

July/
August
2022



richmond + putney unitarians

the flame

‘Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer’s day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time’ – John Lubbock, author of *The Use of Life* (1902) and instigator of bank holidays

In my mind there are few things in life that are as wonderful than Britain in the summertime. The movement of the natural world exhibiting its green abundance is a sight for sore eyes. The reason for the joy I feel at this time of year may be due to the contrast between the cold grey winter days and the bright warmth of the season or it could be the prospect of attending one of the many re-opened musical festivals. Whatever the reasons are for my feelings of levity this summer I know that I feel more content, active and positive.

Over the next couple of months we have a number of activities planned together. The first of which is the LDPA Quarterly (the South East’s Unitarian district)’s workshop on Saturday 9 July. It will take place between midday and 5 p.m. As Jim Corrigan, the District Minister, wrote in *Fuse*: ‘The event will begin from 12 noon with a bring-your-own lunch. At 1 p.m., a service of welcome will take place. The highlight of the day will be an illustrated talk on the Galilee Bible by Anglican priest Reverend Tim Yeager, at 2 p.m. This is an introduction to the life and times of Jesus from a fresh perspective, viewing the Gospel stories in the context of the history, economics and culture of first-century Galilee. There’ll be workshop elements too. The talk will be a short version of a very popular lecture series that Tim Yeager has been presenting for the Progressive Christianity Network. Tim will show some of the beautiful and startling images he has collected – images which give new insights into Galilean life 2,000 years ago.’ This is a chance for us as a community to connect with other like-minded people from the district and to welcome our guests with radical hospitality.

On Sunday 17 July we will be welcoming new members to our community and celebrating it. This service will be followed by a bring-and-share lunch. It seems such a long time ago that we were able to share food and social time together. To mark this occasion, I am going to prepare something wonderful for our meal and I would urge you all to do the same!

Our community life throughout the month of July is pretty active (don’t miss the P.S. below) and will, I’m sure, will be a much-needed antidote to the last couple of years. The following month, August, is often the time for holidaying with family and friends. No matter what we have planned for the summer months this year, let us appreciate the beauty of the season and remember John Lubbock’s sage advice.

Simon

P.S. I would like to offer great hospitality to visiting Unitarians at the LDPA Quarterly. For this we need helpful volunteers to bring or bake cakes and to make teas and coffees. I will need those who are helping to arrive at the church at 11.30 so we are ready to begin at 12 noon.

Another special event coming up is the wedding of Brian Coyle and Michael Booth on Friday 22 July at 11.30, and they have issued a lovely invitation to any Unitarians or Quakers who would like to join them for the service, although of course their reception has to be limited to their invited guests.

I will be away myself on annual leave from Wednesday 3 August until Tuesday 16 August.



JULY | services

All services are by Rev. Simon Ramsay and will be both in church and on Zoom, unless otherwise stated. The Zoom login link is given below.

**Sunday Services at 11–12 a.m.
URL for Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/101828528>**

Sunday 3 July – Breathwork

Over the last few years, led by people such as the Dutchman Wim Hof, the importance of correct breathing has entered popular culture. In this service we will look at some of the breathwork practices in the worlds' religious traditions and the modern scientific findings about them. We will also have the chance to learn some simple breathing techniques for life.

Sunday 10 July – A Joyful Noise unto the Creator

On the anniversary of St Benedict, we are going to look at monasticism and the place of the sacred chant in worship. We will also have a chance to sing a few chants to see if this could be part of our own personal and collective spiritual practice.

Sunday 17 July – Welcome and Re-dedication Service – All-Present Service

Due to Covid, we haven't the opportunity to welcome new members to our community for the last two years. This is also for existing members, to reaffirm our commitment to our community as we return to normality.

This service will be followed by a bring-and-share lunch. A chance to practise service and hospitality with one another.

Sunday 24 July – The Birthday of Heille Selassie

Rastafarians the world over celebrate the birthday of Heille Selassie. In this service we will look at King Heille Selassie of Ethiopia and the meaning his life had on the Rastafarian movement.

Sunday 31 July – Practical Theology

Practical theology is a Christian theological discipline that discerns how to apply religious belief to everyday life. As religious liberals, instead we can see this discipline as a useful one to help us discern how we can live our Unitarian values.



AUGUST | services

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Sunday Services at 11–12 a.m.
URL for Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/101828528>

Sunday 7 August – Details to follow

Sunday 14 August – Lost and Found, Leslie Schipa

Things have changed a great deal since March 2020. As we are regrouping and reestablishing our lives, let us take time in community to acknowledge the things we have lost and those we have found in a ritual of letting go and welcoming in.

Sunday 21 August – Krishna Janmashtami and the Bhagavad Gita

At this time of year Hindus celebrate the incarnation of Vishnu in the body of Krishna. The major scripture that depicts the life of Krishna is the Bhagavad Gita. In this service we will look at Krishna, the epic tale of the Bhagavad Gita and the place of both within Hinduism.

Sunday 28 August – Water Communion

A water communion is a celebration of our individual talents and experiences that each of us brings to our community. Please bring a little water from a place that is special to you. We will collect the water and use it for a naming ceremony in October.

JULY | AUGUST | what's happening

Wednesday 6, 13, 20, 27 July
Wednesday 17, 24 and 31 August | 2–3 p.m.
Coffee with the Minister

Come along for a coffee and a natter at Tide Tables, the cafe just below Richmond Bridge. Please contact me first to let me know you are coming, especially if the weather is poor.

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

Wednesday 6, 13, 20, 27 July
Wednesday 17, 24 and 31 August | 6–7 p.m.
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 July
Sunday 7 August | 2–3.30 p.m.
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.

Saturday 9 July | LDPA Quarterly | 12–5 p.m.

The meeting and workshop will start at 12 noon with a bring-your-own lunch. There will be a service of welcome at 1 p.m. and the Rev. Tim Yeager's talk and workshop will begin at 2 p.m.

Tuesday 12 July
Details to follow of August date | 5.30–7 p.m.
Management Committee meeting (on Zoom)

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

Sunday 17 July | All-Present Service and Bring-and-Share Lunch | 11 a.m – 2 or 3 p.m.

Please come to this if you are able. It would be great to see you! Please bring something you would like to share.

Tuesday 26 July
Tuesday 30 August | 6–7 p.m.
Evening chat with the minister (Zoom only)

Many of you can't make it to Coffee with the Minister at Tide Tables on Wednesday. So this is another chance to have a chinwag and reconnect on Zoom.

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

URL for Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81000731823>

For further information about any of these activities, please email info@rpuc.org.uk.

See also our website at: www.rpuc.org.uk



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

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Minister's Availability

Our minister is available at the following times. Please do not contact him outside of these hours except for an urgent matter.

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| Monday | N/A |
| Tuesday | 10 am–8 pm |
| Wednesday | 12–8 pm |
| Thursday | 12–6 pm |
| Friday | 10 am–5 pm |
| Saturday | N/A |

or at or after the church service on Sundays.

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).



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

For more information on RPUC visit our website:

www.rpuc.org.uk