



Brighton
Unitarians

June 2018 Newsletter

Sunday Services

Please note: services are at 11 a.m. All are welcome.

We would be grateful if you would switch your phones to airplane mode before the start of the service.

03rd June - Jef Jones (BUC Lay Leader)
Pianist Stuart Deeks

10th June - Brian Bell (BUC Member)
Pianist Pamela Nickels

17th June - Jef Jones (BUC Lay Leader) - Solstice Service
Pianist Joe Ward

24th June - Rev Daniel Costley (Sevenoaks, Lay Leader)
Pianist Kathy Pitt
Quiet Reflection 7-8 pm, 14th June

Quiet Reflective Circle

On the second Thursday of each month we gather for candle lighting and quiet reflection. This starts at 7pm and lasts no longer than an hour. There will be readings, time for candle- lighting, stillness and a few simple closing words.

If you've been having a busy week, and could do with some stillness, do come along. If you're looking for a time and place to reconnect with your spirit, do come along. If you'd like to sit quietly in a sacred place, please do come along. All are welcome!

Parking and Access to the Church

Due to scaffolding at the front of the church there will be no parking until further notice. Entrance to the Church is via the two side passageways.

Welcome from Jef

Welcome everyone to our Newsletter for June 2018.

You'll find below news of a survey about services at our church. The committee and I are wanting to begin a conversation about our services and what they mean to the people who attend them. We're interested in your whole experience of services from the moment you arrive until the moment you leave. Do look out for this over the next few weeks in your emails.

The church has been very busy during May and I'd especially like to thank everyone in our fund-raising team. The team run donation bars at events in the church and the money received goes to our building funds. So thank you to Fanny, Christine and Fiona. Also I'd like to thank Phillida and Estelle for all their work on the lunchtime concerts which also raise funds money for our building repairs. Finally thank you to our staff team who have worked especially hard during the festival: Marion, Martin, Pete and Barbara.

Brighton Unitarian Church Survey

As a diverse group of people we probably each value different aspects of our experiences in our church. The committee is interested to get a sense of this through a short survey which will be coming your way in the next few weeks. Once we have analysed the responses we can consider our response to these. Some things we may be able to change, some things not, and for some potential changes we made need help from the congregation - we'll see what comes up. Many thanks in advance for your participation in this.

From the Lay Leader

For 55 years Jane Goodall studied wild chimpanzees in Tanzania, enabling us to better understand their complex relationships and rich emotional lives. One of the more unusual behaviours she has recorded is the 'waterfall dance'. She has observed chimpanzees dancing in a very animated way around waterfalls and in rainstorms. The waterfall dance, she says, might be chimpanzees expressing their sense of awe at the world beyond themselves. She speculates that, like us, they may have a sense of wonder. If they have feelings like we do, she asks, why wouldn't they also have some kind of spirituality? She believes that although chimpanzees can't describe or analyse their feelings in language they are as spiritual as human beings.

It is a big claim and it is this kind of speculation that has led some scientists to criticise Goodall's work. They accuse her of humanising apes by giving them names, ascribing personalities to individuals and human qualities to chimpanzees as a whole.

In 2016 a group of scientists, led by Hjalmar S. Kuhl and Ammie K. Kalan for the Max Plank Institute, reported on a behaviour just as puzzling as the waterfall dance.

They had found four populations of chimpanzees in West Africa that habitually throw rocks against trees and place rocks in tree cavities, which results in 'conspicuous accumulations of rocks at particular sites'. Their report led to all kinds of rather wild conjecture in the popular press. Might the trees be sacred to the chimpanzees in some way? Are they rudimentary shrines or temples? The Daily Mail Online went so far as to ask *Do Chimpanzees Believe in God?*

The report itself is extremely careful in its interpretation of stone-throwing. Kuhl and Kalan say that it is mostly - though not exclusively - male chimpanzees who do this. It might very well have begun as a dramatic form of male display or an assertive way of marking territory. This doesn't diminish the value of the discovery. It contributes to a growing consensus among primatologists that some populations of chimpanzees develop tool use, rituals and expressive gestures and that these behaviours are not instinctive but cultural. They are passed down from generation to generation.

We often attribute the more brutal and destructive aspects of human behaviour to our animal nature. Darwin, on the other hand, believed that our morality and emotions evolved from our history as social animals. This issue is neatly summarised in a question asked by the biologist Stephen Jay Gould; "*Why should our nastiness be the baggage of an apish past and our kindness uniquely human?*" Jane Goodall is essentially asking a similar question about spirituality. She is clearly not talking about belief but seems to be suggesting a lively, physical response to the wonder and excitement of a waterfall. Given that animals continue to surprise us with their intelligence and complexity perhaps we might keep our minds open to this intriguing aspect of their lives.

May Festival at Brighton Unitarian

Despite the building works there was lots going on during the festival. We were really busy with music, performance and well-being events. Our thanks to all who chose to hold their festival shows at Brighton Unitarian and our special thanks to Martin and Peter, the caretakers. Without their dedicated work, and some very long hours, the festival could not have gone ahead.

BUT the fat lady has not yet sung!! The festival goes on until Sunday 3rd June. Details below.



June

01st : Violinists Yi Lee and Victoria Sawyer. A light programme of music through the ages.

08th: The Brighton Chamber Ensemble play a real rarity and a famous masterpiece, both featuring the clarinet. Mozart's Kegelstatt trio is one the great chamber works, but this will be a rare chance to hear the beautiful clarinet quintet by Charles Villiers Stanford.

15th: Nick Andrews is joined by Nara Clapperton, Soprano, for a concert of beautiful songs for a Summer lunchtime.

22nd: Lyndsay Jeffery (clarinet) and Nick Andrews (piano) perform a light-hearted selection of works for clarinet and piano. The programme will include music from Ladies in Lavender, The Victorian Kitchen Garden Suite and Finzi's Five Bagatelles.

29th: A capella group Bunch Of Daph's sings music ranging from the medieval period to the present day. The concert will include madrigals by Thomas Morley, arrangements of Yugoslavian folk songs and songs from the shows.

Doors and coffee from 12 noon.

Concert 12.30 – 1.15 p.m.

Tickets £3.50 on the door.

Data Protection Act

Thank you all for taking the time to sign our data protection forms. We appreciate it was a laborious and repetitive task, but we were anxious to ensure that we got it right. A belt and braces approach seemed the safest way to approach the new regulations.

To ensure that we keep our records up to date, please let us know if you change your postal address, email address or telephone number. You can email changes to buc@brightonunitarian.org.uk or call the office on 01273 696022.

Thank you.

Dates for Your Diary

Friday 1st June, 9 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Brighton: Symphony of a City with Voyage to the Moon

By Sussex University

This cinematic portrait of Brighton, in all its bohemian, and campaigning glory, darts between past present and is set to a sumptuous orchestral score. 'Father Neptune' is dunked in a raucous 1951 ritual, 1930s marchers celebrate the Soviet Union. Today's residents parade at Pride and commemorate Gaza. The elegant ferris wheel marks the passage of time, and a day-in-a-life of the city culminates in astounding puppetry and the winter festival, 'The Burning of the Clocks'. Composer: Ed Hughes. Director: Lizzie Thynne.

A Brighton Festival Commission 2016, supported by Screen Archive South East.

[Website](#)[Twitter](#)[YouTube](#)

£4.00 - £5.00

Sunday 3rd June, 7.15 to 8.45 p.m.

The seventeen singers of SINGING SALON bring their heady blend of well loved operatic scenes, glorious arias and great fun to the beloved BUC. We have always enjoyed lovely audiences and joyful concerts in the BUC, so do please join us.' Tickets £7 on the door.

Saturday 23rd June, 2pm – 5pm

Introduction to Focusing. Workshop led by **Campbell Purton**, *Philosopher, Focusing teacher and retired counsellor.*

Hastings Unitarian Church, South Terrace

Focusing is a gentle way of finding a way forward in situations where we don't know what to say or do. It has been used in counselling, in creative writing, in decision making, and is especially valuable in working individually with personal problems which initially feel insoluble. This session will explain what Focusing is, and provide opportunities to experiment with the process.

Places limited to 20. Please book in advance to reserve a space.

Participation by donation

For more information, please contact:

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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/>

Share images of your experiences in our beautiful building using the following hashtags. #bucpeople #brightonunitarians