



# Open Mind

The Bulletin of the Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel

November 2011

## November Services

**Sunday 6 November (11.00am and 7.00pm)**

**Rev. Dr. Patrick T. O'Neill**

**“Is Nothing Sacred Anymore?”**

Theologian Matthew Fox suggests that a people's grasp of what constitutes the Holy will affect its entire way of living, of questioning, of celebrating. He goes on to say that one of the most telling questions we can ask about our own spirituality is, "what is our sense of the holy? What, finally, do we consider sacred?" This Sunday we'll consider what "the holy" and "the Sacred" might still mean in our secular society.

**Sunday 13 November (11.00) -**

**Remembrance Sunday**

**Rev. Dr. Patrick T. O'Neill**

**“Remembrance”**

Remembrance plays an important part in a nation's identity, just as it does in an individual. We are shaped by what we are willing to remember, and by what we are willing to forget. As we honour Remembrance Sunday, Dr. O'Neill's sermon this morning considers the importance of remembrance in all our lives.

**Sunday 13 November (6.00pm) - SPECIAL REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY CONCERT "Requiem in Blue"**

**By Harvey Brough**

This exciting work is composed for jazz performers and will feature the chapel choir and a children's choir. It uses the Latin requiem mass, English folksong and words from Spoonface Steinberg by Lee Hall. Harvey Brough himself will conduct it! Come and sing with the choir: Rehearsals Wednesdays 7:30pm

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"Have you ever noticed a tree standing naked against the sky,  
How beautiful it is?

All its branches are outlined, and in its nakedness  
There is a poem, there is a song.  
Every leaf is gone and it is waiting for the spring.  
When the spring comes, it again fills the tree with  
The music of many leaves,  
Which in due season fall and are blown away.  
And this is the way of life."  
- Krishnamurti

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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](http://www.rosslynhillchapel.com)**

## From the Editor

Few people find November pleasant. The Anglo-Saxons called November 'Wind monath', because it was the time when the cold winds began to blow. They also called it 'Blod monath', because it was the time when cattle were slaughtered for winter food. The poet T.S. Elliot called it 'Sombre November' – solemn, sad and serious.

At Rosslyn Hill Chapel, we can focus on more positive aspects of this dark and solemn season – when we are offered the opportunity for action, inspiration and reflection.

**ACTION** – Every Friday evening, we are hosting a cold weather shelter – starting on 4 November. Here we have the opportunity to act. We can offer our help and support, while at the same time having a humbling and enjoyable experience. (see October 'Open Mind').

**INSPIRATION** - On Saturday 12 November, Rev. Patrick O'Neill will lead a fun and informative workshop focusing on 'why and how we worship'. Come and be inspired (see p. 4).

**REFLECTION** - 'Remembrance Sunday' offers an opportunity for reflection and as we honour the day, Rev. Dr. O'Neill's sermon considers the importance of remembrance in all our lives. In the evening, we have the privilege to listen to 'Requiem in Blue' by Harvey Brough (see p. 4).

On Sunday 27 November, James Partridge - Chief Executive Officer of Changing Faces – will share his powerful and touching story during the morning service, and in the afternoon, renowned pianist, Chisato Kusunoki, returns to perform a fundraising concert for Changing Faces (see p. 5).

Ingrid Tavkar (Editor)

## Chapel Directory

### Chapel Office

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[www.facebook.com/rosslynhillunitarianchapel](http://www.facebook.com/rosslynhillunitarianchapel)

### Chapel Address

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## PO'Nderings: "On Volunteering"

From our new Minister  
Rev. Patrick T. O'Neill

After many years in parish ministry, here is one thing I know about our Unitarian way of "doing church." Volunteering is the key upon which the whole blessed enterprise rests. Without members being willing to volunteer, to pitch in and lend a hand when there is work to be done, things to be organised, strategies to be developed, and budgets to be funded, even the boldest of visions and noblest of dreams cannot be realized.

A church or chapel can employ the professional leadership and support staff to lead the ministry and mission of the congregation, but it takes a strong and healthy volunteer ethic among the congregation itself to make it all happen.

In this regard, Rosslyn Hill Chapel is no different. We rely utterly on our volunteers for virtually every event and project we undertake. From Sunday worship services where volunteer greeters and worship assistants welcome visitors and participate in the service itself and serve tea and coffee afterwards, to choir members and musicians who lend their voices and talents to help create aesthetic services, to Worship Committee members who work with the minister to calendar services throughout the year, our volunteers work behind the scenes to make it all happen for the rest of us.

Another example is our excellent Social Action Group. This very active programme will once again be staffing our Cold Weather Shelter nights for homeless on Friday evenings next month. If they ask you for help, I hope you'll join them.

Then there are the volunteers who work on the Membership Committee, helping us to include new members and reach out to long-term members, as well. In the next number of weeks I'm hoping we can establish a truly active Religious Education Committee to support an increased emphasis on our children's programme. We need parents and others to step up and help us enliven and enrich what we offer to children in our midst. I will be actively seeking your support and participation in this area of chapel life. If we are to attract young families to our chapel, this work will be vital.

Not least of all, there are the splendid volunteers who serve as our Board and our Elders. Their leadership and their wise counsel keep us afloat and headed in good direction, thank goodness.

I cannot say loudly enough or often enough to those of you who give of your time, your talents, and your treasure to this congregation, Thank you, thank you, thank you!! And to you new-comers who are looking for ways to become more actively involved, call me! There are many ways to join in!

## 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 Youth Group will be continuing with Lizzy Lawrence as the adult advisor. Please contact Lizzy at 020 7328 2251 for details.

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.

### November Activities and Meetings

Tuesdays 1 November, 15 November and 29 November - "Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life" by Karen Armstrong at the Chapel. Come and discuss this book. Contact: Leighton Cole (email: leightoncole90@hotmail.com)

8 Nov. - Social Action Committee will meet at 7.30pm

10 Nov. - 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, John Lawrence, ahead of time as a courtesy.

21 Nov. - If you like to read and /or write poetry, the Chapel Poetry Group will meet at 7.30pm in the Chapel. For more information contact George Appleby (Tel: 020 7424 9733, email: gappleby@talktalk.net)

17 Nov. - The Book Group will meet at 7.30pm at the Magdala at 2a South Hill Park in Hampstead, to continue our discussion of Tolstoy's "War and Peace". Contact: Bill Ellington (Tel: 020 7354 0397, email: Ellingtonbill@aol.com)

# OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY

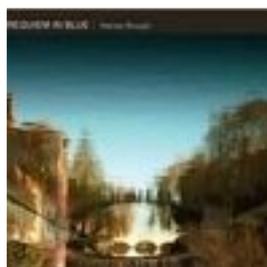
## Mark Your Diaries

### Come Join our Worship Group for a A Workshop on Unitarian Worship!

Saturday 12 November from 10.00am to 3.00pm  
Led by our Minister Rev. Patrick O'Neill  
at the Manse

Our minister has offered to host and present a workshop for us to consider the basics of what our Unitarian worship traditions are, what we do when we gather for worship, and why and how we do it. Designed not only for members of our Worship Group but for any who wish to deepen their understanding and appreciation of Worship. This workshop promises to be both fun and informative. Come join us!

(Since light lunch will be provided, do let us know you're coming. Email your RSVP to Patrick at [rvponeill@aol.com](mailto:rvponeill@aol.com))



### 'Requiem in Blue' by Harvey Brough Sunday 13 November

Special Remembrance Sunday early evening service at 6.00pm

Jazz instrumental and vocal soloists, Rosslyn Hill Chapel Choir, Camden Youth choir and Moss Hall Junior School choir, conducted by Harvey Brough, will perform this piece. He had a well-known band in the 1980's called 'Harvey and the Wallbangers' and composed this work in memory of his brother, who died in a motorbike accident when they were teenagers.

The music is a mixture of the Latin requiem mass, English folksong and jazz. It has been performed many times, including at Unity chapel. The text also includes an extract from a play called 'Spoonface Steinberg', by Lee Hall, which is a monologue by an autistic girl dying from leukaemia, on the nature of love and life.

The soloists will include the singers Clara Sanabras and Julie McKee and bass player Andy Hamill.

As this music forms the evening service there will be no charge for admission but there will be a retiring collection in aid of the choir expenses and towards a charity.

For further information contact: Georgina Drewe.  
[georgina.drewe@virgin.net](mailto:georgina.drewe@virgin.net)



## Joys & Sorrows

Let us keep in our thoughts Alex Fleetwood, Rachel Millward and family as they mourn the loss of Alex's father, who passed away recently.

Let us keep in our hearts Louise Hepburn and family, as they spend time with George Hepburn, who is now in a 'care home'.

Let us keep in our thoughts Will Hopper, who has been unwell, sending him healing energy.

### News from the Communications Team

We still need 'Helping Hands'!

Web design? Graphics? Photography?  
The Team are reviewing all aspects of the Chapel's communications, seeking to refresh and expand. We are calling for volunteers with creative spirits and expertise. Can you help? Please contact Ingrid Tavkar: 020 8445 0162 or email [rhuc.communications@gmail.com](mailto:rhuc.communications@gmail.com)

### Submitting copy:

Unsolicited copy is welcomed and should be emailed to: [RHUCbulletin@yahoo.com](mailto: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 December issue of 'Open Mind' is **Monday 21 November**.

*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.*

## OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY

### Chapel Flower Rota

November - December 2011

Sunday November 6	Helene Howard
Sunday November 13	Ann Finer
Sunday November 20	Christina
Sunday November 27	Patricia
Sunday December 4	Camino
Sunday December 11	Deborah *
Saturday December 17	10am – 1pm
Sunday December 25 (Christmas Day)	Helene Howard

Christmas Decorating with Helene, Ann, Ethaar, Helene (Altar), Ethaar (Windowledges), Ann (Chapel Decorations and tree), Wendy and we hope that all the lovely ladies in the Chapel Flower Team will help also as well as other Chapel members. Tea/coffee and mince pies will be provided (homemade if I get time!!)

\* We still need someone to help Deborah on the 11 December. We also have Sunday 8, 15, 22 and 29 January available.

Please let me know if you would like to do the flowers on any of these dates. Helene Howard: 07778 176425  
Helenehow@aol.com

#### FLOWER ARRANGEMENT SPONSORSHIP

Please consider sponsoring a floral arrangement for a Sunday service. For £20 (or more) you can give the arrangement in memory of someone, celebration of a special event, in thanksgiving for something, etc. Or you can contribute to the Christmas or Easter decorations.

It will be acknowledged in the Order of Service that week, unless you wish to remain anonymous. Sign up after services, or with Sharron in the office.



### A Fundraising Concert for Changing Faces

On 27 November at 3.00pm there is a treat in store - renowned pianist, Chisato Kusunoki, returns to the chapel to perform another fundraising concert for Changing Faces, the charity that supports and represents people with disfiguring conditions, and their families [<http://www.changingfaces.org.uk>].

Chisato will play an eclectic programme of Schubert Liszt, Bach, Rachmaninoff and Liadov with - according to The Times - her "wonderfully fleet and supple fingers, quick to locate the music's inner voices..."

Chisato's acclaimed career has included performances at the Wigmore Hall, St John's Smith Square, St Martin-in-the-Fields, Oxford's Sheldonian Theatre, the Sumida Triphony Hall in Tokyo and Singapore's Victoria Concert Hall. Tea and cakes, home-made by members of the congregation, will be served in an extended interval.

The money raised will support an expansion of Changing Faces' teams around the country, teams who change lives and change minds. They offer unique, specialist practical and emotional support to individuals with disfiguring conditions and education for professionals. They also campaign for 'face equality' - a world where people with disfigurements are treated fairly and enjoy equal rights and opportunities throughout their lives.

The charity's Founder and Chief Executive, James Partridge, will be present at the concert and will also be speaking during morning service the same day.

With thanks to the Social Action Committee and their helpers for supporting the event in all kinds of ways.

#### Helping Hands at Services

##### Stewards

November 6	James Chiriyankandath & Zoe Gerrard
November 13	Melanie Haberstroh & Janna Williams
November 20	Julia & Kerry Reid
November 27	TBA

##### Worship Group Reps

November 6	Leighton Cole
November 13	James Chiriyankandath
November 20	Kate Buchanan
November 27	Leighton Cole

##### Facebook

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](http://www.facebook.com/rosslynhillunitarianchapel). Thanks!

## 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 John Lawrence or Tanya Morrison (co-Chairs) in advance. The next meeting will be on Thursday 10 November 2011 at 7.00 pm in the Chapel (in the Committee Room).

Meeting on Thursday 13 October 2011, chaired by John Lawrence (co-Chair)

**Hall Roof Update:** work is going on apace on the hall roof, overseen by our administrator, Sharron Conduit. As it has progressed, new problems have come to light, such as a crumbling damp wall, which will have to be taken down and rebuilt. The additional expenses bring the total cost up to £130,000, which will draw heavily on our reserves. We will be launching a fundraising initiative that will link with the 150th anniversary of the chapel next year.

**Minister's report:** Rev. O'Neill gave an overview of his first month's activities, which included attending many different meetings in addition to his Sunday services and providing pastoral care to members of the congregation. He meets with Sharron weekly and with the Worship Group regularly. He is keen to have the leadership agree on a priority agenda for him to work on. He suggested that we have a retreat or Away Day to set these priorities.

**Administrator's Report:** Sharron reported that there is a damp patch on one of the internal sidewalls of the chapel; we have been advised to remove the damp plaster and will look to repair it once the wall is dry.

We are looking to make another car parking space in the grounds and this will be used for Chapel visitors while our two 'Chapel Business' spaces are off limits due to the hall roof works. We are also looking to redistribute the memorial stones to make space for new ones.

**Sound System:** James Chirankandath circulated two different estimates for completely new sound systems. It was decided that we cannot afford to replace the sound system now, but could invest in better microphones.

**Cold Weather Shelter:** It was agreed that we would support the Social Action Committee in this important activity, involving a large number of chapel members and friends in a valuable service to homeless people.

**Property Sale Group:** It looks hopeful that the Willoughby Road sale may go through – contacts are to be exchanged on October 19. The buyer will then have 6 months to sort out the Right to Light issue.



## Events in the Chapel

**Saturday 5 November 7.30pm** – Event – Further details TBA

**Sunday 6 November 12.00pm-2.00pm** – “RAGA in the Chapel”

Indian singing workshop with Susan Ann Jones. Simple, natural and meditative, Raga singing can take you to a deep place in yourself. Come and sing as a group and individually to experience the divine acoustics of the Chapel, no booking required. Sliding scale price: £10, £7, £5. For more information, please contact Susan on 020 7794 4836

**Saturday 12 November 10.00am** – Nearly New Sale by Hampstead Women's Club

**Friday 18 November 7.30pm** – Recital by Yoon Chung – Further details TBA

**Saturday 19 November 7.45pm** – The Robyn Koh & Penelope Whinnett Piano Duo. A recital of music for piano four-hands in aid of University College London Hospital's Leukaemia & Lymphoma Unit. Their adventurous programme, from Bach, Mozart and Brahms to De Falla, will also include Greg Anderson's spectacular arrangement of Strauss' Blue Danube Waltz. Tickets on the door £12 cons. £5

**Saturday 26 November 7.30pm** – Further details TBA

## How Old Are You?

Quite often I hear people of my age (75) and older say: "I feel as if I were 45." I know exactly what they mean, as I don't feel a day over 41, and at times, that changes downwards. For a long time I thought this was odd, until I realized the following:

From a very young age we are being told how old we are: 3 years, 4, 5, 6 and more. Nobody ever tells us that this applies only to our bodies. Nobody teaches us to distinguish between our selves and our bodies. It gets all mixed up and confused: People get used to believing they are their bodies, and to thinking that, together with their bodies, they get older year by year. And yet, many, maybe all have this feeling later on in life that they are much younger than their birth certificates suggest. They wonder about it, but neither ask 'why?', nor, if they do, get a meaningful answer to the question.

Consider this: In order to be able to live on Earth we have to have mortal bodies, although we are immortal spiritual beings. We, the beings, are not located in time, and are therefore timeless and ageless. We live forever, whence we came, with neither beginning nor end. Infinity is ours, and we can choose how young (or old) we are at any moment in time. --Britta Burtles

*Articles express the views of their authors.*

# Our Larger Unitarian Movement

## Social Justice Fair - New Unity, Islington

Saturday 12 November 1.00pm – 4.00pm

Are there social issues that you are passionate about? Do you want to be more engaged with your community? Are you looking to make a difference in the world? If so, come to the Social Justice Fair at New Unity in Islington on 12 November. The aim of the fair is to bring together a variety of groups involved with social justice and social activism in order to "Enlighten, Engage and Encourage to Act". It is a great time to learn about new and on-going initiatives, both in the London community and globally, and find out how you can engage, spread the word, and/or volunteer.

The event is sponsored by 100 Acts of Unity ([www.100actsofunity.org](http://www.100actsofunity.org)), who are delighted to present several engaging speakers and multi-media presentations throughout the day. There will also be a food and drink stand full of delicious treats for sale. Entry fee: £3 (suggested donation), free for students, unemployed and pensioners. We still have room for more stall-holders and presenters. For more information, please contact Ann Howell at: [an@100actsofunity.org](mailto:an@100actsofunity.org)



## The Festival of Unitarians in the South East (FUSE)

Friday 3 – Sunday 5 February 2012

The FUSE is being lit... A full programme is being planned, featuring:

- A keynote presentation by Robin Ince, TV presenter, comedian and scientist
- A major worship service, led by Rev. Patrick O'Neill, minister at Rosslyn Hill Chapel, Hampstead
- More than twenty workshops on church life, personal spirituality, music and art

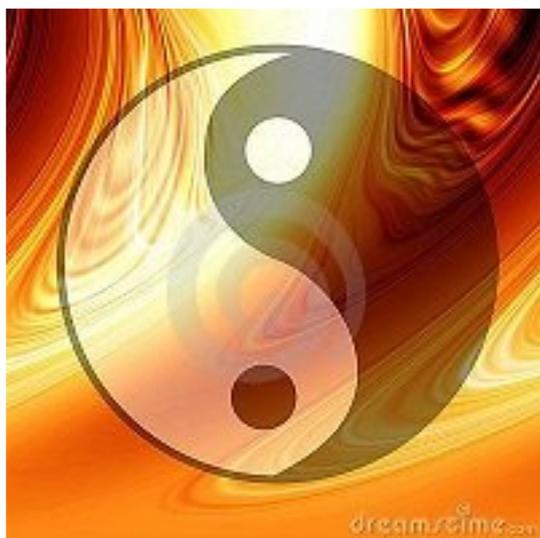
### Networking and fun

The Weekend Festival will be held in Chatsworth Hotel, Worthing [www.chatsworthworthing.co.uk](http://www.chatsworthworthing.co.uk) Single rooms will be £195. Shared rooms will be £145. Day delegate rate is £47 (plus £19 for dinner).

Bursaries will be available on the basis of need. Registration and the web site are open now. Check out the full programme and book soon. [www.fusefest.org.uk](http://www.fusefest.org.uk)

Contact: Rev. David Usher

E-mail: [davidusher@ldpa.org.uk](mailto:davidusher@ldpa.org.uk)



Meditation Group at Golders Green  
Unitarians

Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday between  
1.30pm and 2.30pm.

Drawing from the wisdom of the East and  
West, in silence, sometimes with music,  
movement and chanting, we create a quiet  
space for ourselves. All are welcome.

For more information contact Ingrid

Tavkar: Tel: 020 8455 0162; email:  
[ingridtavkar@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ingridtavkar@tiscali.co.uk)

"If you think that peace and happiness are somewhere else  
and you run after them, you will never arrive.

It is only when you realise that peace and happiness  
are available here in the present moment that you will be  
able to relax.

In daily life, there is so much to do and so little time.

You may feel pressured to run all the time.

Just stop! Touch the ground of the present moment deeply  
And you will touch real peace and joy." (Thich Nhat Hanh)

# November Diary

## **Tuesday 1 November**

7.00pm - "Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life" in the Chapel\*

## **Wednesday 2 November**

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel\*  
7.00pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel\*

## **Sunday 6 November**

11.00am – Morning service – Is Nothing Sacred Anymore?"  
Led by Rev. Dr. Patrick T. O'Neill

7.00pm – Evening service - "Is Nothing Sacred Anymore?"  
Led by Rev. Dr. Patrick T. O'Neill

## **Tuesday 8 November**

7.30pm – Social Action Committee meets\*

## **Wednesday 9 November**

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel\*  
7.00pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel\*

## **Thursday 10 November**

7.30pm – Management Committee meets\*

## **Sunday 13 November**

11.00am – Morning service – "Remembrance"  
Led by Rev. Dr. Patrick T. O'Neill

6.00pm – Evening service – "Requiem in Blue" by Harvey Brough

## **Tuesday 15 November**

7.00pm – "Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life" in the chapel\*

## **Wednesday 16 November**

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel\*  
7.00pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel\*

## **Thursday 17 November**

7.30pm – Chapel Book Club\*

## **Sunday 20 November**

11.00am - Morning service – "Forgiveness: The Hardest Act of Love"  
Led by Rev. Dr. Patrick T. O'Neill

7.00pm – Evening service - "Forgiveness: The Hardest Act of Love"  
Led by Rev. Dr. Patrick T. O'Neill

## **Monday 21 November**

7.00pm – Poetry group meets in the chapel\*

## **Wednesday 23 November**

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel\*  
7.00pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel\*

## **Sunday 27 November**

11.00am - Morning service – Special Guest Speaker James Partridge - Chief Executive Officer of Changing Faces Service led by Rev. Dr. Patrick T. O'Neill

3.00pm – Concert \*

7.00pm – Evening service – TBA

## **Tuesday 29 November**

7.30pm - "Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life" in the Chapel\*

## **Wednesday 30 November**

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel\*  
7.00pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel\*



## November Services, cont'd from front page

### **Sunday 20 November (11.00am and 7.00pm)**

**Rev. Dr. Patrick T. O'Neill**

#### **"Forgiveness: The Hardest Act of Love"**

Despite all the practice we've had over a lifetime of telling each other we're sorry for all the intentional and unintentional hurts and harms we do to each other in this limited living space together - forgiving each other is hard. Forgiveness is hard. It's hard to do, it's hard to give, it's hard to receive, and it's even hard to talk about. It is soul work on the deepest level. Come join us this Sunday as we explore the tender territory of Forgiveness. A great Sunday to invite a friend to come to church.

### **Sunday 27 November (11.00am only)**

**Service led by Rev. Dr. Patrick T. O'Neill**

#### **Special Guest Speaker James Partridge - Chief Executive Officer of Changing Faces**

This Sunday we welcome back to our pulpit James Partridge of Changing Faces, a London agency that works with patients going through facial disfigurement. Sharing from his own journey following a car accident that left him disfigured, James Partridge will describe how he went on to found an agency that helps so many others and their families deal with the issues of disfigurement. Come join us and hear this powerful and touching story. Rev. O'Neill will lead the morning service.

### **Sunday 27 November (7.00pm) - TBA**