

## 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, BSc

### 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)

Chapel Residences

63b (2 x bedrooms) & 63c Effra Road (4 x bedrooms), SW2 1BZ

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

Effra Road Chapel Carparking SW2 1BZ

[www.yourparkingspace.com](http://www.yourparkingspace.com) [www.justpark.com](http://www.justpark.com) [Ref: SW2 1BZ]

*Churches Together in Brixton. Lambeth Faiths Forum*

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

## BRIXTON UNITARIANS' NEWSLETTER

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

Founded 1839

### OCTOBER 2017

Sun 15	10:30	MINISTER	Julian (J)
Sun 22	10:30	LATE HARVEST FESTIVAL	J
- - - -		FOODBANK COLLECTION RELAUNCH	-
- -	11:30	HARVEST BRUNCH	Andrew (A)
Sun 29	10:30	Assistant Preacher	Alexander Gordon

### NOVEMBER

Sun 05	10:30	<b>The 7 Paths of Traditional Devotion</b>	J & FOODBANK
- -	18:30	Guy Fawkes' Party	J & A at home
- - - -		7 Windmill House, SE1 8LX	Warm / dry attire
Sun 12	10:30	FULL REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	J
- - - -		All Saints, Souls & War Dead	-
Sun 19	10:30	District Minister (DM)	Rev Martin Whittell
Sun 26	10:30	Visiting Preacher	Wade Miller-Knight
Thu 30	18:30	Trustees' Dinner, National Liberal Club	J & A

### DECEMBER

Sun 03	10:30	ADVENT SUNDAY	J & FOODBANK
- - -		Origen: Perpetual Communion	-
Sun 10	10:30	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	J
Sun 17	18:30	COMMUNITY CAROLS SERVICE	J
- - - -		COMMUNITY XMAS PARTY	J
- - - -		With Cecilia Stalin & Chris, &	DM Martin
- - - -		Merribox Congolese Street Food	Andrew
Sun 24	10:30	CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	J
- -	12:30	CHRISTMAS EVE DRINKS & LUNCH	A
- - - -		The Brixton Social, Effra Road, SW2 1DF	-
- - - -		Waged: £20 pp. Unwaged: donation	-
Sun 31	10:30	NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE	J

### JANUARY

Sun 07	10:30	Augustine: Loving God with our All	J & FOODBANK
Sun 14	10:30	Bernard: Divine Desire & Ascent	J
Sun 21	10:30	Pascal: Body, Mind & Spirit	J

## MINISTER'S LETTER

There's a "stand-off" in Britain today, says David Goodheart in *The Observer*, between those he calls "Anywheres" – educated, mobile, typically Remain-voting types – and the "Somewheres" – more rooted and conservative, typically Leave-voting types. Their world views are both "decent and legitimate", yet the two groups are separated by a wide gulf of values and understanding. He says this is a symptom of the unhealthy dominance of London and the Southeast. Less centralized countries such as Germany don't have this sort of cultural divide because able, ambitious people there don't feel the same need to up sticks and head for the capital. They can find decent higher education and job opportunities in their home town. There's no rift between rootless "Anywheres" who value "diversity and freedom", and "Somewheres" who care about protecting their own patch, because everybody rubs along together and shares a similar sense of regional identity. That might be an overly rosy picture of German unity in light of Angela Merkel's plunged popularity. But there is something worth emulating here, and Britain does need to find some common causes and projects to bind our split society together. The best place to find such wholeness in our communities already exists, however; that is in inclusive places of worship like our Chapel which, however small, stand as real beacons of deep-rooted and genuine love and tolerance in a divided world. So in reading this you're already in a good place. Make sure you invest and build on it. Amen.

## NEWS

As most of you know, several weeks ago Julian and Andrew were viciously attacked on their return home from a party. Andrew lost several teeth, Julian had his lip pulverised, and they were left very bruised, concussed and shocked. They still remain concussed and shocked and Andrew has a recurring dark eye. Moreover, they're still sleeping up to 12 hours a day and off full-time work. However, they're not agoraphobic or cowed in any way, and they're reasonably out and about if nowhere near enough. At least their cat has enjoyed their sedantry life. She's never been her more content, having them both at home all day. They've also received cards, letters and e-mails from far and wide and several lovely visits and gifts. They send their thanks to all concerned for their love and concern; 'quite lovely' they say.

Andrew and Julian are not the only people within our community to have felt life to be rather overwhelming. Not a few of us have been having a rough time of late with health and other concerns. Julian will be in touch with all of you over the next few weeks to catch-up on your news and views. If, in the meantime, you fancy a chat, contact him by e-mail [julianrs68@btinternet.com](mailto:julianrs68@btinternet.com) in the first instance or call 07392 058532 Wednesday to Friday between 9am and 5pm. Of course, he can be contacted anytime on this number in an emergency.

Cynthia is looking forward to retirement increasingly. Edwin now works for a new tour operator. Bruce's Joan has joined Bruce in retirement. Richard M has finally taken the plunge to leave Capita and has enjoyed a well-earned rest while thinking of his future. We wish him all the best in his search for a new challenge. Richard B is now settled in his legal post with the Inland Revenue. Indeed, John has been leading meditation at Richard B's workplace, which has been most successful by all accounts. Bruce and Joan were caught-up in the Monarch Airlines collapse, which put an end to their plans to holiday in Cyprus. They're covered by ATOL for their financial losses, but this has sadly put paid to their hopes of some Autumnal sunshine overseas. Thanks to the generosity of friends, Julian and Andrew were able to travel to Old Antalya for an 11 night break. They had a great time. As it appears Inge did on her trip to Turkey. She reports swimming 30km off the coast and coming back one huge freckle!

And so to Christmas! We're treating the Trustees to a lovely party of their own this year. They've had plenty to think about of late, what with the potential redevelopment of the site to include a new Chapel and flats to replace the old manse and caretaker's bungalow. Let's hope they have much to think about in future. At the time of writing an offer from Lambeth is imminent. Thereafter we really party at the Carols Service, this year being joined by the jazz singer and regular guest on Jazz FM, Cecilia Stalin. Make sure you bring family and friends. Let's fill the place as usual. Then we have a bit of quiet before Christmas, culminating in a Christmas lunch for our regulars on Christmas Eve. John, remember to bring your mum!

Julian says: *I will be in Essex and Yorkshire over Christmas with family. There is a bit of "duty calls" involved. That's an early and long drive on Boxing Day, for example. But what a privilege it is to have those in our lives without whom Christmas would not be quite the same. Enjoy them while you can.*

