



# E-PULSE

Promoting Unitarianism in London and the South East



NOVEMBER 2011

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## The FUSE has been lit....



The District is planning one of the biggest events in its long history.....The Festival of Unitarians in the South East (FUSE)

Mark the weekend of 3 – 5 February 2012 in your diary now.



A full programme is being planned:

- A keynote presentation by Robin Ince, TV presenter, comedian and scientist
- A major worship service, led by Rev. Patrick O'Neill, minister at Rosslyn Hill Chapel, Hampstead
- More than twenty workshops on church life, personal spirituality, music and art
- Networking and fun
- Pre-FUSE Preaching Workshop, led by Rev. Patrick O'Neill

The Weekend Festival will be held in Chatsworth Hotel, Worthing  
[www.chatsworthworthing.co.uk](http://www.chatsworthworthing.co.uk)

- Single rooms will be £195
- Shared rooms will be £145
- Day delegate rate is £47 (plus £19 for dinner)



Bursaries are available on the basis of need.  
Registration and the web site are open now.  
Check out the full programme and book soon.

<http://www.fusefest.org.uk>

Registration Update:  
Places are limited and bookings are coming in.....

**BOOK NOW!!!!**

**PULSE: Supporting and inspiring Unitarian communities in London and the South East,  
now and for future generations**

## 'Requiem in Blue' by Harvey Brough

Special Remembrance Sunday early evening service at Rosslyn Hill Chapel, Hampstead, London NW3 1NG at 6:00 PM 13th November 2011. This exciting work is composed for jazz performers, and will feature the Chapel choir and a children's choir. It uses the Latin requiem mass, English folksong and words from Spoonface Steinberg by Lee Hall. The performance will be directed by Harvey Brough himself! *Come and sing with the choir - rehearsals Wednesdays 7:30 PM.*



*Give Life the Shape of Justice*

## District launches Social Action project Neighbourhood Dinner being held at Bethnal Green

The District is launching a Community Ministry of Social Action based at Bethnal Green. Its first project will be a Neighbourhood Dinner, to be held at the Mansford St Mission on Saturday 10 December and which will be free of charge to all. Rev. Rob Gregson is taking the lead in organising this project, with a team of helpers. If you would like to volunteer on the day – setting up, cooking, serving, cleaning up, or in any other way – please contact Rob on 07411280667 or at [mattorobg@gmail.com](mailto:mattorobg@gmail.com). This Neighbourhood Dinner is only the first project for the District's Community Ministry of Social Action. If you would like to be involved in any way, please contact Rob as above. This Community Ministry is being initially funded by the District Minister's Social Action Fund. Donations to the Fund are most welcome.

## District LGBTQI Group Has Official Launch



Rainbow, the support and discussion group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer and intersex Unitarians within the District, had its official launch service on Saturday 15 October.

Held at New Unity church in Islington, thanks to the ongoing support of Rev Andy Pakula, the service was given by Rev Ant Howe, Minister at Kingswood Chapel and Warwick. During a lively evening, participants heard a touching and funny address given by Rev Howe – 'I Learned it from the Women's League' – in which he ably set out why LGBTQI Unitarians may find it useful to come together as a group, even in a usually liberal and diversity-friendly movement such as ours. Musical accompaniment was ably provided by Caroline Seredinsky at the piano, and participants were in VERY good voice. It was even suggested that a Unitarian Gay Male Voice Choir might be convened in the

It was wonderful to meet new friends at the service, and to receive the ongoing support of Rev Linda Hart, Rev Feargus O'Connor and Rev Sarah Tinker, all of whom have helped contribute to Rainbow's successful first few months. We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Rev Howe for his generous donation of time and energy, and also to acknowledge the support we have had from Derek McAuley, James Barry and, of course, District Minister Rev David Usher.

Next year, Rainbow will be travelling round the District, visiting a range of congregations to join them for worship before organising discussion groups and speakers on suitable topics. The schedule is still being confirmed, but we aim to get to all compass points of the LDPA. Drawing inspiration from Evita, let's hope the Rainbow Tour is an incredible success!



# The Faint-Hearted Learn about Social Action



Unitarians from throughout the District gathered at Golders Green on October 22 for a different kind of Quarterly Meeting. Karen Hanley, Chair of the recently disbanded General Assembly Faith and Public Issues Commission, led a day long workshop on "Social Action for the Faint-Hearted" with a particular emphasis on learning how to manage a social action project. Participants learned that we are doing much more social action work, as individuals and as congregations, than we often give ourselves credit for, and developed strategies for being more successful in organising ourselves for that action. The service was led by Sheena Gabriel, Lay Person in Charge at Godalming, and followed the day's theme. Music was provided by Liz Hills (piano) and Adie Wilson (viola). The offertory of £153.75 was donated to the District Minister's Social Action Fund.



*Charting the time line of Unitarian social action*



*Linda Hart and Danielle Wilson share a moment*

## Alan Ruston gives inaugural Channing Lecture



Noted historian, Alan Ruston, gave his talk "On Being a Unitarian" to a gathered audience at Golders Green on 22 October. He gave brief synopses of the lives of seven or eight dead Unitarians, some famous and others less so, and concluded that what united them was that they were opinionated, self-confident, frequently difficult, and unafraid to proclaim their Unitarianism. As such, they had advanced the Unitarian cause in ways which those less courageous souls fail to do. Alan was typically lively and provocative in his presentation, which was much enjoyed by those present.

Revd Ann Peart is going to Hastings on a Presidential Visit and conducting morning service on 11th December 2011 at 11am.



Her theme is "Unitarianism - Changing Tradition or a Tradition of Change"

Everyone is welcoming to join the Hastings congregation for the day.

Hastings Unitarian Church  
 7a South Terrace  
 Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1SA  
 01797 227708



As part of the continuing 'Music at the Meeting House' series, Sevenoaks Unitarians will host a concert by Andrew Wickens (violin) and Elizabeth Hills (piano) on Sunday 4th December, at 3.30pm.

Andrew is a member of the Horsham congregation, and has recently retired from the Philharmonia Orchestra after a distinguished musical career.

Elizabeth, from the Lewisham congregation, studied at Trinity College of Music, and is well-known for her work with Unitarian youth programmes.

Proceeds from the concert will be donated to the Send-a-Child-to-Hucklow campaign, now celebrating its 50th Anniversary. Tickets for the concert are priced at £5, and will be available at the door. The Sevenoaks congregation welcome all to the concert, and look forward to seeing as many as are able to come.

## Social Justice Fair

### "Enlighten, Engage and Encourage to Act"

12 November, 2011 - 1.00-4.00 pm  
Unity Church, Upper Street, Islington

# POSTPONED



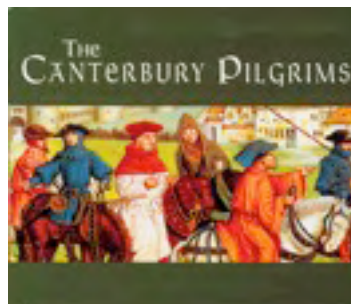
Are there social issues that you are passionate about? Do you want to be more engaged with your community? Are you looking to make a difference in the world? If so, come to the Social Justice Fair at New Unity in Islington. The aim of the fair is to bring together a variety of groups involved with social justice and social activism in order to "Enlighten, Engage and Encourage to Act". It is a great time to learn about new and on-going initiatives, both in the London community and globally, and find out how you can engage, spread the word, and/or volunteer.

The event is sponsored by 100 Acts of Unity ([www.100actsofunity.org](http://www.100actsofunity.org)), who are delighted to present several engaging speakers and multi-media presentations throughout the day. There will also be a food and drink stand full of delicious treats for sale. Entry fee: £3 (suggested donation), free for students, unemployed and pensioners.

We still have room for more stall-holders and presenters. For more information, please contact Ann Howell at: [ann@100actsofunity.org](mailto:ann@100actsofunity.org)

## Census of Attendance Unitarians meet again in Canterbury

A reminder please to send the census form to the District Minister as soon as possible after the final Sunday in October. Knowing the attendance figures for our congregations will give a much more accurate picture of our situation than we presently have.



Thirteen Unitarians, from Canterbury itself and throughout Kent, gathered on October 24 for the second meeting of this new fellowship with a service led by the District Minister, the Rev. David Usher. The next meeting will be at 7.00pm on November 28 at The Friends' Meeting House, The Friars, next to the fine new Marlowe Theatre.



## The Heart and Soul of Worship

10:30 – 4:00

26 November

Richmond Unitarian Church, Ormond Road,  
Richmond, Surrey TW10 6TH

What is the essence of worship in the Unitarian tradition? Is it an hour of playing with an interesting idea, or does it go deeper? How do you craft a service which not only speaks to the intellectually curious but feeds the spiritually hungry? In what ways and to what extent can the personal struggles and experiences of the worship leader be engaged as spiritual exploration and deepening for the congregation?

Linda Hart, Minister at Richmond & Putney, and David Usher, District Minister, will co-lead this Workshop on 26th November as an introduction to a Worship Leadership Course to be run in the Spring.

Cost: £10. To register, please send cheques, payable to LDPA, to Rev. David Usher no later than Monday 21st November.

## London ministers meet colleagues in Oxford



Ministers from London will have their annual joint meeting with those from the Midlands on Wednesday 2nd November at 10:30. They meet at Harris Manchester College, Oxford for a paper, fellowship and a fine lunch.

The District Minister will be in the States until November 10, attending meetings of The International Council of Unitarians & Universalists and visiting friends. He hopes to be able to keep up with emails somewhat while away, but asks your indulgence.



Just over a month ago, Occupy Wall Street began as a protest against corporate greed and the steeply growing economic inequity in the US. In a few weeks, the movement spread from Wall Street to cities and towns all over the US. Small and large protests began springing up around the world in solidarity with that initial movement including one in London (OLSX). Seeking to Occupy the stock exchange, they were turned back by police, but allowed to set up outside St Paul's Cathedral. Though there has been some conflict around their protesters are seeking dialogue and concerns and have expanded to After a visit to the encampment, I Unitarian presence at OLSX. and join in a Unitarian gathering at 29 October from 1 to 4 (or any time the south side of St Paul's (look for place to occupy for a few hours and on. You are encouraged to bring other homemade treats to share with perishable items that can be contributed to their kitchen. You can find an event listing on Facebook at Unitarians Support OLSX, and can contact Rev Linda Hart [revlahart@gmail.com](mailto:revlahart@gmail.com) for more information. I hope that we can find a way to engage this movement of the people in an ongoing way, and you are invited to help make it happen.



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## Promoting Unitarians in London & the South-East



Unitarianism is a liberal religious faith.

Unitarians are religious people, heirs to a historical tradition of over 400 years, who recognize and seek wisdom in all the world's great religious, philosophical, and artistic traditions.

Unitarian congregations offer weekly worship services that draw upon the breadth of these great sources of inspiration.

Unitarians believe that each individual is on their own spiritual journey, but that together we can journey toward wholeness.

The LDPA (Pulse) serves the 28 Unitarian congregations in Southeast England, including 9 congregations in London. For more information please go to [www.ukunitarians.org.uk/pulse](http://www.ukunitarians.org.uk/pulse) or [www.unitarian.org.uk](http://www.unitarian.org.uk)

## Calendar



### November

- Wednesday 2 10:30 - Joint Ministers meeting with Midland Union, Oxford
- Saturday 12 1-4:00 PM - Social Justice Fair, New Unity, Islington
- Sunday 13 6:00 PM - Requiem in Blue, Rosslyn Hill, London
- Monday 21 6:00 PM - District Council Meeting, Essex Hall
- Tuesday 22 - Deadline for December ePulse
- Saturday 26 10:30-4:00 - Worship Workshop, Richmond
- Monday 28 7:00 - Meeting of new Canterbury fellowship

### Advance notice

- Sunday 4 December 3:30 PM - Music at the Meeting House, Sevenoaks
- Wednesday 7 December 6:30 PM - Youngusband Lecture - Karen Armstrong, Liberal Jewish Synagogue
- Saturday 10 December - Neighbourhood Dinner, Bethnal Green
- Sunday 11 December 11:00 AM - Rev. Ann Peart at Hastings
- Monday 12 December - Deadline for January – March IMPULSE
- Saturday 14 January - Art & Spirituality Workshop - Golders Green, London
- 3-5 February 2012 - FUSE @ Worthing

To subscribe to e-PULSE, e-mail [daniellewilson@ldpa.org.uk](mailto:daniellewilson@ldpa.org.uk) with the word "subscribe" in the subject line. Requests to unsubscribe can be sent to the same address with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

Contributions are welcome.

"We Unitarians value the freedom of thought, to explore and understand faith from each individual's perspective. Therefore every word spoken and written ultimately reflects the thoughts and beliefs of the person speaking or writing. We welcome your responses in the spirit of mindful discussion and debate."