



Open Mind

The Bulletin of Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel

January 2013

*"Winter, a lingering season,
is a time to gather golden moments,
embark upon a sentimental journey,
and enjoy every idle hour."
- John Boswell*



January Services

Sunday 6 January (11.00am)

*Guest Speaker: Kate Buchanan
"Gratitude all around"*

Despite the short days and often dreary weather, we have many reasons to be grateful at this time of year. In this service we will be looking back with gratitude and looking forwards with hope. Led by Kate Buchanan.

Sunday 6 January (7.00pm)

"Gratitude all around"

We will be drawing on Kate Buchanan's sermon from the morning, reflecting and sharing our thoughts.

Sunday 13 January (11.00am & 7.00pm)

*Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill preaching
"What, Then, Is Asked of Us?"*

Surely the oldest religious questions of history come down to this: What must I do, how shall I live, to find meaning and substance in my life? What is required of me to be a person of integrity and humanitas? How should I live so as to be an agent of hope and justice and equity in the world, so as to know joy and contentment and inner peace with my conscience? Jewish theologian Abraham Heschel, proposes that there is one basic consciousness that is the beginning of all religion. It is the notion that something is asked of us by virtue of our sharing the great gift of life. Something is asked of us. A perfect Sunday to bring a friend to Chapel!

Sunday 20 January (11.00am)

*Rev Bill Darlison preaching
(Vice-President of the GA)
"Onward and Upward"*

How useful this hallowed Unitarian mantra is today. Does it encourage us to underestimate the achievements of our forebears and to overestimate our own? Does it foster a kind of naive and unrealistic optimism? What do we mean by 'upward' anyway? What constitutes progress? These are some of the questions I'll be attempting to address.

Sunday 20 January (7.00pm)

'Onward and Upward'

We will be drawing on Rev Bill Darlison's sermon from the morning, reflecting and sharing our thoughts.

Sunday 27th January (11.00am & 7.00pm)

*Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill preaching
"Whose Life Is It, Anyway?"
A Sermon on Assisted Dying"*

Pressure is mounting upon Parliament to change the law to allow for some compassionate acts of assistance to those wishing to end their lives when their illness has made their future life seem unbearable. Rev O'Neill's sermon this morning will weigh some of the many difficult issues involved in this public debate.

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, civil partnerships and other ceremonies.

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

Publisher's Statement:

"Open Mind" is a tool of outreach for 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

From the Editor

While writing this column, I am aware that it is nearly 2013, and the hopes, expectations, fears and trepidations of a new year beckon. January is a good time to bring ourselves face-to-face with our personal plans. This is the time to assess the past year and make resolutions to change our behaviour, to become more 'perfect'.

The American psychologist and philosopher William James had wise things to say about resolutions, often taken at New Year.

'In the acquisition of a new habit, or the leaving off of an old one, we must take care to launch ourselves with as strong and decided an initiative as possible. Never suffer an exception to occur till the new habit is securely rooted in your life. Each lapse is like the letting fall of a ball of string which one is carefully winding up: a single slip undoes more than a great many turns will wind again.'

'Perfection' is actually a human concept that the rest of nature may well ignore. So let us go ahead, let us resolve to be a perfect person – but acknowledge that our flaws are what make us a part of nature.

May we launch the New Year by '*releasing the past and making room for more good in our lives*' and by '*integrating plans and activities for the new year with ease and joy*'.

'The past has passed.

Thanks be for our yesterdays.

After all, it took a multitude of them to arrive at today.

But the past dare not govern what goes on this New Year.

*Broken promises or sentimental reminiscences
can contaminate our current lives.*

Last year is gone.

*We are creating a never-before year,
utterly fresh, starting right now.'*

(Tom Owen-Towle)



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 February issue of 'Open Mind' is **Friday 18 January 2013**.



PO'Nderings

From our Minister
Rev Patrick T. O'Neill

I write this the week before Christmas, in the midst of chaos, printing complicated Christmas Eve Orders of Service on my misbehaving computer, two sermons, organizing a new adult religious education program for next month, and, oh yes, trying to do a bit of last minute gift shopping. I trust your holiday preparations are smoother than mine. Father Christmas, I am not. But I promise to get in a good spirit before Sunday!

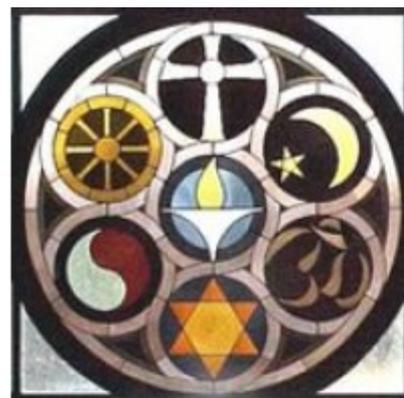
Like everyone I know, my heart is devastated by the terrible news of the unspeakable violence that has occurred in Connecticut. There are no words to express it. We can only hold those poor families in our hearts, and commit ourselves to doing whatever we can to ensure that children are always a first priority in our own society. I grieve for my homeland, and pray that President Obama can push for a new sanity in reforming the gun laws in the United States.

Now comes the New Year with all its promise and potential for all our lives. Are you one to make a Resolutions list? I'm always torn between the best of intentions to choose healthier options for myself every year versus the resident cynic that often resides in my soul. Let's see - lose some weight, procrastinate less, get more sleep, get better organized, try to be more patient. The list of little improvements I could make that would make my life better and more enjoyable in the long run is inexhaustible really. So why does progress in these matters always seem elusive? Never lose heart! Excelsior, I tell myself every 31 December. A New Year cometh! Make way, World, for the new and improved model of Me! Well, maybe this is the year, who knows?

I can only wish for you my friends that the New Year brings each of you whatever little improvements you can envision and create for yourselves. Gandhi once said we must become the change we wish to see in the world. May we be up to challenge, all of us, of healing this weary and wounded world of ours, if only just a little bit, day by day. Happy New Year!

Oh, I almost forgot... how about starting the New Year off by joining our new "Questing Groups" programme beginning this month - Thursday 24 January! See the announcement in this issue, and be sure to pre-register by calling the Chapel office at 020 7433 3267. See you in Chapel!
...po'n

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 Wednesday at 5.45pm in the Chapel.

January Activities and Meetings

8 January - **Social Action Committee** meets

10 January - **Management Committee** meets at 7.00pm in the cottage basement science room at the Chapel. Members of the Chapel are welcome to attend but contact one of the co-Chairs, James Chiriyankandath or Jane Crispin, ahead of time as a courtesy.

17 January - **The Book Group** will meet at 7.30pm at the Magdala at 2a South Hill Park in Hampstead, to discuss '*Absalom, Absalom*' by William Faulkner. For further information, please contact Bill Ellington at ellingtonbill@aol.com

20 January - **Potluck Lunch** in the Hall at 12.30pm (after the morning service). This is an informal, friendly occasions - all are welcome and the request is to bring some food to share, maybe homemade or cheese/fruit/salad. We look forward to seeing you there.

21 January - the **Chapel Poetry Group** will meet on Monday 17 December at 7.00pm. For more information contact George Appleby (Tel: 020 7424 9733 email: gappleby@talktalk.net)

OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY



Questing Groups

A New Religious Education Programme for adults
Led by our Minister, Rev Patrick O'Neill

Begins Thursday 24 January (7.00pm)
Meeting at alternate Thursday evenings from January until May
Free and open to all, call the Chapel office to pre-register
020-7433-3267

Unitarianism sees the human spirit as a pilgrim spirit, a soul in motion. A religious spirit is a spirit in search of a way to live that is authentic and true to itself, called to some serious engagement with the world. It is not about standing still or status quo. Spiritual living is about movement. It's about journey. A religious spirit is by nature a questing spirit.

For most of us, that questing takes the form of primary questions: questions of meaning and purpose; questions sacred and secular; questions of destiny and destination; questions of how and why and whence and whither we are to live and die.

What time is it in your life? Where are you this day on your journey? What has changed for you and about you since last we met? How is it with your spirit these days? How is it with your love these days? What are you working on changing for yourself? What do you still dream of doing or becoming in the time that life gives you? Who do you most appreciate in your life today? And when did you last tell them so? What would it mean for you to become more active in your spiritual life?

“Questing Groups” is a programme designed around small groups of six or seven people exploring questions of meaning, value, and purpose. In each session participants are invited to reflect on a short theme piece introducing a “focus question” i.e. What is God? What is Death? What does it mean to be human? What are our obligations in life? What do we wish to accomplish with our lives? What do you hold to be “Sacred”?

The aim is not to debate these questions, but rather to share from our personal experience what we understand, what we intuit, what we believe, and to discover what we can learn from each other's experience.

Do something good for yourself – come join us, and bring a friend!

"I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason and intellect has intended us to forgo their use"

– Galileo Galilei



OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY



Cold Weather Shelter

Young Social Action

Our cold weather shelter, which has been running since the start of November, has benefited recently from the efforts of chapel children and young people.

We have had some marvellous toast makers and early morning breakfast helpers on several Saturday mornings. Some helpers have enjoyed the experience so much, they have come back to do it again despite having to get up early. In the evenings we have had young people coming to help set up the shelter for dinner and overnight, making beds, setting tables and serving food. But where they have really excelled is in the entertainment they have provided. Two boys taught some of the guests how to play the card game UNO and they had a great time.

A highlight was on 14 December when some members of the children's chapel came to deliver handmade Christmas cards to each of the guests and then regaled them with their own rendition of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' complete with amusing movements (those of you at the Christmas carol service saw how entertaining that was). The guests loved having the bright and lively energy of the children. The children enjoyed a sense of helping others.

To all the children and young people who volunteered – and their parents who brought them along – a big thank you for adding so much to our shelter and the lives of our guests.

Social Action Committee

Amnesty's Send a Message of Hope Campaign



amnesty.org.uk

This year, we will again be supporting Amnesty International's greeting card campaign. We will send messages of goodwill and solidarity to people whose rights have been abused, and those in danger for defending human rights. Cards will be available in the Chapel after morning services on 6, 13, 22 & 27 January, so that the congregation can send a message of hope to prisoners of conscience in many different parts of the world.



MARYLEBONE SHELTER FOR WOMEN

Our Christmas Eve collection was donated entirely to the Marylebone Shelter for Women.

*"I am only one
But still I am one.
I cannot do everything,
but still i can do something.
And because I cannot do
everything
I will not refuse to do the
something that I can do"*

Edward Everett Hale

OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY



THE CHAPEL LOOKED BEAUTIFUL FOR CHRISTMAS

Every year the Chapel looks beautiful and this year was no exception.

The team of helpers displayed great artistry, in embellishing the tree which the Academy School had generously bequeathed to us, in decorating the window ledges and in draping swags of greenery and tinsel. Thank you so much to all those who helped.

**MORE HELP NEEDED, PLEASE!
FRIDAY 4 JANUARY 2011
(10.00am - 1.00pm)**

We will be dismantling and packing away the decorations for next year. Not quite the same as putting them up, but important none the less. So please come and help if you can.

Helping Hands

Worship Group Assitants

6 January	Leighton Cole
13 January	Tony Garrick
20 January	Julia Reid
27 January	Zoe Gerrard



Annual General Meeting
12.30pm on Sunday 3 March 2013

Make a note in your diary now!

The AGM is the time to review the past year, discuss the report and accounts, hear from the Chapel groups and committees and appoint members to the 2012/13 Board.

Co-Chairs, James Chiryankandath
(email: James_chiryankandath@hotmail.co.uk)
and Jane Crispin
(email: jane.crispin@blueyonder.co.uk)
would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in joining the Board.

The continuity of the Chapel
depends on its members.
Your vote counts, your voice counts,
your presence counts.



Rosslyn Hill Chapel is now approved to host Civil Partnership ceremonies between same-sex couples. Following the vote at the SGM in September, the Chapel applied to the London Borough of Camden for a licence to register civil partnerships between same-sex couples in the Chapel and this was granted in December.

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 10 January 2013 at 7.00pm in the Chapel (in the Cottage basement Science room).

Meeting held on Thursday 13 December 2012 James Chiriyankandath in the chair

Minister's Report: Rev O'Neill reported on progress regarding the two vacancies in the Chapel's team:

Organist: Matthew Fletcher has accepted the post of Acting Music Director for the period to the end of February, following the resignation of Sholto Kynoch. Matthew has played for a number of services during the year. The permanent post of Music Director will be advertised in January.

Children's Chapel: Anthea Williams has accepted the post of Acting Children's Co-ordinator and is working closely with the Children's Programme Team.

Chapel discussion group: 'Exploring our Values' is the title of a 'Small Group Ministry Evening Programme' which Rev O'Neill plans to start in January. Small groups of six or seven people will discuss the 'big questions' in life. Such programmes give people an opportunity to continue their religious education, and make new friendships.

Christmas Services: The Worship Group had decided there would be no service in the Chapel on Christmas Day this year and this is the case in other London Unitarian chapels. The Christmas Eve service would be held at 6.30pm.

Website and 'branding': Rev O'Neill thanked Stella Fakiyesi, Kate Buchanan and the Comms Team for moving these projects forward. The Board echoed this thanks. The Board and Comms Team members had seen and responded to the different logo designs submitted by Luc Hudson and had been sent the work done so far, by James Barry, on the website. James had visited the Chapel and taken photos and videoed some members.

Cold Weather Shelter: Patrick also thanked Leighton Cole and the Social Action Committee for the good work being done for the homeless, through the Cold Weather Shelter. He commented, 'Again, a few key folk make all the difference'.

Worship Group: Gordon Jackson, leader of the WG had sent a report and informed the Board of the arrangements in place for Worship Leaders and Worship Assistants in recent and forthcoming weeks. He noted the new arrangement with the Minister regarding the provision of Worship Leaders during ministerial absences (see co-Chair's report).

Co-Chairs report: In response to queries from the WG, seeking clarification about their responsibilities, it was noted that the Minister's contract gives the minister one Sunday in five 'off' from preaching at the Chapel. Rev O'Neill has undertaken to provide cover for these Sundays (including those when he is preaching elsewhere or engaged in other optional ministerial activities). This will help the Worship Group. The WG will arrange cover for Sundays during the minister's annual leave. The Board noted that the WG had a heavy load at present, providing Worship Assistants for the Sunday morning and evening services (100+ services a year). Members of the Board and the Elders had been asked to help. Victoria Ellington (an Elder) was helping the Group on a regular basis and Jane Crispin and Janna Williams had assisted.

Annual General Meeting: The Chapel's AGM would be held on Sunday, 3rd March, after the service. The Board can have 12 members and it is hoped that there would be a good number of nominations this year. James Chiriyankandath (co-Chair) and Janna Williams are standing down.

Treasurer's Report: Jane Crispin had circulated the cash flow statement for November. She drew the Board's attention to heavy expenditure in October and November on 'Buildings and Infrastructure'. This was caused by the work on the damp in Cottage 3 (the Academy School will contribute to this cost) and dealing with the damp in the Chapel. The Budget for 2012/13 had been drawn up.

Long Term Finance Group: This group had now been convened and had met. Plans had been drawn up to deal, in the first place, with the revenue arising from the sale of the Willoughby Road site. The members of the Group are: Jane Crispin, Camino Eguren, John Lawrence, Andrew Jurczynski, James Sefton and Will Hopper.

Implementing the SGM agreement - Sunday 13 January 2013 meeting after the morning service.

Property Sale Group: Completion on the sale of the Willoughby Road site is now expected by the end of January.

Administrator's report: There was no Administrator's report for the month as Sharron Conduit, the Administrator, had been ill.

Fund-raising: Stella Fakiyesi, for the Fund-raising committee, will present a business plan to the AGM, looking at the benefits in the way of revenue if the Hall was refurbished. The Board had received a letter from Leighton Cole spelling out difficulties which increasing the use of the Hall, as a venue for wedding receptions, for example, might create. In the first place, a lot would have to be done to the Hall to make it attractive. Events like weddings could be noisy and on occasion, troublesome and might cause inconvenience to neighbours and anyone living in the Manse. Stella agreed that these were major considerations, and she had taken note of them. The aim was to find ways to use the asset of the Hall while avoiding these problems.

Social Action Committee: Leighton Cole, chair, had reported for the SAC. The Cold Weather Shelter had hosted 15 guests each Friday night since early November. There had been 'good food and interesting conversation'. Members and others had made generous donations of money and food. In January the SAC are arranging for members of the congregation to send cards to political prisoners (through Amnesty) and in May a second hand book sale is planned. The Chair thanked Leighton and the SAC and commented, as the Minister had done, that the CWS was going very well.

* Please note that the meeting on 4 November was taken by Jane Crispin, not, as started in last month's 'News', James Chiriyankandath.

Seasonal Festivals



The Epiphany is an ancient Christian feast day and is significant in a number of ways. In the East, where it originated, the Epiphany celebrates the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the River Jordan. It also celebrates Jesus' birth.

The Western Church began celebrating the Epiphany in the 4th century where it was, and still is, associated with the visit of the Magi (wise men) to the infant Jesus when God revealed himself to the world through the incarnation of Jesus. According to Matthew 2:11 they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

The gift of gold was the gift people usually gave to their King. By giving gold they were recognising Jesus as their King. The second gift, frankincense, is a white gum from a tree called 'Arbor Thurisfrom'. After hardening the gum forms a hard resin which when burnt gives off a fragrant smell. It was burnt as an offering to God during worship, used as medicine and also as perfume. The third gift was myrrh, which was also a gum from a thorny tree. Myrrh is a wound healer because it has antiseptic, anti-inflammatory and pain relieving qualities. It was also used as an embalming material when someone had died.

The day before Epiphany is the twelfth day of Christmas and is sometimes called 'Twelfth Night'. Epiphany is the day when all Christmas decorations need to be taken down otherwise it is said to bring bad luck.

For many Protestant church traditions, the season of Epiphany extends from 6 January until Ash Wednesday, which begins the season of Lent leading to Easter.

Other traditions, including the Roman Catholic tradition, observe Epiphany as a single day, with the Sundays following Epiphany counted as Ordinary Time. In the Spanish speaking world Epiphany is also known as Dia de los Reyes (Three Kings Day).



The Queens Came Late

*The Queens came late,
but the Queens were there
With gifts in their hands
and crowns in their hair.
They'd come, these three,
like the Kings, from far,
Following, yes, that guiding star.*

*They'd left their ladles, linens, looms,
Their children playing in nursery rooms,
And told their sitters:
"Take charge!
For this
Is a marvellous sight
we must not miss!"*

*The Queens came late, but not too late
To see the animals small and great,
Feathered and furred, domestic and wild,
Gathered to gaze at a mother and child.*

*And rather than frankincense and myrrh
And gold for the babe,
they brought for her who held him,
a homespun gown of blue,
And chicken soup – with noodles, too -
And a lingering, lasting, cradle-song.*

*The Queens came late and stayed not long,
For their thoughts already were straining far -
Past manger and mother and guiding star
And a child aglow as a morning sun -
Toward home and children and chores undone.*

Norman Farber (1909-1984) – from "When It Snowed That Night"

Befana



In Italy there remains, a legend or tradition involving a witch named 'Befana'.

On the night of 6 January (Twelfth Night or the Eve of the Epiphany or Little Christmas), Befana leaves presents in children's stockings hung upon the hearth or in their shoes placed at the door, a tradition very much like Santa Claus associated with Christmas. The children write notes and hide them up the chimney for La Befana. The notes or offerings are generally a list of toys or other items that they want La Befana to bring. The whole town is in a state of great anticipation the day La Befana is due. Befana fills up stockings with nuts and fruit and brings presents for all the good children, and a lump of coal for the not-so-good children. In Italy today some candy shops sell 'carbone' or black rock candy that actually looks like pieces of coal. After her arrival, many parties take place, and people move around from house to house visiting friends and relatives.

The Epiphany holiday observed on 6 January includes purifying rites, and benedictions with water. The water prepared on the eve of Epiphany has a sacred and warding-off-evil-spirits value and is used in critical moments of family life. Through Befana's timeless visits to the family hearth, her function is that of reaffirming the bond between the family and the ancestors through an exchange of gifts.

Befana appears in street processions as a masked figure with her consort Befano. Guiding a band of followers who receive offers from families, they receive the gift of prosperity from Befana's blessings. Music fills the streets and people place Befana dolls in their windows, welcoming her to their house. At the end of the Befana celebration, the Befana dolls are burned in effigy. This is done to burn the bad things of the old year and to wish the best things to the new coming.

*We bid you welcome on
this first Sunday of the new year.
Like Janus we gather
with part of us looking backward
and part of us looking forward.
We gather on the edge of the new year
saddened by our losses,
cherishing our joys,
aware of our failures,
mindful of days gone by.
We gather on the cusp of this new year
eager to begin anew,
hopeful for what lies ahead,
promising to make changes,
anticipating tomorrows and tomorrows.
We invite you to join our celebration of life,
knowing that life includes good and bad,
endings and beginnings.
We bid you welcome!*

Sylvia L Howe



*My friends, we have arrived.
We are here, in this new year.
We have crossed the boundary of time,
into the next year, with all its resolutions
and plans and schedules ahead of us.
Let us pause, for just this moment,
before we move boldly onward.
Let us pause to hear the breathing
of those around us,
to feel their presence in this room.
To know their presence in our lives.
Let us pause to consider the trees,
their branches stripped bare,
their elegant architecture on display.
Let us pause to feel the spirit of life
and love that ties us to each other,
that winds its way through our very bones
and settles in our hearts.
Before we march forward,
armed with resolutions
that will shortly be forgotten
in the day-to-day of living,
let us notice what it is that remains
every year, every day.
What exists beyond schedules and months,
beyond time.
It welcomes us to life,
not just at the start of the year,
but every day.
And let us answer . . . Amen.*

Amanda Poppei

January



The name, given to the month of 'January', is derived from the ancient Roman name 'Janus' who presided over the gate to the New Year. He was revered as the 'God of Gateways', of 'Doorways' and of 'the Journey.'

Janus protected the 'Gate of Heaven', is also known as the 'Lord of Beginnings', is associated with the 'Goddess Juno-Janus', and often symbolized by an image of a face that looks forwards and backwards at the same time.

This symbolism can easily be associated with the month known by many as the start of a new year which brings new opportunities.

We cast out the old and welcome in the new. It is the time when many reflect on events of the previous year and often resolve to redress or improve some aspect of daily life or personal philosophy.
(source: *Mystical World Wide Web*)

OUR LARGER UNITARIAN MOVEMENT



Faith, Fun and Future - at the 2013 Annual Meetings
At the Jubilee Campus, Nottingham University
Thursday 11th to Sunday 14th April 2013.

Every year, around Easter time, the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches (GA) holds its Annual Meetings to which delegates from congregations, fellowships, district associations and affiliated societies are invited, along with individual Unitarians. These meetings are commonly known as "The G.A." within Unitarian circles.

Basically, it's a mixture of FAITH, FUN and FUTURE – an opportunity to influence decisions on the future of our Unitarian movement, and a chance to get together with lots of Unitarians to worship and sing together, exchange views, share delicious meals, learn something new, be inspired by quality lectures from guest speakers and fellow Unitarians, and enjoy being immersed in a convivial atmosphere.

For more information contact: Andrew Mason – Tel: 020 7240 2384

Come along and take part in the decisions on our Unitarian future!

BE INSPIRED!
BE MOTIVATED!
BE THERE!



Our Larger Unitarian Movement

BUYAN Event: Social Action and Activism –

Some of us will be involved in social action projects in our day-to-day lives. These may include volunteer work, animal rights, environmental campaigning, LGBT rights or human rights to name just a few possibilities.

Would you like to know more about social action projects currently in existence?

Should we consider adopting a project to work on as a small community?

Would you like the time to reflect on what you could perhaps do in your local community or with your congregation?

This activity will form part of our get together on

**Saturday 19 January
at Birmingham Unitarian New Meeting
from 11.30am – 5.00pm.**

There will also be time for worship and getting to know others. Bursaries will be available to help towards travel costs if you would otherwise be unable to attend.

We will be suggesting for a £5 contribution towards a light lunch and to help towards other expenses, although all are welcome whether they are able to contribute or not.

For more information, contact us by email: facilitator@buyan.org.uk or join BUYAN (Unitarians 18-35) on Facebook.



Youth Sunday 2013

Thank you for all the favourable comments we received about the Junior and Senior Worship packs for Youth Sunday 2012.

For **Youth Sunday 2013 - 27 January** - we will hopefully be releasing an original musical item for congregations to use in their worship – watch this space!

Youth Sunday is an initiative launched by the Youth Programme to encourage worshipping communities to create child and youth friendly worship and spread the word about the work of the Youth Programme. Please put 'Youth Sunday' in your diaries.

Venue: The Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow.

Contact: John Harley - mobile: 07985 900 935



A weekend by the sea filled with Celebration, Inspiration, and Education

8-10 February 2013

Lighting the fuse for an explosion of Unitarian vitality

For Unitarians and other seekers with a passion for the future

Sponsored by the London and Southeast district and open to all

More than 20 workshops on personal spirituality, congregational health, and worship

Multiple worships: traditional, contemplative, and contemporary

Programme for children and youth

Bursaries available to make this event accessible to all, regardless of distance or financial circumstances

Main worship service led by Rev. Bill Darlinson

Book early at <http://fusefest.org.uk/registration-form/>

Visit the FUSE website: <http://fusefest.org.uk/>

JANUARY DIARY

(* = further details elsewhere in Bulletin)

Sunday 6 January

11.00am – Morning service
“Gratitude all around”^{*}
Led by Kate Buchanan

7.00pm - Evening service “Gratitude all around”^{*}

Tuesday 8 January

7.30pm – Social Action Committee meets^{*}

Wednesday 9 January

5.45pm - Tai Chi class in the Chapel^{*}
7.30pm - Choir rehearsal in the Chapel^{*}

Thursday 10 January

7.00pm – Management Committee meets^{*}

Sunday 13 January

11.00am – Morning service –
“What, Then, Is Asked of Us?”^{*}
Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O’Neill

Sunday 13 January

12.30am - *Your Chapel in 2013* – workshops to implement the SGM resolutions

7.00pm – Evening service –
“What, Then, Is Asked of Us?”^{*}
Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O’Neill

Wednesday 16 January

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel^{*}
7.30pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel^{*}

Thursday 17 January

7.30pm – Book Group meets^{*}

Sunday 20 January

11.00am - Morning service –
“Onward and Upward”^{*}
Led by Rev Bill Darlison
(GA Vice President)

12.30pm – Pot Luck Lunch in the hall^{*}

Sunday 20 January

7.00pm – Evening service –
“Onward and Upward”^{*}

Monday 21 January

7.00pm – Poetry group meets^{*}

Thursday 24 January

7.00pm – “Questing Groups”^{*}

Sunday 27 January

11.00am - Morning service –
“Whose Life Is It, Anyway?”
A Sermon on Assisted Dying^{*}
Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O’Neill

7.00pm – Evening service –
“Whose Life Is It, Anyway?”
A Sermon on Assisted Dying^{*}

Led by the Rev Dr Patrick T. O’Neill

Wednesday 30 January

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel^{*}
7.30pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel^{*}

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“Our religion is a spiritual journey and each one of us is an explorer.
Reason is our map and conscience is our compass.
Loving kindness is our way in the world”