



Open Mind

The Bulletin of the Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel

April 2012

April Services

Sunday 1 April (11.00am & 7.00pm)

Palm Sunday - Special Choir Music Sunday

Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill preaching

"The Courage to Say Something"

This is a sermon about the courage it takes for us all to speak truthfully to one another about what is in our hearts and on our minds. This is a sermon about those moments when we hesitate to give words to our thoughts and feelings, either because we are afraid or because we are not prepared or because we hesitate and hold back for lack of confidence.

Sunday 8 April (11.00 & 7.00pm)

Easter Sunday

Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill preaching

"For Most This Amazing Day: The Inside Story of Easter"

From the outside it is only a story. But from the inside, Easter is a people's truth. Truth is always an "inside story," an inward claim, a claim of experience, before it is ever a claim of understanding. Come join us today as we take a fresh look at an ancient story.

Sunday 15 April (11.00am & 7.00pm)

Peace - Members of the Social Action Committee Peace often seems quite elusive in this conflict-filled world. There are projects which are making a difference, though, and we will hear of one in Palestine. We will also reflect on how to build more peace into our own lives and hence into the wider world.

Sunday 22 April (11.00 & 7.00pm)

Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill preaching

"The Opposite of Love"

In his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, Elie Wiesel suggested that the opposite of love was not hate, but rather something much more insidious in human nature, something which allows us to turn a blind eye while love is destroyed or dissipated. Come join us in worship today.

Sunday 29 April (11.00am)

Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill preaching

"Belief and Consequence"

Belief has consequence; belief carries individual responsibility for living in a manner that reflects one's stated values. Faith is lived experience. Where are your personal beliefs calling you to be an active agent of life and grace this week?

Sunday 29 April (7.00pm)

"Beltane Celebration"

The Wheel of the Year group leads a pagan service celebrating the festival of Beltane, focusing on love, fertility, and purification.



We light our chalice to remember the sorrow, the loss, and the joy that are within this season of the year.

The Passover, that brought freedom from slavery and bondage for the Jewish people, continues to bring light into the world.

Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter, that brought joy and the triumph of life over death for the Christian people, still bring the light of that joy to the world.

The spring equinox, that brings new life bursting forth on the land each year, brings lengthening days of sunlight to all life.

Passover for freedom, Easter for life, spring for rebirth.

We light our chalice for all three.

(Elizabeth M Strong)

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The Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel
The Unitarian Chapel in the heart of Hampstead



Unitarianism is spirituality without dogma and welcomes people of all religious faiths as well as those who are humanistic. Unitarians cherish and live by the values of love, compassion, a free mind, service to others, human dignity, and other similar values. It encourages each person to deepen their relationship with God, yet allows each person to understand God in their own unique way.

**The Chapel holds two services on Sundays,
at 11.00am and 7.00pm**

The morning service is more family-oriented, including activities for children led by professionally trained leaders, and a Children's Chapel is offered for children of all ages. The evening service is more intimate for those who prefer a more meditative tone.

Visitors and guests are always welcome!

The Chapel also offers a rich programme of social activities, covering a wide range of interests such as literature and poetry, Tai Chi, choir singing, monthly lectures, and a variety of monthly events for all age groups.

The Chapel is licensed for marriages and other ceremonies.

**For more information, visit our website at
www.rosslynhillchapel.com**

From the Editor

The way people greet each other is seen in every place, whether it's a village, town, city, or country. Greetings are universal, some being very unique. Some people wave, others shake hands, bow, or hug each other. Some have no distinctions between a friend or someone they meet for business - they say the same greeting. Others make that distinction and have different wordings for different "levels" of people. Sometimes, what's known as etiquette in one culture may be bad manners in another.

Greeting is an act of communication in which human beings (as well as other members of the animal kingdom) intentionally make their presence known to each other, to show attention to, and to suggest a type of relationship or social status between individuals or groups of people coming in contact with each other.

While greeting customs are highly culture- and situation-specific, and may change within a culture depending on social status and relationship, they exist in all known human cultures. Greetings can be expressed both audibly and physically, and often involve a combination of the two. Greetings are often, but not always, used just prior to a conversation.

Throughout all cultures people greet one another as a sign of recognition, affection, friendship and reverence. While hand shakes, hugs, bows, nods and nose rubbing are all acceptable greetings, the most common greeting is a kiss, or kisses, on the cheek.

In India when people meet and part they often say, "Namaste" which means: "I honour the place within you where the entire Universe resides".

The gesture of Namaste represents the belief that there is a 'divine spark' within each of us – the gesture is an acknowledgement of the 'soul' in one by the 'soul' in another.

-- Ingrid Takvar, Editor

 *Namaste'*

*I honor the place in you
in which the entire universe dwells .*

*I honor the place in you
which is of love, of truth,
of light, and of peace.*

*When you are in that place in you
and I am in that place in me,
we are one.*



PO'Nderings

From our Minister
Rev Patrick T. O'Neill

Letter to a Missing Member
Dear Old Friend,

It is not our usual custom to take attendance on Sunday mornings or chase after anyone who happens to be absent from chapel for a while. We hope you don't read that as a lack of caring on our part, for you are indeed important to us. But usually, unless we hear directly that there's a problem or an illness, we assume that friends will always return to chapel when circumstances are right. Weekly Sunday attendance at a Unitarian congregation is by no means mandatory. Of course, we hope folks will make coming to church their usual practice, a part of their weekly routine. But we also understand there are times when that won't happen. When an old friend does reappear after an absence, I don't ask where you've been. What I say is, "Great to see you!"

But if you've not made it to services for a while, you may be sure your absence is felt. This is a different place without you.

We understand that church membership and participation is sometimes a cyclical thing. There will be times when church is a greater or lesser part of our lives. But we hope that the bonds are deep and the connections do remain. The interdependent web that is our congregation continues to add new friends and participants every week. But your place among us remains reserved, until you tell us otherwise. Yet this fact remains true also: the chapel is shaped, guided, and directed by those who lend it their presence. There is no such thing as status quo in a living community. Good things have been happening in the congregation lately. Energy is high.

We want you to know that you still have a cherished place among us. We've been growing and changing a bit since you were here last; no doubt you have, too. It would be great to have you back among us again, even if only for a visit now and then. We think you'd like some of the new folks who now make Rossllyn Hill Chapel their own. You've been missed around here! In the meantime, we'll keep a light in the window for you.

Sincerely,
Patrick O'Neill, Minister

Submitting copy:

Unsolicited copy is welcomed and should be emailed to: RHUCbulletin@yahoo.com. All submissions may be edited for content and length (200 words) at the discretion of the Communications Team, who also reserves the right to reject unsuitable material. **Deadline** for submitting items for the May issue of 'Open Mind' is **Monday 16 April 2012.**

Chapel Activities



Weekly Activities

Children's Chapel meets every Sunday at the 11.00am service. New children of all ages are always welcome. Infants are welcome in the creche.

Chapel Choir rehearses each Wednesday at 7.30pm in the Chapel. New voices are always welcomed into the choir. No audition necessary.

A **Tai Chi class** is held each Monday at 5.30pm and Wednesday at 5.45pm in the Chapel.

April Activities and Meetings

10 April - **Social Action Committee** will meet at 7.30pm.

12 April - **Management Committee** meets at 7.00pm in the Committee Room in the Chapel. Members of the Chapel are welcome to attend but contact the Chair ahead of time as a courtesy.

16 April - If you like to read and /or write poetry, the **Chapel Poetry Group** will meet at 7.00pm at the home of John Hands. For more information contact George Appleby (Tel: 020 7424 9733, email: gappleby@talktalk.net)

19 April - **The Book Group** will meet at 7.30pm at the Magdala at 2a South Hill Park in Hampstead, to discuss "Bel Ami" by Guy de Maupassant. Contact: Bill Ellington (Tel: 020 7354 0397, email: Ellingtonbill@aol.com)

The **Compassion Reading Group** meets in the office in the cottages on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. Contact Leighton Cole for further information: Tel. 020 8444 9728, email: leightoncole90@hotmail.com.

OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY

Do Unitarians Celebrate Easter?

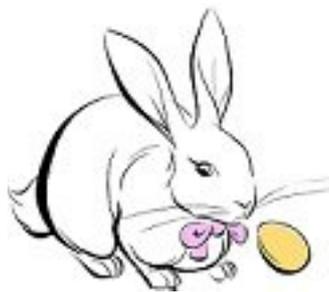
Most Unitarians do, but with perhaps three separate, although not mutually exclusive, perspectives.

First, there is the view that in the stories of Jesus' resurrection we have a powerful myth. This celebrates the triumph of the human spirit, exemplified in Jesus, over all that would crush it, and even over death.

Second, from a more specifically Christian standpoint, is the belief that the loving spirit of Jesus triumphed over death and passed into the community of disciples who formed the early church. The body of the faithful thus became the physical resurrection, the risen body, of Christ. Inasmuch as a religious community continues to embody that loving spirit, then it continues to embody the resurrection. Most Unitarians would doubt the literal veracity of the Gospel resurrection accounts. Some, though, see them as based on vivid spiritual experiences undergone by several of Jesus' followers in the aftermath of his death. These then played an important part in convincing the disciples that his spirit was still among them.

The third principal way in which Unitarians celebrate Easter is as the festival of life's renewal in the spring. The earth's resurrection after winter's apparent death is something that affects us profoundly as dependent children of nature. Many Unitarians therefore feel that it is a time of deep spiritual significance in itself. They point out that the word "Easter" is derived from "Eastre", the name of the ancient Anglo-Saxon Goddess of spring, fertility and renewal.

(Extract from: "Unitarian? What's that? Questions and answers about a liberal religious alternative", by Rev Cliff Reed)



An Easter Invocation

Let there be joy in the springtime and
celebration of nature's ebullience.
Let there be Easter eggs and the Easter
bunny and the magic of childhood.
Let there be freedom for the oppressed
and hope for the despairing.
Let there be a resurrection of the
human spirit to abundant life.
(Rev Cliff Reed)

There will always be an Easter

In the year 325, Emperor Constantine called all the bishops of the church to Nicea in Asia Minor to decide once and for all the character of Jesus: Was he god, half-god or human? After a tempestuous few days of argument, in which one of the bishops was banished, the figure of the carpenter from Nazareth was elevated to full deity. This concluded, the goodly bishops decided also to settle the day upon which Easter was to be observed. It was decided to set the day on the first Sunday after the first full moon that falls on or next after the vernal equinox (on 21 March). If the full moon falls on a Sunday, Easter is celebrated one week later. The difficulties of travel, we are told, prompted the bishops to schedule this most important of the Christian holy days when the moon was full, to light the way for the travelling pilgrim. Thus, Easter may vary between 22 March and 25 April. But weekday or Sunday, March or April, there has always been an Easter, as there has always been a spring.

Briefly examining the histories of other religions and cultures, we find that there has always been an Easter, by whatever name, and it has always been in the springtime. Further, it has always had a religious connotation: either related to the gods worshipped or to an important event in religious experience. There could not help but be an Easter - so long as there is life, nothing - no one, no poser - could prohibit it. Easter is the time of year when all nature responds, and people, as children of nature, cannot but do likewise. Who or what can stop the trees and shrubs from budding, the birds from singing, the beehive from awakening, and the animals from mating? And humans, endowed with at least five senses and with the intelligence to appreciate them, must react to the vernal resurrection of Nature. We have no choice. Call it a fertility rite, Passover or resurrection, the challenge and the joy of the season is too great for us to ignore. Easter, perforce, is celebrated in the spring.

(excerpted from a piece by Munroe Husbands, CLF staff in 1962, when this was published in the CLF Easter Bulletin)

OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY

Rolling Away the Stone



In the tomb of the soul, we carry secret yearnings,
pains, frustrations, loneliness, fears, regrets,
worries.

In the tomb of the soul, we take refuge from the
world and its heaviness.

In the tomb of the soul, we wrap ourselves in the
security of darkness.

Sometimes, this is a comfort. Sometimes it is an
escape.

Sometimes it prepares us for experience.

Sometimes it insulates us from life.

Sometimes this tomb-life gives us time to feel the
pain of the world and reach out to heal others.

Sometimes it numbs us and locks us up with our
own concerns.

In this season where light and dark balance the
day, we seek balance for ourselves.

Grateful for the darkness that has nourished us,
we push away the stone and invite the light to
awaken us to the possibilities within us and
among us—possibilities for new life in ourselves
and in our world.

(by Sarah York - "Rolling Away the Stone" first
appeared in Into the Wilderness, the 1990 UUA
meditation manual, published by Skinner House,
and available through the CLF library
(www.clfuu.org/library).



Celebrating Passover Seder

The Passover Seder is one of the most widely observed practices in the Jewish tradition. It lasts for seven days. The primary observances of the holiday are related to the Exodus from Egypt after generations of slavery. This story is told in Exodus, chapters 1-15; many of the Passover observances are instituted in chapters 12-15.

On the first two nights of Passover, the Seder meal is eaten. Some Unitarian Univesalist congregations will have a Passover Seder on one of those days, or a date close to then.

Many of the customs and traditions of the Seder are observed and combines food and storytelling into a celebration of the journey from bondage to liberation. By metaphorically reliving the ancient Jewish experience of slavery in Egypt and escape into freedom, participants of all ages reflect on what it means to be free. (source: www.uua.org)



Book Day

On 17 March 2012, the Social Action Committee held a second hand book sale in the Chapel. We also offered soup, bread and cheese as well as homemade cakes. Despite a dreary, rainy day, we had quite a lot of customers who came to buy books, eat the delicious food and enjoy our beautiful Chapel. We raised £605 which will be given to the Chapel and to Marie Curie Hospice in Hampstead. We have continued to sell the best of the remaining books on Sunday mornings and hope that the total will reach £700.

Many thanks to all who volunteered their help on the day and with setting up for the sale.
Social Action Committee

OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY

What does being a member of this Chapel mean to you?



With our minister, Rev Patrick O'Neill, settled and a new Management Committee installed, now is a great time to look at Chapel membership. Thank you to Deborah Frankel for all her hard work on this area of chapel life. Kate Buchanan has now agreed to act as a volunteer/lay contact for those who attend Chapel services and are considering becoming members. She will also look at ways to strengthen the bonds between existing members and the chapel through their contributions to activities. Members will be invited to share their views about the membership process through an email survey and face-to-face consultations (translation: friendly chat around a plate of biscuits!) where we can consider such questions as 'What does it mean to be a member of this Chapel?' and 'What should the pathway to becoming a member be?' Rev O'Neill hopes that you will bring your energy and opinions to this subject: 'Membership is at the heart of chapel life. We welcome people from all backgrounds to become members as they commit to being part of our thriving religious community'.



150th Anniversary – A Year of Celebration

2012 sees us celebrate the 150th anniversary of our beautiful Chapel - with the exact birthday of the Chapel building due in June – and we want to take this opportunity to explore, celebrate and enjoy the heritage of our Chapel and our congregation, over the last century and a half. To help to do this, the Management Committee has set up a working group that will investigate and coordinate anniversary activities. The working group met for the first time on Sunday March 25th and will get together regularly in the near future.

We will update you further on anniversary plans in future issues of Open Mind, but in the meantime, if you have an idea or would simply like to get involved, please get in touch with Lucinda Hallan (lucinda.hallan@navigant.com / 0777 929 4411), who is chairing the working group.

St. Patrick's Day



St Patrick's Day was celebrated in style! – The celebration started with Irish harp music, songs and poetry, and finished with a 'singing-along' of Irish songs around the piano.

Rev Dr Patrick O'Neill, Patricia Williams, Rev Feargus O'Connor and Michael Allured hosted the event at our Chapel.

A grand total of £500 was raised at the St. Patrick's Day Party for the British Red Cross appeal in memory of the founder of the American Red Cross, the Universalist Clara Barton. Thank you to Patricia for all her hard work and to all who attended this event.

Flowers for Easter Class with Helene in the Chapel Side Aisle

Sunday 1 April 2012. 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Learn how to make an Easter floral arrangement using seasonal flowers and foliage.

This is a beginners class so no experience is necessary as it will be a hands on, easy to follow, step by step workshop. We shall be incorporating Spring flowers such as pussy willow, iris and narcissus. The container, flowers, foliage and oasis will be supplied. Please bring secateurs, scissors and a knife.

The cost will be £20.00, as tuition is free to Chapel members and brides. The cost to non Chapel members will be £40.00. There will also be a mystery sundry to be placed in the arrangement and a prize for the best design. Tea/cCoffee biscuits provided.

Helene Howard Tel: 077 7817 6425, email: Helenehow@aol.com



Events in the Chapel

Thursday 12, 13, 14, 19 & 20 April (7.30pm) – Tartuffe, translated by Ranjit Bolt and Directed by Brian Hands. Seats £12:00 (£10:00 conc.)

Saturday 28 April (8.00pm) – Piano recital in aid of the Epilepsy Society



Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel is on Facebook! If you are too, please 'like' our page and stay up to date with Chapel events, post comments or let others know of any activities you are involved with by adding them to the page, www.facebook.com/rosslynhillunitarianchapel. Thanks!

Helping Hands at Services

Judy Harris, the steward coordinator would like to thank Janna Williams, Leighton Cole and Hillary Ratna for all their help in finding stewards!

Stewards

1 April	Lucinda Hallan & Stasi Kotsis
8 April	Victoria & Bill Ellington
15 April	Rob Gregson & Judy Harris
22 April	TBA
29 April	TBA

Worship Group Reps

1 April	James Chiriyankandath
8 April	Leighton Cole
15 April	Leighton Cole
22 April	TBA
29 April	TBA

Flower Rota

1 April	Camino Eguren
8 April	Easter Display
15 April	Helene Howard
22 April	Janna Williams
29 April	Patricia Williams

HELP NEEDED FOR SUNDAY FLOWERS

Volunteers are needed to help with Sunday flowers in the Chapel. If you would like to make a floral arrangement (assistance given if needed) or are able to put flowers in a vase and join our happy band of Flower Group people, we would be very pleased to welcome you. No experience is needed as help will be at hand, or if you would like to come and watch when an arrangement is being made, please get in touch with Helene (Tel: 077 7817 6425 Helenehow@aol.com).

Publisher's Statement: "Open Mind" is a tool of outreach for the Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel. The views expressed in this publication reflect the spirit and substance of Unitarian values, as well as matters of concern to Unitarians, but are not necessarily shared by all members.

News from the Management Committee

Any member of the Chapel is welcome to attend the Management Committee meetings as an observer. If you would like to attend, as a courtesy, please contact either James Chiriyankandath or Jane Crispin (co-Chairs) in advance. The next meeting will be on Thursday 12 April 2012 at 7.00pm in the Chapel (in the Committee Room).

The new Management Committee met on Thursday 8 March 2012.

Welcome! This was the first meeting of the MC after the AGM on Sunday 26 February 2012. All the members of the newly elected Management Committee were present: Paul ver Bruggen, James Chiriyankandath, Jane Crispin, Stella Fakiyesi, Lucinda Hallan, Christopher Mason, and Janna Williams. Rev O'Neill began the meeting with a devotional. Tanya Morrison, co-Chair 2010/11 explained she would chair the meeting until the officers for the new MC had been elected. She welcomed Stella, Lucinda and Christopher, who were joining the MC for the first time, and the returning members. Stella has offered to put together a page of photos and 'bios' of all MC members, to appear in Open Mind and in the Chapel.

Election of Officers: Chair: James Chiriyankandath; Treasurer (and Co-Chair): Jane Crispin; Secretary: Janna Williams

Annual General and Special General Meetings: These meetings, held on 26 February had gone well. Returning to a practice in previous years, the leaders of the Chapel's groups and committees who report at the AGM had highlighted one point from their reports and answered questions. This gave a lively picture of Chapel activities. An innovation was an address from the Minister. Rev O'Neill gave an address in the SGM about the need for members to think seriously about their relationship with the Chapel. (The Minister's address has been circulated with the Minutes, which record the ensuing debate.)

Property Sale Group: Paul ver Bruggen reported that exchange of contracts on the sale of the Willoughby Road site was imminent (and this has now taken place).

Finance Group: A Finance Group was being formed, under the leadership of John Lawrence, in accordance with the proposal at the SGM which followed the discussion of the Minister's address. The aim would be to look into 'the long term financing of the congregation and the Chapel as a whole'. The Group would report to the MC in July and bring its proposals to an SGM in September. Members are to be kept informed about the work the Group.

Links with Chapel Groups: To maintain good communications with Chapel Groups, it was agreed Leaders would be asked to report to the MC from time to time and there would an agenda item for these

reports.

Hall Fund Raising Group: Stella Fakiyesi offered to take on the leadership of this Group.

150th Anniversary: A proposal had been received from Victoria Ellington for an event celebrating the anniversary. Victoria was thanked, and asked to take her proposal further. Lucinda Hallan offered to lead an Anniversary Working Group and ask members for ideas and offers of help.

Minister's Report: Rev O'Neill had circulated his report of his meetings, the numbers of services taken and pastoral commitments. He spoke warmly of the workshop of children's religious education, led by Rev Emily Leite, 'wonderful and full of good ideas'.

The post of organist was being advertised. In the interim, Sholto Kynoch's fine playing as pianist and organist had been appreciated.

The Minister was starting discussions about Membership.

Worship Group: Rev O'Neill commended the hard work of the Group. Gordon Jackson, the Group's new chair had circulated a report to the MC. New members had been recruited.

Administrators' Report: Helen Brandon-Jones, a member of the Chapel for many years, left a generous bequest of £500.00 to the Chapel. The MC expressed its gratitude and agreed the money should be allocated to the expense of the Hall's new roof. The Administrator had seen to a number of small repairs. Jane Crispin offered to look into setting up a regular review of all the Chapel property, and thanked Sharron Conduit for her work as Administrator.

Treasurer's Report: The Financial report to the end of February was presented. Jane Crispin (Treasurer) planned to meet Paul Vivek, the Chapel bookkeeper.

Commemorative Stones: Proposals to establish regular maintenance of the commemorative stones, and a discussion of a plan to make provision for some additional stones will take place at a following meeting.



OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY

In Memoriam

George Hepburn (1919 – 2012)

It was with great sadness that we learned that George Hepburn, a well-loved member, had died on 20 February, aged 93. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his wife Louise and to his daughters on their great loss.

George became a member of the Chapel at much the same time as I did in 1987. As newcomers we were appointed delegates to the Annual Meeting of the General Assembly, held in the spring of 1988 at Lancaster, which gave me an opportunity to become better acquainted with George on the long train journey. George was a very agreeable, pleasant companion, an original thinker who raised interesting questions. George had quickly made his mark at Rosslyn Hill and David Usher, who was then our Minister, asked George to do a reading at the “Peace Vespers” service in Lancaster, which was described as, “an occasion of simplicity, reverence and tranquility”.

George had an abiding love of poetry and delighted Chapel congregations over the years with his masterly renditions of poems old and new. He was particularly attached to the memory of his mother, and enjoyed declaiming her poems. He introduced me to her work, published in “The Writings of Anna Wickham, Free Woman and Poet”, edited by R.D.Smith (Virago 1984), and signed a copy of the book for me, “from George Hepburn, one of the sons of Anna Wickham”.

George loved coming to the Chapel and did so as long as he was able, accompanied by his devoted, caring wife, Louise. He loved singing hymns and went to a singing class. When he became ill, he still recited poems from memory (I remember a Shakespeare sonnet), despite the fact that he had difficulty in carrying on a conversation.

We will miss the presence of George among us, but his memory will remain strong within our walls. -- Ann Finer

George Hepburn

“I want to thank the Members of Rosslyn Hill Chapel for all their kind thoughts and support they have given me during my husband George Hepburn’s illness and I was very touched to receive so many kind letters of sympathy with George’s death. With my best wishes and love to you all
– Louise Hepburn.”



Where I Stand

This month it will be 40 years since I first visited London. I came here from Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, where I’d spent much of my childhood. My parents were Indian expatriates who worked in East Africa and my early life involved constant travel (my first plane journey, from Nairobi in Kenya to Khartoum on a small turboprop aircraft, was when I was eighteen months old). I became used to thinking of life as a journey and of myself as a traveller. Despite having lived in London since 1978, I continue to feel like one and this sense is central to my spiritual understanding.

As a young man I was an active Christian but felt ill at ease with a religion of predestination – a spiritual terminus for the chosen faithful – and stopped attending church. When I came to Rosslyn Hill four years ago, I discovered in its Unitarian ethos a different kind of church, a place that accepts travellers, whether seasoned or new explorers, as they are. It offered an open approach to spiritual and ethical living free from dogma and is where I return to each week to leave refreshed – the base for continuing the spiritual journey that I believe is essential to my humanity.

James Chiriyankandath

(Articles express the views of the authors)

OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY

Viewpoint



People form opinions on many subjects. Their viewpoints become their truths.

In a discussion I explain my viewpoint with conviction and fervour. The other person talks about his/her quite different opinion with just as much enthusiasm and certainty. In such a debate it can happen that I hear a viewpoint which strikes me as better than my own.

I could adopt the other's viewpoint and feel happy with this more advanced truth. But sometimes I resist a new idea. 'Looking' at it carefully I have come to 'see' this:

We feel comfortable with our viewpoints, our truths. To admit that one's opinion is inferior to someone else's and to move over to another's view can be like jumping from one cliff-top to the next, dreading the abyss in-between. Letting go of one's cherished thought, one's truth, leaves one a bit vulnerable. It takes time and more 'looking' and thinking before one feels safe to move across to the new opinion and live happily with this new truth.

I realized that this is how not only children, but people generally progress and grow, and how mankind as a whole advances towards greater vision, knowledge and wisdom.

Britta Burtles

(Articles express the views of the authors)

Children's Chapel



Volunteer Helpers needed to create a weekly rota for Children's Chapel to help leaders and interact with the children. If you would like to come and observe and discuss ways you could help please contact Charlotte Illingworth - Tel: 020 8882 3492; email: cillingworthuk@yahoo.co.uk



Toy Trains Wanted!

The Children's Chapel could really use a donation of gently used toy trains for its train track. Thomas the tank engine style trains would be appreciated. Please bring to Children's Chapel or contact Charlotte Illingworth – Tel: 020 8882 3491; email: cillingworthuk@yahoo.co.uk

Our Larger Unitarian Movement



Meditational Fellowship Weekend

Ivy House, Warminster
Contact: Brenda
Brenda Knopf
Tel: 023 8055 5333

Dr Williams's Library Centre for Dissenting Studies, London

A one-day conference will be held on Saturday 26 May 2012 on '1662 Revisited' to mark the 350th anniversary of the Restoration Settlement of Religion. The conference will explore its implications in four panels themed 'Politics', 'Religion', 'Literature' and 'The Three Kingdoms and the Colonies'. The Centre for Dissenting Studies website gives further programme information. Registration details will be published in January 2012. Contact: Dr. Williams's Library enquiries@dwlib.co.uk



Come to Hucklow Summer School!

18 - 25 August 2012 at Great Hucklow, Derbyshire

Spend a week in the Peak District at Hucklow Summer School focusing on religion, spirituality and personal development. There is a balanced programme, offering a rich mix of activities for both the heart and head, and a variety of optional creative sessions as well as plenty of opportunities for relaxed fellowship and fun during the week.

This year's theme is "Sacred Living: encountering the holy in the everyday".

Please see the website for more details (hucklowsummerschool.org.uk) or contact
Kate Buchanan: kateboo@gmail.com - application deadline is 16th April

April Diary

(* = further details elsewhere in Bulletin)

Sunday 1 April

11.00am – Morning service – “The Courage to Say Something”*

Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O’Neill

7.00pm – Evening service – “The Courage to Say Something”*

Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O’Neill

Monday 2 April

5.30pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

Tuesday 3 April

7.30pm – Compassion Reading Group*

Sunday 8 April

11.00am – Morning service – “For Most This Amazing Day: The Inside Story of Easter”*

Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O’Neill

7.00pm – Evening service – “For Most This Amazing Day: The Inside Story of Easter”*

Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O’Neill

Monday 9 April

5.30pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

Tuesday 10 April

7.30pm – Social Action Committee meet*

Thursday 12 April

7.00pm – Management Committee meets*

Sunday 15 April

11.00am - Morning service – “Peace” *
Led by members of the Social Action Committee

7.00pm – Evening service – “Peace” *
Led by members of the Social Action Committee

Monday 16 April

5.30pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

7.00pm – Poetry group meets in the Chapel*

Tuesday 17 April

7.30pm – Compassion Reading Group*

Wednesday 18 April

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

7.00pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel*

Thursday 19 April

7.30pm – Chapel Book Club*

Sunday 22 April

11.00am – Morning service – “The Opposite of Love”*

Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O’Neill

7.00pm – Evening service – “The Opposite of Love”*

Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O’Neill

Monday 23 April

5.30pm Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

Wednesday 25 April

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

7.00pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel*

Sunday 29 April

11.00am – Morning service – “Belief and Consequence”⁸

Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O’Neill

Sunday 29 April

7.00pm – Evening service – “A Celebration of Beltane”*

Led by our Wheel of the Year Group



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