



Brighton Unitarians

November 2017 Newsletter

Sunday Services

Services 11 a.m. All Welcome

Please note the Remembrance Day Service on 12th Nov starts at 10.55 am.

05 November	Jef Jones (Lay Leader, BUC)
12 November	Jef Jones (Lay Leader, BUC) - Remembrance Service
19 November	Jo O'Sullivan (BUC Member)
26 November	Rev Jen Sanders (BUC Member)

Quiet Reflection and Candle Lighting

Thursday 9 November 7- 8pm

Welcome from Jef

Welcome to the Newsletter for November. You'll find here a reminder about our Annual Meeting and Church Committee Elections on Sunday 26th November. Please do come along to this important meeting in our church calendar if you can. You'll also find details of our Friday Lunchtime Concerts. From contemporary music to jazz to classical, our concerts are varied and of a very high standard. There's coffee at 12 noon and the concerts start at 12.30pm. Give yourself a treat and call in - all are welcome.

Best wishes, Jef Jones, Lay Leader

Brighton Poetry Festival

You might be interested to hear about the Poetry Festival happening on **Saturday November 18th** at the Old Market in Hove. It features Carol Ann Duffy the poet laureate, and Attila the Stockbroker, Brighton's own punk poet. A cast of young poets

from the poetry slam organisers, Hammer and Tongue, will also be performing. For more details go to www.bhacpoetryfestival.com.

Elections to the Committee and A.G.M.

It is that time of year again when we need to be thinking about the next election for committee members which will take place at the Annual General Meeting after the service on 26th November.

Being part of the committee is a great way to be involved in the running of our sacred space and the care of our collective spiritual intentions. If you have been a member for a year or more then please do consider whether you could contribute in this way. At the moment, the committee meets once every month. The list of committee members is on the wall in the hall by the kitchen door, so do take a look and approach any of these people to discuss what being on the committee involves and how you might be able to help. There will also be an opportunity, after the service on the 29th October, to find out more about how the committee works.

Nomination forms can be received upon request by emailing caroline.drijver@btinternet.com and there will be some in the church foyer. Nominations need to be in by Sunday 5th November.

Annual General Meeting 12.45 pm, 26th November 2017

Notification is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Brighton Unitarian Church will take place in the Church on:

Sunday 26th November at 12.45 p.m.

Nominations for Committee to Caroline Drijver by 5th November.

Quiet Reflection Circle

On the second Thursday of each month we gather for candle lighting and quiet reflection. Starting at 7pm and lasting no longer than an hour. There will be a short reading, 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 just like to sit quietly in a sacred place, please do come along.

Quiet Reflection Circles in 2017, 7 pm to 8 pm
Thursday 9th November

Thursday 14th December

All are welcome!

WaterAid

Our Church has had a very positive relationship with WaterAid over many years. WaterAid is an international charity working to bring clean water, sanitation and flushing toilets to communities around the world. We have been collecting for WaterAid in our Jars of Grace over recent months. At our service on November 19th Ian Hextall from WaterAid will attend to receive our donation and talk to us briefly about the inspiring work that WaterAid is doing. WaterAid will also be holding a fund-raising stall on the church steps that afternoon.

The Security of Our Sacred Space

Brighton Unitarian Church is now patrolled, monitored and protected 24/7 by Pagoda Security Services. If you have any security concerns whilst in the church you should call for assistance.

01273 916888 or 0700 345 0856

Notices confirming Pagoda's contact details are posted on the church noticeboards.

Bursaries for the Unitarian General Assembly April 2018

The next General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches is on 4 - 7th April 2018 at the Staverton Estate near Daventry in Northamptonshire. This is the yearly gathering of Unitarians in the United Kingdom and the forum in which decisions are made about the national Unitarian movement. It's also a great space for networking with Unitarians from around the country and discovering the many groups and societies within the denomination. The General Assembly includes the Anniversary Service and next year's Keynote Speaker is Rev Dr Paul Rasor, an eminent American theologian in liberal religion.

This year bursaries are available for up to 90% of the costs for some participants. If you are between 22 and 50 years old, have been attending church for five years and have not been to a G.A. before and would be interested in applying for this bursary please speak to Jef or a member of the Committee. Applications must be made by 8th December.

Photographs at Services

As most people will know by now, Tony Tree, a good friend of the Church and a person of faith, is taking photographs at our services which will be brought together in an exhibition in support of fundraising for our Portico Repair Project. Tony's black and white photographs are terrific, . We are, however, aware that some people are not happy to have their photographs taken and we want to be sensitive to this: if this includes you, please speak to Tony or the service leader.

Friday Lunchtime Concerts

November

3rd Pianist An-Ting Chang. 'Carnival of the Animals'. The recital includes music inspired by animals.

10th The Philippe Guyard Saxophone Quartet. This newly-formed ensemble performs a mix of music chosen to highlight the wonderful sound of the saxophone quartet. The ensemble will play arrangements taken from the worlds of jazz, contemporary music, and J. S. Bach.

17th 'All about the birds' including songs and piano music by Britten, Head, Ravel and Chausson. Yvonne Patrick (soprano) and Joe Ward (piano).

24th Three's Company: trios, duets and solos by Mozart, Schumann, Quilter, Vaughan Williams and Hahn presented by Sue Mileham (soprano), Timothy Wilcox (tenor), Andrew Robinson (baritone) with Peter Williams (piano).

Doors and coffee from 12 noon.

Concert 12.30 – 1.15 p.m.

Tickets £3.50 on the door.

From the Lay Leader: About Before and After

I've been thinking about the time before and after a Sunday service.

When I started coming to Church in 2001 the moments just before a service were a time of stillness. At about 10.45 people became quiet. They sat in meditation or prayer, preparing themselves for the service as the prelude started. I used to like this. The stillness suggested that the coming hour would be a different kind of time. It seemed to say that this time we are spending together is special, let's make ourselves ready for it. It would be an hour for attending to the deeper things of life, a sacred time.

It is different now. Generally the time before services is livelier - people greet their friends, make arrangements about what to do afterwards, catch up. There is nothing wrong with any of this - we are a community, after all, held together by many strong bonds of affection and friendship, and these are just as sacred as stillness. Moreover

the stillness was not a rule and it was never about a solemn and absolute silence. It was simply a spiritual habit of being quiet.

Perhaps that quiet moment is outdated now. I wonder, even so, if we have lost something. Our lives today are exceptionally busy, full of to-do-lists and emails and Twitter and Facebook and Instagram. It might be that we need quietness as never before.

There is no right or wrong answer to this question, but I would like to start a conversation about it. So please do let me know what you think.

And what about after a service? I've had some conversations recently with people about their first visit to Church, and I've been reminded how nervous I was when I first came to a service at Brighton Unitarian Church. In fact, I was very nervous. I was worried that I'd do the wrong thing. What if I stood up or sat down at the wrong time? What if no-one spoke to me in the hall after the service? It's easy for those of us who have been around the Church for a while to forget the anxiety we felt about our first visit. Perhaps we could all keep this in mind if we see someone sitting alone at a table in the hall, or looking rather self-conscious as other people are chatting. Nobody wants to be overwhelmed or put on the spot, but it's easy enough to introduce oneself and start a conversation with someone who might just be hoping you'll do exactly that.

We are a welcoming church, but it's easy to take that welcome for granted. Our free faith and our community are great and unique gifts - let's continue to share them with openness and warmth!

Jef Jones, October 2017

BUC Fundraising

Christine Clark-Lowes has made another great selection of up-cycled Christmas cards. These will be on sale before the Friday Lunchtime Concerts and after Sunday Services. All proceeds to the Building Appeal Fund.

And don't forget our mugs! These will make a very nice Christmas present for your friends and family. Just £5.

Forward Diary

Saturday 9th December. Doors 7 p.m. Concert 7.30 p.m.

Concert: International language Winter Warmer. Music & dance from around the world
Tickets £8 <http://www.wegotickets.com/event/416291> or on the door.

Sunday 17th December, 3 p.m.

Johan De Cock Organ Recital. Organ music and a few congregational carols! Christmas

cake and mulled wine.

Free entry. Retiring collection. All proceeds to go towards the upkeep of Brighton Unitarian's Kirkland organ.

Saturday 13th January 2018 Kathy and Ann will be holding another one of our popular quiz evenings this time with curry rather than fish'nchips. More details to follow.