



# **Ditchling** **Unitarians**



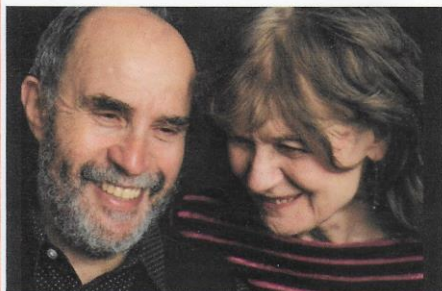
## **Newsletter**

**October – December 2022**

**Open Minds, Kind Hearts, Free Spirits**

# Folk in the Fall

An autumnal evening of folk/singer songwriter music featuring



## MIKE REINSTEIN

Mike Reinstein is singer/songwriter with a rare gift of being able to swing effortlessly between poignancy, edginess and wry humour. A mainstay of the local music scene for many years, Mike is often joined by his wife Reina, who adds joyful harmonies to his superbly crafted songs.

## IAN CHISHOLM

Ian grew up in Edinburgh and was influenced by the guitarists of the 1960's folk revival. Hooked and ever since, he plays mainly folk and blues but with occasional forays into classical and jazz. When not performing music, he makes guitars and mandolins in his workshop in Ditchling.



## STUART COUPE

Stuart is no stranger to Unitarian Chapels, being lay Leader at Billingshurst and running the Folk Club there. When time allows, he indulges his love of acoustic music, writes songs and like Ian, builds his own guitars.

**Venue: Old Meeting House, the Twitten, Ditchling  
on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> October, 7:30pm**

**FREE entry, (donations welcomed)**

**All proceeds will be donated to Burgess Hill Foodbank  
and an international humanitarian agency.**

## PULPIT ARRANGEMENTS 2022

<i>DATE</i>	<i>SPEAKER</i>	<i>PIANISTS</i>
16/10/2022	Cynthia Parks	Nicola Grunberg
23/10/2022		
30/10/2022		
06/11/2022	Rev. Duncan Voice	Phillip Sear
13/11/2022		
20/11/2022		
27/11/2022	Jenny Miller	Nicola Grunberg
04/12/2022	Rev. Duncan Voice	Phillip Sear
11/12/2022		
<b>FRIDAY</b> <b>16/12/2022</b> <b>6.30 for 7PM</b> <b>start</b>	Rev. Duncan Voice Christmas Carol Service	Nicola Grunberg
25/12/2022	No Service	

### Old Meeting House

**MONDAY MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY SUSPENDED**

*Chairman — Jill*



## **Chalice Lighting**

We light our chalice  
as a symbol of faith and hope.  
A guiding light when we feel lost.  
A gentle presence when we need courage.  
A familiar friend when we feel despair.  
May all who gather in our meeting house  
discover the welcome they need.



## **Brian Clutterbuck**

It is with great sadness that we share the news that our friend, and chairman of our congregation, Brian Clutterbuck, died on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October. Brian is pictured above welcoming Rev. Duncan on the occasion of his Induction Service in November 2018. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Jill and other members of Brian's family. He will be greatly missed by all of us.

A memorial service for Brian will be held on **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 2.15pm**, at The Old Meeting House. Friends are welcome to attend. This will follow a private cremation in the morning attended by family members only.

## **The Changing Nature of Life**

As I began to write this piece, I received the news that Brian Clutterbuck had sadly passed away. He has been the only chairman I have known since I became minister to Ditchling Unitarians in 2018. I was only supposed to stay for a student pastorate in 2017, but when I had finished, Brian offered me the job permanently. I was happy to accept, and we have been working closely together ever since.

It has been a genuine pleasure to get to know and work with Brian. The relationship between chairman and minister is an important one for the church to function well; and Brian and I did get on well. Although I am only part-time I was in touch with Brian most weeks to talk about something or other. I always enjoyed speaking to him and I always felt I could speak frankly to him. He had a kind heart and I trusted him completely. He worked very hard to support The Old Meeting House Trust and the Unitarian church. I hope I helped him, but I know he helped me.

My heart goes out to Jill, and Brian's loving family, at this difficult time. The pain of loss is of course greatest for them. Selfishly though, I also think how will I manage without his steady presence? Losing someone is a time of mourning, but also a time of reflection. We are confronted by mortality. None of us live forever. How should we be living? Are we making good use of the time that we have? What does the future hold?

This newsletter covers the period between Harvest and Christmas. A time when nature gives up its bounty and then rests. A time when leaves change to beautiful colours before

they fall and tree branches are left bare. A time when days grow shorter, the temperature gradually drops and we might expect a storm or two. Connecting with nature, connects us with the changing nature of life. The summer may have passed, but we should not lament. It is the way of things.

As human beings in this ever changing world, all we can really do is cultivate love and kindness, and share it as best we can. Coming together to comfort and support each other through difficult times, but also sharing our joy, happiness and laughter. Brian's funeral is on the same day as we host a folk music concert in the evening at The Old Meeting House, so the day will hold many shades of emotion. However, Brian loved his folk and acoustic music, so I think he would have approved. He will be with us in our hearts that evening, as the music plays on.

With blessings

Duncan

### **Coffee and Chat with the Minister**

This is an opportunity to get together for an informal chat and cup of coffee (or something else if you prefer!). No need to book, just come along if you are free. If the weather is nice we can sit in the garden.

I will be available on the following dates:

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 10.30am – 12.00 midday**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 10.30am – 12.00 midday**

\* \* \*

## **Harvest Collection**

*Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor. – Proverbs 22: 9*

A big thank you to those of you who were able to contribute to our collection for Burgess Hill Foodbank on Harvest Sunday. I delivered several bags worth of much needed supplies the following Tuesday. The volunteers told me that they had been really busy. They pointed out the queue that had already formed outside the premises, ready to use their services when they opened 10 minutes later.

It would be good if we can keep helping them and I am happy to take items over if you can keep donating. So please consider bringing something with you each time you come to The Old Meeting House, if you can afford to. You can of course donate food directly to the foodbank if you are over that way, or help by making a cash donation. Take a look at their website about how to do this.

Thank you,

*Duncan*



## **Meditation Group**

Our small and friendly meditation group welcomes new members. We practice mindfulness meditation on selected dates. Our evening together usually consists of a guided meditation, a reading about mindfulness or meditation, a time of quietness and sometimes some sharing. We start at 7.00pm, and each session lasts for about 30-40 minutes. Payment is by donation.

Join us on any of the following dates:

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October**

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

## **Christmas Carol Service**

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm**

Join us for carols by candlelight at The Old Meeting House

Followed by refreshments



# Food Bank Collections



We are collecting for Burgess Hill Food Bank, 85 Church Walk, Burgess Hill. Here are the items that are most needed

- Tinned meat – including hot dogs
- Meat pies in tins
- Tin of filled pasta, e.g., ravioli
- Tinned fish
- Tinned vegetables (incl. potatoes)
- Tomatoes – tins and cartons
- Tinned spaghetti
- Rice
- Pasta sauces – including cheese
- Pasta
- Baked Beans
- Jam, marmalade or peanut butter
- Breakfast cereals
- Biscuits or snack bars
- Savoury biscuits/crackers
- Tinned fruit
- Sponge puddings – tins
- Rice pudding, semolina, custard – tins or pots
- Jelly, instant whips
- Long life milk
- Tea bags and instant coffee
- Hot Chocolate
- Bottles of squash
- Dietetic foods – low sugar varieties for those with Diabetes, and Gluten free food

If you are struggling and need the services of the Food Bank, then have a look on their website for details of their voucher system. Vouchers can be obtained from:

**Citizens Advice** – 0808 278 7969 or **Burgess Hill Town Council** 01444 247726.

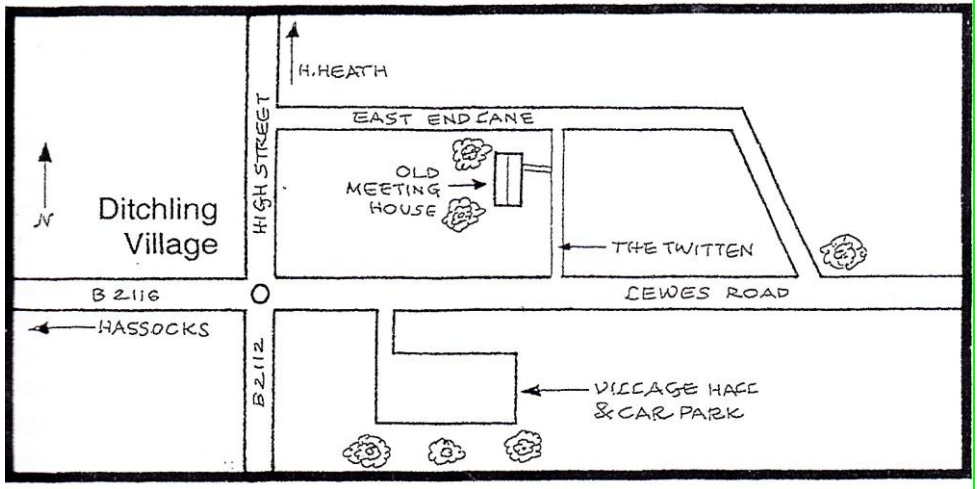
The Food Bank offers collection from Burgess Hill, Hassocks, and a delivery service in Hurstpierpoint, but times are limited. See their website for details,

**[burgesshillfoodbank.org.uk/how-to-get-food](http://burgesshillfoodbank.org.uk/how-to-get-food)**

## **CHAPEL CONTACTS**

<i>Minister</i>	Duncan Voice	revduncanv@gmail.com	07771 609 347
<i>Wedding Contact</i>	Duncan Voice		
<i>Hall hire</i>	Philip Eckstein	eckstein.philip@gmail.com	01273 843 549

You can also contact us through  
our website  
[www.ditchlingunitarians.org.uk](http://www.ditchlingunitarians.org.uk)



At Ditchling Unitarians we have a welcoming approach to faith. We believe there is a faith within each person which can be discovered and lived.

There is no list of things that Unitarians must believe; instead we think everyone has the right to reach their own conclusions.

We see different opinions and lifestyles as valuable and enriching and are open to insights from all faiths, science, the arts, the natural world and everyday living.

We believe in the inherent worth and dignity of all – regardless of race, creed, disability, age, gender and sexuality – and seek to be an inclusive community who care about each other and the world.

Our free-thinking faith community has been a part of Ditchling life since the early 1700's. We are one of over 160 Unitarian churches, chapels & meeting houses in the UK.