

January
2021



richmond + putney unitarians

the flame

‘Behind a Good-bye there lurks much of a salutation of another beginning.’
(Walt Whitman)

Usually it's hard to say goodbye but in the case of 2020 rather more easy! We have to say so many goodbyes throughout our life, whether to loved ones or to outdated ways of being. One thing I think that we can agree with is that saying goodbye to Covid and the difficulties that it brought into our life will be an absolute pleasure!

I think we must, however, clearly recognise and cherish those aspects of life that this pandemic has deprived us of - those bits of sacred normal that so often before the pandemic we took to so much for granted. It is useful to clearly remember those times,

as restrictions are lifted, so we may not return to a place of complacency. In this awareness we can focus on all things that are positive and affirming so we may fully appreciate the wonderful gift of life.

So let's be mindful of the above words of Walt Whitman and cherish the lurking of salutations that herald new beginnings as we move into 2021 together.

May we all have the most amazing 2021.

Simon



Elena Fedorenko, who gave a beautiful piano recital in church in December. Elena will be visiting us again in the new year to perform at one of our Sunday services - check the Flame for announcements.



JANUARY | services

(All services will be in church, with social distancing, and broadcast simultaneously on Zoom, unless government rules change. The login for the Zoom service is below. Please contact Simon if you are able to help out with stewarding at our church services.)

Sunday 10 January: Salutations of New Beginnings

This service is collaborative in that I wish you all to bring something with you, either to the church or to the Zoom meeting, that represents the difficulties that you have faced in 2020. I would also like you to bring that something that has represented the good you have found through this difficult year.

Sunday 17 January: The Practice of Spiritual Friendship

If you were to attend any Unitarian meeting, across the UK or in the States, you are likely to hear the minister address you as 'friends'. I do it myself! That is because we are an egalitarian movement so in our shared language we ascribe the same inherent worth and value to all in the use of the word friend. Emerson developed a philosophy of spiritual friendship that strongly resembles the tradition within Buddhism named Kalyana-Mittata. What is the significance of spiritual friendship within community?

Sunday 24 January: The Importance of Creating Peace

Peace is a commonly used word but what does it mean for us as religious liberals? According to many different thinkers that there are many spheres in our life in which we need to create peace: with ourselves, our parents, the religion of our birth and our society. In this service I will be examining the wisdom around this theme to see what for us may be practically applicable.

Sunday 31 January: Community Service (Zoom only)

If you are willing and able to do a reading or help host the Zoom please give me a call or an email to let me know.

Sunday Services

URL for Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/101828528>

JANUARY | what's happening

Thursday 14, 21, 28 | 7-8 pm
Meditation (Zoom only)

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

Contact : Rev. Simon Ramsay / minister@rpuc.org.uk

URL for Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/205074902>

Sunday 3 | 2-3.30 pm
Reflective Journaling Group (Zoom only)



We meet monthly on Zoom, usually the first Sunday of the month, with open minds and open heart for a time of shared reflection on our lives as they are unfolding.

If you are interested to know more please text or call Kitty Lloyd-Lawrence on 07976 615586.

Thursday 7 | 9-10.30 am
Spiritual Companions Interfaith Group (Zoom only)

We meet monthly on Zoom, usually the first Thursday of the month. We base our reflections and shared experiences on 'Your Spiritual Health Programme', which is free to download from <https://spiritualcompanions.org/>.

If you are interested to know more please text or call Kitty Lloyd-Lawrence on 07976 615586.

Tuesday 19 | 5.30-7 pm
Management Committee meeting (Zoom only)

As is our tradition, these meetings are open to all to attend, unless a sensitive agenda item is tabled. The meeting will be on Zoom - if you wish to attend, contact info@rpuc.org.uk for the login details.

Contact : David Watson / info@rpuc.org.uk

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.

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>

