



*Brighton*  
**Unitarians**

## September 2018 Newsletter

### **Sunday Services**

Please note: services are at 11 a.m. All are welcome.

We would be grateful if you would switch your phones to airplane mode before the start of the service.

02nd September - Rev Anthea Ballam (Inter-faith Minister)  
Pianist Stuart Deeks

09th September - John Naish (BUC Member)  
Pianist Kathy Pitt

16th September - Rev Jennifer Sanders (BUC Member)  
Pianist Pamela Nickels

23rd September - Jef Jones (BUC Lay Leader)  
Pianist Stuart Deeks

30th September - Rev Susie Courtault (Inter-faith Minister)  
Pianist Joe Ward

Quiet Reflection 7-8 pm, 13th September

### **Welcome from Jef**

Welcome to our Newsletter for September and this is a bumper issue! You'll see below that our programme of lunchtime concerts begins again on September 7th with a piano recital by Stephen Raine. As always the programme is varied and the quality of the music will be excellent. If you're in town on a Friday lunch time do come along.



## **September**

07th: Pianist Stephen Raine returns to open the Autumn series with a programme of works by Handel, Bach, Scarlatti and Beethoven. To include Handel's "Chaconne" with 21 Variations and Beethoven's famous "Pathetique" Sonata.

14th: Join Soul Circus for a frolic through a selection of original songs from their sell-out musicals. The songs invite you to fight negative thoughts and laugh at the unreal expectations society pushes on us, have fun and think deep ...it's soul work!

21st: "The Turning Year". Sue Mileham, Soprano and Nicola Grunberg, Piano present songs for all seasons in styles ranging from Classical to Contemporary.

28th: The Evolution of Romantic music through Beethoven to the Chopin era with Pianist Yoon-Seok Shin.

**Doors and coffee from 12 noon.**

**Concert 12.30 – 1.15 p.m.**

**Tickets £3.50 on the door.**

## **Portico Rescue - Fundraising**

Work on the iconic columns and steps at the front of the building started in March 2018, thanks in great part to a grant received from the Heritage Lottery Fund and other grant-giving bodies. BUT having unpicked the existing structure to the portico, the structural engineer discovered that the pediment requires much more work than had been originally envisaged. Crucially, work has to carry on as it is not possible to leave the structure in its current condition.

As a consequence, the Church has to raise an additional £71,000. This is devastating news for us. However, we are determined that the building will be repaired and will continue to be open as a place of worship and a community venue for future generations.

Have a look at the short film we have made about our Portico Rescue

Appeal <https://vimeo.com/284934892> and see for yourself the extent of the damage and why we are asking for help.

Fund raising events are being planned and the Church will look to its community and friends for their help and support.

It is very easy to donate, just go to our website: [www.brightonunitarian.org.uk](http://www.brightonunitarian.org.uk) and click on the **Just Giving** button.

Or, if you prefer, you can send a cheque, made payable to "Brighton Unitarian Church", to BUC, New Road, Brighton BN1 1UF.

Thank you.

## Quiet Reflective Circle

On the second Thursday of each month we gather for candle lighting and quiet reflection. This starts at 7pm and lasts no longer than an hour. There will be readings, time for candle-lighting, stillness and a few simple closing words.

If you've been having a busy week, and could do with some stillness, do come along. If you're looking for a time and place to reconnect with your spirit, do come along. If you'd like to sit quietly in a sacred place, please do come along. All are welcome!

## From the Lay Leader

*If there is to be peace in the world,  
There must be peace in the nations.  
If there is to be peace in the nations,  
There must be peace in the cities.  
If there is to be peace in the cities,  
There must be peace between neighbors.  
If there is to be peace between neighbors,  
There must be peace in the home.  
If there is to be peace in the home,  
There must be peace in the heart.*

These famous words of the Chinese philosopher, Lao Tze, remind each of us of our own personal power. We can bemoan the state of the world, we can fear its violence and conflict, we can rage against our leaders, but however small and vulnerable we might feel, we are not powerless. Our hearts can be at peace.

In his book *Fingerprints of Fire, Footprints of Peace* the activist Noel Moules says he doesn't much like the words *pacifism* and *non-violence*. He accepts that they are in common usage around the world and, of course, as ideas and practices they have inspired all kinds of people. However he says that to him they sound passive and defeated. As much as peace, it is justice he campaigns for and so he describes himself as a 'meekness zealot'. His role model for this assertive meekness is Jesus. Moules seeks to honour what he regards as one of Jesus' essential qualities, referred to as *praus* in the Greek of the New Testament. *Praus* is usually translated as 'meek' although its meaning is more subtle than that. It means a kind of strength contained in humility, or the power that can come from gentleness.

Some of the most truly powerful people I have met have embodied this quality. They have not sought power over other people but they have lived out the power that comes with being

at peace with oneself. They have seen how the world could change for the better and worked to make that change with quiet commitment.

Not all of us can attain that degree of meekness. However we can try and we will do so at our Peace Vigil on the 21st September. This promises to be a beautiful and moving event in the life of our church, culminating, at dawn, with a walk to the peace statue. If you are not able to come along you might like to sit for a moment in fellowship with us, wherever you are that evening, and hold a moment's stillness for yourself and for the world. After all, that other great peace campaigner, Thich Nhat Hanh, has said, with his trademark simplicity and clarity *Each moment is a chance for us to make peace for the world.* May it be so.

Jef Jones

## **Peace Vigil**

You'll see below a flyer for the Peace Vigil we are organising on Friday, September 21st, which is World Peace Day. We will be spending the night in our sacred space and holding it as a place of peace until the dawn of the Saturday 22nd.

We do need to know numbers of those planning to attend all or part of the peace vigil. Please note this is *not* a drop-in event. So let Fanny, Ann or Jef know if you are coming or leave a message on the church telephone 01273 696022.

If you are unable to come to the Vigil but would like to contribute to it, you might think about lighting a candle for us at 10pm when our vigil begins and holding a moment of stillness for yourself and for the world.

## **Shadowing the Setting Up Volunteers**

We always need more volunteers to set up the church for services on Sunday mornings. It's a vital contribution to our church community. If you're interested in this but are not quite sure then you might think about shadowing one of the current volunteers. Please contact Jef on [buc@brightonunitarian.org.uk](mailto:buc@brightonunitarian.org.uk).

## **Best Wishes and Farewell to Claire**

We're sending our member, Claire, best wishes this month for her move to Norwich to begin a course in graphic design. This is rather sad for us but entirely positive for Claire! We will miss you Claire but of course you have our very best wishes for your new life in Norwich. As the medieval mystic, Julian of Norwich, said *All will be well, all will be well and all manner of things will be well.*

## **Equinox Service Sunday September 23rd**

Our service for the Autumn Equinox is on September 23rd. As usual there will be an opportunity for the congregation to contribute to the service with a reading or a reflection on the meaning of this time of year. Or you might want to bring something from nature that symbolises the autumn for you.

We will be having a congregational lunch in the Hall afterwards as usual. This is usually a potluck lunch but this time our member Trisha and her family will be bringing quiches to share. The 23rd is the anniversary of Trisha's dear son's death and this is Trisha's way of thanking our community for the support and care she has received.

## **Curry and Quiz Night 27th October**

From Sunday 9th September tickets will be on sale for Kathy's Curry and Quiz Night on 27th October and the rules are changing: teams of 6 will be allowed! Everyone is welcome and all proceeds to the Portico Rescue Appeal Fund.

## **Advance Notice of Annual Meeting**

Our Annual Meeting will be on Sunday 27th January 2019 after the service.

## **Dates for Your Diary**

**Friday 21st September** Candlelit Peace Vigil for World Peace Day at Brighton Unitarian Church. See details above.

**Sunday 23rd September** Equinox Service with Pot Luck Lunch to follow. As always members of the congregation are invited to contribute to the service - if you have a reading or a reflection to share you are welcome to do so. After the service everyone is invited to a potluck lunch in the hall. Please bring a contribution to go alongside Trisha's quiches. It doesn't have to be posh!

**Sunday 30th September** Death Cafe 2 - 4 p.m. See details above.

**Saturday 27th October**, Quiz and Curry Evening. One of Kathy's legendary quiz nights to raise money for our Portico Rescue Project.

# **Circles of Connection**

## **LDPA Autumn Quarterly Meeting on Sat. 15th September 2018**

A special half-day training course to develop congregational leadership skills

Developing a Wider Range of High-Quality Small-Group Activities: An Introduction to Engagement Group Facilitation

Saturday 15th September - 11am arrivals for an 11.30am start until 3pm Kensington Unitarians, Essex Church, 112 Palace Gardens Terrace, London W8 4RT (this facilitation taster workshop will be followed by worship and refreshments until 4.30pm)

The term 'Engagement Groups' is given to a particular style of Unitarian small-group activity which has the intention to enrich the spiritual life of participants, cultivate right relationship, create community, and deepen participants' connection to each other and to their congregation. In this taster session, led by Jane Blackall and Sheena Gabriel, we will explore the thinking behind Engagement Groups, consider the diverse forms they can take, introduce some basic principles of facilitation, and give pointers to further training opportunities and resources, in the hope that participants will be inspired to set up new Engagement Groups in their own congregations.

You'll need to book in advance by 31st August (though the training is free of charge) so the organisers know how many people to prepare for, but you are also welcome to arrive at 3.00pm to attend a special circle-style worship service connected to the day's overall theme. This will be followed by refreshments and time to socialise with everyone. Finish time will be around 4.30pm.

To book a place on the workshop or find out more, please contact Jane Blackall ASAP on [jane@kensington-unitarians.org.uk](mailto:jane@kensington-unitarians.org.uk) or phone and leave a message on 020 7221 6514.

## **FINDHORN UNITARIAN NETWORK (FUN)**

Invitation to play the Transformation Game at Brighton Unitarian Church

Dates: September 30, 3 pm to 6 pm, and October 1, 9.30 to 3.30 pm

Cost £50 per person (to cover hall hire and facilitator travel)

The Transformation Game® was created and developed at the Findhorn Foundation, and since the first Game workshop was offered in 1978, thousands of people have played the Game in its various forms. This well-designed learning activity allows you to consider your purpose in life and to find new inspiration. Those who have attended a Unitarian Experience week may have had a brief introduction using the purpose cards.

Would you like to participate in the transformation game?

Revd Ralph Catts is in training as a game facilitator and is offering three opportunities in the period between September 1 2018 and October 15 2018. Each session will be for 3

participants and will be conducted over two days for a minimum of 7 1/2 hours and a maximum of 10 hours. As Ralph is in training, there is no charge for his facilitation. You will be asked to contribute for any travel and accommodation costs.

If you are interested please contact  
Ralph Catts, c/- Hull Unitarians Park St HULL HU28TA or email  
ralphunitarian@gmail.com

To keep up-to-date with all that is happening at Brighton Unitarian visit our website  
[www.brightonunitarian.org.uk](http://www.brightonunitarian.org.uk) or follow us on:

Twitter: @BrightUnitarian

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BrightonUnitarian/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/brightonunitarianchurch/>

Share images of your experiences in our beautiful building using the following  
hashtags. #bucpeople #brightonunitarians