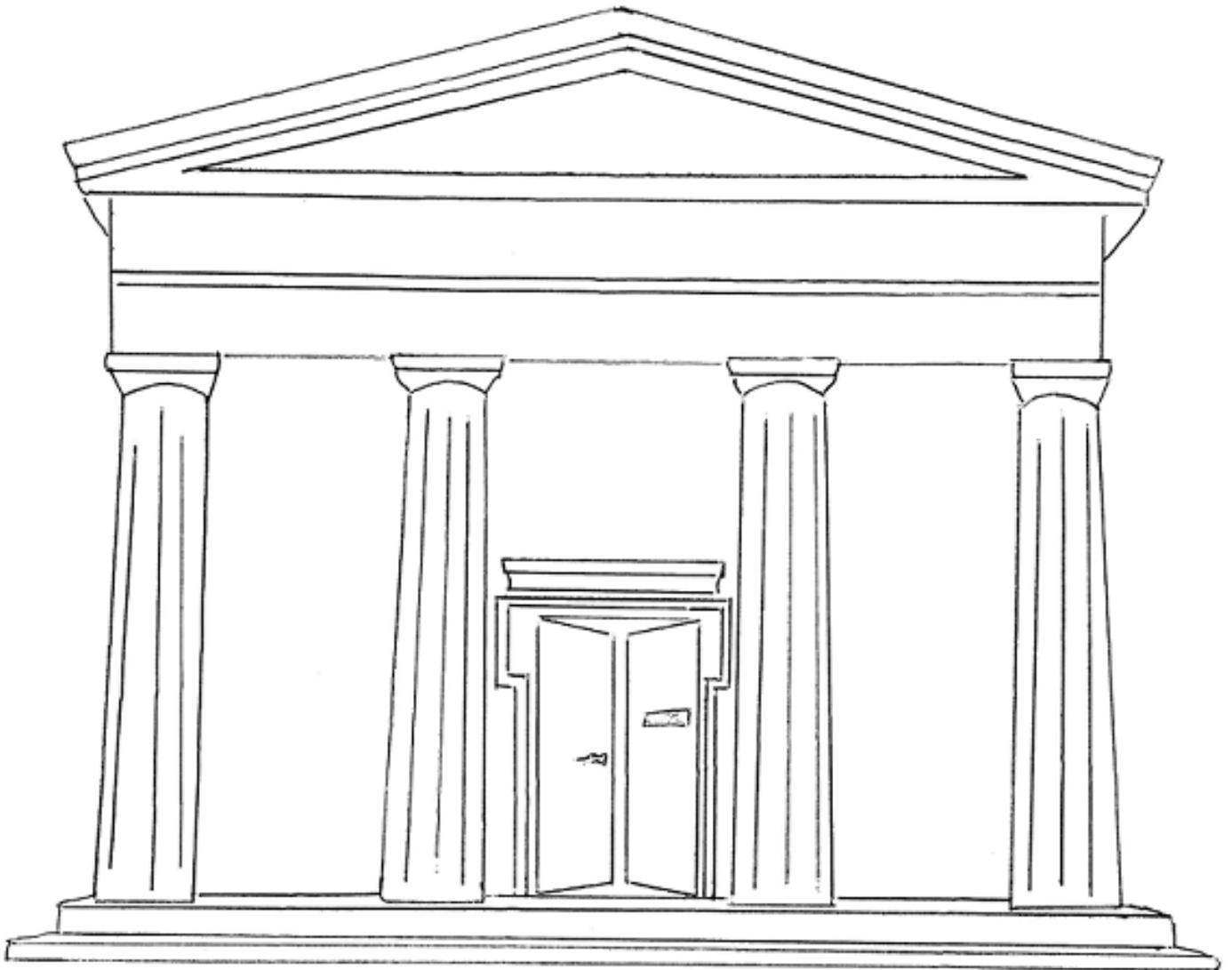


# Brighton Unitarians

**Newsletter  
March 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 March

All services start at 11 a.m.

- 04      The Rev Peter Roberts  
*Piano: Kate Walsh*
- 11      Jef Jones  
*Piano: Kathy Pitt*
- 18      Jef Jones - Equinox service  
*Piano: Nick Andrews*
- 25      Phillida Simpson  
*Piano: Pamela Nickels*  
*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, 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month at 2.45 p.m. To contact the Worthing Minister, the Reverend Jane Barton, email [barton.445@btinternet.com](mailto:barton.445@btinternet.com) or telephone 01903 202477.

- 04      Reflective meeting with candle lighting
- 18      **Talk: The Divine Image in Poetry - Reflections of Religious Belief.** Speaker: The Rev Jane Barton

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

*Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 12.30 - 1.15 p.m.:* **Lunchtime Concert.** First one in the new series. Nick Andrews (trumpet) and Steve Hoar (piano). See page 7.

*Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 10.30 a.m. - 5 p.m.:* **Makers Boutique.** Handmade contemporary arts & crafts market. E-mail makersboutique@gmail.com for more info.

*Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 12.30 - 1.15 p.m.:* **Lunchtime Concert.** The Astraeus Ensemble. See page 7.

*Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 12.30 - 1.15 p.m.:* **Lunchtime Concert.** Bunch Of Daph's. See page 7.

*Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.:* **Spring Fair.** Fund raising event for Brighton Unitarian Church Building Appeal Fund. See page 9.

*Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 12.30 - 1.15 p.m.:* **Lunchtime Concert.** Cantique. See page 7.

*Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March, 1.30 p.m. - 4 p.m.:* **District Annual General Meeting and Spring Quarterly Meeting.** Unity Church, 277 Upper St, Islington. See page 5.

*Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 12.30 - 1.15 p.m.:* **Lunchtime Concert.** Jane Richards (mezzo-soprano) & Mark Richey (piano). See page 7.

*Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 8 p.m.:* **Jazz event.** In aid of Victims of Torture. See page 10.

*Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.:* **Kitty in the City.** Cat rescue Brighton fund raising sale - bargains galore! For more info call 01273 508406.

*Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2.30 p.m.:* **Sit in Peace. Thich Nhat Hanh** leads this meditation in Trafalgar Square, London. See page 8.

*Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April:* **General Assembly Annual General Meeting.** Keele University, Staffordshire. See page 6.

# **District Annual General Meeting and Spring Quarterly Meeting of the LDPA**

(The LONDON DISTRICT and South Eastern PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches)

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March, 1.30 p.m. - 4 p.m.**

**Unity Church, 277 Upper St, Islington N1 2TZ**

- Worship to be led by Rev. Daniel Costley (Sevenoaks).
- Council will present its work over the past year, and preview what it aims to focus on in the coming year.
- Election of new Council.\*
- Time to meet with fellow Unitarians from throughout the District.
- Refreshment for the body, mind and spirit.

\* Brighton Unitarian Church member Francis Clark-Lowes has agreed to stand for election to the LDPA Council

## **Brighton Fringe Festival Bookings**

Bookings have already been taken from The Fringe and Great Escape for events during May. The Newsletter for April will include advertisements for all those taking place in the church and/or hall.

## **Rites of Passage**

There will be two **weddings** at the church in March, the first one on Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> and the second one the day after, on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup>.



Every year, around Easter time, the **General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches** holds its Annual Meetings to which delegates from congregations, fellowships, district associations and affiliated societies are invited. These meetings are commonly known as 'GA' within Unitarian circles. (Copied from [www.unitarian.org.uk/ga/index.shtml](http://www.unitarian.org.uk/ga/index.shtml)).

The preacher at the Anniversary Service will be the Rev. Celia Cartwright of Kendal.

*Unfortunately, it's too late to book a place without incurring a late booking fee. Eds.*

## The Brighton & Hove IFCG's AGM is on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March

The IFCG's (Inter-Faith Contact Group) **Annual General Meeting** will be held at the Friends' Meeting House, Ship Street, Brighton on Sunday **March 11th** at 2.30pm. We have a lively guest, Hindu speaker, Mr Jay Lakhani whose talk is entitled *Ancient Wisdom for a Modern World*. Jay Lakhani has published and edited a number of books on Hinduism and is a regular speaker on Hinduism in the media, including BBC TV and Radio, as well as being involved in the education of young people through the Hindu Council UK, the Hindu Academy and the Religious Education Council of England and Wales. We hope that our newly formed *Interfaith Choir* will be contributing to the atmosphere of the occasion. All are most welcome to attend this meeting, whether in formal membership of the IFCG or not. Bring your friends. Refreshments will be served.

Source: [www.interfaithcontactgroup.com](http://www.interfaithcontactgroup.com)



# Lunchtime Concerts

at Brighton Unitarian Church

## Raising money for the Building Appeal Fund

Continuing the series of concerts that started in 2011. Each one will run on **Fridays** from **12.30 p.m. to 1.15 p.m.** (doors open 12.15). All tickets **£2.50**

*2<sup>nd</sup> March:* **Nick Andrews (trumpet) and Steve Hoar (piano).** Programme includes works by Beethoven, Rachmaninov and Liszt.

*9<sup>th</sup> March:* **The Astraeus Ensemble.** Chamber group playing music for flute, oboe, clarinet, horn, bassoon, piano, by Mozart and Thuille.

*16<sup>th</sup> March:* **Bunch of Daph's.** An a capella vocal group. Programme to include mediaeval & Tudor pieces, madrigals, spirituals & show songs.

*23<sup>rd</sup> March:* **Cantique.** Classical vocal quartet to perform four-part songs and duets - spirituals; opera; musical comedy; English songs.

*30<sup>th</sup> March:* **Jane Richards (mezzo-soprano) & Mark Richey (piano).** Robert Schumann's *Waldszenen* (solo piano); *Liederkreis* (song cycle).

*6<sup>th</sup> April:* **No concert.**

*13<sup>th</sup> April:* **Ingrid Cusido (piano).** Purcell; Mendelssohn; Granados.

*20<sup>th</sup> April:* **Geoffrey James (tenor) and Janet Bowles (piano).** To include songs by Quilter and Flanders & Swann.

*27<sup>th</sup> April:* **Marion Adler (soprano), Janet Ormerod (mezzo soprano) and Nick Andrews (piano).** Includes duets by Mendelssohn; songs by Schumann, Schubert and Quilter.

## Unitarian flame jewellery

Spotted at the recent FUSE event in Worthing (3-5 Feb, see last month's Newsletter), were earrings and necklaces in the form of the chalice flame, the symbol of Unitarianism. A pendant is shown in the picture, copied from the website of the company making this jewellery, ASD Blue John Jewellers, a family business based in Castleton in the Peak District. They use the Blue John mineral for their pieces (hence their name) which, they say, can only be found in Castleton.



Apparently, Unitarian John Hewardine was on holiday at nearby Great Hucklow (the holiday and conference centre for Unitarians) one year and saw the local Blue John mineral. He then commissioned ASD Jewellers to make a flame pendant.

If you'd like to see more, go to their website at [www.asd-jewellers.co.uk](http://www.asd-jewellers.co.uk) and click on Unitarian on the left side. Alternatively, you can telephone them on 01433 620964.

## Peace March and Sit in Peace with Thich Nhat Hanh

We were told recently of a Peace March to take place in London on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March, with Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh. However, there were no details of where the walk might start or at what time, so we looked on the website of [www.mindfulnessretreats.org.uk](http://www.mindfulnessretreats.org.uk) and it seems that the walk will not now take place. However, there was notification of a Sit in Peace with Thich Nhat Hanh in Trafalgar Square at 2.30 p.m. on the day, where you are invited to sit with others, from all religions, in meditation and peace.

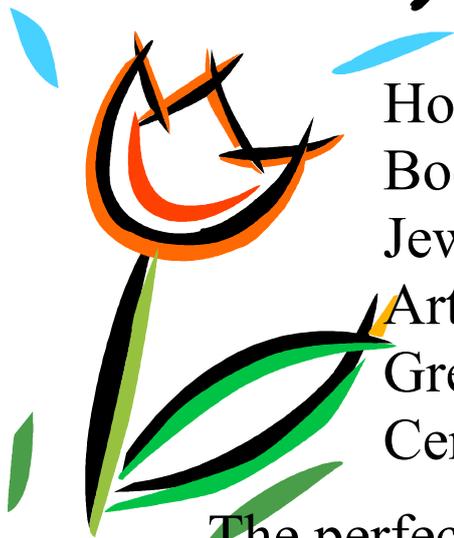
You also have the opportunity to hear him speak at an event entitled *True Peace and Happiness in the Here and Now* on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012. This event, which also includes songs and chants by nuns, starts at 7pm (doors open at 6pm) and will be at the Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall, Belvedere Road, London, SE1 8XX.

“This talk is a unique opportunity for people of all faiths and backgrounds to hear this remarkable teacher share his wisdom and guidance on the deep and

*(Continued on page 10)*

**Saturday March 17<sup>th</sup> 2012**  
**at Brighton Unitarian Church**  
**To raise money for the Building Appeal Fund**  
**10 am to 3 pm (or later)**

## **SPRING FAIR**



Home made produce

Books and CDs

Jewellery

Art work

Greetings cards

Ceramics

Bric-a-brac

Cakes

Bottle tombola

Bran tub

Refreshments

and more

The perfect place to find that last-minute  
Mother's Day gift (18<sup>th</sup> March)!

### **Thank you, Donald!**

Many thanks to Donald McDowell for a very interesting talk about the Arabs that lived in the Iraq marshes, which about 15 of us attended on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February. We were fascinated to see how their 'houses', made of reeds, had separate areas for greeting visitors; their water buffalo, cows and other animals; and their living quarters.

A collection at the end of the talk realised £84 for the Building Appeal Fund and we're very grateful to Donald for this donation.

See page 14 for details on Donald's next talk, which will be at the end of April. We had a sneak preview on the 12<sup>th</sup> and it promises to be equally interesting.

(Continued from page 8)

transformative practice of mindfulness and liberation.” Tickets cost between £10 and £40 and are on sale direct from the Southbank Centre. You can contact them by email at [customer@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:customer@southbankcentre.co.uk) or by telephone on 020 7960 4200 (Switchboard) or 0844 875 0073 (Ticket Office). Alternatively, book online at <http://ticketing.southbankcentre.co.uk/find/tickets/true-peace-and-happiness-in-the-here-and-now-63088>.

## **A concert for Freedom from Torture**

Friday 30 March. 8 p.m. Brighton Unitarian Church  
Available from Malcolm Martindale, 39 Swanborough Drive, Brighton BN2 5PJ (01273 694305) or on the door, subject to availability.  
Features jazzy, soul singer Richard Behan - "The New Tom Waites"  
All proceeds to the charity Freedom from Torture  
Tickets £8 (£7 conc)

## **Two workshops in Spring explore worship further**

Following the first workshop in the series last November, The Rev Linda Hart and The Rev David Usher will be leading a two session follow-up course in the Spring. Participants in November looked at what worship is and why do it and these two sessions will focus more on how to prepare a service and write a sermon, plus how to present it. They will be held on March 31 and April 14, at Richmond Unitarian Church, Ormond Road, Richmond, TW10 6TH.

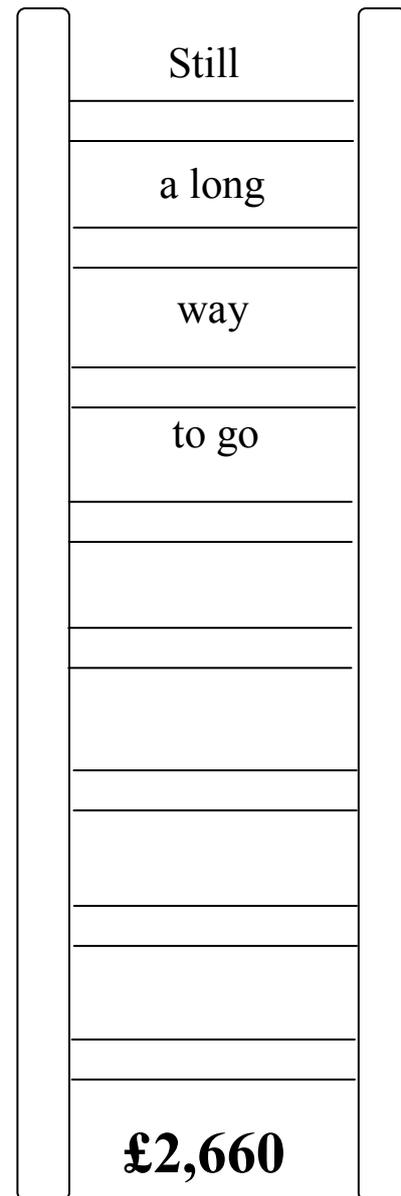
Each one will start with coffee at 10.30 and end at 4.00. Those who did not attend the first session in November are most welcome to attend these workshops, but the expectation is that participants will attend both. The cost is £20 in total. Cheques should be made payable to LDPA and sent to Rev. David Usher (District Minister), 10 Bradbourne Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3PY.

Source: *Impulse January - March 2012* on [www.ukunitarians.org.uk](http://www.ukunitarians.org.uk).

## Fundraising update

- ◇ Donald's talk on 12th February raised £84
- ◇ Chris Branagh kindly donated £30 to go towards the cost of a banner displaying our need for funds for vital work to our historic building. This will be erected above the red door
- ◇ The Committee will be appointing a Project Manager as soon as possible to oversee the tendering for and repair of the roof
- ◇ The countdown to the Spring Fair has begun. If you have any small items you'd like to donate to the bran tub/lucky dip, please see a member of the Committee
- ◇ Our series of Lunchtime concerts begins again on 2nd March. Please take some leaflets and distribute them to your friends, family, hairdresser, etc. so that the word is spread far and wide. We need large audiences to support both the performers and our Building Appeal Fund
- ◇ There'll be a report on the Lipsync concert on 25<sup>th</sup> February in next month's Newsletter. It was surely a sell-out!
- ◇ Jane very kindly donated £15 from the sale of her calendars
- ◇ Grace's daughter, Jenny, generously gave us £10 instead of receiving a birthday present
- ◇ Cards and books continue to bring in a steady amount

## Money raised so far



The Fundraising sub-committee will meet next on Thursday 8th March.

*(See also page 13.)*

## Thoughts on FUSE at Worthing 3rd - 5th February

I was one of those who attended the FUSE (Festival of Unitarians in the South-east) event in Worthing during the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> February. It offered many different hour long sessions on various topics from which to choose and take part in, covering Worship, Congregational Health and Spirituality.

An important aspect of the weekend for me was the chance to meet Unitarians from London and the south whom I had heard about but never spoken to, and to talk to people as far afield as Beverley near Hull and Rochdale in the north, and Bridport and Trowbridge further west.

It is hoped to build on this initial FUSE weekend, and as this was my first visit to a large Unitarian gathering I would hope to go to the next one already planned for the coming year.

Pamela Nickels

\*\*\*\*\*

FUSE was a great opportunity to meet and catch up with Unitarians from the South-East and beyond. A well-organised event in the pleasant surroundings of a comfortably shabby Worthing seafront hotel, with a packed programme. And as a (nearly) ministerial student I was even given a bursary to attend. What's not to like.

And yet I came away with a profound sense of disquiet about the way Unitarianism is heading, at least in this corner of the UK. I've known for a long time, of course, that there is concern about growth. But I hadn't appreciated the extent to which fear we are a dying tradition might produce evangelical fervour for reform. So, there were workshops on designing mission statements, on approaches to 'contemporary worship' (presumably designed to pull in younger people), on leadership styles and how to become more entrepreneurial. Most of the singing was from the 'purple hymnbook', and while I don't have anything against new songs, I missed the solidity of our more 'traditional' hymns.

It's difficult to argue against change without sounding like a dinosaur. But there are as many ways of being relevant in the 21st century as there are of being Unitarian. FUSE seemed to advocate a somewhat revivalist direction for the future. It's one from which, in the best Unitarian tradition, I choose to dissent.

Kate Whyman

## **Heating in the church**

Many of you will have noticed that our heating system has been struggling at times in recent months. It's failed on several occasions, especially when very cold, and we've had to hire some heavy duty heaters in order to ensure that there has been heating for services and events. These are quite expensive and we've taken the step of buying some similar heaters (which should have been delivered by the time you read this) in order to save a bit of money in the long term.

It seems likely that we'll have to upgrade the heating in the near future and we're currently in the process of obtaining quotes and advice from several companies.

In the meantime, thank you to all members of the congregation, visitors and hirers for your patience and forbearance during this time.

### **A special plea to all church members**

As you are all aware, the church is currently raising funds to pay for our roof to be repaired. We've been featuring events, giving updates and telling of donations received in the Newsletter for many months now and we've been urging you to buy greetings cards and books.

You've all been very generous so far and, as you'll see on page 11, we've still got a long way to go to raise what could be as much as £40,000. So, our Secretary, Pamela Nickels, will be speaking to each of you individually over the coming weeks, to ask if you would consider making a substantial donation, giving a loan or leaving a legacy, for future work that will be required in our sacred space.

We appreciate that, in the current economic climate, many are going through difficult financial times, so please don't be offended when asked. If you are willing to help, the current committee, the congregation and all those to come after us will be very grateful.

## **Back issues of the Newsletter**

Thank you to those who have given us copies of past Newsletters to make up gaps in our archive. It's been fascinating to look through them. The Newsletters themselves have changed in many respects over the years, though some things remain the same and the current editors have revived some of the features. An example of this is that we will be telling readers of the Rites of Passage ceremonies that are taking place each month.

The same can be said of church matters, too, in that some of the issues raised in years past are, and probably always will be, of concern or interest to today's congregation and the wider audience.

If anyone would like to look back at Newsletters, they're available in the vestry library. Just ask Stephen or Christine.

We still need the following issues:

All before 2000

2000 - all but June

2001 - all but September

2002 - all

2003 - October; November

2004 - January; February; April; September

2005 - February; June - August

2006 - April - August; December 06/07

2007 - all but November

Thank you.

## **Pre-historic Art in the Egyptian Western Sahara Desert**

A talk to be given by Donald McDowell on 29th April

The Nile Valley is a narrow strip of rich cultivation on each side of the great river. On either side of this green strip is desert, and has been so for about 5,000 years. But it was very different 8,000 years ago, following the last Ice Age. Regions which are now very dry and uninhabited were populated by humans and animals, many of which are now extinct in that area. Humans made their mark by prolific art painted and inscribed on the underside of rock overhangs.

In 2003, Mary and I joined a small group that camped in the desert for five nights. Highlights of the trip were visits to caves with rock art.

We will share that with you at the Unitarian Church at 12.45 on Sunday 29th April. Entrance is FREE, but there will be a collection towards the cost of restoration and maintenance of our beautiful Church.

# Brighton Unitarian Church

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All items for the April Newsletter  
by Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March please

# **Thinking of Getting Married? Just Started Planning your Wedding?**

**Why not come and talk to us at  
Brighton Unitarian Church**



Contact Marion Bance on 01273 696022

Email: [buc@brightonunitarian.org.uk](mailto:buc@brightonunitarian.org.uk)