

EFFRA ROAD CHAPEL (UNITARIAN), BRIXTON

www.brixtonunitarians.org

Founded 1839

HONORARY MINISTER

Julian Smith, LLB, FRSA

minister@brixtonunitarians.org

ORGANIST / PIANIST:

Supplies Pending New Appointment

CLERK TO THE TRUSTEES & MAIN CHAPEL CONTACT:

Administrator: Susan Young

youngsue102@gmail.com

THE TRUSTEES

Chairman: Andrew Leonard

Secretary & Treasurer: Administrator

Warden: Stephen Cowley

Edwin Lerner

Cynthia McPherson

Bruce Bebington

John Bradford

CO-WORKERS:

Representative, Religious & Social Justice Matters: Bruce Bebington

Coordinator, Foodbank Collection: Julian Smith

Principal, Brixton Legal Centre: Julian Smith

Manager, Unity Contact Centre: Andrew Leonard

Gardener: David Medhurst

ADDRESS & TELEPHONE NUMBER:

Effra Road Chapel

63 Effra Road

London SW2 1BZ. Tel 020 7737 7576

Brixton Unitarian Christian Church

Churches Together in Brixton; Faiths Together in Brixton

Unitarian Christian Association; General Assembly of Unitarian & Free Christian Churches

BRIXTON UNITARIANS' NEWSLETTER

www.brixtonunitarians.org

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JANUARY – APRIL 2020

Welcome to a New Year and a New Decade!

JANUARY

Sun 05	10:30	Mindfulness Service	Julian
Sun 12	10:30	Rev Jim Corrigan, Friern Barnet	Visiting Minister
Sun 19	10:30	Rev Jim Corrigan, Friern Barnet	Visiting Minister
Sun 26	10:30	Traditional Service & Communion	Julian

FEBRUARY

Sun 02	10:30	Mindfulness Service	Julian
...	...	Monthly Foodbank Collec'n Relaunch	...
Sun 09	10:30	Traditional Unitarian Service	Julian
Sun 16	10:30	Traditional Unitarian Service	Julian
Sun 23	10:30	Traditional Service & Communion	Julian

MARCH

Sun 01	10:30	First Sunday in Lent	Rev Jim Corrigan
...	...	<u>Monthly Foodbank Collection</u>	...
Sun 08	10:30	Mindfulness Service	Julian
Sun 15	10:30	Traditional Unitarian Service	Julian
Sun 22	10:30	Mothering Sunday	Julian
Sun 29	10:30	Traditional Service & Communion	Julian

APRIL

Sun 05	10:30	Palm Sunday Service	Julian
...	...	<u>Monthly Foodbank Collection</u>	...
Sun 12	10:30	Easter Sunday Service & Communion	Julian
...	...	Eleveses with Hot Cross Buns	Andrew
Sun 19	10:30	Rev Jim Corrigan, Friern Barnet	Visiting Minister

Sun 26 10:30 Mindfulness Service

Julian

OTHER KNOWN DATES IN 2020

- 02.05 Richard's & Heidi's Wedding by Julian & Reception, Hampstead
- 03.05 Jim takes the Service
- 17.05 181st Annual General Meeting (AGM) with Fruit Brunch & Bucks Fizz
- 24.05 Wade takes the Service
- 31.05 Jim takes the Service
- 05.07 Bruce takes the Service
- 04.10 Harvest Festival & Harvest Brunch
- 01.11 Wade takes the Service
- 08.11 Full Remembrance Sunday (All Saints; National; All Souls)
- 13.12 Carols Service & Christmas Tea 3pm (No 10:30am Service)

FROM JULIAN

I hope your Christmas and New Year went well. So here we are not just at the beginning of a new year, but at the beginning of another decade and I'm truly grateful to be in your company as we set out on the rest of our journey. Making sense and the most of it all requires truly good company, and you have been and are that and then some. So I look forward to this next era, which we begin much as we have throughout our 180 years, that is as a small band of not unsophisticated, but easy going, simple and down to earth spiritual travellers, spoiled with resources (if things can get tight!), for whom its essential to have their own church building and ministry, and to provide good quality and inclusive public worship, pastoral and other support to the community. This is a very privileged position for us to be in. Let us count our blessings and make the most of having found our rather wonderful little church in which everyone plays an important role and helps write our pleasant and not undistinguished history. I will be certain to. **Many thanks** to all who joined us for our lovely **Carols Service** and Christmas Party, including our Organist / Pianist Lyd, our tenor, District Minister Martin and regular visiting preacher in 2020, Jim Corrigan. Thanks also to Andrew for putting-on the festive spread and drinks. Sadly this was **Lyd's last service** with us as our regular Organist / Pianist, the journey from Hampton Court each Sunday proving rather too much for Lydia understandably. An excellent musician and lovely person, she will be missed; and we wish her all the best in her musical career and life generally going forward. We have

arranged temporary cover to-date pending finding Lyd's replacement, save for the service on 5th January, but which Humanist Mindfulness Service will not be let down by the use of good recorded music provided on the stereo system by Andrew and which we're much looking forward to. Our longtime member and much loved friend **Cynthia** is now clearly experiencing early onset dementia, if still looking and being lovely and enjoying Chapel, which I mention with permission and just so we can all take that knowledge into account and look out for Cynthia a little where appropriate to make sure she can continue to enjoy her time with us for as long as possible. You will be reassured to know that Cynthia is being very well looked after by her wonderful daughter Tracy who is impressively on top of things for her mum, and with whom I am in regular contact. Finally, we were very pleasantly contacted at Christmas by, amongst others: **Lisa Hall** who attended our Sunday School as a little girl and later as a young adult, and who now lives in Manchester and sends her best wishes for 2020 to us all; and by the next generation of the **Willis family** to conduct a blessing at Chatsworth House, Derbyshire for them in 2020, my having assisted at Pete's and Lindsay's wedding at Upper Chapel, Sheffield more than 30 years ago. What wonderful treats; quite made my Christmas!

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 forbears 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 our quest to enhance humility, the appreciation that one has much more to learn than to teach, 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'. **We also offer professionally conducted Christenings, Namings, Weddings and Funerals for all in the community,** which can be multi-faith or humanistic rather than Christian where appropriate. **We have a history of which to be a little proud.** We ran our own school for many years; we were behind the founding of *Churches Together* and *Faiths Together in Brixton*; and famous members and friends have included Sir Henry Tate, etc.

