

BUC August 2023 News

There will be no official newsletter this month so this email is to keep you informed about important news and events happening before the next newsletter in September.

Pride Celebrations at BUC this weekend, and beyond:

As you know, we are hosting the LGBT+ Unitarian Voices free pop-up exhibition until Wednesday 9th August. The remaining exhibition opening times are:

Saturday 5th August 11am-4pm

Sunday 6th August 1-3pm*

Monday 7th August 11am-4pm

Wednesday 9th August 10am-4pm*

**opportunity to share stories*



<https://www.unitarian.org.uk/lgbt-unitarian-voices-timeline/>

This Saturday (5th August) the church, and exhibition, will be open from 11am-4pm and we would be grateful for more volunteers to help keep this space open and welcoming to all during this time. A number of people have already visited the exhibition so do come along and see it for yourself.

You will already have received a separate email about this Sunday's service, 11am, which will be led by Jennifer Sanders, BUC Minister-elect, with the theme "Celebrating Pride in our city".

From our Minister:

"I'm sitting in the office at church listening to the bustle outside on New Road. It's warm and sunny and it's almost as if you can feel the expectation in the air as the city fills up for Pride.

Brighton Pride is an international event bringing with it thousands of people into the city for a weekend-long celebration. Those who live near Preston Park watch as it gets swallowed up by a sea of music and dance tents. If you live in Kemptown you either embrace the party or leave for the weekend and hospitality are run off its feet.

It will take more than rain and a train strike to stop these celebrations.

But it wasn't always like this. There are a number of photographs in the library which accompany an exhibition celebrating 50 years since the first March organised by the Gay Liberation Front took place in 1973. A small group courageously took their placards and walked along the seafront. Their wish was to be seen and heard and like us all to be accepted just as we are.

So much has changed since then from a small group to 250 thousand plus but behind the glitzy razzamatazz sparkles and Gay anthems lies a story of determination, courage, and resilience.

The pop up exhibition in the church tells the Unitarian story from the last 50 years and our contribution to the fight for equality and justice in the LGBT+ community

I remember my first Pride which was a march rather than a parade - the queens would be at the front followed by the police and Preston Park was a free party. It was a day to stand up and be counted, a day to really have the courage to say this is me and a day to celebrate freely with others, but it was just one day.

The landscape is very different now, as the city parades its giant flag, shops, restaurants and hotels are welcoming to the LGBT+ community and as a city we are proud to host one of the largest events in Europe. Our church will be open over the weekend to showcase our exhibition, offer a space and a cuppa for any weary Pride revellers. Please do come and join us!

So whether you are putting on your raincoat to watch the floats, dancing in your wellies, sipping a glass at one of the events in the city or hiding in your back garden until it's all over, let's all take a moment to wish Brighton Pride a successful weekend of celebrations.

We offer our love and welcome to all visitors and are proud that in some small way our unitarian journey has played a part in the journey towards equality and inclusion

Happy Pride Everyone"



Church Anniversary Service - change of date:

Please note that our 203rd Anniversary Service for the church has changed and will now take place on **Sunday 27th August** followed by a picnic in Pavilion Gardens.

Other dates for your diaries:

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

BRIGHTON, HOVE & DISTRICT BRANCH

WILL BE COMMEMORATING ALL NUCLEAR VICTIMS SINCE 1945

HIROSHIMA DAY, Sunday 6th August

In the evening we will gather at 8.15pm until 9.00pm by the lake in Queens Park, Park Street, off Eastern Road, Brighton.

Speakers - Mayor, Councillor Jackie O'Quinn, and another to be confirmed

After the two speakers we will have a silent walk around the lake followed by 2 mins silence and ending with a Japanese song sung by Dr Rebecca Johnson, local WILPF member and vice chair of CND.

All welcome

**BRIGHTON CHRISTIAN
CLIMATE ACTION**

PILGRIMAGE FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE and PEACE

Sunday 10th September

St Luke's Prestonville, 64 Old Shoreham Rd ❖ 1pm

One Church, Florence Rd ❖ 1.30pm

St Peter's, York Place ❖ 2pm

Buddhist Centre, Tichbourne St ❖ 2.25pm

Friends' Meeting House, Ship St, ❖ 2.45/3.00pm

Seafront Groyne by Palace Pier ❖ 3.15pm

christianclimateaction.org

We come together to walk in witness to the suffering of our earth and her people

- ❖ with hope for compassion and healing
- ❖ as a reminder about the climate and ecological crisis
- ❖ reflecting on the impact this has on those affected by war

We remember that those who have done the least to cause this emergency are suffering its worst effects. We offer a safe and contemplative activity to hold our frustration, fear and grief and, as we pause, to model a new way of being in relationship with each other and the earth

Celebrating Jef:

Last call for contributions for "Celebrating Jef and his legacy" on Saturday 9th September - if you have some memories or anecdotes you would like to share please send them to: celebratingjef@brightonunitarian.org.uk Thanks for all that have already been sent.

Please remember also to email celebratingjef@brightonunitarian.org.uk to confirm if you are coming and would like a place reserved for you in the church.

In other news:

Women of Note's summer charity concert at the church on Saturday 22nd July raised nearly £640 - half of which is for the church and the other half is for The Trussell Trust, which runs food banks all over the country: www.trusselltrust.org Thanks to all who came along to support.

And finally, speaking of concerts, there are no Friday lunchtime fundraising concerts in August but these will re-commence on 1st September - please see the website for details of our exciting autumn line up of performers and programmes, or pick up a leaflet from the church.