

## BUC Newsletter October 2021

### 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 October newsletter.

On Sunday September 12th I was walking to our church and my route intersected with that of the Marathon runners. Despite living with a runner, I have never quite understood this sport which always seems to me to be so individualistic. But I am always moved by marathons and events where people are raising money for a charity of their choosing, with this pinned onto their back. If you are watching a marathon at the end of the track you see the tired faces and bodies, and then when they pass you see the name of charity -it's all worth it! Win-win, a personal goal is achieved and money for a cause is raised.

And it is so much more than that too, it is a community event. Spectators enjoy looking out for their friends and family, cheering them and those they don't know on with 'Yes, you can do it', 'you're doing well' and other calls that most runners find encouraging and enjoy.

And to help make it into more of an event the Salvation Army Brass Band were there playing the

Hymn in Sibelius' 'Finlandia' which many of us love so much (This is my Song)- and we had only just sung it the week previously- and it is so apt in these times especially, although always.

You may already know this, but there are a couple of additional verses to the hymn that were written by Georgia Harkness who was a key mover in legalising the ordination of women in American Methodism. One of these verses is:

May truth and freedom come to every nation;  
may peace abound where strife has raged so long;  
that each may seek to love and build together,  
a world united, righting every wrong;  
a world united in its love for freedom,  
proclaiming peace together in one song.

There is much more to find out about these poets and Finlandia, but that will do for now!

In this month's newsletter you will find:

- Dates for the services for the weeks ahead
- Lunchtime concerts
- From the committee
- Other 'news' items- Please look carefully at this as there is important information about the Day of Compassion on 17th October and the Bicentenary weekend
- A Poem
- A Bit of Fun
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## 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

26th Sept** - Stephen Crowther	BUC member
(**this equinox service take place at BUC and will not be recorded or livestreamed due to privacy related to seating layout)	
3rd October- Rev Kate Whyman	Plymouth Unitarian Church
10th October- Rev Fay Barrett	Interfaith Minister
17th October - Susie Courtault	Interfaith Minister and BUC member
24th October -	Bicentenary Celebration
31st October - Eleanor Chiari	LDPA

## Lunchtime concerts every Friday 12.00 - 1.15 pm



These concerts are diverse, being mostly classically but also jazz and folk. The performers are a mixture of top local talent and touring musicians from across the globe. It's a perfect way to spend your Friday lunchtime with these affordable concerts in our beautiful church.

Come and have a drink before from our coffee room before the concert starts and get to know your fellow concertgoers.

Wheelchair accessible venue.  
£5 Suggested Donation.  
Everyone Welcome.

### Listings:

#### **24th September - Frantisek Brikcius (Cello) & Christopher Langworthy (Piano)**

Cellist František Brikcius chose to dedicate his life to the interpretation of cello compositions written by composers of the 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, giving special consideration to compositions for solo cello. His favourites are cello suites by J. S. Bach, M. Reger and B. Britten. He is particularly involved in performing works by Czech, Jewish & Terezín and contemporary composers playing on a "George Kriwalski" cello made in 1904.

#### **1st October - The Brighton Chamber Ensemble**

**The Brighton Chamber Ensemble are proud to present a programme containing the first performances of new works by Barry Mills, alongside Mozart's 'Kegelstatt' trio for clarinet, viola and piano**

#### **8th October - LIPS quintet (Piano)**

**Beethoven: Septet in E $\flat$  Major Op 20, arranged by Carroll-Turner**

#### **15th October - Geoff Robb (Guitar)**

**Join Geoff Robb, winner of the 2018 Brighton Fringe Live Music Award, for a performance of**

magical storytelling and virtuoso guitar that promises to transport you out into the woods

22nd October - Plaegan Trio

Helen Sills - violin

Helen is a free-lance violinist and musicologist and has played in various Plaegan ensembles since 2003.

Michael Nebe - cello

Michael, an early member of the Plaegan ensemble, is a free-lance cellist and conductor of the Whitehall Orchestra and Fine Arts Sinfonia.

Alan Brown - piano

Alan, who joined the Plaegan Trio in 2015 has a repertoire of 45 solo concertos and has performed with many orchestras around the world.

29th October - Georgia Mae Bishop (Mezzo-Soprano) & Ashley Beauchamp (Piano)

The Brighton based duo met whilst they were students at Trinity Laban and later both went on to the Opera School at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, they have performed at some of the leading concert halls in the country as well as working at The Royal Opera House, Glyndebourne, Garsington Opera and Opera Holland Park.

## From the Committee

Welcome Cafe

We are aware of the commitment within the congregation to resuming our Welcome Cafe. However, with the continued uncertainty of COVID going into autumn/winter and with our focus being on a search for a new leader for our church, we have decided now is not the right time to resume and we will look again with fresh eyes in the Spring.

Update on Minister/Lay Leader Search

You may have read in our July newsletter edition that we have begun the search for a new Minister/Lay Leader for our Church. There is a lot involved in this important decision and we are committed to keeping you regularly informed of our progress.

A small initial group have begun gathering information, seeking advice and

creating a draft job description and person specification. However, our request for volunteers from our membership to join the 'Search Party' brought few responses and we have sent out a further request via email asking for input from our members. This is not a journey the Committee could or should be doing alone. On that note, we will also be inviting all our congregation to join in a community conversation about our vision and priorities for the future and what we want we want from our new Minister/Lay Leader. We hope to be able to do this in a number of ways including by post and face to face in some form of group 'cafe' session after our Bicentennial (plus one) service on 24th October. This is a vital part of our shared responsibility to secure and grow our wonderful church and community through finding the right person for this important job.

Further information on these events and our progress will be communicated via this newsletter, email and church notices. Any questions, please contact committee members Heather Duff by email at [prayertree@brightonunitarian.org.uk](mailto:prayertree@brightonunitarian.org.uk) or Susie Courtault by phone on 07597 662840. Furthermore, if you aren't a member but would like to discuss becoming one and contributing to this conversation, please call or email the Church at [buc@brightonunitarian.org.uk](mailto:buc@brightonunitarian.org.uk)

*Please do remember that while we do not have our own minister you can contact Rev Duncan Voice at Ditchling Unitarian Chapel with your spiritual concerns. His number is 07771 609347.*

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## Other News

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### **Brighton & Hove remembers lives and losses during the pandemic with 'A Day of Compassion'**

On Sunday 17 October 2021 at 4pm in Brighton Dome Concert Hall, the Mayor of Brighton & Hove will oversee an inspirational service honouring the people of our city and the lives lost from the coronavirus pandemic. Entitled *A Service of Compassion*, the event will serve at the heart of a city-wide initiative – *A Day of*

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*Compassion.*

*A Day of Compassion* is being run by Brighton & Hove's Interfaith Contact Group, which serves as Chaplain to the Mayor, and represents many of the faith groups, and none, in the city. Everyone is welcome to take part and share a moment of compassion on this special day.

A variety of music, uplifting messages, films, memories and recitations will be featured at the *Service of Compassion*. From 11am to 2pm, Brighton Dome's Foyer will also be open as *A Place for Reflection*, with stalls for visitors run by a selection of charities and services that have supported the city during these difficult times. In other parts of Brighton, healing support groups, workshops, exhibitions, music and meditation sessions will take place at venues including the Friends' Meeting House, Unitarian Church and Fabrica Gallery and Jubilee Library will be providing regular information and updates about the day.

Tickets are free for the *Service of Compassion* but must be booked in advance, via Brighton Dome's website or phone line from Wednesday 1 September. The event will be BSL Interpreted. *A Place for Reflection* is free and open to attend in the Foyer from 11am to 2pm, no booking required.

### **A Service of Compassion**

4pm, Sunday 17 October 2021

Brighton Dome Concert Hall, Church Street, Brighton BN1 1UE

**Book tickets from Wednesday 1 September:** [brightondome.org](https://brightondome.org) | and also via [this link](#), or call 01273 709709

**BSL Interpreted bookings:** For those requiring an appropriate seat for BSL interpretation, please email [tickets@brightondome.org](mailto:tickets@brightondome.org)

**Access:** For specific access enquiries, please email [access@brightondome.org](mailto:access@brightondome.org) or speak to the Ticket Office.

**Your Visit:** For further information about Brighton Dome and keeping safe, visit [brightondome.org/your\\_visit](https://brightondome.org/your_visit)

For further information about the Day of Compassion and the Interfaith Contact Group: please call Anthea on 07730 561 700.

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## BUC involvement in Day of Compassion on 17th October

On 17th October we will be holding a Sunday service on the theme of compassion as we are taking part in Brighton and Hove's Day of Compassion, to honour all those who have worked so hard during the pandemic.

On this day we are also hosting a Death Cafe from 2 - 3.30 pm where people can talk openly about this taboo subject and share their thoughts and experiences over tea and cake.

## Help with Services

As we will continue to be without a Minister for a good while, the more that the congregation can help with services, the better. In particular, Susie would like help for the service on compassion on 17th October. This could be as much or as little as you can contribute - for example a open, a reflection, a ritual. Once Susie knows what people can contribute then she can start co-ordinating the service. Don't be shy! Please contact Susie on 07597 662840 or email her at [scourtault8@gmail.com](mailto:scourtault8@gmail.com)

## Bicentenary Sunday 22nd October

The weekend of 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> October we are also celebrating our delayed Bicentenary (2020) with a full range of free events. Friday night we will have projection artists using the front of the church, Saturday will be a mixture of events and workshops where you can just drop in and Sunday will be a church service dedicated to the past, present and future life of our Church.

We will be having lunch in Pinnocchio's after the Bicentenary Service on 24th October. If you would like to make a reservation then please contact Susie at [scourtault8@gmail.com](mailto:scourtault8@gmail.com)

**If you have a news contribution or anything you'd like to share with the rest of the congregation then please do send this to the church with subject "Newsletter". I will be doing the next newsletter on Wednesday 20th October.**

## **A POEM**

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## Before Exile

Louise Mack

Here is my last good-bye,  
This side the sea.  
Good-bye! good-bye! good-bye!  
Love me, remember me.

This is my last good-bye,  
This side the sea.  
I bless, I pledge, I cling,  
Love me, remember me.

This is my last good-bye  
To each dear tree,  
To every silent plain,  
Love me, remember me.

This is my last good-bye,  
This side the sea.  
O, friends! O, enemies!  
Love me, remember me.

You will remain, but I  
Must cross the sea.  
My heart is faint with love,  
O, Land! remember me.

You will not even ask  
What claim has she.  
She loved us, she has gone ...  
'Tis all, remember me.

This is what you will say,  
My Land across the sea,  
She was of us, has gone ...  
And you'll remember me.

Here is my last good-bye  
This side the sea.  
Farewell! and when you can,  
Love me, remember me.

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## A Bit of Fun

This joke by Masai Graham at this year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival made me laugh....

"I thought the word 'Caesarean' began with the letter 'S' but when I looked in the dictionary, it was in the 'C' section."

Send me something you'd like to share!!!!



the rabbit from last week is hiding here!

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