

EFFRA ROAD CHAPEL, BRIXTON

www.brixtonunitarians.org

Founded 1839

Honorary Minister

Julian Smith, FRSA

minister@brixtonunitarians.org

Organist & Pianist

Chris Dann, BSc

Main Contact & Trustees

Chairman, Administrator & Safeguarder: Andrew Leonard

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

Brixton Legal Centre

www.brixtonlegalcentre.com

Brixton Counselling

www.brixtoncounselling.org

Unity Child Contact Centre

www.brixtonunitarians.org

Chapel Residences

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

www.grapevineletting.com

Effra Road Chapel Carparking SW2 1BZ

www.yourparkingspace.com 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

Founded 1839

FEBRUARY

Sun 04	10:30	Reflections on William Cowper Communion (C)	Julian (J) Foodbank Coll'n (FB)
Sun 11	10:30	George Herbert:	J
We 14	18:00	ASH WEDNESDAY: LENT BEGINS	J & Andrew (A)
Valentines		Lenten Reflections & Supper	Relationships:
Day	-	'Calm', by The School of Life	Romantic, Domestic
-	-	7 Windmill House, Windmill Walk	Sexual, &
-	-	Waterloo, SE1 8LX	Weakness in Power
Sun 18	10:30	John Bunyan: The Pilgrim's Path	J
We 21	18:00	Lenten Reflections. Venue: see above	Other People
Sun 25	10:30	Thomas Merton: Home with God	J
We 28	18:00	Lenten Reflections. Venue: see above	Work

MARCH

Sun 04	10:30	Francis of Assisi: World our Cloister	J & FB
We 07	18:00	Lenten Reflections. Venue: see above	Sources of Calm
Sun 11	10:30	Mothering Sunday	TBA
We 14	18:00	Lenten Reflections. Venue: see above	Consolidation 1
Sun 18	10:30	Thomas a' Kempis: Imitating Christ	J
We 21	18:00	Lenten Reflections: Venue: see above	Consolidation 2
Sun 25	10:30	PALM SUNDAY	J
Thu 29	18:00	MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION	& Supper

APRIL

Sun 01	10:30	EASTER SUNDAY & Hot Cross Buns	C, J * & A
We 04	18:15	Midweek Mindfulness	J & A
Sun 08	10:30	Inclusive Unitarian Worship	J
We 11	18:15	Midweek Mindfulness	J & A
Sun 15	10:30	Inclusive Unitarian Worship	J
We 18	18:15	Midweek Mindfulness	J & A
Sun 22	10:30	Brixton's St George's Day Service **	J & A

-	-	With Singer TBA & Thrales Northern English	-
-	-	Sword Dancers	-
	-	Nibbles & Prosecco Reception	J & A
We 25	18:15	Midweek Mindfulness	J & A
Sun 29		Inclusive Unitarian Worship	J
*	15:00	Minister takes service at Watford Unitarians	J
**		In advance of St George's Day, 23 rd April	J

NEWS - JULIAN

I write to you on another beautiful Winter's morning in central London. Around my flat crocuses and daffodils are beginning to show, and the birds are busy marking their territory, courting, mating, caring for their eggs and a few early chicks, and singing from morning 'till night. This is just the weather to be thinking of the rest of the Chapel year as we do in February. First up is **Lent** and Easter. During Lent this year, many of us will be giving-up and taking-up something. I'm looking into my health, going on a diet, giving-up wine and putting the cost of a bottle of wine each day to one side for a good cause. I am also aiming to go for a good walk each day, to pick-up my rowing again somehow, and to go to Yorkshire once a fortnight to see my folks. It all sounds rather fun. Helping me to make the most of this time and activity will be our **Lenten Reflections** with supper each Wednesday from **14th February**, with catch-up provision for those making the most of St Valentine's Day and advising me of the same: julianrs68@btinternet.com. This year we study The School of Life's very simple, yet insightful book *Calm* together. I highly recommend that you take this course up for Lent, so that Easter and the rest of the year may be even brighter for you and, above all, yours. Needless to say, all are welcome, but on account of catering try to let me know if you and any guests are coming and have any special dietary needs: julianrs68@btinternet.com. The fast of Lent is broken only twice before Easter, namely on **Mother's Day** (when we have daffodils for our mum's and female attenders) for those treating their mothers or being so treated, and of course on **Maundy Thursday** when we mark the Last Supper with Communion and an agape meal or love meal. This year's meal will be prepared again by Andrew, who tells me Spring Lamb (for the non-veggies) and Passionfruit Pavlova are once more on the menu with good wine and light refreshments. Again please advise of attendances and any special dietary requirements as above, together with any suggestions for the vegetarian dish.

Easter sees the introduction of a second service per week, in the form of **Midweek Mindfulness**. This is intended as a midweek recharger for our regulars and, above all, as a gift to the wider community of Brixton and beyond which cannot get enough of this life-enhancing and community building outlook, and which we are particularly well suited to provide thanks to our inclusive philosophy, training, expertise, ideal premises and excellent location. Lend it your full support, but do not let any such attendance be in lieu of Sundays. In the unlikely event you have to choose one or the other, choose Sunday. That is still a special day when most of us can still get together and as a very small community we cannot afford to lose regular attenders on Sunday to Wednesdays if we are to continue with Wednesdays. Please bear this in mind carefully. Every blessing, Julian.

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**. For example: 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 the silversmithing families of Mappin and Webb, which came together in both business and marriage partnership at the Chapel; and our most munificent original benefactor, the merchant and art collector Elnahan Bicknell, an early collector of William Turner, who introduced John Ruskin to Turner's works.

