

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 April and May 2023



In this Spring Newsletter you will find:

A message from Jennifer Sanders, our Minister Elect

Sunday Services

From the Committee

BUC news

Lunchtime concerts

News from the wider Unitarian Community

A poem

Jennifer Sanders, our new Minister Elect, is with us



I have just arrived home from my first day at the Church. A day that I know has been a long time coming.

When I lit the chalice this morning and sat for a few quiet moments before the busyness of the day began, I reflected on how you may be feeling about this new chapter.

There may be a sense of relief to hand over some of the load you have been carrying for a while, or some fear about how things may change, a curiosity of what it means to have a minister-elect, or just happiness that the wait is over, or none/all of the above.

Whatever your feelings I hope that these few words adapted from a poem by Stephanie Dowrick will help as we start this journey together.

We are on the path
We have our lamps
The map is unfolding
We go forward to trust
My feelings, as the first-day nerves subside, are deep happiness and privilege
to be here,
walking alongside the unfolding spiritual path with you all.

Warm wishes and blessings

Jennifer

jennifersanders@brightonunitarian.org.uk

Sunday Services

Please note: services are at 11 a.m. except 2nd April when we will start at 10.30 am

2nd April - Jane Blackall, Kensington Unitarians. The service will be live-streamed to our church. 10.30 start

NB: this is the day of the Brighton Marathon

9th April - Jennifer Sanders, Minister-Elect, Brighton Unitarian Church.
(Please note that the Children's Parade will be passing the church at around 11am)

16th April- Jennifer Sanders, Minister Elect, Brighton Unitarian Church

23rd April- Stephen Crowther, BUC Member

April 30th - Eleanor Chiari

7th May- Jennifer Sanders, Minister Elect, Brighton Unitarian Church

14th May- Fay Barrett, Interfaith Minister, Manchester

21st May- Jennifer Sanders, Minister Elect, Brighton Unitarian Church

28th May- Rev Susie Courtault, Interfaith Minister and BUC Member

From the Committee

Brighton Unitarian Minister Elect

A big welcome to our New Minister Elect who is now with us.

Jennifer will be in the church on Wednesdays and Thursdays, for the time being. Do drop in and welcome her. Her first Sunday Service is Easter Sunday 9th April and the following Sunday the 16th.

BUC News

Successful fund-raising

Fanny ran a quiz night on 11th March. As well as the quiz there was also food, a bar and a raffle. Prizes were had, curry was eaten, prizes were won and helpers were very helpful and appreciated.

Many thanks and congratulations to Fanny and all for raising £213.26 (beautifully calculated by Christine!)

More successful fund-raising- Upcycling cards

Thanks to Trisha for leading a very enjoyable card upcycling workshop last Sunday. Do keep bringing in your cards for upcycling, and look out for another workshop date coming up in the next month or two.

The irregular choir

April 16th is the next Sunday session for this irregular choir, this time starting at 12.45.

There was a session on Tuesday 28th, also a one-off rather than any kind of expected weekly commitment. The idea is to try out that different times of day, and see how it goes.

It is such that each session will be an event in its own right, rather than be the kind of choir that generally prepares for a future 'performance'.

Let me know if you would like to come, or have any queries about the project. Comments, suggestions, reflections, observations, insights are more than welcome.

Stuart Deeks

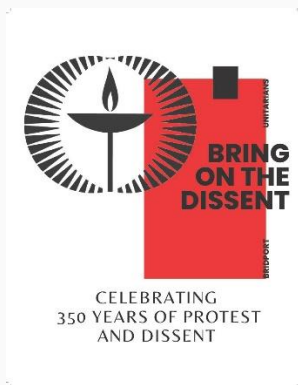
sdstuartdeeks@gmail.com

Sad tea towels

Our tea towels have seen better days! We will, of course buy new ones, but before we do that let's see if anyone has any unused tea-towels that could be contributed. You know the ones, something someone brought back from a trip that doesn't quite go with your kitchen- it would look great in our kitchen.....

On the subject of tea-towels, Bridport Unitarians have designed their own set of

tea-towels that you can see at <https://thechapelinthegarden.com/news-events/tea-towels-celebrate-350-years-of-bridport-unitarianism/>



News about the Fringe Festival from Cat

The church will be particularly busy in May as it hosts a number of events as part of the Brighton Fringe Festival (5 May - 4 June) in addition to The Great Escape (11-13 May).

Highlights include concerts by Mike Hatchard, pianist & raconteur familiar from his Sunday jazz brunches at Ropetackle (A fine way to treat a Steinway - 5 & 25 May, 2 & 3 June), world music choir Vocal Explosion & friends, including award-winning guitarist Geoff Robb and the Ukrainian Voices Brighton Choir (Festival of Europe - 7 May), local jazz supremo Alex Bondonno (Water from an Ancient Well - 19 May) for which the church will be running a bar, the popular acoustic folk-come-blues duo Brothers Broke return with their interpretation of songs by Bob Dylan and the Beatles (When Judas Met John - 27 May & Sitting on a Cornflake - 28 May). There will also be a Sahaja Yoga performance, music, poetry, and guided meditation (14 May), WOMXN TALKING - an evening celebrating all womxn, raising awareness of mental health and wellbeing and the importance of community inclusion (20 May), and a workshop and concert by American singer/songwriter Brooksie Wells (26 & 27 May). Details and tickets for all these events, and hundreds more at other venues around the city, are available from Brighton Fringe at www.brightonfringe.org

Great Escape tickets are available at <https://greatestescapefestival.com/>

Free Led Bike Rides for Refugees

On 3rd May a free bike tour of Brighton for refugees will set off from Brighton Unitarian Church. If you know anyone you would like to refer for this, please email info@brightonbikehub.org or call 07985245207

Living into Wholeness – A Labyrinth Walk

7pm-9pm, Saturday 1st April, Brighton
Unitarian Church, New Road, Brighton.

Labyrinth walks are back in Brighton!
We've been offering labyrinth walks in Brighton for twenty years and we're delighted to be in a new venue – the welcoming space of Brighton Unitarian Church in New Road. Join us for a rich and special evening of a candlelit labyrinth walk, with beautiful vocal and musical accompaniment from Cathy Rowland. [More details and booking on Eventbrite](#), limited to maximum 25 people.



Dying to Know! An Interfaith event at BUC

The church will be hosting the Interfaith Contact Group of Brighton & Hove's "Dying To Know!" event on Wed 10 May from 7.30am-6.30pm - a special day celebrating National Dying Matters Awareness Week 2023. This will include talks, films, meditations, discussions death cafes, coffin decoration, funeral planning, and more with faith and belief groups from across the city.



Lunchtime Concerts for March



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

Suggested donation £5.

April

7th: The Italian pianist Danilo Mascetti will perform a piano recital with music by Franz Schubert and other romantic composers.

14th: Katherine Clarke with a programme for solo viola and singing viola player. Music will include a new arrangement of Panis Angelicus.

21st: Ukrainian pianist Ivan Hovorun returns to Brighton Unitarian playing Robert Schumann Kreisleriana, Op 16; Arturo Márquez Danzón 2; Joaquín Rodrigo Adagio del Concierto de Aranjuez and Vladimir Horowitz Carmen Variations.

28th: Ida Pellicciolo - "Mozart & Blasco de Nebra: two contemporaries in the 1780s". The programme will put in perspective Mozart's Fantasias with Sonatas from Spanish composer Manuel Blasco de Nebra, pieces that were all written in the same decade of 1780, and that share similarities in their style and tendency to transcend the baroque heritage by using the full possibilities of the newest instruments of their time.

May

5th: Matthew Sear: A Guitar Recital of Homages - Heitor Villa-Lobos, Leo Brouwer, William Walton, Django Reinhardt, Julian Bream, Manuel de Falla and Debussy. PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A CHANGE TO THE PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED PROGRAMME

12th: No lunchtime concert - venue part of The Great Escape Festival

19th: Hacha Duo: Catherine Underhill, oboe/cor anglais, and Hannah Shilvock, clarinet/bass clarinet. A contemporary woodwind duo, performing a varied classical & contemporary repertoire. The programme will include Dorff, Lakme, Loudova, Bach & Stamitz.

26th: Mateusz Rettner, pianist. Alexander Scriabin and Isaac Albeniz: two contemporaries writing in completely different styles. Mateusz will explore the contrasting worlds of the dark, mysterious expressionism of one and the fiery, colourful impressionism of the other.

Wider Unitarian Community

Spiritual Not Religious: a new online group, open to everyone

Unitarian Transformers have started a new online group to which we are all invited, including interested friends. The first group has already taken place on 15th March, but it is fine to join at any point.

The introduction is

'Would you describe yourself as spiritual but not religious? Outside of 'traditional' religious activities, there are many ways that people in Britain today enrich their spiritual lives - from yoga and meditation to creative projects, from walking, gardening, and serving others to simply being outside in nature. There is much we can learn from each other in exploring the ways in which we find meaning and transcendence in our everyday lives.'

The first gathering involved a discussion about what it might mean to be 'spiritual but not religious', between Rev. Mark Hutchinson and Rev. Laura Dobson. Future sessions will host other speakers with time for discussion and sharing.

The next group is at 7pm on Wednesday 19th April on Zoom

[Spiritual not Religious Connections: of donkeys, dogs and Winnie the Pooh](#)

This month Rev Wyn Thomas talks donkeys whilst Laura and Mark add the connection of dogs and Winnie the Pooh. Through the spirituality of animals' attendees are invited into the framework of a Spiritual not Religious discussion. All welcome.

zoom.us/j/94223648779... Meeting ID: 942 2364 8779 Passcode: 3c9Pb1

The May group is:

[Hindu Connections](#)

Wednesday 3rd May 2023, 19:00 – 20:00 on Zoom

At each Hindu connections meeting there will be a different subject/leader offering thoughts and inspiration from a Hindu perspective both current Unitarians and people new to Unitarianism are welcome. There will be a 10–15-minute gathering, chalice lighting and prayers sampling a connection with Unitarianism. After this there will be time for others to share their experiences and discuss.

zoom.us/j/94223648779...

Meeting ID: 942 2364 8779

Passcode: 3c9Pb1

Further information about Unitarian Transformers Events can be found at

<https://unitariantransformers.org.uk/unitarian-events/>

Family bursaries available for FUSE 2023

There's a just over a month to go for you to book for our annual Festival of Unitarians in the South East (FUSE), which takes place on the weekend of 2-4 June at The Friars at Aylesford in Kent. Booking closes on 20th April, six weeks before the Festival starts.

Why so early?

Because the centre wants to know our final numbers so that they can let rooms we're not taking. So, yes: **it's time to book!**

Meanwhile, our District has announced a bursary scheme for families attending (in addition to existing subsidies for children). We're keen to boost numbers of children aged 5 to 18 joining our exciting children's programme, which is led by well-established youth leaders Jim Blair and Jenny Canfield.

Details of this family bursary scheme can be obtained from our District administrator Helen White: administrator@ldpaunitarians.org (Basically, it's a financial subsidy for attending families). So do come along!

For full FUSE details and to book: www.LDPAunitarians.org/fuse2023

A Poem

Thanks to Christine Clark-Lowes for contributing this poem. It was printed in the August 1995 Newsletter at which time our church was celebrating its 175th Anniversary. It's reported that the Revd Dr Peter Godfrey, District Minister of LDPA at the time, led the anniversary service, which was attended by members of Ditchling and Reading Unitarians and the mayors of both Brighton and Hove.

Pray be silent, soul
In self be silent

Away from tumult, clamour, fret,
And laid aside all stress and care,
No more to burden or distress,
In quiet, seek tranquillity.

And divinely centred, safe,
All striving stilled,
A purer, kinder air enfolds to soothe.

And in a peace which no petition soils
Let Spirit unto Spirit speak.

Pray be silent, soul,
And in silence, pray.

by Dorothy Carvell
a member of the Brighton Unitarian Congregation

Contributions for the newsletter are welcome and need to reach me by 23rd May. 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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