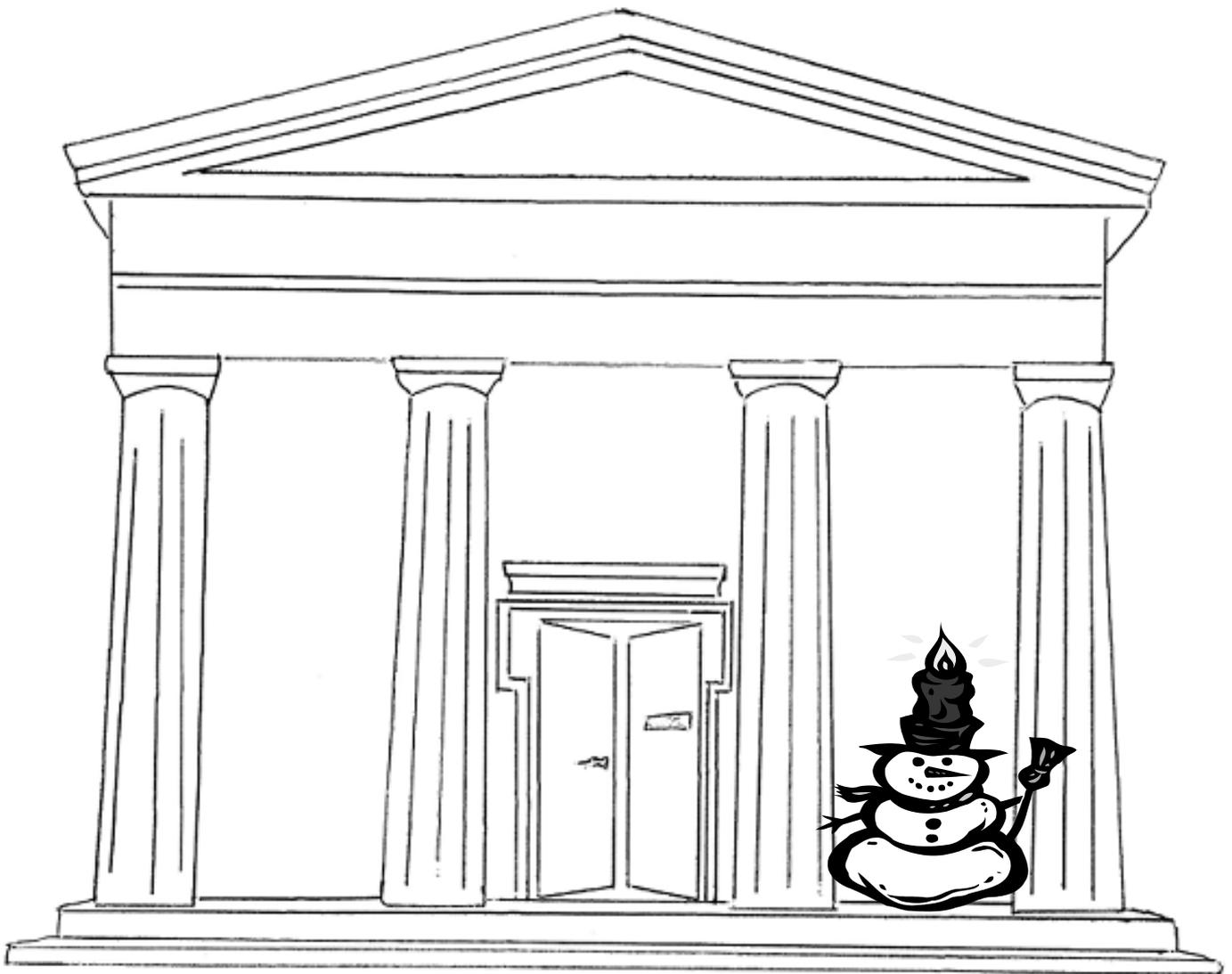


Brighton Unitarians

Newsletter Winter 2013/2014 - Supplement



*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

All services start at 11 a.m.

January 2014

- 05 Jef Jones, Lay Leader, BUC
A Meditation on Hope
Piano: Nick Andrews
And at 6.30 p.m.: Evening Prayers
- 12 Kate Whyman, student minister, BUC member
Piano: Kathy Pitt
- 19 Jef Jones, Lay Leader, BUC
The Human Hand
Piano: Pamela Nickels
- 26 Kate McKenna, student minister (see also page 4)
'Tis Winter Now
Piano: Josh Mills
And at 6.30 p.m.: Evening Prayers

Members and visitors are politely reminded that our church is a sacred space. If you need to speak to others before a service starts, or you arrive after the start, please be as quiet 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, telephone 01903 202477 or email barton.445@btinternet.com.

January 2014

- 05 Reflective meeting with music, silence, candle lighting
- 19 **What does the word `Religion` mean to me?** Various speakers

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

Friday 10th January 2014, 12.30 - 1.15 p.m.: **Lunchtime Concert. Every Friday.** This year's programme starts with Lucinda Houghton (soprano), Sara Gourlay (mezzo soprano) and Howard Beach (piano) with songs by Purcell, Faure, Saint-Saens, Quilter, Britten, and others. All tickets £3.50. See pages 12 and 13 for the January to April 2014 programme.

Saturday 1st February, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.: **Makers Boutique.** Handmade contemporary arts and crafts market.

Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd February 2014: **FUSE** returns to the Chatsworth Hotel in Worthing. Registration form online at <http://fusefest.org.uk> or ask for a paper copy in the church office. See page 10.

For more events in the UK, go to www.ukunitarians.org.uk/pulse/ (for district events) or www.unitarian.org.uk/index.shtml (UK-wide). The diary includes weekend retreats, foreign trips, courses, workshops and so on.

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

Jef Jones is available in the church on Wednesday afternoons. Phone Jef if you wish to see him.

Kate McKenna (service leader 26th January)

Kate is a member and regular worship leader at the Octagon Chapel in Norwich, and a Ministry Student at Oxford and London.

New Members

We are pleased to welcome Brian Bell, Andrea Lanzerath and Jane Pratley as new members of our church.

From the Lay Leader - The Sacred Darkness

‘I said to my soul, be still, and let the dark come upon you Which shall be the darkness of God’

T.S. Elliot, Four Quartets

The darkness of God is a surprising idea. We tend to think of darkness as a metaphor for evil or suffering, and at this time of year we try to keep it at bay with festivals of light. The bright lights of Bonfire Night and Christmas bring us together and lift our spirits.

Yet our modern lives are full of artificial light. It is wonderfully convenient but too much is bad for us. We spend a lot of our time being dazzled by the screens of our TVs, computers and phones. Our cities are so brilliantly lit that it is sometimes impossible to see the stars for the glow. Just as our lives are noisier, now they are brighter too.

Yet the darkness of night has a profound and natural goodness. Darkness gives our eyes a rest, and encourages our bodies to slow down and be still. We are creatures of the earth and it may be that we need the true night of our planet in the same way we need water to drink, or peace and quiet. Darkness is restoring. In fact we cannot live our lives in permanent light. In true darkness we can find a renewed connection with the earth and a deep sense of peace.

The mystics of the middle ages imagined God as the sacred darkness itself. For them the divine is what remains when everything superfluous has been pared back. Their god is an intense and enveloping mystery. The darkness is to be respected but not feared; it can bring insight and a kind of intimacy with God. Meister Eckhart wrote ‘The word is a hidden word and comes in the darkness of the night. To enter this darkness put away all voices and sounds, all images and likenesses. For no image has ever reached into the soul’s foundation where God alone, being God, does his work.’

I hope you enjoy the festivities of the season, and its lovely sacred darkness.

Thank You!

FESTIVE PUDDS!

Very many thanks to Kathy Pitt for making puddings again this year, with the profits going to our Building Appeal Fund.



Kathy has given a very generous amount of £100 for the Fund, which is fantastic. Thank you!



CAROL SINGING IN AID OF THE BUILDING FUND

A group of people from the church, members of Brighton Voices choir and friends sang carols on 18th December on the church steps (our 3rd year!).

While the carols rang out, Jef and Kathy collected money from passers-by, in aid of our Building Appeal Fund. The total came to £63.13, which is very good, given that the singing lasted only about forty minutes and the weather was awful!

A big thank you to all who came out to sing; to Nick and Kathy for organising it; to Nick and Jamie for playing the trumpets; and to those who brought mulled wine, mince pies, sweets and other goodies.

Jars of Grace

Thank you to all who put their loose change in the Jars during the period August - October. You raised £37.87 for Emmaus in Portslade.

BUC Membership Matters

If you've been thinking about becoming a formal member of our church but are a bit uncertain of the details, the points below may help you:

- By becoming a member you can be more involved with church matters:
 - a) after 6 months' membership you can vote at a General Meeting (e.g. Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting)
 - b) after 12 months' membership you are eligible to stand for election to the committee, where you can help to make decisions about all kinds of issues (see piece about the committee, below)
- The only financial obligation is to cover the payment that the church makes per member each year to the GA (General Assembly), the national body for Unitarianism. For 2014, this will be £32. You can pay this through your contributions to the collections at services throughout the year

Why not have an informal chat with Pamela Nickels or one of the committee members if you're interested?

The New Committee

At the AGM on 1st December last, the following were elected to serve on the Church Management Committee:

Fanny Tulley (Chair)

Ann Woodhead

Paul Taylor (Secretary)

Stephen Crowther

Christine Clark-Lowes (Treasurer)

Jan Eaton

Jo O'Sullivan

At the first meeting of the new Committee it was agreed that Phillida Simpson should be co-opted to the Committee to serve as Treasurer for one year, provided that she agreed. Phillida did agree, and she was accordingly co-opted, and Christine Clark-Lowes stood down. Christine will now be employed as Record Keeper.

Hucklow Summer School

During August, three of our congregation attended the annual Summer School in Hucklow as delegates, staying at the Nightingale Centre in Great Hucklow, Derbyshire. In the October Newsletter Jeannie Hull gave us her thoughts on the week and Fanny Tulley's contribution appeared in last month's issue. Here's the final offering, this time from Ann Woodhead:

I was lucky enough to go to Summer School this year. It was a special and spiritually nourishing experience. Each day was filled with treasures, from the (optional) morning meditation session through to the nightly epilogue in the chapel.

There were thought provoking theme talks each day, followed by two glorious hours in our engagement groups. I chose The Edge of Nature led by two knowledgeable and exciting women – Rev Nancy Crumbine who was encouraging and gentle with us in our creative writing, and Julie Dadson, whose knowledge of the geology and landscape gave a whole new insight into the Peak District – and also a new vocabulary that could be used in the creative writing!

I tried some new things, the highlight of which was Wild Swimming in a beautiful natural spot – we were literally immersed in nature. A highly recommended activity but I was grateful for the loan of Fanny's wetsuit – the freezing water came straight from the hills!

I enjoyed meeting new people from the Unitarian community from across the country and also getting to know Brighton friends a little better. It was also lovely to catch up with Maria [Curtis, member of BUC].

I returned home feeling inspired, rejuvenated, challenged and a few pounds heavier – the food is delicious and plentiful!

Thank you to our three contributors. If you've been inspired to attend the Summer School, look out for details in our Newsletter around May next year.

Unitarian Chaplaincy

From November 18th the Church has been providing a chaplaincy visiting service at Royal Sussex County Hospital. Our member Stephen Crowther has been training as a Volunteer Chaplain and has been allocated to the Bailey Ward where he will be visiting on Monday mornings. The Chaplaincy Team is made up of volunteers from several different faiths across the city and also covers hospitals in Haywards Heath and Lewes.

The training has taken several months and included induction as an NHS volunteer (dress codes, hand washing, etc.) as well as meetings with the Senior Chaplain, Rev Canon Peter Wells, and shadowing other members of the team. There was also a training day on end-of-life care.

Stephen will be receiving regular supervision from the Senior Chaplain and will be reporting regularly to the Church Committee. We think this is the first time our Church has been represented on the Chaplaincy Team and we wish him well with this new venture.

Thank You!

A big thank you to everyone who has made a contribution to our church throughout 2013. Apologies if anyone has been omitted!

To the pianists/organist for the lovely music for services

To those who prepare the church before a service

To those who make tea and coffee after services and at other events

To all the performers at concerts; leaders of workshops; stallholders at fairs and markets and all hirers of the church or hall

To the service leaders, from around the country and from our own membership

To all who have given articles, poems or notices for the Newsletter

To all who have come to our church in a spirit of openness and friendship



Join other Unitarians for a week-end of workshops on personal spirituality, congregational health and worship.

Fees range from £39 for a day's attendance (Sunday 23rd Feb) to £235 for a stay in a single room for the full conference.

Go to www.fusefest.org.uk (from where the above information was taken) for more details on the workshops and to register.

Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Winter Series Lectures 2013 – 2014

One of BUC's regular hirers, the Society's winter calendar is below. Members of that society are admitted free, visitors pay just £3. Talks start at 7.30 p.m.

January 10th 2014

David Rudling – “From Roundhouse to Roman Villa”

February 14th 2014

Miles Russell – “Tribe and Prejudice – excavating the late Iron Age”

The lecture is about the Bournemouth University excavations of an Iron Age Banjo enclosure

March 14th 2014

Paul Garwood – “Stonehenge Hidden Landscapes Project: new visions and horizons in landscape archaeology”

Adventures in Unitarianism

A religious education course at Brighton Unitarian Church

This evening course looks at the history of Unitarianism and gives participants the opportunity to explore their own spiritual development in a safe and creative setting.

The course is a mixture of short seminars and participative sessions. We will learn about the growth of Unitarianism from its earliest days to the present, and at the same time explore our own spiritual journeys. There is an emphasis on listening to each other and to our inner selves.

If you would like to know more about the issues and themes that have shaped modern Unitarianism and explore your own religious story, this may be the course for you.

Dates:

Thursday 30th January * Thursday 6th February * Thursday 13th February
Thursday 20th February * Thursday 27th February * Thursday 6th March
Thursday 13th April

All sessions run from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Course facilitator: Jef Jones

There are ten places only on this course.

For more information or to book a place please call Jef on 01273 710452 or email jefjones@btinternet.com

Rites of Passage

During 2013 there were 6 weddings, 1 ceremony of commitment, 2 child namings and 4 funerals in our church.

At the time of printing, there are already 8 wedding ceremonies booked for 2014.

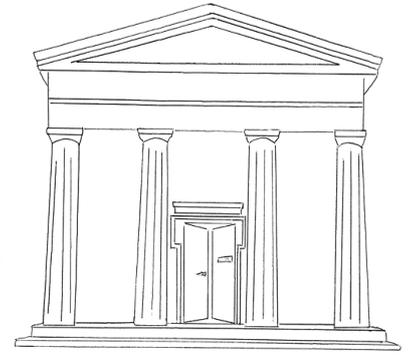
Lunchtime Concerts



Fridays, 12.30 - 1.15 p.m. All tickets
£3.50. Raising money for the Building



Appeal Fund



January 2014

10th: Lucinda Houghton (soprano), Sara Gourlay (mezzo soprano) and Howard Beach (piano). "Down by the Pavilion Gardens", includes songs by Purcell, Handel, Faure, Saint-Saens, Quilter, Britten, Dring and 'Rusalka's Song to the Moon' by Dvorak.

17th: German soprano Eva Rustige and pianist Joe Ward perform a varied programme, including excerpts from Mahler's 'Wunderhorn' settings, Baroque arias, piano solos and works by Mozart and Schubert.

24th: Ambrose Page (piano), Peter Morris and Sarah Tobias (narrators). "Cimarosa - the Italian Mozart", a concert of words and music celebrating the life and music of the Italian composer.

31st: Charles Kerry (piano), Karen Rash (flute) and Susan Hill (oboe) playing a concert of mainly French music.

February 2014

7th: Freya Creech (violin) and Nancy Cooley (piano) with a programme that includes Janacek violin sonata and Bach D minor Partita No. 2.

14th: Nick Andrews (piano) is joined by Philippa Aspey (soprano) for a concert about love. It is St. Valentine's Day, after all.

21st: Stephen Carroll-Turner plays works for piano by Bach, Messiaen, Schubert (Sonata in A major D664) and Liszt.

28th: Maltese pianist Maureen Galea presents an enticing programme, including Schubert Impromptus; one of Beethoven's later Sonatas; as well as some lesser-known Czech piano repertoire by Suk and Vorisek.

Lunchtime Concerts



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Appeal Fund



March 2014

7th: Tenor Paul Doling sings some favourite operatic arias, from Gluck to Handel, and lightens the mood with a few choice numbers from the great Flanders and Swann!

14th: "A Scattering of Jazz Jewels". Lou Beckerman, jazz vocalist, and Wayne McConnell, jazz pianist and composer, with their own take on songs by the great composers, from Gershwin to Monk and beyond... including songs from Lou's new album 'Into the Blue'.

21st: Sue Mileham (soprano) and Nicola Grunberg (piano) present "Songs from Shakespeare" - a celebration of Shakespeare's words set by composers from the Baroque, Classical and Romantic eras.

28th: Magdalena Reising (harp) plays a wide-ranging repertoire of original, classical and popular works.

April 2014

4th: Caroline Collingridge (flute), Luke Ellis (cello) and Joe Ward (piano). A varied repertoire for flute, cello and piano in all possible combinations, including trios by Bach and Haydn and solos and duos by lots of other clever folks!

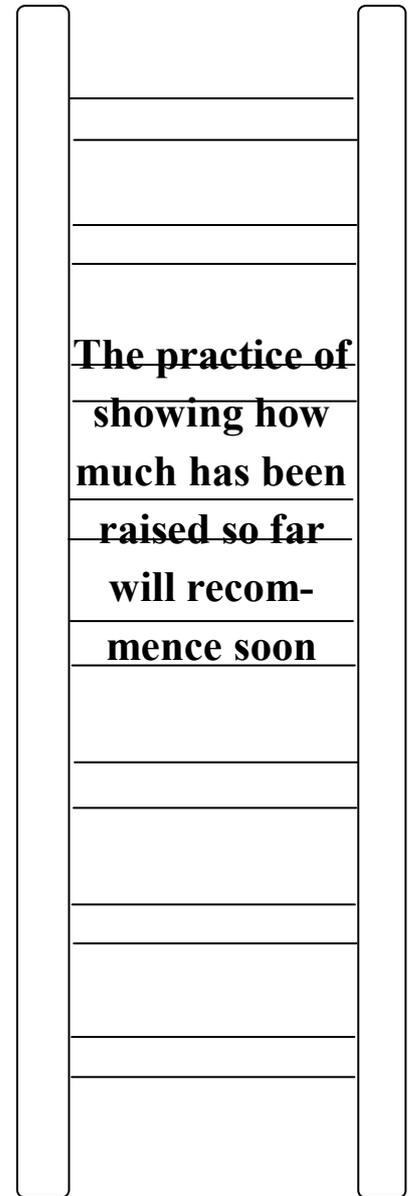
11th: Plaegan Piano Trio. Helen Sills (violin), Michael Nebe (cello), Peter Croser (piano) play Haydn Piano Trio No. 1 in G major; Brahms Piano Trio No.3 in C minor Op. 101.

18th: Good Friday. No Concert.

25th: Nick Andrews is joined by Miriam Roberts (piano), for a varied concert of piano duets, trumpet and bass, including interesting music by Ginastera, Stanford and Albinoni.

Fundraising

- ◇ Lunchtime Concerts continue in the new year, with a varied programme. See pages 12 and 13 for the details. Flyers are available, so please take a supply to distribute among your friends and family. The amount raised through our share of the ticket sales for the financial year October 2012 to September 2013 was £1,942.28. Thank you to all the performers, but especially to Phillida, Estelle and Marion for manning the desk on a Friday lunchtime.
- ◇ Jo O’Sullivan and Jan Eaton have kindly offered to organise our Spring Fair on 29th March 2014. Look out for announcements about meetings if you think you’d like to run a stall. If you have anything to donate for the Fair, please bring it to the church.
- ◇ *Unitarians Talking*, our book with contributions from the congregation, is now available at the reduced cost of £5 per copy. All of this goes to our Building Appeal Fund. How about buying one for a New Year’s present.
- ◇ The sale of greetings cards throughout the last financial year added just over £208 to the Building Appeal Fund.
- ◇ Fundraising is an ongoing activity, since our historic building requires ongoing maintenance and repair. The Fundraising Committee meets regularly to discuss progress on existing projects and to think of further ways to raise money. The portico and heating system are the next major works to be considered.



Brighton Unitarian Church

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www.brightonunitarian.org.uk

Some details below will change after the AGM on 1st Dec.

Lay Leader,
incl. pastoral
care

Jef Jones
Tel: 01273 710452
jefjones@btinternet.com

Chair

Fanny Tulley
c/o Brighton Unitarian Church

Treasurer

Phillida Simpson
c/o Brighton Unitarian Church

Secretary

Paul Taylor
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Administrator

Marion Bance
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Newsletter

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All items for the February 2014 Newsletter
by Sunday 19th January please

Rites of Passage

If you're planning a

Wedding

or

Civil Partnership

Why not come to

Brighton Unitarian Church?

We will help you to plan your perfect day. Our church has both a piano and an organ and the space is ideal for your flower arrangements, whether large or small. Why not hire our hall for an intimate reception?



Contact

Marion Bance

on

01273 696022

Child Namings also
arranged



buc@brightonunitarian.org.uk