



Brighton
Unitarians

BUC Newsletter December 2021 and January 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.



Hello, it's Caroline Drijver here, bringing you our December and January Newsletter. This is not complete for January, so please keep an eye out on the website for services in January, and I will send out a letter with these details to those of you who receive this by post.

In this month's newsletter you will find:

- Dates for the services for the weeks ahead
- Lunchtime concerts
- From the committee, including important information about nominations for next year's committee.
- A Poem
- Other 'news' items
- A Bit of Fun

Sunday Services

Please note: services are at 11 a.m. You will receive an email in the week leading up to the service about how the service will be held

- 28th Nov Dr Eleanor Chiari, LDPA
5th Dec Susie Courtault, BUC Member and Interfaith Minister
12th Dec Congregational Service
19th Dec Dr Eleanor Chiari, LDPA
26th Dec Stephen Crowther, BUC Member

Lunchtime concerts every Friday 12.00 - 1.15 pm

26th November - Katherine Clarke (Viola & Voice)

Katherine specialises in performing works for singing viola players, showcasing the depth and range of the viola and voice in this unique performance style.

3rd December - Deirdre Arratoon (mezzo-soprano) & Joe Ward (piano)

Night and Day - From nocturnal moods created for the piano by Chopin and Faure to Schubert's evocation of a beautiful spring morning, plus love songs from Schumann and Brahms, and an exciting mix of operatic moods and characters in arias by Mozart, Donizetti, Barber and others.

10th December - Sussex Song Makers

Sussex Song Makers was formed to present a mixture of early and modern vocal ensembles. They have, in spite of lockdown, achieved a fine reputation since their formation. Repertoire includes solos, duets and trios.

17th December - Brighton Chamber Ensemble

A flexible group of largely Brighton-based musicians whose founder members met in the Dartington Festival Orchestra. Brighton Chamber Ensemble special programme will include some Christmas stocking fillers.

From the Committee

A Message from Kathy

I'm preparing to reclaim money on all Gift Aid-ed contributions made in the last year. I've got a list of who is eligible BUT can you let me know if your circumstances have recently changed? The church can claim for any money donated to us by anyone who is a current taxpayer - we get an extra 25P for every £1 we receive. So - if you are a taxpayer and I don't have a Gift Aid form for you, could you ask me for one? Alternatively, if you have been a taxpayer but aren't any more, can you also let me know as I can't legally reclaim Gift Aid unless you are a taxpayer.

Thank you. It all helps! Contact me at kathy.pitt@btconnect.com

From Jen Barton - Our Church Needs You!

During the last challenging year, the running of our Church has been overseen by the stalwart efforts of the six members of the Committee – Francis, Susie, Heather, Jo, Kathy and Helen. They have done an amazing job.

Some of them will be stepping down, others continuing for another year. We need at least two new members – otherwise the Committee will not be able to function legally to govern the Church.

So, more than ever, please do carefully consider offering your time to serve on the Committee in 2022 (or encourage someone you know to do this). Our church can only function because each year some of its members volunteer to join the Committee and meet each month to oversee the maintenance and use of the building, our finances and our paid staff and volunteers. There are discussions to be had and decisions to be made, but – as Unitarians - we're a nice bunch and support each other.

The formal bits –

BUC Committee Elections – Call for Nominations:

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

The candidate and 2 proposers need to complete the form enclosed and return

it to the church office in an envelope for the attention of Jen Barton, Elections Manager.

2021. Elections will take place at the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 23 January 2022

If you'd like a general chat about what serving on the Committee involves, then do get in touch with either Susie Courtault or Jo Howarth – email: chair@brightonunitarian.org.uk

A POEM

Wise Women Also Came

Jan Richardson

Wise women also came.

The fire burned
in their wombs

long before they saw
the flaming star
in the sky.

They walked in shadows,
trusting the path
would open
under the light of the moon.

Wise women also came,
seeking no directions,
no permission
from any king.

They came
by their own authority,
their own desire,
their own longing.
They came in quiet,
spreading no rumors,
sparking no fears
to lead
to innocents' slaughter,
to their sister Rachel's
inconsolable lamentations.

Wise women also came,
and they brought
useful gifts:
water for labor's washing,

fire for warm illumination,
a blanket for swaddling.

Wise women also came,
at least three of them,
holding Mary in the labor,
crying out with her
in the birth pangs,
breathing ancient blessings
into her ear.

Wise women also came,
and they went,
as wise women always do,
home a different way.

If you have a poem you would like to contribute to the newsletter, then please send it to the church. Let's try to include one each month.

Other News

Pete Tulley has painted the walls at the front of the church and will be painting the columns next. Thanks Pete!

Ashleigh tells us that bookings at the church are going well and we are back to pre-pandemic levels.

FUSE will be 19th to 22nd February 2022 and will be broadcast from BUC. It will be held online.

A Bit of Fun

I hope this doesn't offend!

"God Rest Ye, Unitarians"

Gods rest ye, Unitarians, let nothing you dismay;
Remember there's no evidence there was a Christmas Day;
When Christ was born is just not known, no matter what they say,
O, Tidings of reason and fact, reason and fact, Glad tidings of reason and
fact.

Our current Christmas Customs come from Persia and from Greece,
From solstice celebrations of the ancient Middle East.
This whole darn Christmas spiel is just another pagan feast,
O, Tidings of reason and fact, reason and fact, Glad tidings of reason and
fact.

There was no star of Bethlehem, there was no angels' song;
There could not have been wise men for the trip would take too long.
The stories in the Bible are historically wrong,
O, Tidings of reason and fact, reason and fact, Glad tidings of reason and
fact!

Brighton Unitarian Church Committee Nomination Form 2022, closing date 12th Dec

Before submitting this form please ensure that the Candidate has agreed to stand as a committee member (and officer if appropriate). Candidates should be current members of the church and Proposers should have been members for 12 months or more.

Candidate name:

Nomination for the position of Ordinary member

Please state whether you are also making a nomination for one of the officer roles:

*Chair (Officer) or *Treasurer (Officer) or *Secretary (Officer)

*Candidates for Officer positions should normally have already served for a year on the Committee

This Candidate is nominated by the following BUC members:

Proposer 1:

Proposer 2:

Please include a brief statement that can be provided to members prior to the election to aid them in their choice of candidates. This can cover, for example, why you are standing for the role, if you've served on the committee before, your particular perspective or expertise, your involvement with BUC & Unitarianism, any potential conflicts of interest (e.g. a relationship with another candidate, being a BUC employee, a connection to a person/company tendering/contracted to provide services to the church). Please also provide a recent photo of yourself (in digital form).

Candidate's statement (please use as much space as you need):

Please return paper Nomination Forms to the church office in an envelope for the attention of Jen Barton, Elections Manager.

