



November 2020

Dear Brighton Unitarian,

It's been a good while now since we were able to meet up in person and we hope you have been as well as can be in the last six months.

This email is sent on behalf of the committee and contains various sections. Please do bear with it and read through to the end so that you don't miss anything important.

The email is about:

- Plans for Ministry after Jef has left
- A call for nominations for the next BUC Management Committee (nomination form attached to this email)
- Information about Quiet Reflection.
- Christmas
- Notes from the last two committee meetings

Plans for Ministry following Jef leaving his post as Lay Leader at the end of March 2021

I think you are all aware that Jef will be leaving us as Lay Leader at the end of March 2021.

It goes without saying that we will miss Jef very much, and this is a factor in our thinking about this time. Earlier in the year, we had a member's meeting with Rev Martin Whittell who gave us an outline of the process of finding a new Minister. This was when Jef was going to leave in September 2021 which was delayed so that Jef could support us through these challenging months. We are very appreciative that Jef did this for us.

In order to allow us a period of time to process Jef's leaving and absence, we will not be considering a new Minister for at least six months following Jef's leaving, and in fact, it is more likely to be a year. This is a common time-frame, especially after a long period of ministerial service such as Jef has provided. We will be looking at ways in which we can support ourselves and each other during this time - more on this in the coming couple of months.

Once we are ready to look for a new Minister, we will put into place a search group and put ourselves on the Vacant Pulpit List. This would follow a period of active dialogue with congregational members and it the process go on from there.

We are hopeful that these plans will allow us to gather ourselves as a congregation, all the more so as we will have had time apart due to the pandemic restrictions on our meeting up in person.

BUC Committee Elections – Call for Nominations

(A message from Jen Barton, our committee election manager this year)

Please seriously consider if you could contribute to our church by becoming a Committee Member. Or perhaps there's someone else you think would be good in this role.

A candidate should be a member of the church and will need 2 members to propose them.

The candidate needs to complete **the attached form** and send it digitally if possible to elections.brightonunitarians@gmail.com - if it's a paper copy, please return it to the church office in an envelope for the attention of Jen Barton, Elections Manager.

If you need a blank paper copy posted to you, just call Jen on 07979 901800.

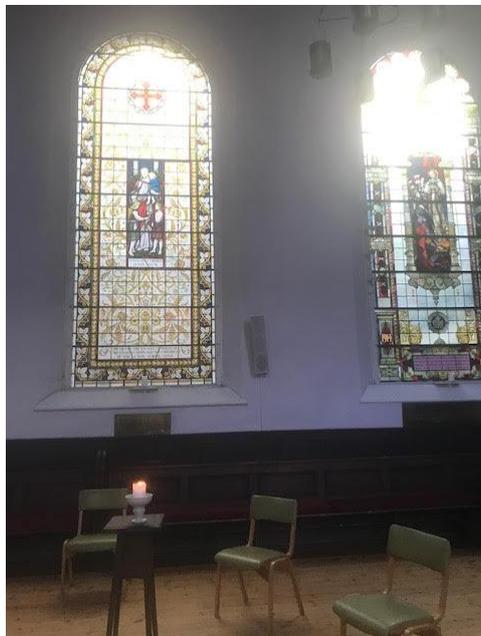
Please submit Nomination Forms by Sunday 13 December 2020. Elections will take place at the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 24 January 2021 after the service.

If you'd like a general chat about what serving on the Committee involves, then do get in touch with any of the current Committee Members – Caroline Drijver, Jo Howarth, Kathy Pitt, Jennifer Sanders or Jeanette Webb.

Quiet Reflection

Look at our beautiful church.

It is waiting patiently for us!



Wasn't it lovely to see Jef from inside the church for the Remembrance Day Service on 8th November?

You too can visit our church on Wednesdays between 12.30pm and 2.00pm for Quiet Reflection.

This is permitted during this lockdown period.

Christmas Plans

It sounds a bit grand to have a heading for Christmas plans when the truth is that we do not yet know what we are going to do regarding a Christmas service, other than that there will be something and you will be kept informed. Do let us know of any good ideas for consideration!

Fundraising

Fundraising has always been important, and now more than ever.

Thank you to all of your financial contributions during this time, and thank you also for the fund-raising suggestions that are coming in. A couple of people from the committee will be contacting you to take ideas forward.

Thank you to Christine for making so many cards over the years. The sale of these has provided valuable funds for the church. Anyone fancy taking this over?

In the meantime, is there anyone out there who is nifty at finding grants that we can apply for? Also, these grants take time and dedication to complete - does anyone have expertise in this that they would be willing to share, or is anyone willing to learn?

And look at these beauties made by our member, Tricia....



FACE MASKS



Removable filter. Unique designs

£10 suggested donation 100% goes towards Brighton Unitarian Church

They are selling like hotcakes but Tricia is making more, so don't panic!

You can pick them up from the church anytime Mon - Fri (just let Ashleigh know in advance so he can make sure there's someone in the building). They're £10 suggested donation, all money goes to BUC. Payment by cash or [Just Giving](#)

Notes from the last two Committee Meetings

The committee met on 12th October and 9th November.

We are grateful to Susie Courtault and Nick Cook who have joined us as co-opted members.

The Welcome Cafe remains on pause. It is hoped that this can restart at some point, but it would need a co-ordinator.

Sarah West is kindly helping us to buy camera equipment for live-streaming. It is hoped that we will have this in early December. We have been given some funds for this by Martin Whitell for which we are very grateful. It will be attractive to potential hirers as well as useful for us. Thank you, Sarah.

We have had a vacancy for the position of Safe Guarding Officer which Rev Susie Courtault has kindly offered to fill. Thank you, Susie.

Ashleigh has created a beautiful new website which will go live soon. Look out for this! Thank you Ashleigh.

For the moment we have not re-applied for a license to conduct civil partnerships as these have been mostly replaced by everyone being able to be married in our church. At this time the cost of a licence is considerable for us.

The entire committee will be standing down on 24th January. Our Chair, Caroline Drijver, is planning to stand down from the committee altogether and two other members are unsure about whether they will stand for election again. Our Secretary, Jennifer Sanders, will not be standing for Secretary again in January. This will leave significant gaps,

Our AGM will be held on Sunday 24th January. We need to wait until nearer the time to know whether this will be in the church or remote.

That's it from us!

A huge thank you to everyone for sticking with it during this time, and for all of you who have been doing the extra work to keep us going during this challenging time.

Do be in touch with any comments or questions. You can email buc@brightonunitarian.org.uk or call the church on 01273 696022 and leave a message for someone from the committee to call you back.

Best wishes,

Caroline, on behalf of the BUC Committee Team

