

## EFFRA ROAD CHAPEL, BRIXTON

[www.brixtonunitarians.org](http://www.brixtonunitarians.org)

Founded 1839

*Honorary Minister*

Julian Smith, FRSA

[minister@brixtonunitarians.org](mailto:minister@brixtonunitarians.org)

*Organist & Pianist*

Chris Dann, BMus

### Main Contact & Trustees

**Chairman, Administrator & Safeguarder: Andrew Leonard**

[andrew.a.leonard@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.a.leonard@gmail.com)

Warden: Stephen Cowley

Bruce Bebington

Richard Bennett

John Bradford

Edwin Lerner

Cynthia McPherson

(Distinguished Honorary Gardener: David Medhurst, Esq)

*Incorporating*

Effra Road Chapel Community Hall

[www.brixtonunitarians.org](http://www.brixtonunitarians.org)

Brixton Legal Centre

[www.brixtonlegalcentre.com](http://www.brixtonlegalcentre.com)

Brixton Counselling

[www.brixtoncounselling.org](http://www.brixtoncounselling.org)

Unity Child Contact Centre

[www.brixtonunitarians.org](http://www.brixtonunitarians.org)

Residential & Hall Hire

[www.grapevineletting.com](http://www.grapevineletting.com)

Carparking SW2 1BZ

[www.yourparkingspace.com](http://www.yourparkingspace.com) [www.justpark.com](http://www.justpark.com)

## BRIXTON UNITARIANS' NEWSLETTER

[www.brixtonunitarians.org](http://www.brixtonunitarians.org)

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### MAY

We 02	18:00	Midweek Mindfulness	Julian
Sun 06	10:30	COMMUNION & FOODBANK COLL'N	Julian
We 09	18:00	Midweek Mindfulness	Julian
Sun 13	10:30	MOTHER'S DAY	Bruce / Wade
We 16	18:00	Midweek Mindfulness	Julian
Sun 20	10:30	PENTECOST / WHIT SUNDAY @ Trinity St Matthew's Road, SW2 1LP	Congregationalists
We 23	18:00	Midweek Mindfulness	Julian
Sun 27	10:30	Visiting Preacher (Kensington)	Wade Miller-Knight
We 30	18:00	Midweek Mindfulness	Julian

### JUNE

Sun 03	10:30	COMMUNION & FOODBANK COLL'N	Julian
We 06	18:00	Midweek Mindfulness	Julian
Sun 10	10:30	Minister	Julian
We 13	18:00	Midweek Mindfulness	Julian
Sun 17	10:30	FATHER'S DAY Visiting Preacher (Watford)	Alan Ruston
We 20	18:00	Midweek Mindfulness	Julian
Sun 24	10:30	Minister	Julian
We 27	18:00	Midweek Mindfulness	Julian
Sat 30	10:30	<b>London &amp; District Provincial Assembly</b>	Julian, Andrew
to	17:00	Summer Quarterly Meeting	Rev Mart
		Building Effective Interfaith Bridges	Drs Hargey &
		Talks, Workshops, & Afternoon Tea (16:15)	Woodman

### JULY

Sun 01	10:30	Home Preacher	Bruce
Sun 08	10:30	COMMUNION & FOODBANK COLL'N	Julian
Sun 15	10:30	Visiting Preacher (Kensington)	Wade Miller-Knight
Sun 22	10:30	Minister	Julian
Sun 29	10:30	Minister	Julian
	11:45	Open Trustees' Meeting	Julian, Andrew &
		Potential Redevelopment, Heating & Maintenance	Inge

*Churches Together in Brixton. Lambeth Faiths Forum*

*Unitarian Christian Association. General Assembly of Unitarian & Free Christian Churches*

*Brixton Unitarian Christian Church*

## AUGUST

We 01 18:00	Midweek Mindfulness	Julian
Sun 05 10:30	With Christening of Mia Edwards*	Julian
We 08 18:00	Midweek Mindfulness	Julian
Sun 12 10:30	COMMUNION & FOODBANK COLL'N	Julian
We 15 18:00	Midweek Mindfulness	Julian
Sun 19 10:30	Minister	Julian
We 22 18:00	Midweek Mindfulness	Julian
Sun 26 09:30	<b>Day Away to Hastings £10pp</b>	See Andrew
We 29 18:00	Midweek Mindfulness	Julian

## OTHER DATES

17.06.18	Father's Day Service, Sheffield (Underbank)	Julian
28.06.18	Ministers' Meeting, Essex Hall	Julian
02.09.18	Visiting Preacher (Kensington)	Wade
09.09.18	Home Preacher	Bruce
14.10.18	Visiting Preacher (Kensington)	Wade
25.10.18	Ministers' Meeting, Essex Hall	Julian
25.11.18	Visiting Preacher (Anglican) (Oxford)	Alexander Gordon
16.12.18	Carols Service & Party (6pm)	Julian
23.12.18	Visiting Preacher (Kensington)	Wade
	Christmas Service, Sheffield (Underbank)	Julian

## NEWS

That was a long Winter. In Sheffield my elderly folks thought it would never end, who are in the midst of more bad weather as I write from a very balmy London. And it's been a hard Winter in other ways too. Numbers have been low on Sundays in the first half of the year, we had a break-in, and very unattractive gas pipe repairs we've had to suspend to look at alternatives. A number of us have had some quite demanding personal difficulties. Richard Bennett lost a close friend to suicide, leaving a husband, recently adopted baby and a large group of family and friends behind. My nieces lost their cousin in similar circumstances; he was just 14. Gary lost his father suddenly, and Stephen's mum passed away suddenly too. Three of us have been quite ill with depression. My best friend was diagnosed with cancer of the throat and mouth. So it's been a tough time for us individually and as a community. I continue to pray for us all daily. Please join me. It's not been without its positives, however. We have finally launched our Midweek Mindfulness meditation session on Wednesdays at 6pm followed by refreshments and fellowship. This has been a modest success, but not in the way we had intended. It was intended to attract those from outside the Chapel. Despite publicity it has

instead only attracted our regulars, but we've enjoyed it so much we are continuing with it. My particular thanks to Andrew, Stephen, Bruce, Edwin, David and Cynthia for their support and good company. What a blessing we have been to each other at this demanding time. Speaking of blessings, we have the Christening for Cynthia's granddaughter Mia on 5<sup>th</sup> August during the general service. She is a lovely little girl and will no-doubt brighten many of our services to come. And we finally have news on the potential redevelopment to be discussed with all in an informed way at the end of July. What's for certain is that nothing will be happening for years to come and we will only move forward if we are significantly better off premises wise. This will please David particularly who enjoys struggling to maintain our grounds. Andrew and I will be helping him with that and engaging in a significant amount of maintenance over the Summer so we can embrace the Winter when it comes again which, I pray, will not be so damn gloomy! Here's to the sunshine. Make the most of it with me. See you in Chapel and on the Day Away to Hastings.

## EFFRA ROAD CHAPEL & UNITARIANISM

Today the Chapel houses **London's most central Unitarian congregation**. Our first chapel on this site was opened in 1839 to provide **a place of worship and fellowship for South London's religious liberals and freethinkers**. We are still rooted in the forward-looking, radical Judeo-Christian and Humanist traditions and also share our forebears interest in world religions, mysticism, spirituality generally, the arts and sciences, scholarship, and what life has to teach us next. **Our worship is inclusive and outward looking**. We cherish all persons and ask them to join us in the our quest to enhance humility, the appreciation that one has much more to learn than to teach, a respect and concern for others, and a gratitude to and love for something within, between and over and around us which gives comfort, reassurance, inspiration and true fullness of life, and which has traditionally been called 'God'. Thus we uphold what we believe to be the religion of, and not the religion about, Jesus; a faith shared with consecrated souls of all faiths and none whom we uphold with him and try to follow. Not surprisingly, **we have a history of which to be a little proud**. Before state education was introduced, we ran an elementary school for many years; we were behind the forming of what are now Churches Together in Brixton and Faiths Together in Brixton; and, more recently with the Effra Trust, we were pioneers in the provision of care in the community for ex-offenders with learning difficulties. Famous members have included a former Lord Chief Justice of Australia, the Mappin and Webb silversmithing families, and Elnahan Bicknell, whale oil magnate, patron of the arts and Turner especially, and friend of the Ruskins.

