

## 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

Victoria Hurst

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)

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### JUNE

Sun 04	10:30	PENTECOST Comm'n & Foodbank Coll'n	Julian
Sun 11	10:30	Trinity / Unity Sunday	Julian
Sun 18	10:30	<i>FATHER'S DAY</i>	Holly Chetan-Welsh
Sun 25	10:30	Service Leader	Alexander Gordon

### JULY

Sun 02	10:30	Communion & Foodbank Collection	Julian
Sun 09	10:30	<b>The 7 Paths of Traditional Devotion</b>	Julian
Sun 16	10:30	Path 1: The Love of God	Julian
Sun 23	10:30	Origen: Perpetual Communion	Julian
Sun 30	10:30	Augustine: Loving God with our All	Julian

### AUGUST

Sun 06	10:30	Service Leader	Wade Miller-Knight
Sun 13	09:30	<i>ANNUAL COMMUNITY TRIP (BRIGHTON)</i>	Julian & Andrew
		£15 pp. See Julian ASAP*	
	10:30	No Service	
	10:30	<i>Service at Trinity Cong'l Church St Matthew's Road (behind flats opp)</i>	
Sun 20	10:30	Service Leader	Holly Chetan-Welsh
Sun 27	10:30	<i>178<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SERVICE</i>	Julian
	11:30	<i>Brief AGM with Birthday Cake</i>	Julian & Andrew

### SEPTEMBER

Sun 03	10:30	Communion & Foodbank Collection	Wade Miller-Knight
Sun 10	10:30	Bernard: Divine Desire & Ascent	Julian
Sun 17	10:30	Pascal: Body, Mind & Heart	Julian
Sun 24	10:30	Path 2: Spiritual Life as Journey	Julian

### OCTOBER

Sun 01	10:30	HARVEST FESTIVAL Comm'n & FBC	Julian
	11:30	<i>Harvest Brunch with Bucks Fiz</i>	Andrew
Sun 08	10:30	Evagrius: Evil Thoughts to Godly Virtues	Julian

## OTHER DATES

03.01.17	JS led service at Sheffield Upper Chapel
02.01.17	JS led service at Watford Fellowship
03.03.17	JS at LDPA Pastoral Leaders' Meeting, Essex Hall
10.04.17	JS, AL & Alex met with potential developer of Chapel
03.05.17	JS, AL & Alex visit Cuddesdon College, Oxon (Pot Redev)
21.05.17	Join JS, AL & Chris at the Kennington Fete from 1pm
23.05.17	JS, AL, Alex, Alison & Jennie retreat to Brantwood, Lakes
14.06.17	JS at LDPA Pastoral Leaders' Lunch & Meeting, Lincoln's Inn
03.07.17	JS at GA / Hibbert Trust Lay Ministry Consultation, Great Hucklow
06.07.17	Minister's Charity Garden Party, Lincoln's Inn
06.08.17	JS leads service at Sheffield Upper Chapel
03.09.17	JS leads service at Sheffield Underbank
04.09.17	JS, AL, Inge and Alex at Quarr Abbey, Isle of Wight for two day mini-retreat focussing on potential redevelopment of Chapel
13.09.17	JS at LDPA Pastoral Leaders' Meeting, Essex Hall
12.11.17	Full Remembrance: All Souls, All Saints & Those Lost in Conflict
24.11.17	Trustees' Dinner, National Liberal Club
17.12.17	Community Carols Service & Christmas Party
24.12.17	Christmas Eve Service & Lunch, The Ship, Kenn'ton

## MINISTER'S LETTER

'To stand within a tradition does not limit the freedom of knowledge, but makes it possible.' *Hans Georg Gadamer*

'[The Seven Paths of Traditional Devotion] invites us to a pilgrimage toward God. It takes us deeply and slowly into the old trusts of our fathers and mothers in faith. The [course] will be a valuable detailed reminder that the journey is not an easy one, and we are not the first ones who have walked that way. [It] meditates on the old habits whereby one may break from the present rush in order to be refreshed and transformed by a holiness that is beyond every quick fix and every surface offer.' *Walter Brueggeman*.

Spiritual formation allows us to find our real character and to become Christ-like; human expressions of that Spirit that was in Jesus. This occurs through our entering into a 'conversational and redemptive relationship' with God in which our life becomes open to the Holy Spirit. Many practices support this: public and private worship; study; prayer; reading and memorising Scripture; reflecting on God's activity in nature and history; service to others; solitude; silence; and fasting. Properly used, such practices help us attain increasing

levels of spiritual maturity; to respond to our life circumstances with the mind of Jesus. But we are helped on our way most of all by the life and teaching of Jesus; by the colourful characters of the Bible; and by all the world's many saints who have gone before us or who are alive today. As the book of Hebrews records it: '...we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses' (Hebrews 12:1); an allusion to the cloud that led the people of Israel through the wilderness. From July we hope to move beyond our remaining wilderness and into the Promised Land together, with the help of the saints. Join us!

## MORE NEWS

Congratulations to Stephen and Bruce who made every one of the eight **Lenten Reflections**, focussing on the Way of Mindfulness. Their course certificates will be presented to them at Pentecost by our member John who is a meditation practitioner and who helpfully joined us for most of the sessions. On Easter Sunday **Gabriel** joined us for lunch at The Ship, Kennington, to say goodbye as our regular organist as he focusses on his medical studies. However, we hope to see him occasionally in the future, providing musical cover for Chris. Yes, **Chris is back!** And we are already benefitting from his presence enormously. We are also very pleased to have **Cynthia** back with us after some weeks of illness. Also returning to us after an absence of more than a few years is **Jennifer**, who has recently concluded her training as an actor and is in a play. Sadly **Sue** continues to take a break. She is much missed. **David** is also only an occasional attender these days, due to playing for our URC friends on the successful completion of his Grade 8. Well done David. **Andrew** is taking life easier at work, and has stepped-in to Sue's shoes pro tem. We are also grateful to Andrew for lending Julian his fine modern classic Rover 75 after the Audi was recently written-off, to save funds at this rather busy and expensive time for the Chapel. **Julian** has also taken a step back from the Bar to focus on the Chapel and its potential redevelopment. Another very generous gesture. Speaking of which, **Inge** and her boss Simon at architectural firm Panter Hudspith continue to support our potential redevelopment, which looks increasingly likely after a most promising meeting with the interested developer in April; and **Alex** has been and continues to be a very major support to Julian and Andrew as they look at all the options for the Trustees. Where would we be without our friends? Have a great Summer; don't forget the seaside trip and to take your brolly! J.

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Be patient and you will gain everything, for with God in your heart nothing is lacking. *St Teresa of Avila*

