

June
2019



richmond + putney unitarians

the flame

Being in Relationship

'The meeting of two personalities is like the contact of two chemical substances: if there is any reaction, both are transformed' – Carl Jung

The first Sunday of June is to be our Choir Sunday, and the music we will hear is all on a theme of 'love'. Which seems pretty apt, as on the day before, there will be the marriage of Mark and Ann, and then, a couple of weeks later, the marriage of Bruno and Asma.* RPUC is not only a place where we can search for meaning in our lives, but also a place where relationships are nurtured.

Authentic community often dictates that we have to move beyond our comfort zone to accommodate the 'other' and in the attempt to better understand another, we come to know ourselves a little better. Generally, in life, the reality is that we tend to gravitate toward those people who think in similar ways to us, but in a church community we rub shoulders with those who we might not usually connect with.

Sometimes, the meeting of two personalities is like the contact of two chemical substances; and, for good or for ill, there is a reaction where both are transformed.

Some people we like; and others not so much. But how we feel towards another person can provide an insight into our own inner life and, more often than not, give us an insight into the blind spots we can't see in ourselves. From this point of view the act of nurturing relationships becomes part and parcel of a process of self-discovery. Is it hard-wired into our brains that we need to 'see' others in order to know ourselves? I think it could be, as humans are, on the whole, social creatures. Our success as a species has relied on communication and co-operation to get us to where we are now.

All of the relationships that we have open up a new world in ourselves and give us a chance to deepen and evolve as individuals. Some relationships, however, have special resonance for us, in that there is the right 'mixing of chemicals' that allows us to accept another's past, to support them in the present and plan with them for the future. There is a Turkish proverb that states 'a long journey is never as long in good company' and when we find that good company, where we can see and be seen, love and be loved, it is something worthy of celebration. This is why it is a great joy to share in and celebrate relationship; in marriages, naming and welcoming ceremonies for the young and with each other.

Simon

*The very best month to be married in! Ed. (Herself married David here on 2.6. 2007.)

A request from the Journalling group

You may have noticed that Journalling has moved from its evening slot to an hour after the first Sunday service of the month. If this makes it easier to attend, and you'd like to give it a try, please join us! But also, could we request that everybody else in the church finish up any domestic tasks they have on hand and for those enjoying a social time after the service to take the conversation to a cafe or some such spot in order that the church be empty of all those not involved in Journalling by 12.55. We are just asking this as we need a quiet and private place for this activity and the best place we have found for it is in the apse space within the main body of the church.



JUNE | services

(All services by Rev. Simon Ramsay unless otherwise stated.)

Sunday 2 June – Choir Sunday: All About Love

This Sunday's musical performance is on the theme of love and led by our music director, Margaret.

Sunday 9 June – Vesak

Within some traditions of Buddhism Vesak is the day where Buddhists celebrate the life of the Buddha. Who is the Buddha that is being celebrated? What are the teachings of the Buddha that we can learn from?

There will be a creche available from 10.30-12.30.

Sunday 16 June – How do we find peace within?

To be peaceful is a trait that the world religions teach as necessary to live a fulfilled life. In this service we will examine what is actually meant by the term peace and whether it is something that can be achieved in the modern day.

This morning there will be a bring-and-share breakfast. If you would like to come, please arrive to start promptly at 9.30.

(N.B. There will not be a choir practice after this service.)

Sunday 23 June – Visiting speaker: Lindsay Stevens

This will be a heart-centred service.

There will be a creche available from 10.30-12.30.

Sunday 30 June – Sticks and Stones

The old saying goes 'Sticks and stones will break my bones, but words will never hurt me.' We can't be harmed physically by the words of others, but in my experience words can be incredibly wounding. In this service we will look at the importance of speaking compassionately and listening attentively to others.

Organ rota: Margaret Lord: 2, 9, 16 June; Christopher Johnson: 23 June; Marilene Berryman: 30 June.

JUNE | what's on

Sunday 2 June | 1–2.30 p.m. (Apse space) Creative Journalling

The journalling group, to which all are warmly welcomed, shares silence, a check-in, takes time for writing or reflection, some time for sharing as wished. Sometimes we work with a theme, sometimes the theme emerges out of our check-in.

Contact: Kitty Lloyd Lawrence, Naomi Sophia Rae

Wednesday 5 June | 1–3 p.m. Stitches and Stories (Holland Room)

Our craft and storytelling group meets to knit, crochet or sew items to be donated to charity. Good company and good causes make for a lovely afternoon.

Contact: Margaret Lord

Wednesday 5, 12, 19, 26 | 2–3 p.m. Coffee with the Minister

Simon will be available at Tide Tables near Richmond Bridge if you wish to drop by for a chat. This is an open social gathering, but one-to-one pastoral sessions are also bookable later in the afternoon or at any other time.

Thursday 6, 13, 20, 27 | 6–7 p.m. Meditation

There is no need to be a Zen master for this practice and practical guidance will be given to help you improve your meditation.

Contact: Simon Ramsay

Sunday 9 | 12.30-2 p.m. Management Committee meeting

As is our tradition, these meetings are open to all to attend, unless a sensitive agenda item is table

Contact : David Watson

Tuesday 11 | 7–8.30 p.m. Tuesdays @ RPUC

The 42 Club: The RPUC discussion group on Life, the Universe and Everything

The theme for our discussion this month is: **Language and Baggage**. What is it that you do at RPUC? Do you attend a *church* to *worship* and practise a *religion* or a *faith*? Or do you find such terms so loaded with received meanings that they are inadequate to express what a Unitarian approach to spiritual or philosophical enquiry might be? If so, can the words be reclaimed and redefined, or is it better to come up with a whole new vocabulary? Bring your own words and join in our lively and fun discussion.

Contact: David Watson

Sundays 9, 23 | 10.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m.
There will be a creche available during these two services. Note that the usual first and third Sunday creches are on the second and fourth Sunday in this particular month.

For further information about any of these activities, please email info@rpuc.org.uk. See also our website at: www.rpuc.org.uk



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We are a radically inclusive community of open hearts and open minds, where individuals are free to trust their conscience in matters of spiritual inquiry, and the inherent worth and dignity of all humankind is celebrated, irrespective of race, social status, gender or sexual orientation.

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For more information on activities at RPUC
visit our website:

www.rpuc.org.uk

Find us

We are ten minutes' walk from Richmond Station (Southwest Trains, London Overground and District Line) and two minutes' walk from the bus station. Cars can enter Ormond Road one way only (from the Richmond Bridge end).

<https://goo.gl/maps/cTtbX8acyY12richmond>

