



*Brighton*  
**Unitarians**

## BUC Newsletter June 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.



Wow! What a lot of weather we have had. Hot sunshine, heavy rain, hail, snow, high winds. I think we've had a year of weather in a month. The church stands majestic in New Road, watching over all of this and providing cover for people needing refuge from the rain.

I wonder what June will hold in store for us as we approach the longest day. I know the committee and technical support team have been working hard to work out how we can straddle the need to hold some services remotely and at the same time be able to be in the church. Some of our service leaders in the coming weeks are from other parts of the country, so do look out for emails about how these services will be held.

Enjoy this month in which we celebrate the summer solstice.

So, here is the newsletter for this month. In this month's newsletter you will find:

- Dates for the services for the weeks ahead.
- Lunchtime concerts
- Poetry Corner
- Other news
- A bit of fun

## 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

30th May– Stuart Coupe, Member of Billingshurst Unitarian Church

6th June – Bob Janis–Dillon, Partnership Minister of the Merseyside Unitarian Ministerial Partnership in Northwest England

13th June– Rev Martin Whittall

20th June– Susie Cortault, Interfaith Minister and Member of Brighton Unitarian Church

27th June– Rev Winnie Gordon, Unitarian New Meeting Church in Birmingham

## Lunchtime Concerts



Lunchtime Concerts are back! We are very pleased to open our doors again to concertgoers. Every Friday 12.30 - 15.15pm covid-secure restrictions in place till 21st June then our cafe before the concert will reopen.

### **28th May - Joe Ward (Piano)**

Romantic intensity from Bach to Brahms - a dramatic and rich programme of music from Bach at his most darkly dramatic to the deeply felt late piano music of Johannes Brahms, ranging from sorrow and passion to gentle consolation and heroism. With a little light relief from Debussy or Granados, or both, along the way!

### **4th June - Nick Andrews (Piano)**

Nick Andrews returns to Brighton Unitarian Church

After all this time, popular local pianist, Nick Andrews, is utterly delighted to play a recital featuring JS Bach's extraordinary English Suite in g minor, J Haydn's glorious G major sonata and an exquisite group of pieces by J. Rameau. These will be introduced with his usual humour and his unusual rambling thoughts.

### **11th June - Mehreen Shah (Soprano)**

'Inspired: Songs of Hope', accompanied by Birgit Rohowsky. Programme includes uplifting songs by Bach, Mendelssohn, Liszt, Schubert, and Armstrong Gibbs, plus arias by Menotti and Puccini.

### **8th June - Belladonna: Sue Mileham (Soprano) Jane Plessner (Clarinet) Nicola Grunberg (Piano)**

BELLADONNA is the entertaining trio of the Soprano Sue Mileham, Clarinetist Jane Plessner and the Pianist Nicola Grunberg. Working together over the past five years they have compiled programmes ranging from traditional to contemporary repertoire with some arrangements of their own thrown in.

### **25th June - Elia Stavrou (Piano)**

Chopin: Nocturnes op.27 no.1 & no.2 Chopin: Ballade no.1  
Fauré: Barcarolle no.1, no.10, no.12 Respighi: Notturmo for Piano

## Other News

### New Caretaker

Welcome to Tom Vidley, our new caretaker. Some of us have already met Tom as he has been setting up the church on Sundays. You will see him around as the months progress.

### Brighton Fringe Festival

The Fringe Festival is being held in June this year. There are a number of events taking place in the church, so do keep an eye on the website as Ashleigh will be putting this up soon.

### After service coffee and chat on Zoom

When the service is entirely on Zoom, we will continue with break-out rooms for "coffee and chat". However, when a service is held in the church with members of the congregation present, and is also live-streamed to those who are unable to come to the church, there will not be coffee and chat hosted by the church. In recognition that some people will therefore not be able to socialise, Rachel Hills has kindly offered to host a Zoom coffee and chat herself after such services. If you would like to join her then please email her at [Rachel.hills@btinternet.com](mailto:Rachel.hills@btinternet.com) to arrange this.

### IMPULSE



Helen White has pointed out that Brighton Unitarians feature a fair bit in the Spring edition of IMPULSE, the newsletter for Unitarians in London and the South East.

To see it please click here: <https://www.ldpaunitarians.org/newsletters>

### A contribution from Francis Clark-Lowes

I listened to 'Something Understood' on Radio 4 this morning when the subject was 'Spirituality Without God.' There really should have been a question mark after that title, I feel, but anyway as I listened Susie's service a couple of weeks ago I realised she was in certain respects saying much the same sorts of thing as Mark Tully and his contributors.

Tully, if you don't know this already, is an interesting man; having been brought up in the last years of the British Raj, he was discouraged from learning anything about India, but reacted against this. He is fluent in Hindi, lives much of his life in New Delhi and is well-versed in Hinduism.

If it interests you, here is the link to listen to the half-hour programme: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04570qs>. It will be there until 14th June.

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*If you have a news contribution then please do send this to the church with subject "Newsletter"*

## **POETRY CORNER**

### **A Green Thought by Katharine Towers**

Say instead it was an evening in head-high  
bracken with its smell of dark and medicine.  
Thinking green of the infecting fern  
where you may crouch and not be known,  
lodging your feet for good amid the stalks.  
A bower is a dwelling place or once it was  
a cage for pent-up singing birds.  
Look down to see the warp and weft of root.  
All the world is in these clutches.  
Look up to clock the fern's drab underneath  
blotched with spores you mustn't breathe.  
Breathe in deep. There's nowhere else to live

*If you have a poem you would like to contribute to the newsletter, then please send it to the church. Let's try to include one each month.*

## A bit of fun

The photo last month was of the newly painted subway at Ovingdean.

Here is a grim joke! It's in poor taste but I laughed out loud.

An atheist was taking a walk through the woods, admiring all that the “accident of evolution” had created. “What majestic trees! What powerful rivers! What beautiful animals!” he said to himself

As he was walking alongside the river he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him. He turned to look. He saw a 7-foot grizzly charge towards him. He ran as fast as he could up the path.

He looked over his shoulder and saw that the bear was closing in on him. He looked over his shoulder again, and the bear was even closer. His heart was pumping frantically and he tried to run even faster.

He tripped and fell on the ground. He rolled over to pick himself up but saw the bear right on top of him, reaching for him with her left paw and raising her right paw to strike him.

At that instant the atheist cried out: “Oh my God!...”

Time stopped. The bear froze. The forest was silent.

As a bright light shone upon the man, a voice came out of the sky. “You deny my existence for all of these years, teach others I don’t exist, and even credit creation to a cosmic accident. Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer?”

The atheist looked directly into the light, “It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask You to treat me as a Christian now, but perhaps could You make the BEAR a Christian?”

“Very well,” said the voice. The light went out. And the sounds of the forest resumed

And then the bear dropped her right paw... brought both paws together and bowed her head and spoke:

“Lord, for this food which I am about to receive, I am truly thankful.”.

*If you have something to contribute - a joke, a puzzle or a riddle, for example, then do send it to the church - there will be one each month.*



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