

**EFFRA ROAD CHAPEL, BRIXTON**

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

Founded 1839

**BRIXTON UNITARIANS' NEWSLETTER**

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

Founded 1839

*Honorary Minister:*

Julian Smith, FRSA

**SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 2018**

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

**SEPTEMBER**

*Organist & Pianist:*  
Chris Dann, BMus

*Acting Administrator & Safeguarder:* Andrew Leonard  
*Honorary Manager, Hall Hire & Facilities:* Susan Young

*Trustees:*

*Chairman:* Andrew Leonard

*Warden:* Stephen Cowley

Bruce Bebington

John Bradford

Edwin Lerner

Cynthia McPherson

Sun 02 10:30	Visiting Preacher from Kensington	Wade Miller-Knight
We 05 18:30	Midweek Mindfulness	Julian
Sun 09 10:30	Congregational Preacher	Bruce
We 12 18:30	Midweek Mindfulness	John
Sun 16 10:30	COMMUNION & FOODBANK COLL'N	Julian
We 19 18:30	Midweek Mindfulness	John
Sun 23 10:30	Visiting Preacher	Rev Patrick Timperley
We 26 18:30	Midweek Mindfulness	John
Sun 30 10:30	Visiting Preacher	Rev Patrick Timperley

**OCTOBER**

We 03 18:30	Midweek Mindfulness	Julian
Sun 07 10:30	Minister	Julian
We 10 18:30	Midweek Mindfulness	Julian
Sun 14 10:30	Minister	Julian
We 17 18:30	Midweek Mindfulness	John
Sun 21 10:30	Visiting Preacher	Rev Patrick Timperley
We 24 18:30	Midweek Mindfulness	Julian
Sun 28 10:30	Minister	Julian
We 31 10:30	Midweek Mindfulness	John

**NOVEMBER**

We 07 18:30	Midweek Mindfulness	Julian
Sun 11 10:30	<b>REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY</b>	Julian
We 14 18:30	Midweek Mindfulness	John
Sun 18 10:30	Visiting Preacher from Kensington	Wade Miller-Knight
We 21 18:30	Midweek Mindfulness	John
Sun 25 10:30	Visiting Preacher	Rev Patrick Timperley
We 28 18:30	Midweek Mindfulness	Julian

**OTHER DATES**

*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 Lettings

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

Carparking SW2 1BZ

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

## OTHER DATES

25/10/18	Pastoral Leaders' Meeting	Essex Hall
23/12/18	Visiting Preacher from Kensington Julian leading Carols Service at	Wade Miller-Knight Underbank, Sheffield

## NEWS

In our last newsletter I expressed my gratitude for the end of a long winter and the beginning of **Summer** at last, and exorted us all to make the most of the sunshine. Well, what sunshine we've had! It's been glorious, although I've missed the air-conditioning that I normally also enjoy in such temperatures overseas, and so I've enjoyed the cooler spell we're currently experiencing. With that cooler weather came a complete wash-out over the August Bank Holiday when, of course, it was our **annual day-trip to the seaside!** But 'The Lord works in mysterious ways, his miracles to perform' and the coach broke down, obliging us to cancel the trip. With a day suddenly to spare, some of us from Waterloo took the train to St Albans and visited the **shrine of St Alban** at the beautiful St Alban's Abbey, joining the communion service which was lovely, before returning home very wet and glad not to have travelled to Hastings. Further to our open trustees' meeting, our friends Simon and Inge from Panter Hudspith, architects, agreed to explore negotiations further with Lambeth about making **better use of our premises**. We hope and pray something will come out of that finally, but as anything that will happen is years away, more than likely you won't hear much more about it in these pages. **We must live today and not in the future.** Tomorrow may never come. But today is ours! Perhaps this explains our recent efforts on reorganising the vestibule and vestry, the former being adapted for after-service refreshments and small meetings, and the latter being returned to a quite smart office, meeting room and study for flexible and multiple use. Work is also underway in creating an archive and storeroom in the former cloakroom and study-bedroom in the organ loft. Moreover, David continues to maintain and enhance **our grounds**, recently working with Sue and tree surgeons to fell one diseased tree, and to pollard others including **Unity** our main tree by the gate planted with the original chapel in 1839. Join me in giving the old girl a friendly pat as you come and go. You'll feel better somehow, I promise!

I slept and dreamt  
that life was joy.  
I awoke and saw that  
life was service.  
I acted and beheld,  
service was joy

*Robindranath Tagore*



*Well, that's my 50 minutes of pointless channel-hopping! Want the remote?*

## 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 living and 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 Erihanan Bicknell, whale oil magnate, patron of the arts and Turner especially, and friend of the Ruskins.