



## 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.

## BUC Newsletter February 2023



*February is the month of Februs, the ancient Roman god of purification*

## What's in this Newsletter

A belated Happy 2023 to all our friends, members, people who work for us, and people in the community who work with us.

In this February Newsletter you will find:

Sunday Services

From the Committee

BUC news

Lunchtime concerts

News from the wider Unitarian Community in the South East

A poem

# Sunday Services

**Please note: services are at 11 a.m. except 12th February when we will start at 10.30 am**

29th January - Rev Sheena Gabriel - former Minister at Godalming Unitarians.

5th February – Rev. Susie Courtault BUC Member and Interfaith Minister

12th February at 10.30 am - Jane Tinker from Kensington Unitarians  
(Livestreamed to BUC)

19th February - Stephen Crowther - BUC Member

26th February - Eleanor Chiari

5th March - Rev Kate Whyman, Plymouth Unitarians (live streamed to BUC)

12th March - John Naish, BUC Member

Do check the website for updates.

## From the Committee

AGM Sunday 29th January

A reminder of our AGM at 12.30 on Sunday 29th Jan. This will be held in the church after the service.

# BUC News

## Quiz Night Saturday 11th March

Fanny is organising a quiz night for 11th March. More details will follow but for now - *Save the Date!*

## Volunteers needed for Teas and Coffees after the service

Please do help with this if you can. You can speak with Helen Lee about this, or send an email to the church FAO Helen Lee and she can have a chat with you about what is involved. The social time after Sunday Services is an important part of our time together for those who wish to join in, so we need hands on deck! :)

## The church has been decorated! Again!

Many thanks to Beth and Chris for decorating a corner of the church with Chinese Lanterns in celebration of the Chinese Year! They also decorated the church for Christmas and there were many comments about how warm and welcoming the church felt during this time.

*Here is Beth...*



*Photo by our friend Tony Tree*

## Crafty Lovelies for sale on Fridays

Trisha will be selling her beautiful knitted and crocheted creatures, gloves and other delights before the Lunchtime concerts on Fridays. They really are wonderful gifts, if you can bear to give them away!

## Death Cafe 25th February

Please see below details of this event where death can be discussed in a safe space. Companion Voices- Singing for the End of Life, will be there too which will be beautiful.



## Cards for upcycling

If you have any cards for upcycling, do bring them into the office for upcycling.



## Brighton Fringe Festival

This will run from 5th May to 4th June this year, and Cat is in discussions with organisers about this. This is an important event in our calendar.

## Lunchtime Concerts for February



The concerts begin at 12.30. Doors open 12noon for tea and coffee and Trisha's knitted and crocheted temptations.

Suggested donation £5.

-03<sup>rd</sup>: **Matthew Sear**: A Guitar Recital of Homages - *Heitor Villa-Lobos*, Leo Brouwer, William Walton, Django Reinhardt, Julian Bream, Manuel de Falla and Debussy.

-10<sup>th</sup>: **Lewis Kingsley Peart** with memorable melodies, stylish rhythms and thrilling pianism. This programme is a celebration of music written by great virtuosi from The Golden Age of piano playing.

--17<sup>th</sup>: **Belladonna** (Sue Mileham, Jane Plessner and Nicola Grunberg) present "Love is in the air", a programme for voice, clarinet and piano ranging from Mozart to Cole Porter on the eternal. ***Please note this is a change from what is publicised on the flyer.***

-24<sup>th</sup>: **Luca Luciano**: part of a tour to promote Luciano's new CD on XX Century Music, the performance will include music by Stravinsky, Berio and Gershwin along with his own compositions.

**Wider Unitarian Community**

## Book study group

The District Minister, Rev'd Jim Corrigan, is to facilitate a Zoom study group on Stephen Lingwood's book 'Seeking Paradise: A Unitarian Mission for Our Times', from next month (February). The group will meet twice monthly until May, normally on the first and third Wednesday evenings of each month.

This book inspired the theme for our District's FUSE Festival of Unitarians in the South East.

'Seeking Paradise' is a relatively short book, with an introduction and seven chapters, so it'll be possible to cover it in four months (February to May). The emphasis will be on reading and open discussion. All are welcome and all are encouraged to read the book beforehand. It can be ordered through our denominational headquarters at Essex Hall by [email](mailto:alonghurst@unitarian.org.uk):

[alonghurst@unitarian.org.uk](mailto:alonghurst@unitarian.org.uk)

To join the study group, email our District Administrator Helen

White: [administrator@ldpaunitarians.org](mailto:administrator@ldpaunitarians.org)

## PULSE

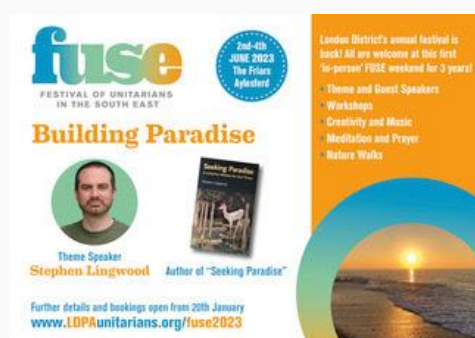
Hopefully you've all received Pulse. If not, please click [here](#)

## FUSE 2023

FUSE is the Festival of Unitarians in the South East, and will take place 2nd to 4th June this year.

Please use the link for further information and booking

<https://www.ldpaunitarians.org/fuse2023>



The poster for FUSE 2023 features the following text and graphics:

- fuse** FESTIVAL OF UNITARIANS IN THE SOUTH EAST
- 2nd-4th JUNE 2023 The Friars, Aylesford
- London District's annual festival is back! All are welcome at this first 'in-person' FUSE weekend for 3 years!
- Theme and Guest Speakers
- Workshops
- Creativity and Music
- Meditation and Prayer
- Nature Walks
- Theme Speaker: **Stephen Lingwood** Author of "Seeking Paradise"
- Further details and bookings open from 20th January [www.LDPAunitarians.org/fuse2023](http://www.LDPAunitarians.org/fuse2023)

The poster includes a circular portrait of Stephen Lingwood, a small image of the book cover for 'Seeking Paradise', and a scenic background image of a sunset over water.

# A Poem

Thank you to Jen Barton for contributing this poem.

Earlier in January, Trisha led a wonderful Heart & Soul evening about using pebbles in spiritual practice; it reminded Jen of the connection we can have with them as captured by Mary Oliver.

## Watering the Stones

Mary Oliver

Every summer I gather a few stones from the beach and keep them in a glass bowl. Now and again I cover them with water, and they drink. There's no question about this; I put tinfoil over the bowl, tightly, yet the water disappears. This doesn't mean we ever have a conversation, or that they have the kind of feelings we do, yet it might mean something. Whatever the stones are, they don't lie in the water and do nothing.

Some of my friends refuse to believe it happens, even though they've seen it. But a few others- I've seen them walking down the beach holding a few stones, and they look at them rather more closely now. Once in a while, I swear, I've even heard one or two of them saying "Hello." Which, I think, does no harm to anyone or anything, does it?

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Contributions for the newsletter are welcome and need to reach me by 21st

February. Please send them to [caroline.drijver@gmail.com](mailto:caroline.drijver@gmail.com) with **Newsletter** as the subject

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/>

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

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