

December
2 0 2 0



richmond + putney unitarians

the flame

The End of a Long Year

What a year! For me it seems to have flown by and yet at the same time felt tortuously long ... There have been many opportunities to reflect, think and feel deeply about themes of family, friends, society and loneliness. At the time of writing this piece it hasn't yet been decided whether or not we will be able to join our loved ones over the festive season. Whether you see Christmas as a religious festival or enjoy Christmas for cultural and social reasons, it still has the potential to offer us a shared experience of significance. This year, more than others, I feel it important to make a special effort to meaningfully participate in the experience the best we can. In my experience meaningful participation somehow makes this Covid stamina test more bearable.

So for me Christmas is a welcome punctuation to the weird and new-normal life this year has been. Even if Christmas is not the same as years gone by, the seasonal festivities, during the long dark nights of winter, offer us opportunities to focus on aspects of life that are all too easily neglected. After the year we've had, the prospect of yet more hardship by being distanced from our loved ones over the festive season is a bitter pill to swallow but what is and cannot be



changed must be accepted. In that resignation we can still make it special together by being with one another in our December hybrid services.

However Christmas works out for me this year I am going to look for the lessons that this season has to teach me in the hope that life will eventually return to normal. Maybe in future Christmases we will come to cherish the uniqueness of Christmas 2020? I wish for us all a peaceful Christmas and a much better New Year.

Simon





DECEMBER | calendar

Covid-19 regulations permitting, all services will be held in church and broadcast simultaneously on Zoom (login below). If you wish to attend in church, please wear a face covering and respect our social distancing rules.. If new lockdown restrictions are imposed, services will revert to Zoom only.

Sunday 6 December, 11 a.m.

Do what you can and forget the rest!

The lead-up to Christmas can be hectic and filled with frenetic activity. This service will focus on enjoying the journey to Christmas irrespective of whether you believe Christmas to be a social occasion or religious festival. For this service I invite you, whether at home or in church, to wear your brightest most gaudy Christmas jumper!

Sunday 13 December, 11 a.m.

The Ghosts of Unitarian Christmas

Christmas is celebrated in many different ways. In this service we will look at how Unitarian Christmases were celebrated in the past, where we are now and what Christmas may be for Unitarians in times to come.

Sunday 20 December, 11 a.m.

A time to see the Divine in each other

In this service we will be looking at the winter solstice and the metaphor of light conquering darkness. Can Christmas provide an opportunity to recognise the good in each other? Please come to this service with your warm and fuzzy Christmas stories to share.

Wednesday 23 December, 4.30–8.30 p.m.

Christmas Labyrinth:

As we are unlikely to be able to sing carols due to Covid-19 restrictions, I've decided to create a lit winter labyrinth. A lovely way to say goodbye to the woes of 2020! The lit labyrinth will run 4.30–8.30pm. If you wish to come along please contact Simon to book a space to help facilitate social distancing rules.

Zoom logins

Sunday Service: Join URL: <https://zoom.us/j/101828528>

You are welcome to join us for online meditation on Thursdays 6-7 p.m.

Meditation: Join URL: <https://zoom.us/j/205074902>

Richmond and Putney Unitarian Church

'Soli Deo Gloria' - Lunchtime Recital

Elena Fedorenko (piano)

The Royal Academy of Music alumni

Programme:

A. Marcello - J. Bach - Adagio (BWV 974)

J. Bach - Prelude and Fugue No. 6 (BWV 875)

Prelude and Fugue No. 2 (BWV 847)

Prelude and Fugue No. 6 (BWV 851)

Prelude and Fugue No. 5 (BWV 850)

F. Chopin - Etude in C-minor (Op. 10 No. 12)

Due to social distancing, seating will be limited. To reserve your place, please contact:

info@rpuc.org.uk

**Ormond Road
Richmond
TW10 6TH**

Please wear a face covering unless you are exempt.

**13th of December
1 p.m.**



richmond + putney unitarians

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.

Contact

Minister | Rev. Simon Ramsay
07915 618549 |
minister@rpuc.org.uk

Newsletter editor | Louisa Watson
newsletter@rpuc.org.uk

General inquiries
info@rpuc.org.uk

Lettings inquiries
lettings@rpuc.org.uk

*Postal correspondence to the church address
in the first instance*

Richmond and Putney Unitarians,
Ormond Road, Richmond TW10 6TH

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>

