



Open Mind

The Bulletin of Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel

May 2013

May Day: An Invocation

*May is here
And spring approaches her climax.
This is a celebration more ancient than we can know.
As we worship, our spirits join with those of countless
generations –
'for the winter is past, the flowers appear on the earth,
and time of the singing of birds is come'.*

(Rev Cliff Reed)



May Services

Sunday 5 May (11.00am)

Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill preaching
"Spring Cleaning For the Soul"

Springtime and its attendant task of spring-cleaning is precious. It's about clearing away what is extraneous and cluttering in our search for the sacred centre of our lives. It's about uncovering the shining sense of the holy that lies at the heart of our humanity. It is about reclaiming that recognition that we are, every one of us, "the children of God, with stardust in our hair and the rush of planets in our blood; that our place on this earth has been reserved from all eternity". Come join us for worship...and bring a friend along.

Sunday 5 May (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.

Sunday 12 May (11.00am)

Guest Preacher Rev Sue Woolley
"On Friendship"

Rev Sue Woolley, District Minister of the Midland Unitarian Association, will be exploring the vital importance of friendship, and how it can help us to be our best selves, and to learn to be compassionate where we are.

Sunday 12 May (7.00pm)

"On Friendship"

We will be drawing on Rev Sue Woolley's sermon from the morning, reflecting and sharing our thoughts. Led by Margaret Perry.

Sunday 19 May (11.00am)

Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill preaching
"The Differences That Unite Us"

Too many churches have forgotten the positive notion of religion as providing a sense of connectedness of the whole human family, and emphasise instead the more constrictive negative notion of "binding" their small circles of believers, - tying them off, literally, - against all non-believers and everyone else outside of their closed off circles. And so, religion, which at its best ought to invite us to an inclusive and unifying celebration of human connectedness and commonality, too often becomes instead a divisive, exclusionary, and partial distortion of the sacred. Come join us to celebrate that which truly unites us one to another!

Sunday 19 May (7.00pm)

"Come and dance with us"

We are dancing for enjoyment to beautiful music from many cultures and to support 'Women Against Rape' (WAR). You don't need to be an experienced dancer to enjoy yourself. A light supper will be provided. Admission free but donations for 'WAR' welcomed. Led by Zoe Gerrard.

Sunday 26 May (11.00am & 7.00pm)

Rev. Dr. Patrick T. O'Neill preaching
"Dust in the Wind: A Response to the Cynic"

No thoughtful person is ever immune from the occasional temptation to cynicism and even despair. As life goes by and the years accumulate, most every one of us knows similar moments when we fear that maybe we have never really lived the life we wanted. We sense time going by, and we wonder if the life we have lived has any real meaning or lasting purpose. At root this may indeed be the basic religious question of life: What difference does it all make, anyway? Why bother? A sermon written for anyone who has ever wondered if the struggle to live a good life, a life of principle and integrity, is really worth it. Come worship with us this Sunday!

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.

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 **June** issue of 'Open Mind' is **Friday 17 May 2013**.

From the Editor

May is truly the month of spring, the first month of full blossoming and growth. Everything is just full of life, and the garden often looks at its most vibrant. The trees are clothed in tender new leaves of May green. The powerful energy of growth pulsates all around us, and we can feel the moist lushness of spring warming towards summer.

The first day of the month of May is known as 'May Day'. It is the time of year when warmer weather begins and flowers and trees start to blossom. It is said to be a time of love and romance. It is when people celebrate the coming of summer with lots of different customs that are expressions of joy and hope after a long winter. Traditional English 'May Day' celebrations include Morris dancing, crowning a May Queen and dancing around a Maypole.

May is the time to reconnect with the Earth after a long winter, and there is nothing like a garden to create that connection. We can also reflect on the garden of our soul. Our soul's needs may be different than an actual garden's need, but the process of planting is the same.

Let us spend some time with our heart,
and see what it needs.
Then, like a gardener, cultivate and nurture
our heart's garden to make blossoming possible.
Let us watch the opening of flowers and trees around us.
Let us trust the flow of opening and closing in our hearts.
Let us tune into the abundant energy all around us.
Let our own energy join the heightened flow of nature,
and welcome in the joyful season of abundance...
in nature as well as in our daily lives.

*"The power of light and new life
Now dance throughout all creation.
The Wheel of the Year continues to turn.
Spring gives way to summer's full bloom.
May we tune into the energy
And the rhythm of the earth."*





PO'Nderings

From our Minister
Rev Patrick T. O'Neill

...Trust, Openness, and Confidentiality

Communication, communication, communication. Sounds easy, but oh, what tangled webs we weave in the effort to maintain an open and mutually respectful church community.

As a minister and as a counsellor, I feel on some days as though I am sitting in the midst of a veritable rushing river of conversation. Some of these conversations are confidential, of course; some of them are public, some of them personal, some of them are private and pastoral, some are routine business. Most of the time it is a fairly easy matter to distinguish which are which. But sometimes the lines get blurry.

What's the distinction, say, between an appropriate confidence and an inappropriate secret? 'I'm going to tell you something, but you must promise not to tell another soul!' Be very careful whenever anyone says that to you. What do you do with information that can be hurtful or harmful to another's reputation? When exactly do you intervene for another's welfare when all you have to proceed on is information you were given in strict confidence? Do you understand the difference between slander and calumny?

Those who serve in positions of trust or governance or elected leadership bear special responsibilities for good communication, it is true. It is equally true that there are times when holding a confidence requires an appropriate silence. It's not a matter of secrecy; it's a matter of trust and respect. What we say to and about each other is very important. Buddha taught that we must choose all of our words with care, for our words have the capacity both to heal and hurt the community we are seeking to build.

A church cannot long operate in an atmosphere of inappropriate secrecy. Neither can it thrive unless we can trust in our ability to hold each other's truths in confidence. Morris West's words come to mind: 'When heart speaks to heart, the sound our hearts make is perchance the voice of God'.

...po'n

Chapel Activities



Weekly Activities

Children's Programme (formerly 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.

May Activities and Meetings

Questing Groups – a Religious Education programme for adults, led by our Minister Rev Patrick O'Neill. Meeting on alternative Thursday evenings – **2 May, 16 May and 30 May** at 7.00pm, in the Chapel.

14 May - Social Action Committee meets.

7 May - Poetry Group will meet at 7.00pm. For more information contact George Appleby (Tel: 020 7424 9733 email: gappleby@talktalk.net)

8 May - Management Board meets at 7.00pm in the cottage basement science room at the Chapel. Members of the Chapel are welcome to attend but please contact, the Chair, Kate Buchanan (kateboo@gmail.com), ahead of time as a courtesy.

17 May - Book Group will meet at 7.30pm at the Magdala at 2a South Hill Park in Hampstead. We will be discussing *'More Baths, Less Talking'* by Nick Hornby. For further information, please contact Bill Ellington at ellingtonbill@aol.com

26 May - Pot Luck 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.

OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY

Questing Groups

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

Meeting at alternate **Thursday evenings** -

next meetings **2, 16 and 30 May (7.00pm)** in the Chapel.

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.

“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”?

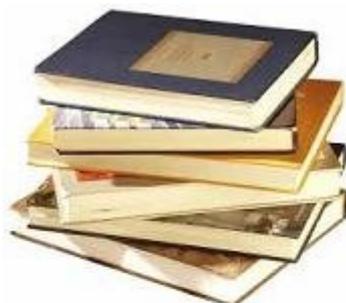
The aim is not to debate these questions, but rather to share from our personal experience what we understand, what we intuit, what we believe, and to discover what we can learn from each other's experience.

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

SECOND-HAND BOOKSALE

**DO YOU HAVE GOOD QUALITY
SECOND-HAND BOOKS
TO DONATE TO THE RHUC BOOK SALE?**

**PLEASE BRING TO THE CHAPEL
AS SOON AS YOU CAN!**



SATURDAY 11 MAY
11.00am – 3.30pm

**SECOND HAND
BOOKS FOR EVERYONE!**

*"Sweet May hath come to love us,
Flowers, trees, their blossoms don;
And through the blue heavens above us
The very clouds move on."*

-
Heinrich Heine, Book of Songs



Homemade Cakes, Soup, Bread and Cheese, Hot and Cold Drinks

Proceeds to “Simple Gifts”
Unitarian Centre for Social Action and
“Money for Madagascar” reg. Char. No. 1001420

OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY

Stephanie Heynderickx

We learned with sadness that Stephanie had a serious accident on Tuesday 9 April. She was on a biking holiday with her family when she came off the bike and sustained a serious injury to her head. She is making slow progress towards a recovery. We all wish her well and our thoughts are with her husband, Jim, and with her children, Doug and Eve.



A date for your diaries!
Friday June 7 at 7.30pm

Come and sing-along to songs from the shows.

A fund-raising event organised by and for the choir and a charity. Food and drink will be available..

Now is your chance to perform. Please let me know if you wish to take part as a performer. Thank you.

Margaret Perry
(margaretperry14@hotmail.co.uk)



Other events in the Chapel Events

Friday 3 May (7.30pm) - Concert by Sholto Kynoch, piano. Tickets £15 (£10 concessions)

Saturday 4 May (7.30pm) - Concert with Benjamin Carr, piano, and Francesco Ianosco - violin. Tickets £20 (£15 concessions)

Monday 13 May (7.30pm) - Organ recital by James Sherlock. Tickets £10.00 (£5.00 concessions)

Saturday 18 May (10am-2pm) - Nearly New Sale in Chapel by the Hampstead Women's Club



To make everyone feel welcome in our beautiful chapel on Sunday mornings; and to help them feel comfortable within our friendly community, we use a Welcoming Steward system.

We arrange for two regular members of our congregation to be there, greeting and welcoming people as they come in. They are there to offer a smile, a hymn book, the order of service for the day and an invitation to stay behind for a chat over tea and biscuits.

Visitors are also encouraged to enquire about our approach to religion and the historic building where we congregate. **Jim Burtles**



Worship Assistants

5 May	Leighton Cole
12 May	Julia Reid
19 May	Zoe Gerrard
26 May	James Chiriyankandath

Stewards

5 May	Christopher Mason & Janna Williams
12 May	Leighton Cole & Shirley King
19 May	Julia & Kerry Reid
26 May	Victoria & Bill Elington

OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY

NEWS FROM THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Any member of the Chapel is welcome to attend the Management Board meetings as an observer. If you would like to attend, as a courtesy, please contact Kate Buchanan (Chair) in advance – email kateboo@gmail.com or call 07870 322 519. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 8 May 16 April 2013 at 7.00pm in the Chapel (in the Cottage Basement Science room).

Meeting held on Tuesday 16 April 2013

Kate Buchanan in the chair

Minister's report: Rev O'Neill said the Questing meetings continue to go very well, with over 20 people attending each meeting. He relayed an interesting talk that had been given at the GA conference in relation to cultural changes in the church. Rev O'Neill highlighted RHUC's importance within the Unitarian community, being the largest and most active congregation in the UK.

Administrator's Report: RHUC's relationship with the Academy School during the school holidays is to be more clearly formalised.

Car Park: Plans are being initiated that will allow the eventual improvement of car park security and surfaces around the Chapel.

Organ and Piano: Similarly, the Chapel's much-loved organ and grand piano will need significant investment in the near future, so plans are beginning as to how best to fund this.

Chair's Report: The renewal of Rev O'Neill's visa will need to be addressed next year. Former RHUC member, Danielle Wilson, will help a sub-group from the Board to navigate the process.

Chapel IT and Social Media: As part of expanding the RHUC's social media presence, the Chapel is now on Twitter (follow @RHUnitarianC). There will also be a survey sent out to members to find out IT use and preferences, so that the Chapel communications can be more closely tailored to members' needs. In addition, an overhaul of the IT for chapel management has been initiated.



News from our Children's Programme

Through the hard work and dedication of staff and congregation volunteers, the Children's Programme is flourishing. For nearly a year we have been following the UUA 'Tapestry of Faith' curriculum which provides a well thought-out instructional core yet allows us the flexibility to incorporate our own elements such as music, art and localised social action. The children have experienced many different tasks: taking part in role play to explore the idea of kindness; making invitations for friends to join in with a game or share a snack; drawing life size pictures of themselves and considering the theme of acceptance of differences; learning a song about friendship. In addition to the Tapestry of Faith sessions, we have had sessions for festivals, including Chinese New Year, Easter and Passover. The children are taught the stories relating to religious festivals and can give their own or their family's opinion on whether they share the belief or not. Everyone is respectful of each other's views and the children understand the Unitarian principle that everyone is free to search for what they believe is true and right in life.

A few weeks ago the children made a penny jar in which to collect their spare pennies. When the jar is full they plan to use some of the money to buy exciting biscuits for tea and coffee time. They are hoping that the adults will be particularly generous with their donations that day and the money will go to a charity chosen by the children. The rest of the money will be given by the children to one of the Chapel committees.

The RHUC Children's Programme is a place for the children to learn about tolerance and freedom of belief, and of course, to make some new friends.

Anthea Williams (Children's Programme Co-ordinator) and **Steve Thompson** (Chair of Children's Programme Committee)



VALUES IN ACTION

Do you feel passionate about a cause, project or issue that demonstrates your Unitarian values?

Are you involved in working, volunteering or campaigning for change and want to tell your chapel friends about it?

The Social Action Committee is delighted to invite you to do so: Rev O'Neill has offered a three-minute slot in which members of the congregation may share news of VALUES IN ACTION during morning service on the first Sunday in the month.

If you would like to take part, please send details of what you would like to talk about to Social Action Committee member, Claire Julian [claire.marley@mac.com] so that the Committee can co-ordinate these brief contributions to our morning services. Thank you.

Claire Julian (On behalf of Social Action Committee)

On Sunday 7 April, Zoe Gerrard presented the debut 'Values in Action'.



For many years I, like all Unitarians, I am sure, have been appalled by stories of atrocities against women. I cringe when I think of little girls being genitally mutilated; of young girls being married off to men who may be much older; of rape being used as a weapon of war. Abuses against women do not just happen in other countries – abuse happens in this country as well.

Last September I read about 'One Billion Rising', a global activist movement seeking to raise awareness worldwide of the fact that 1 in 3 women (amounting to one billion) will experience abuse in their lifetime. The movement called for people to dance in solidarity on St Valentine's Day around the world – and they did, in 200 countries.

When I read about the movement I felt strongly that Rosslyn Hill Chapel should participate in this action, especially as I love dancing! But I wanted to link our event to a local organisation working in this field. I found 'Women Against Rape' (WAR), based in Kentish Town. Each year it helps hundreds of women and girls (and a few men) and their families, including asylum seekers, who have suffered sexual, domestic and/or racist violence. It is a multiracial organisation based on self-help, providing peer support, legal information and advocacy and campaigns for justice and protection for all survivors. It has won changes in the law, set legal precedents and secured thousands in compensation for many survivors. Police, prosecutors and MPs frequently consult the group. It runs on a small budget, so has only two workers and effectiveness depends largely on volunteers.

We held our evening of dance in February. As well as enjoying the dancing we were pleased to meet one of the workers and one of the women they have helped.

We raised £187 that evening and we were so impressed by hearing about the valuable work that WAR does that we very much want to maintain a link with them – and to keep on dancing! **Zoe Gerrard**

Our next evening of dance to support WAR will be on **Sunday 19 May from 7.00 – 9.00pm.**
We dance to music of many cultures and you don't have to be a good dancer to enjoy yourself.



Unitarian Meetings 2013 (the GA)

Every year, around Easter time, the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches 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 'GA' within Unitarian circles.

The 2013 Annual Meetings took place at the Jubilee Campus, Nottingham, from Thursday 11 to Sunday 14 April 2013 with the title "Faith and Fun".

Fifteen Chapel members (eleven adults and four children) attended the 'GA' and some share personal impressions:

In April, I went to the Annual General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches which, this year was held in Nottingham. The GA provides an opportunity for Unitarians across the country to gather together and take part in various workshops, lectures and business meetings. Each church sends two delegates who are entitled to vote on various motions at these business meetings and I was privileged, along with Margaret Perry to be a delegate for Rosslyn Hill. I am pleased to say that Rosslyn Hill Chapel had by far the largest presence with fifteen of our members, including our minister, the Rev. Patrick O'Neill and his wife Patricia Williams – a reminder that we are by far the largest Unitarian congregation in the country.

The conferences began with the John Relly Beard lecture, given by the Rev Sheila Martin from the Baptist Union. This was a lively and sometimes humorous talk, on a difficult subject – bullying in the church.

The Lindsey Press Panel launched two new titles at this year's GA; 'Twelve Steps to Spiritual Health', by our former minister, the Rev David Usher and 'Unidoodles' by John Harley and Lyanne Mitchell. This is an essential and innovative resource for any children in the Unitarian community – a copy of which now belongs to our Children's Chapel.

The Opening Celebrations on the first evening were a particular highlight, featuring lively presentations from various congregations, and a banner parade. Margaret Perry, ably assisted by two of our youngest members, Cory and Addy, carried our banner. These opening celebrations gave me a greater sense of the breadth of our Unitarian movement and helped me feel connected to people of our faith from all around the country.

As a delegate, I was required to vote on behalf of our congregation, on any motions that had been put forward. Perhaps the most important of these was on the subject of assisted dying. This motion was in support of those individuals who wish to have an assisted death, due to an intolerable and incurable physical condition and that they should be able to seek support for the termination of their life without fear of prosecution. After a weighty debate, that was not without some drama, this motion was carried. The hard work of getting this message across to the decision makers in Parliament will now begin.

Another motion, from Belper Unitarian Chapel, to designate the third Sunday in October as a special Unitarian day for World Peace, was also carried. I look forward to attending this new service at Rosslyn Hill.

Another weighty motion was proposed by the FOY (Fellowship of Youth) society. This requested the government to establish a Royal Commission or interdepartmental enquiry to examine the UK drug related health and crime situations, to review the efficacy of current UK legislation in relation to both legal and illegal drugs, and to review options for alternatives to the current criminal justice based approach. This was also carried.

A motion from Golders Green Unitarians, urging us to honour the spirit of the UUA's seventh principle and its ethic of compassion and mercy to our sentient fellow creatures was eloquently proposed by the Rev Feargus O'Connor. This was carried, although there was some objection to the length of sentences and lack of punctuation in the motion!

The Rev. Dr. Teresa Cooley, Director of Congregational Life at the UUA, delivered the key note speech. She spoke of how people experience their spirituality in a multitude of ways, only one of which is in congregations. She suggested that changes in culture and technology may be experienced as a threat to our institutional understanding of churches, but that there are opportunities to reach out into our communities. During her lecture, Dr. Cooley asked how technology was affecting our spirituality. "It's not very satisfying to kiss an I-Pad", shouted someone. "You haven't met mine", replied a voice behind me!

Two of our members played an active part at this GA. The Rev. Rob Gregson gave a presentation on the charity 'Simple Gifts' that he founded, and spoke to the Unitarian Women's group. Kate Buchanan gave a presentation to the Unitarian Renewal Group and was representing the 'Local Leadership Strategy Group'.

The weekend was rounded off by the appointment of the Rev Bill Darlison to President of the General Assembly for the year 2013 – 2014.

I would like to express my gratitude to you all for sending me as a delegate. This was my first experience of a GA. There were delegates and members from congregations all around the country. Its Bishop, the Rev Bálint Benczédi Ferenc, represented the Hungarian Unitarian Church and we had a presentation from our outgoing president the Rev Lis Dyson-Jones about her trip to India and how she spoke to three thousand Indian Unitarians there. A large youth presence and an active programme for them were encouraging for the future of Unitarianism in the UK. The GA provided an opportunity to meet and discuss ideas with fellow Unitarians and gave me a better understanding of our wider movement. There was much laughter, a friendly atmosphere and opportunities to share the many problems and successes that make up our individual congregations' lives. **Kerry Reid**



It was my first time at the GA and I had a great time. The Jubilee Campus at Nottingham University was a lovely place to stay and just right for the event. It was a fantastic atmosphere on the campus - everyone greeting each other whether they knew each other or not, and many smiles and laughs. All the workshops and talks I went to were useful and interesting, and it was good to hear Rob Gregson talking about the success of 'SimpleGifts'.

Jane, Kerry and myself sang in the choir for the Anniversary service on the Friday evening, and we all enjoyed hearing the Rev Feargus O'Connor, from our neighbouring Golders Green Chapel, giving an inspiring sermon on, 'The Interdependent Web'. Another highlight of the service was when Rob's two children ably acted out the story of, 'The Happy Prince and the Swallow'. After getting off to a late start on the Saturday evening, the Talent Show started well, with our very own Kate Buchanan singing a great rendition of, 'Stand my me', accompanied on the ukulele (which Kate has only been learning for a week or so!) and Cori and Adi busted some moves on the dance floor!

The weekend was inspirational and fun and made me proud to be Unitarian! **Julia Reid**

For me a really good piece of news was hearing about HMRC's new GASDS (Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme) whereby we can now claim a top up of up to £1250 a year on small cash donations without needing a written declaration. This means we can now get some gift aid on the wall safe, tea/coffee table and general plate collections.

This year RHUC sent far more people (youth as well as adult) than any other congregation. **Erich Wagner**

Of the motions to be debated at this year's Annual Meetings, the one which was potentially the most controversial concerned "Assisted Death". Following last year's debate on the same topic which was referred back (a device to stop a debate which is getting nowhere) two things happened:

(1) A discussion pack was prepared and circulated to all congregations.

(2) The day before this year's debate, a very useful workshop was held. It gave many at this well-attended event an opportunity to voice fears, concerns and questions around this emotive subject. Next day, when it came to the actual debate, many voters who had originally planned to abstain, having now had a chance to think again, the result was an overwhelming vote in favour of the motion with very few abstentions.

Four Resolutions were approved - on Assisted Dying, Animal Welfare, Peace and Drugs law reform. The full text is available on Resolutions document http://www.unitarian.org.uk/pdfs/Resolutions_2013.pdf
Jane Williams.

*Stand by this faith.
Work for it and sacrifice for it.
There is nothing in all the world
so important
as to be loyal to this faith
which has placed before us
the loftiest ideals.*

Olympia Brown



OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY



Out of chaos order emerged, hence there is our wonderful world.

Looking around one sees that we humans have created very many beautiful and useful 'things' on Earth, which are either of a physical, mental or spiritual nature. All of these creations have materialised through positive thinking.

And whatever a person thinks, negative or positive, has an effect, not only because it is normally followed by an action, but because thoughts have a life of their own; they colour, direct, high-light and create. The more of a positive thinker a person is, the more s/he will be in touch with their environment and able to modify it for their better survival. - And there is more:

Someone once said: 'We are here on earth to work out our own salvation'. I believe everybody is, knowingly or unknowingly, living and working towards that goal. Positive thinking is one of the most basic and at the same time simplest tools to advance us. Negative thinking would not prevent us from getting there, but it would act as a brake and unnecessarily slow down our progress.

I believe that the more all of us 'think positive', the sooner will we reach an existence in a more peaceful and more advanced world.

Each positive thought is like a living seed. If it does not germinate now, it will at some future time. The important thing is to give it life and send it on its way. **Britta Burtles**



'Why I am a member at Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel'

I was raised a Catholic in a small farm town in California. My strongest memories of church life are being with good, earnest folks whose actions conveyed the feeling that God truly was love. I learned to roll up my sleeves and work alongside my father and mother as they lent a hand in some way or another, confident we would not be let down by the good people around us should we ourselves need help.

As my concept of the divine changed, the value of community and helpfulness I learned in my childhood church remained the same. I have a very strong feeling that my personal answers will be found within the gentle, merciful touch given during a time of need and the struggle to understand the true beauty in a brick wall or the full possibilities in a fallow field. These things have saved me in the past, in spite of my frequently being too distracted to notice them.

I was sold on RHUC the second time I heard Reverend O'Neill say the words, "May goodness and mercy follow you all the days of your life." This simple benediction brought it right back home for me. All should be so blessed, and I am reminded every week. **SF 'Steve' Thompson**

Thinking of becoming a member?

If you have been attending our chapel services and events for some time, you might consider making Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel your spiritual home and community.

Our Chapel community is independent, self-governing and self-financing, with a rich history of social change. As well as taking part in Sunday Services, our members organise and support a wide range of activities and events.

If you would like to find out more, please contact Rev Patrick O'Neill, Kate Buchanan (kateboo@gmail.com) or look out for Membership Group representatives at Sunday services - they're the ones wearing the ASK ME badges!





Our Larger Unitarian Movement

The Nightingale Centre

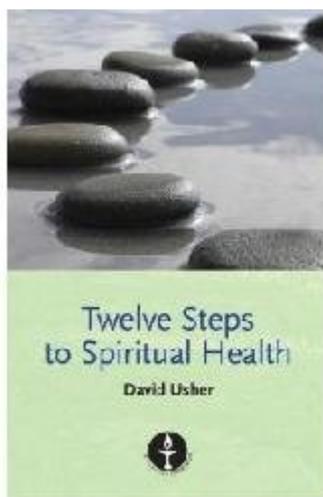
Open Day – Saturday 1 June 2013

Come and visit the centre, take in lunch, afternoon tea and all the stalls and activities. See the improvements made to the centre and meet up with old friends. Stay overnight if you wish. The Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow, Derbyshire.

Contact: Stella Burney Tel: 01298 871218



Twelve Steps to Spiritual Health



District Minister's book published

'*Twelve Steps to Spiritual Health*' by Rev David Usher, has now been published by Lindsey Press and is available through Unitarian Headquarters at Essex Hall, any good book shop, or online. The book is a compilation of twelve things you can do to enhance your spiritual health, and is written in easily accessible non-theological language. It is designed for personal reading, but each step concludes with a set of questions so it is also a good resource for a study group.

The price is £8.00 + p&p via Essex Hall (tel. 020 7240 2384; e-mail: alonghurst@unitarian.org.uk).

Here is the link for Amazon purchases:
<http://www.amazon.co.uk/Twelve-Steps-Spiritual-Health-David/dp/0853190836>

We hope you will buy a copy for your own use, and perhaps for a study group with your congregation.

On 26 April, David Usher, District Minister and former minister at RHUC, underwent major surgery. Please keep David in your hearts and send healing energy and prayers for his speedy recuperation after surgery.



MAY DIARY

(* = further details elsewhere in Bulletin)

Wednesday 1 May5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*
7.30pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel***Thursday 2 May**

7.00pm – ‘Questing Groups’ meet in the Chapel*

Sunday 5 May11.00am – Morning service - *'Spring Cleaning For the Soul'**. Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill7.00pm – Evening service – *'Beltane Celebration'* *
Led by the ‘Wheel of the Year’ group**Tuesday 7 May**

7.00pm – Poetry group meets*

Wednesday 8 May5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*
7.30 pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel***Wednesday 8 May**

7.00 – Management Board meets*

Saturday 11 May

11.00am-3.30pm – Second Hand Book Sale*

Sunday 12 May11.00am – Morning service – *'Friendship'**
Led by Rev Sue Woolley7.00pm – Evening service – *'Friendship'**
Led by Margaret Perry**Tuesday 14 May**

7.30pm - Social Action Committee meets

Wednesday 15 May5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*
7.30pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel***Thursday 16 May**

7.00pm – ‘Questing Groups’ meet in the Chapel*

Friday 17 May

7.30pm – Book Group meets*

Sunday 19 May11.00am - Morning service - *'The Differences That Unite Us'*
Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill7.00pm – Evening service – *'Come and Dance with Us'**
Led by Zoe Gerrard**Wednesday 22 May**5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*
7.30pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel***Sunday 26 May**11.00am - Morning service– *'Dust in the Wind: A Response to the Cynic'** Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill

12.30pm – Pot Luck Lunch in the hall*

7.00pm – Evening service - *'Dust in the Wind: A Response to the Cynic'** Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill**Thursday 30 May**

7.00pm - 'Questing Groups' meet in the Chapel*

Wednesday 29 May5.45pm - Tai Chi class in the Chapel*
7.30pm - Choir rehearsal in the Chapel***Chapel Directory****Chapel Office**Sharron Conduit
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Fax: 020 7435 7457**Chapel E-mail**

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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”*