



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 June 2023



From Jennifer Sanders, Minister Elect

May began with promises – a promise of a festival rich in creativity and diversity, more bank holidays than you could possibly imagine, and a new King.

We saw the children of Brighton parading down New Rd with their giant ice cream cones and flowers, and the church has hosted a plethora of performances from guitars to recitals, theatre productions to choirs.

And in it all we learnt of Jef's death

It seems almost impossible to believe that this was nearly a month ago. There have been many conversations, hugs, tears and shared comfort these past few weeks and like so many other losses we are finding a pathway from loss into memory and story.

I was speaking with a UU minister at my recent college residential in Somerset about Jef's death. He spoke about turtles and at first I was rather confused.

It's like baby turtles, he said when they are ready to go to the sea. The supporters are trying

to herd them to the water all at the same time. Some are at the front scurrying to get to the safety of the sea, some are going round in circles, some go back from where they hatched looking for comfort and safety and some just don't move.

Grief is like this, he explained . We are all at different stages . Some of us have dived into our grief immersing ourselves in it, trying to make sense of it by finding creative ways to remember. For others it is a still silent and meditative practice and others have seemingly moved on accepting what is, and there are some that haven't even begun to digest the news.

Our church community has had many struggles in its history and together we have woven a tapestry that is rich in memory and story. Jef's life and death will also be interwoven into this continuing tapestry of the life of this community.

Wherever we are in our grief we carry our shell of faith with us, providing us with protection from the storms of life, and we do this in a loving community. So let us continue to be kind to one another, even if their pathway looks very different from our own.

Go well into June with the promise of the longest day and let this be a reminder that we each have an astonishing light of our own being.

I leave you with one of Jef's favourite prayers

Prayer of Iolo Morganwg

Grant oh Spirit thy protection,
And in protection, strength,
And in strength, understanding,
And in understanding, knowledge,
And in knowledge, the knowledge of justice,
And in the knowledge of justice, the love of it,
And in the love of it, the love of all existences.
And in the love of all existences,
The love of the Spirit of Life and all Goodness

Warm wishes and blessings

Jennifer

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BUC News

BUC irregular choir

We have two dates in June for singing together again:

Sunday, June 11th - 12.45 to 2.15

Friday, June 16th, - 6 to 7.30 p.m.

(We will NOT be meeting on Wednesday 31st)

As before, suggestions are welcome. I have the round 'Sumer is Icumen in' and some other possibilities

Stuart,

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Fundraising

On Sunday July 9th there will be a get-together of anyone who is interested in fundraising. This will be in the Church after the service.

One idea that has come up for fundraising is a good old-fashioned jumble sale, probably in the second half of September. If you are thinking of taking clothes or salable items to the charity shop, could you hold onto it so we can sell it at a jumble sale. We need to raise quite a bit to move to green energy and efficiency.

On the subject of green energy and efficiency - does anyone know someone who has expertise or knowledge about this? If so, please do email Cat and let her know.

There will be another card-making workshop on Sunday 23rd July, straight after we have finished socialising after the service. Do come along if you can and do keep bringing in your cards for upcycling. Just drop them in the office with a note for Cat.

Volunteers needed for Teas and Coffee after the service

Simon Blackmore has kindly offered to take on the co-ordinating of the tea/coffee rota for after Sunday Services. We are always looking for volunteers, so if you can help then you can speak with Simon about this, or send an email to the church Fao Simon Blackmore and he can let you know 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! :)

BUC-related Events

2nd and 3rd June - A Fine Way to Treat a Steinway- Mike Hatchard

Unitarian Church BN1 1UG
5th and 25th May,
2nd and 3rd June
7.30pm tickets £15/10
<https://www.brightonfringe.org/events/a-fine-way-to-treat-a-steinway/>

A FINE WAY to treat a STEINWAY

Mike Hatchard

at the **BRIGHTON FRINGE.**

Known especially for his legendary Jazz Breakfasts on the South Coast (particularly at the Ropestack, Shoreham) Mike Hatchard is a formidable pianist with an almost unparalleled capacity for improvisation in all genres.

His playing credits include John Dankworth and Cleo Laine, Barbara Thompson, the Pasadena Roof Orchestra, Tina May, Harbie Flowers and the Chamber Ensemble of London.

He studied at the RCM with Peter Wallfisch and Philip Cannon; Norman Lebrecht once described him as 'the British Tom Lehrer' and the ghost of Victor Borge clearly lurks beneath his psyche.

The stunning Steinway Grand in the intimate setting of the Unitarian Church (near the Pavilion) provides the perfect way to see this consummate artist and natural raconteur



This is a fun and interactive evening of piano and songs. BUC will be hosting the refreshments.

Tickets on the door and via Brighton Fringe:

<https://www.brightonfringe.org/events/a-fine-way-to-treat-a-steinway/>

Goodbye Jolene

This play includes film footage of two musical angels performing in front of our blue curtains.

It's the story of a woman, who with grit and courage, resolves to grab a bigger life before it's too late. It's a story of transformation inspired by Dolly Parton's own narrative. It's also a story of two people, both lonely and isolate, who are learning to live with grief.

The show deals with dyslexia and includes the songs of Dolly Parton!



It's on for one night, Thursday June 6th, at The Old Market

<https://www.theoldmarket.com/shows/goodbye-jolene>

Lunchtime Concerts for June and July



The concerts begin at 12.30. Doors open 12noon for tea and coffee and Trisha's knitted and crocheted temptations. Suggested donation £5.

June 2nd - Sussex Song Makers: A group of female singers, led by Elizabeth Muir-Lewis, who have achieved a fine reputation over the last few years. Their programme will include some Baroque gems and an arrangement of Vivaldi's "Gloria".

June 9th - The Brighton Chamber Ensemble frame 'Urizen' - John Hawkins' powerful meditation on William Blake for viola and piano - with youthful works by two masters of earlier generations: the piano trio no.1 by Shostakovich and Mahler's piano quartet movement in A minor.

June 16th - Evie Harrison and Zhanna Dashkovskaya-Kemp will play sax and piano duets including works by Erwin Schulhoff, William Grant Still and Seymour Burns.

June 23rd - 'Who Wants Real?' Soprano **Mehreen Shah** returns to Brighton Unitarian to perform a recital of songs and arias exploring the variation of dreams and the imagination.

June 30th - Blue Café Duo: Harpist Magdalena Reising and guitarist Shane Hill will perform a selection of music from their extensive repertoire, including popular classical and folk themes as well as jazz and Latin standards from the Great American songbook.

July 7th – Ukrainian pianist **Anastasia Tolstonog's** thoughtful and expressive interpretations have captured the hearts of audiences worldwide. Her programme for this concert will include works by V. Kosenko, J.P. Rameau, F. Chopin and M. Ravel.

July 14th - BUC regular, Nick Andrews (piano) is joined by his great friend **Dan James** (cello). There will be Bach and Beethoven. Beautiful music, lovely Chaps!

July 21st - The LIPS Quintet are very pleased to return to BUC, bringing some sultry wind quintets to match hoped-for sunshine. Come and enjoy a concert of effervescent and melodious murmurations.

July 28th - Jaga Klimaszewska (violin) & **Mateusz Rettner** (piano). The subtle lyricism and clarity of the early Schubert masterpiece D.574 contrasted with the drama of the early 20th century work by Szymanowski. Join us for this intriguing pairing of two great sonatas for violin and piano and a short set of four miniatures by Anton Webern in between.

There will be no Friday Lunchtime Concerts in August. Concerts resume on Friday 1st September 2023.

Wider Unitarian Community

Unitarians for Climate Justice

(contribution from Caroline Drijver)

On 22nd April a group of about 25 Unitarians from across Britain came together to march under the banner of 'Unitarians for Climate Justice'. Thanks to Rob Oulton we really did have a banner. This was an amazingly well organised event as the decision to participate had been made not more than some 14 days (maybe less) previously. Rob and Lizzie Kingston Harrison (who is on the GA staff team as Congregational Connections Lead) were the main instigators. We were relatively small in number due to the last minute decision to join in.



It felt so important to me to be marching for climate justice with fellow Unitarians. The banner was interesting and played a big part. I felt it formed a matrix for the group – taking it in turns to carry it together, working together to make sure it stayed vaguely straight, negotiating other marchers together, staying close together behind it. Together, together, together.

At the end of the march was a 'die-in', when the marchers lie down on the ground as though dead (did you know that most people still use their mobile phones when playing dead!). We were lucky enough to be close to the front, so we lay down, on our banner, right outside the Houses of Parliament. It suddenly became still, no more shouting, whistles and chanting. People had recorded birdsong that they played on their mobile phones. And then, from loud-speakers, the [Lost Words Blessing](#), that Stuart had taught us in the Irregular Choir only a couple of weeks previously. It was a magical moment.



Moving forward, at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 14th there is a Zoom meeting for all Unitarians interested in coming together for the cause of Climate Justice. There has already been some sharing of ideas on the WhatsApp group created for 'The Big One' march about what Unitarians would like to stand for. If you would like to join this group then do let me know (Caroline Drijver 07791781022), but this will likely be replaced by meeting on Zoom on a regular basis. The Zoom meeting on 14th June will be an opportunity to hear where we are at and contribute to the dialogue about what we want to stand for. However, the main purpose of the group is action!!

Details for this meeting are

7.30 pm Wednesday 14th June

https://www.google.com/url?q=https://zoom.us/j/94223648779?pwd%3DUEVkejhLQnkvV2VrMHU5THg2ZUJNdz09&sa=D&source=calendar&usd=2&usq=AOvVaw1CHXPHFUN_MFwSfbA_qyP

Just in case:

Meeting ID - 942 2364 8779

Passcode - 3c9Pb1

A Bit of Fun

Thanks to Francis for sending in this welcome that he found on the door of the parish church at St Ives, Cambridgeshire.

On the door is posted, in the manner of Luther's 95 theses, the following notice:

WELCOME

[surrounded with equivalents in numerous languages]

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, straight, gay, confused, well-heeled or down at heel. We especially welcome wailing babies and excited toddlers.

We welcome you whether you can sing like Pavarotti or just growl quietly to yourself. You're welcome here if you're 'just browsing,' just woken up or just go out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury, or haven't been to church since Christmas ten years ago.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, football dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps or don't like 'organised religion.' (We're not that keen on it either!)

We offer a welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or are here because granny is visiting and wanted to get out and walk along the river. [The church stands next to the Great Ouse River.]

We welcome those who are inked or pierced, both or neither, We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throats as kids or got lost on the ring road and wound up here by mistake. We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters and you!

Contributions for the newsletter are welcome and need to reach Caroline Drijver by 22nd June. Please send them to 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 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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