

# BUC Newsletter September 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.



It's Caroline Drijver here, bringing you the September edition of our BUC newsletter.

What a summer it has been, and we are still in it. Many of us have found it too hot for several reasons, and some have enjoyed the intense heat. I was looking for an Autumnal photo in my collection, but then wondered whether we can still rely on the seasons in the comforting way that we could. I hope we can, but here is a picture I took in Shoreham last September. Quite appropriately for a beach, not a golden leaf in sight- so I've got around it that way.

Shoreham Beach is important to many of us as somewhere nearby that feels significantly different to Brighton, for me giving it a bit of a sense of being on holiday. But also, quite a few of our members are from this part of Sussex and beyond, so while we are Brighton Unitarian Church, we are a community from a broader area, including also Northwards and Eastwards. So the picture this month is also a celebration of that.

If you'd like to send me a picture of your area or something else of interest for the October newsletter, then contact me at [caroline.drijver@gmail.com](mailto:caroline.drijver@gmail.com)

In this newsletter you will find:

Details of Sunday services

Details of Friday Lunchtime Concerts

From the Committee

BUC Community News

Wider Unitarian Community

## SUNDAY SERVICES

*Services will begin at 11.00*

28th August

Stephen Crowther, BUC Member

4th September

Jane Blackall, Lay leader at Kensington Unitarian Church

11th September

Rev Sheena Gabriel, Minister at Godalming Unitarian Church

18th September

Carol Chambers, LDPA Member

25th September

Rev Jennifer Sanders- Interfaith Minister, Lay leader at Hastings Unitarians and BUC member

4th September

Jane Blackall. Kensington Unitarians

# FRIDAY LUNCHTIME CONCERTS



**Concert 12.30 - 1.15 pm**  
**Tea & Coffee 12.00 - 12.30pm**

The concerts are diverse, mostly classical but also jazz and folk. The performers are a mixture of top local talent and touring musicians from across the globe. These affordable concerts in our beautiful church are a perfect way to spend your Friday lunchtimes.

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.

It's great that the concerts are back after the usual August break!

For September we have:

**September 2nd: Laurence and Oliver are a duo of aspiring musicians, bringing us a selection of their clarinet and piano repertoire.**

**September 9th: Paul Richards will be performing a variety of Spanish & South American Classical Guitar pieces spanning Samba, Folklorico to Milongas and more...**

**September 16th: Belladonna (Sue Mileham, soprano, Jane Plessner, clarinet, Nicola Grunberg, piano) present "Mixed and Matched", a varied programme to include works by Faure, Richard Strauss, Meyerbeer, Mozart & maybe even a little Gershwin!**

**September 23rd: Saxophonist Alex Bondonno returns to the Brighton Unitarian with Joss Peach on piano, playing jazz standards from Abdullah Ibrahim, Horace Silver, Thelonious Monk and many more as well as a smattering of unexpected tunes (Soundgarden anyone?).**

**September 30th: Soprano Olive Murray "Nuggets and Nibbles" - bite size 'opera appetizers'! A taster of musical hor d'oeuvres to sumptuously sample this lunchtime.**

# FROM THE COMMITTEE

## Caretaker and Church Manager roles

We are sad and disappointed to be letting you know that we have reluctantly accepted the resignations this week of both Tom and Alison. We had been in discussion with both of them of late and were endeavouring to help Tom with his need for stability and more regular hours. We were hoping to reach a compromise and in the process of reviewing his contract which would have enabled us to keep both of them. However, unfortunately, and for multiple reasons both personal and professional (Tom has been offered employment in the post-graduate department of Sussex University which is of course perfect for his skills) this has not been possible. Tom's last day is the service on 18th September. Alison has agreed to work until the end of September.

We are very disappointed, and I am sure this will come as a shock to you, as it did for us. At the same time, we are keen to learn lessons for the future employment of a new manager. It does seem from the feedback we have received when Ashleigh was in post and now Alison, that the job really needs more hours and the suggestion is we employ someone over five days in the week. In other words, the advice is we should be staffing the office every day. So, our intention is to place an advert this week for a post of initially 26 hours a week over five days. This may again need to be reviewed, but that will be in discussion as we move forward. If any of you are interested, or know of anyone who might be, please do let a member of the committee know. It would be lovely to have someone who feels a connection with the church. Please do let us know if you have any queries about this disappointing news, or just want to chat about it.

Finally, we are resilient, we will move through this challenge together, but meanwhile, we may in future be asking for your help with setting up the church on Sundays - we will keep you posted on that one!

Warm wishes

Susie, Jo, Francis, Helen, Julia and Kathy

## New Minister

Nothing more to report at the moment. We will let you know as soon as we have more information on this.

# BUC COMMUNITY NEWS

## Pride August 2022



On Saturday 6th August Helen, Jen, Julia, Kathy, Simon and Susie held a stall on the steps of our church. This was to support the LGBTQ+ community and to offer information about ourselves. A few members of the public came to chat to the team, and a good time was had. It is amazing how many people are familiar with our building; if you say 'the four pillars' in New Road people know exactly what you mean. However, they often don't know where Brighton Unitarian Church is. So this was a good opportunity to let ourselves be known to a great many passers-by, and if a few showed an active interest, all the better. Good work!

## Opportunity to join Volunteer Chaplaincy Team at John Street Police Station

*Please see below an email from the Chaplaincy Lead at Sussex Police:*

"We are looking to expand our team of volunteer Chaplains at John Street Police station in Brighton. If you've been watching Channel 4's *Night Coppers*, you'll have seen the kind of challenges our officers face – would you like to join the team that supports them as they serve the people of Brighton & Hove? It would be great to have a member of Brighton Unitarians join our multifaith chaplaincy team. We recently welcomed a Chaplain who is Unitarian in Surrey, and she suggested I contact you again about this to see if a member of your congregation would also like to join our team.

Chaplains are part of the Wellbeing Team within Surrey and Sussex Police, and are drawn from a wide range of faith communities across our counties, with the support of their faith leaders to volunteer time to visit police stations each week for up to 2 hours to encourage and listen to whatever colleagues want to talk about, and an additional 2 hours a week to be available to provide support by phone and email, sometimes at events and ceremonies or attending training, and quarterly supervision with the Chaplaincy Lead and group meetings with the other Chaplains.

The initial stage in applying is to have a phone call with me to talk more about what the role involves and your interest in it – you can ask any questions you might have and I can give you more information

– [Frances.Novillo@surrey.police.uk](mailto:Frances.Novillo@surrey.police.uk) 07783 804665

If you would like me to visit you to talk to you about this opportunity in person, please ask and I will be happy to arrange this with you. Thank you,"

Frances Novillo

Chaplaincy Lead, Surrey & Sussex Police

*Part of the Wellbeing Team within Occupational Health*

07783 804665

# WIDER UNITARIAN COMMUNITY

We have all been invited to Horsham Unitarian's 300th Anniversary Celebration of their building which is from 1721.

This will take place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September from 10.00 am to 4.30 pm. The address is

Horsham Unitarian Church, Worthing Rd, Horsham RH12 1SL.

Both the church and gardens will be open, with Environment and Wildlife Stalls, a Plant Sale, an Exhibition of the History of the Church, and that most essential of items - a Refreshments Café.

The administrator, Julie Dickinson, has expressed that it would give them great pleasure if we can join them.

Rev Duncan Voice is the Minister at Horsham and many of us will know him as a good friend to us as a congregation.

# A POEM

## The Windhover

by Gerard Manley Hopkins

I caught this morning morning's minion, king-  
dom of daylight's dauphin, dapple-dawn-drawn Falcon, in his riding  
Of the rolling level underneath him steady air, and striding  
High there, how he rung upon the rein of a wimpling wing  
In his ecstasy! then off, off forth on swing,  
As a skate's heel sweeps smooth on a bow-bend: the hurl and gliding  
Rebuffed the big wind. My heart in hiding  
Stirred for a bird,—the achieve of; the mastery of the thing!

Brute beauty and valour and act, oh, air, pride, plume, here  
Buckle! AND the fire that breaks from thee then, a billion  
Times told lovelier, more dangerous, O my chevalier!

No wonder of it: shéer plód makes plough down sillion  
Shine, and blue-bleak embers, ah my dear,  
Fall, gall themselves, and gash gold-vermillion.

Please send in any contributions for the Newsletter  
to [caroline.drijver@gmail.com](mailto:caroline.drijver@gmail.com)  
by the end of Monday 19th September