

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 March 2023



Conference of the Birds, by Samantha

What's in this Newsletter

In this March Newsletter you will find:

Sunday Services

From the Committee

BUC news

Lunchtime concerts

News from the wider Unitarian Community in the South East

A poem

Sunday Services

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

26th February - Eleanor Chiari

5th March - Rev Kate Whyman, Plymouth Unitarians (live streamed to BUC)

12th March - John Naish, BUC Member

19th March - Rev Susie Courtault, Interfaith Minister. This is our Spring Equinox Service. Do contact Susie via BUC email if you would like to bring a contribution.

26th March - Eleanor Chiari

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

Do check the website for updates.

From the Committee

BUC Committee 2023

We are all very grateful to the 5 Committee Members who agreed to stand again in this year's elections in order to provide consistency in this time of significant change; also to Trisha Purchas who agreed to be put forward.

At the AGM held on 29 January 2023, the following were all elected to serve on the Committee – Julia Badger, Susie Courtault, Francis Clark-Lowes, Jo Howarth, Trisha Purchas, Helen White.

At their first meeting 13 February, the Committee appointed Susie and Jo as Co-

Chairs and Helen White as Secretary. They also agreed to appoint an external Treasurer since there hadn't been anyone from the Committee or congregation offering to act as such. George Dean from the Brighton Quaker Meeting had been approached and had generously agreed to take on this role. As he is not a Trustee, George will be called our Financial Officer and Francis will be Treasurer in name only, for legal purposes. We have a new email address for treasurer@brightonunitarian.org.uk should you need to get in touch.

Jen Barton, Election Manager

Membership Fee and Gift Aid

The General Assembly (GA), the Unitarian umbrella organisation, provides expert advice and support and recently helped our Search Party through the process of recruiting a new Minister. We are required to pay a fee (known as the GA Quota) in February each year, based on the number of members we have, which is currently £35 for each member. In May 2022, our then Treasurer, Kathy, sent an e-mail to those on the membership list asking if they would set up a standing order to pay their quota annually on 1st March.

If you have already done so, or if you paid the fee in response to that e-mail, we are of course very grateful. If you have not yet set up a standing order, or recently became a member and, therefore, did not receive Kathy's e-mail, we ask if you would consider doing so now (please email the church for bank details). Covering the cost of the GA Quota helps to reduce the financial burden on the church.

We understand that not everyone can pay £35 in one go, however, and the request is not intended to deter anyone from becoming a formal member.

We are grateful to all members and friends who make a regular donation to the church funds. If you do so and are a tax payer, we can claim Gift Aid on your contribution, so please let us know if you are eligible, if you haven't already done so. Similarly, if you were eligible and are no longer, please contact our Membership Secretary, Ann Woodhead, or the Record Keeper, Christine Clark-Lowes. Both can be reached through the office e-mail address.

Thank you.

Interesting reading in anticipation of the arrival of our new Minister in training

With only a month before we are joined by our new Minister-Elect, Jennifer

Sanders, here is the opening of Bob Janis-Dillon's article on welcoming a new Leader, which Susie shared at the AGM:

'How do you help that minister thrive? The key is the relationship between the minister and the congregation. I believe true ministry comes out of this relationship much more than it does the personal qualities of the minister or of the congregation.'

This is a very interesting article that can guide us to being the best version of ourselves as a congregation. If you don't have a copy and would like to read more, please ask Cat in the office to send you one.

BUC News

Sad News

We are saddened that our member, Anne Antram, has passed away. Anne and her husband, Michael, were active members of the church for many years and we will miss her immensely. Her funeral is this Friday at Woodvale and her family have asked for donations to 'Plantlife', a wild plant conservation charity, instead of flowers. The Church will be making a donation. Our thoughts are with Anne's family and friends.

Clock Tower Sanctuary Fundraising

Our member, Pamela, and the members of Frank Doubleday and the Blues Volcanoes have raised £2402 for the Clock Tower Sanctuary. This will help the charity to support young people experiencing homelessness in Brighton and Hove. Pamela received a letter of thanks from the charity and wanted us all to know of this good work.

Quiz Night Saturday 11th March



Saturday 11 March 2023
6.30pm (quiz starts at 7pm)

Brighton Unitarian Church

Home-made vegetable curry at 8pm



Donations Bar offering wine, beer and soft drinks

Come on your own and choose your team mates
or bring your friends/family

£14 per person (including curry)
£5 quiz ticket only

Tickets for curry must be booked in advance and will be on sale after
Sunday services

Volunteers needed for Teas and Coffee after the service

Please do help with this if you can. You can speak with Helen Lee about this, or send an email to the church FAO Helen Lee and she can have a chat with you about 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! :)

Crafty Lovelies for sale on Fridays

Trisha will be selling her beautiful knitted and crocheted creatures, gloves, and other delights before the Lunchtime concerts on Fridays. They really are wonderful gifts, if you can bear to give them away!

Irregular Choir- Everyone welcome

Soon there will be a chance to sing in the church, aside from hymns in services.

It will be an irregular choir in that it will not expect to meet every week. To start with we plan to meet on Sunday 5th March from 1.15 to about 2.45. In future it may be that we can find other times of the week to meet.

We will sing to find special sounds and explore all sorts of vocal music. The intention is that each session is complete in itself, rather than expecting to prepare for later performance. However, if and when we have something ready to offer, we might sing it during a Sunday service.

If you would like to join this adventure, let me (Stuart Deeks) know this by email sdstuartdeeks@gmail.com or by phone 01273 502875.

Death Cafe 25th February



Death Cafe
Saturday 25th February
2pm-3.30pm

An opportunity to discuss one of life's biggest taboos, over tea and cake

*Honouring the loss of your loved ones
Talking about grief
How can we deal with loss better?*



This afternoon could be the time to start that conversation

Guests - Companion Voices

Venue Brighton Unitarian Church
New Road, Brighton BN1 1UF
Web brightonunitarian.org.uk



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.

3rd March: Nicholas Austin, classical pianist and a postgraduate of the Royal Academy of Music will play Beethoven Sonata op10 no3 and Chopin Sonata no3 op58.

10th March: Martin Smith - "The Lyrical Euphonium" A recital of favourites from his latest critically acclaimed CD. From Elgar to Capuzzi and Cecilia McDowall, Dame Evelyn Glennie and Rebecca Clarke. A recital not to be missed!

17th March: The LIPS Quintet are delighted to return to Brighton Unitarian, bringing a fresh programme of lively wind quintets. With the worst of winter hopefully behind us, they aim to lift our spirits with a mixture of contemporary and classical music. PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A CHANGE TO THE PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED PROGRAMME

24th March: The Anglo-American Duo: American violinist [Timothy Schwarz](#) and British pianist Jane Beament. A renowned ensemble that regularly tours in the USA and Europe, specialising in music from both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

31st March: Alex Rider has a reputation as a harpist who plays neglected works from the French repertoire. This programme of rarely heard, intricate works combines French, Slavic and Eastern influences. Music by Marcelle Soulage, Tournier, Golestan, Paul Lewis and others. PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A CHANGE TO THE PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED PROGRAMME

Wider Unitarian Community

FUSE 2023

FUSE is the Festival of Unitarians in the South East, and will take place 2nd to 4th June this year.

Please use the link for further information and booking

<https://www.ldpaunitarians.org/fuse2023>



The poster for FUSE 2023 features the following elements:

- Logo:** 'fuse' in a colorful font, with 'FESTIVAL OF UNITARIANS IN THE SOUTH EAST' below it.
- Date and Location:** A blue circular badge stating '2nd-4th JUNE 2023 The Friars Aylesford'.
- Theme:** 'Building Paradise' in large orange letters.
- Theme Speaker:** A circular portrait of Stephen Lingwood, with the text 'Theme Speaker Stephen Lingwood' below it.
- Author:** A book cover for 'Seeking Paradise' by Stephen Lingwood, with the text 'Author of "Seeking Paradise"' below it.
- Activities:** A list of activities on an orange background: 'Theme and Guest Speakers', 'Workshops', 'Creativity and Music', 'Meditation and Prayer', and 'Nature Walks'.
- Background:** A scenic image of a sunset over a beach, framed by a large, colorful arch.
- Text at the bottom:** 'Further details and bookings open from 20th January' and the website 'www.LDPAunitarians.org/fuse2023'.

UK Unitarians

Every now and then I take a look at the Unitarian UK website where there is always something of interest. I have just listened to the Unitarian's Chief Officer talking about maintaining a spiritual tradition without a rulebook. If you want to see if there is anything of interest to you, here is a link to the website <https://www.unitarian.org.uk/>.

Caroline Drijver

A Poem

Thank you to Julia Badger for contributing this poem

Bridges

We are the bridge over which our children scramble
We are long sighted only when we look back
They only when they look forward
They rush over to us, on us, into their dreams
We have but few dreams left
If we look back they cannot share our past
We cannot share their future
Only this brief crossing do we have together
Let us hope we stand firm to allow them to pass

To cross with safety

By Peter Badger

Peter was a member of our church until his death. The third anniversary of his death will be on 7th April this year. Peter's 88th birthday would have been on March 3rd.

Contributions for the newsletter are welcome and need to reach me by 24th March. 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>