

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 October 2023

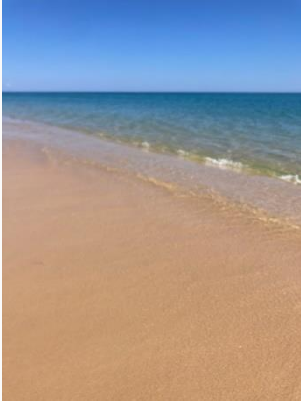


In this newsletter you will find:

A message from Jennifer Sanders, Minister Elect
Sunday Services
BUC News
Lunchtime Concerts
Wider Unitarian Movement
A Poem

Thank you to all contributors this month. Contributions for the November newsletter should reach me by Monday 17th October. Reflections, stories, poems, and so on are welcome. Please email me at caroline.drijver@gmail.com with BUC Newsletter as the subject.

From Minister Elect, Jennifer Sanders



After all the busyness of the first 6 months of my role as minister Elect at Brighton, I took a little rest in Portugal. It's a place I go regularly. Someone asked, don't you get bored? 'Well not yet', I answered. I find it a place of deep relaxation, beauty and, of course, warmth.

I think we all have our favourite place to let go of the worries and pressures of every day and just be. For me it's sunshine, sand, and swimming, and yet as we enter into Autumn and the days get shorter, I amongst many, need to find an alternative way to recharge and embrace the changing landscape and temperature.

As I watched the sea coming in and going out, I was drawn to reflect on how these last six months have been at the church. No one could have anticipated what was to happen. and yet in so many situations of difficulty. loss and fear you have found pathways through it together with acceptance of what is.

Like the tide, there are many things we do not have any control over, but what do have control over are our reactions to it. The conversations that I have had over this time have illustrated the diverse needs, worries, triumphs and difficulties of the congregation. Sometimes there is general calm, at other times there are tumbling waves and stormy seas and yet within all this change there is the constancy of the ebb and flow of the tide.

Congregations are much the same, some people come and go, some are new and some have been coming for years; the things that we have to deal with are ever-changing, yet what is constant is our Unitarian faith. This is always here even when we find it hard to access it, describe it, and practice it. It is ever-present.



So, as we enter Autumn and all that brings, both in terms of temperature and opportunities, may we be reminded that wherever the pathway leads us we walk together in community at BUC and beyond. Sometimes we can forget that there are many Unitarian communities apart from our own, all finding ways to worship together, be together and support each other.

At the end of my holiday, I travelled to Belfast to witness the ordination and installation of a former student, Rev Lynda Kane. Efforts by the Unitarian college in recent years have resulted in re-establishing a link with our fellows of the non-subscribing Presbyterian Churches in Northern Ireland, of which Lynda is part. Having trained with the college, several of us were fortunate enough to be able to attend this wonderful day.

It reminded me that we worship in many different ways and this is what makes our tradition so rich and diverse. Yet we share a common bond, and more than ever we need to nurture those connections, even when on the surface we seem so very different.

The sea, yes back to that analogy, can seem so very different, dependant on where you are or the time of year, yet the world over it shares a common bond just like Unitarians.



Rev Ant Howe, Rev Lynda Kane, Minsiter Elect Jennifer Sanders and Rev Rory Castle at Lynda's ordination and installation

More than ever, we need to be supported, cared for, keep connected, and have our batteries recharged. So between October and Christmas, I will be running a course about prayer and meditation. This will be available to all, whether you are a seasoned meditator or a beginner, whether you are comfortable praying or have no idea where to start.

These sessions will be in the church on a Tuesday evening, and there will be more information to come in the next few weeks. So, as the nights draw in, I welcome you to come to the church for nourishment, sharing, and of course tea!

I hope to see some of you there.

As I return from my travels renewed and refreshed, I look forward to walking the road of faith with you all.

Warm wishes and blessings

Jennifer

Sunday Services

October 1st - Vince McCully, Unitarian General Assembly President

October 8th - Congregational service led by BUC Member Brian Bell

15 October - Jennifer Sanders (BUC Minister-elect)

22 October - Eleanor Chiari

29 October - Jennifer Sanders (BUC Minister-elect)

5th November - Fay Barrett, Interfaith minister

12th November - Jennifer Sanders (BUC Minister-elect)

Do check the website for updates.

BUC News

Can you help raise money through Easy Fundraising?

Time is running out to help us WIN £500! Please sign up to support us on #easyfundraising today to give us a FREE entry into their giveaway. Every new person who signs up to support Brighton Unitarian Church will give us another chance of winning, so we'd appreciate it if you could also spread the word and tell everyone you can to do the same too. It's quick and easy!

Support us

today: <https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/brightonunitarianchurch/uwcjzp/c2s/tcNFrX9H/CR045/facebook/>

THANK YOU!!

Exciting Lunchtime Concert

All our Lunchtime concerts are of excellent quality and well worth coming along to. However, a change of programme on 17th November is worth an extra mention.

We will be welcoming Merlin (clarinet) and Polina Shepherd (voice/piano), who are internationally-acclaimed performers in the Klezmer and Yiddish world. Drawing from their Jewish and Slavic roots, they weave together a unique music that moves the listener physically, emotionally, and spiritually.



Treat yourself to a taster [here.](#)

Lunchtime Concerts



The concerts begin at 12.30. Doors open 12noon for tea and coffee

29th September - Belladonna (Sue Mileham, Jane Plessner and Nicola Grunberg) present “Beauty Haunts the Woods”: an eclectic mix of attractive music for voice, clarinet and piano, including excerpts from Paul Reade’s popular Victorian Kitchen Garden Suite, John McCabe’s Three Folk Songs and other delights for a late summer concert.

6th October - Award-winning Brighton-born siblings Berniya and Riya Hamie perform a varied programme of cello and piano music, including Debussy’s colourful and virtuosic cello sonata.

13th October- Pam Cragg & Maggie Grimsdell: One piano, four hands. Pam and Maggie return with a lively selection of gems for two pianists by Mozart, Liszt and Rachmaninoff plus some new discoveries.

20th October- Lance Mok presents “From Quills to Quaintness”: a piano recital featuring three works (by Handel, Poulenc and Stephen Hough) inspired by then-old-fashioned forms treated with a personal flair of virtuosity. They are essentially dance suites, first written for harpsichords played with plectrums, or quills.

27th October- Nicholas Buxton (tenor) has specialised in opera and recitals throughout Europe, and presents some of his favourite songs and arias in five different languages, accompanied by pianist Zhanna Kemp-Dashkovskaya.

3rd November- The Kelleth Piano Trio (Rachel Ellis, Siriol Hugh-Jones and Stephen Carroll-Turner) present a programme of neglected works by female composers including, among others, Emilie Mayer and Melanie Bonis.

WIDER UNITARIAN COMMUNITY

UNITARIANS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE



On Saturday September 16th I joined fellow UK Unitarians to march (or stroll) for an end to the burning of fossil fuels which is the largest contributor to the threat to our home, the home

we share with all other creatures great and small, with all plant life and organisms.

This was a coming together of different groups, some well-known to us, but others perhaps not, and we were among those not so known to others which prompted a few conversations with other protestors.

On Facebook, the introduction to the Unitarians for Climate Justice (U4CJ) movement is this: 'Many of us now see the Climate Crisis as the greatest threat facing the world and its beautiful, diverse community of living beings. As Unitarians, we know the struggle for a sustainable future for life on earth cannot be separated from the struggle for global justice and our belief in the inherent equality and worth of all human beings irrespective of wealth, country, race, religion, sexuality or gender identity.'

So we gathered together in support of this common purpose. We gathered around the banner, taking it in turns to hold it, needing to keep an eye on each-other to make sure we were walking in a more or less straight line (which we often weren't). We made new connections. We stood up for what we believe is right and necessary, as we Unitarians all do in a variety of ways.

Although marching itself may not change much (other methods will be more effective), this gathering together for a common purpose is restorative, as we know.

If you do want to know more then you can have a look at the [Facebook](#) page or speak to me, Caroline Drijver (07791781022 or caroline.drijver@gmail.com)

REMINDER: LDPA Autumn Quarterly, Saturday 7th October

Quarterly at New Unity

How to sustain our congregations

The District is delighted to announce that our Autumn Quarterly is to be hosted by New Unity congregation at their splendidly-refurbished Newington Green Meeting House in north London on **Saturday 7th October from 12 noon**.

The theme is *How to sustain our congregations*, with workshop leaders Rev'd CJ McGregor of New Unity and Dr Lizzie Kingston Harrison of the General Assembly. Both speakers are doing exciting work with congregations. **Not to be missed!**

Timetable for the day: From 12 noon - lunch (bring your own) with tea and coffee provided. Also a chance to view this historic meeting house following the renovations; 1pm - Act of Worship; 1.45pm - Presentations and workshops on keeping congregations alive, with questions and discussion. From 3.45pm - Tea, socialising and departures. Thank you to New Unity!

WHAT? LDPA Autumn Quarterly.

WHEN? Saturday 7th October 2023 from 12 noon.

WHERE? Newington Green Meeting House, 39 Newington Green, Stoke Newington, London N16 9PR



A poem

This poem was written in 1872, but perhaps if Edward Lear was writing it today the Quangle Wangle may not have been gendered. I read it that way.

However, you read it, I hope you enjoy this poem about having it all but being lonely and not seeing, and the joy of diverse connections.

Caroline D

The Quangle Wangle's Hat

By Edward Lear

On the top of the Crumpetty Tree
The Quangle Wangle sat,
But his face you could not see,
On account of his Beaver Hat.
For his Hat was a hundred and two feet wide,
With ribbons and bibbons on every side
And bells, and buttons, and loops, and lace,
So that nobody ever could see the face
Of the Quangle Wangle Quee.

The Quangle Wangle said
To himself on the Crumpetty Tree:
"Jam; and jelly; and bread;
Are the best of food for me!
But the longer I live on this Crumpetty Tree
The plainer than ever it seems to me
That very few people come this way
And that life on the whole is far from gay!"
Said the Quangle Wangle Quee.

But there came to the Crumpetty Tree,
Mr. and Mrs. Canary;
And they said, — "Did ever you see
Any spot so charmingly airy?
May we build a nest on your lovely Hat?
Mr. Quangle Wangle, grant us that!
O please let us come and build a nest
Of whatever material suits you best,
Mr. Quangle Wangle Quee!"

And besides, to the Crumpetty Tree
Came the Stork, the Duck, and the Owl:
The Snail, and the Bumble-Bee,
The Frog, and the Fimble Fowl;
(The Fimble Fowl, with a corkscrew leg;)
And all of them said: "We humbly beg,
We may build out homes on your lovely Hat:
Mr. Quangle Wangle, grant us that!
Mr. Quangle Wangle Quee!"

And the Golden Grouse came there,
And the Pobble who has no toes,
And the small Olympian bear,
And the Dong with a luminous nose.
And the Blue Baboon, who played the flute,
And the Orient Calf from the Land of Tute,
And the Attery Squash, and the Bisky Bat,
All came and built on the lovely Hat
Of the Quangle Wangle Quee.

And the Quangle Wangle said
To himself on the Crumpetty Tree:
"When all these creatures move
What a wonderful noise there'll be!"
And at night by the light of the Mulberry moon
They danced to the Flute of the Blue Baboon,
On the broad green leaves of the Crumpetty Tree,
And all were as happy as happy could be,
With the Quangle Wangle Quee.

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>
