



BUC Newsletter October 2022

Our Mission Statement

Brighton Unitarian Church provides a caring environment, with spiritual depth, without dogma, offering a community resource to diverse groups in congruence with our values, promoting a diversity of Unitarianism nationally, and with a concern for a more compassionate world.



It's Caroline Drijver here, bringing you our October BUC newsletter.

There's been a lot going on this month for our church, with changes afoot. And yet not a lot of news for now.

If you'd like to send me a picture of your area or something else of interest for the October newsletter, then contact me at caroline.drijver@gmail.com

In this newsletter you will find:

Details of Sunday services

Details of Friday Lunchtime Concerts

From the Committee

Wider Unitarian Community

BUC Community Contribution

A poem

SUNDAY SERVICES

Services will begin at 11.00

25th September

Rev Jennifer Sanders- Interfaith Minister, Lay leader at Hastings Unitarians and BUC member

2nd October

Rev Susie Courtault, Frances Tulley, BUC members, leading a congregational service.

9th October

Stephen Crowther, BUC member

16th October

Rev Susie Courtault, BUC member

23rd October

Rev Kate Whyman, Minister at Plymouth Unitarian Church.

30th November 2022

Francis Clark-Lowes, BUC member

6th November 2022

Eleanor Chiari

FRIDAY LUNCHTIME CONCERTS



Concert 12.30 - 1.15 pm, Tea & Coffee 12.00 - 12.30pm

The concerts are diverse, mostly classical but also jazz and folk. The performers are a mixture of top local talent and touring musicians from across the globe. These affordable concerts in our beautiful church are a perfect way to spend your Friday lunchtimes.

Come and have a drink before from our coffee room before the concert starts and get to know your fellow concertgoers.

Wheelchair-accessible venue. £5 Suggested Donation. Everyone Welcome.

For end of September and all of October we have:

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September 30th:

Soprano Olive Murray "Nuggets and Nibbles" - bite size 'opera appetizers'! A taster of musical hor d'oeuvres to sumptuously sample this lunchtime.

October 7th:

Stephen Raine returns to explore the juxtaposition of old and new. Programme includes works by Bach, Haydn and Philip Glass.

October 14th:

Pianist Kevin Allen "From 1893 to 1923 - Three Decades of Momentous Change". Piano pieces by Brahms, Berg, Schoenberg and Bartok

October 21st:

Nick Andrews plays Bach - a recital of two large scale pieces by JS Bach on the piano.

October 28th:

Performing for the first time at Brighton Unitarian. Neil Crossland performs works by Haydn, Beethoven and Philip Glass.

FROM THE COMMITTEE

As you know we have three important vacancies: the position of Minister; Church Manager; and caretaker. There is currently no news about any of these except to say that there are promising applicants for the Church Minister and Caretaker posts.

You will be informed as soon as there is definite news on these.

WIDER UNITARIAN COMMUNITY

Hindu Unitarian Connections



I saw this online event on Facebook recently and thought it looked interesting. It's a monthly event and is open to anyone with an interest:

Event by [The Unitarians](#)

Public · Anyone on or off Facebook

Hindu Unitarian Connections is a space for Hindus and Unitarians to gather and celebrate our shared light and kinship with one another. They gather on the first Wednesday of the month online, via Zoom.

Many of us share core values including the belief that there is a unity at the heart of religious diversity. The divine can be experienced in many forms, with many faces, but underneath there is one ultimate reality. Together we nurture the personal search for spiritual truth, the idea that all things are deeply interconnected, and a profound respect for all religious paths.

We meet with noble intentions, to celebrate our common beliefs and to find fruitful and meaningful ways to explore our differences. This is a place of sacred work, for loving dialogue and respectful listening. This is a Unitarian Transformers event coordinated by Indra Sikdar.

Zoom Meeting ID: 94223648779, Zoom Passcode: 3c9Pb1

BUC COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION

While we wait for news of the filling of our vacancies, there is not a lot of news. Having said that, there may well be things that readers would like to hear about, so please, as ever, feel free to send me any contributions.

In the meantime, I have jotted down a few reflections of my own:

Change

I first entered Brighton Unitarian Church in the late Autumn of 1995 when, like lots of couples, David and I were looking for somewhere to get married. The boiler was broken so the service was held in the hall with heaters. Jane Barton, a Unitarian working in hospices in London, was leading the service which was about people who are spiritual without believing in a god. Maslow's hierarchy of need was included, we sang 'Others call it God', Hilda Bacon played the piano and Evelyn did the notices, such as they were then. I had no idea of what the church looked like inside and didn't care. I felt a deep and moving sense of arriving somewhere that felt just right, and it moved me to tears. I have since spoken to many people who experienced something similar during their first Unitarian service, and no doubt many churches have the same effect.

At that time our church did not have a minister and Felix and Margaret Gorton did an excellent job of 'caretaking' the church. The congregation was very small and I was the youngest by about 25 years at the age of 34. Rev Art Lester was the Minister for the South and he would lead some services and be available for the very occasional marriage. New Road was still a road for cars with free parking. There probably was a committee but everything was very small scale and most of the congregation had an informal role to play. There was no membership as we now have it.

Jane Barton became the Lay leader and did her Unitarian Ministerial training. Suddenly there were many new people arriving, and quickly I was no longer one of the youngest. Connections were made with other faith groups (I even attended a few interfaith groups at one point), a committee was formed, membership initiated, a children's group was started and there was enough work to need an administrator. I think there must already have been a cleaner and caretaker. Many people came to the church because of the children's group, people came to get married and there were more church/hall hirings.

After Jane left we had a period of having no Minister, just as now. And just as now, we had an excellent committee to guide us through this time. After this we had a good ten years or so of having Jef Jones as our Lay Leader. Jef brought a new feel to the church, and as always happens with change, some people left and a good many new people arrived. We stopped the children's group and this is something that has been on our minds as a congregation for the last few years. We had a go at offering support to homeless and marginalised people through the Welcome Café and I think it is also on our minds about whether to restart this in the future? Maybe? I say this because we are somewhat in a state of abeyance. We do not yet have a new Minister to guide us through important decisions about how we want to be as a congregational group in our community. We also have no caretaker and our manager is about to leave. This feels quite scary. At the same time we have a brilliant committee who are working really hard to fill these posts, and other devoted and hardworking volunteers as well. And we are not alone. We have each other- there are quite a few of us, we have new people coming through our doors and over the years we have deepened our connections to the wider UK Unitarian movement.

I know I have missed out a lot of important history here, but I have been reflecting on my own history with our church. Quite a few people have expressed their fears to me about so much change happening in one go, but when I look back I see so much resilience and determination, and I see this today, perhaps more than ever. And I always remember with huge fondness finding my spiritual home in the shabby hall of a church with no minister.

Caroline Drijver

A POEM

Who Makes These Changes

by Mawlana Jalaluddin Rumi

Who makes these changes?

I shoot an arrow right.

It lands left.

I ride after a deer and find myself

Chased by a hog.

I plot to get what I want

And end up in prison.

I dig pits to trap others

And fall in.

I should be suspicious

Of what I want.

Please send in any contributions for the Newsletter
to caroline.drijver@gmail.com by the end of Monday 24th October

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

Twitter: @BrightUnitarian

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

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

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCT1m35I-Urvbyg2AsRRsF9g>

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Reply-To: Brighton Unitarians <buc@brightonunitarian.org.uk>
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Tue, Sep 20, 2022 at 2:47 PM

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BUC COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION

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I know I have missed out a lot of important history here, but I have been reflecting on my own history with our church and the changes we have need through. Quite a few people have expressed their fears to me about so much change happening in one go, but when I look back I see so much resilience and determination, and I see this today, perhaps more than ever. And I always remember with huge fondness finding my spiritual home in the shabby hall of a church with no minister.

Caroline Drijver

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Please send in any contributions for the Newsletter
to caroline.drijver@gmail.com
by the end of Monday 19th September

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

Twitter: @BrightUnitarian

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

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

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCT1m35I-Urvbyq2AsRRsF9g>

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