



Open Mind

The Bulletin of Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel

October 2013

*'October's the month when the smallest breeze
Gives us a shower of autumn leaves.
Bonfires and pumpkins, Leaves sailing down -
October is red and golden and brown!'*



October Services

Sunday 6 October (11.00am & 7.00pm)

Guest Preacher Rev Robert T. Latham

*'Frolicking In Mystery:
Making Sense of the Spiritual'*

What is spirituality? What does it have to do with mystery? Why is it different from all the other paradigms out there? Is it catching? What if I don't want it? Do I have to give up my humanist values in order to be spiritual? What does it have to do with the principles that govern the universe?

Our Guest Preacher this morning is the Rev Robert T. Latham, a distinguished American Unitarian minister who is visiting England. Robert recently retired after some forty years as a parish minister and denominational official. He is the author of several well known books on Unitarianism.

Sunday 13 October (11.00am & 7.00pm)

Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill preaching

'First Principle: The Problem of Evil'

Harvard philosopher Gordon Kaufman writes, "No one denies the existence of pain and suffering, moral perversity and depravity, social and political failure, and all would like to ameliorate or overcome them..... The problem of evil is an issue for every world view or interpretation of life, every theology must make account for it." The existence of evil in the world, indeed the existence of evil in some people, does not negate our humanist valuing of dignity and worth in every person. Just the opposite is true. Our cherishing of that principle leads us to live by a certain view of human nature that is the antithesis, the exact opposite, of radical fundamentalism.

Sunday 20 October (11.00am & 7.00pm)

Special Service led by the Elders of the Chapel

'The Wisdom of Age'

In a special service devoted to the theme of 'The Wisdom of Age' the Chapel elders will discuss how peoples' experience and judgement evolve over time. This perspective needs to be captured in our religious community along with the energy and enthusiasm of youth.

Sunday 27 October (11am & 7.00pm)

Bring-A-Friend Sunday

Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill preaching

"What I Don't Understand About Unitarianism"

This morning our minister 'fesses up' about some things he still hasn't figured out about our Unitarian approach to religion and religious community, even after thirty years in our ministry. That's all he's willing to tell us about today's sermon. Curious? Come join us for worship today. And do bring a friend with you!

Come join us for worship today...
and bring a friend along.

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 **November** issue of 'Open Mind' is **Friday 18 October 2013**.

From the Editor

*"Autumn to winter, winter into spring,
spring into summer, summer into fall.
So rolls the changing year, and so we change;
motion so swift, we know not that we move."*

Dianah Murlock Graik

Autumn marks the transition from summer into winter – a time for thanksgiving and harvest festivals. On the last Sunday in September, we celebrated the fruits of harvests, and many of us contributed gifts to our Harvest Table which were then donated to a local charity.

Harvest is the time of year when we reflect on what we have to be thankful for – we focus on the abundance we have in our lives and count our blessings. Hopefully this should make us want to share with others who are not so fortunate. In the words of Francis of Assisi – 'it is in giving that we receive'.

Now in October, we have several opportunities to practise 'giving'. We may decide to increase our financial contribution to our Chapel community; we can volunteer with the 'Cold Weather Shelter' (see p.4); we can make contributions to the Food Bank (see p.4); and we can get involved with 'SimpleGifts' (see p.7) - just a few suggestions to start with.

If we want inspiration, we can join the 'Questing Groups' (see p. 7) – in the words of our Minister, 'Do something good for yourself – come join us, and bring a friend!'

Autumn is a time of rest and introspection, and a time of planning – planning for 'springtime'.

We prepare ourselves for the stillness in the dark, reaching into the deep places of regeneration within and bringing back the treasures of creativity and spiritual knowledge.

Ingrid Tavkar

*"As we enter the dark seasons of the year,
May the starlight and firelight
continue to show us the way home.
May hugs and smiles continue to warm us
And may the voices of our friends
surround us with love."*





PO'Nderings

From our Minister
Rev Patrick T. O'Neill

Why Join A Unitarian Church?

Over the next month or two, as we engage some of the work of the Chapel, you will be hearing the leaders talk a lot about 'membership' and why it is important. You have your priority reasons for belonging to this Chapel and I have mine, but I've always liked the way an old colleague of mine, Rev John Wolf once put it. John was minister of one of the largest Unitarian congregations in the world in Tulsa, Oklahoma. John wrote,

"There is only one reason for joining a Unitarian church, that is, to support it. You want to support it because it stands against superstition and fear. Because this church points to what is noblest and best in human life. Because it is open to women and men of whatever race, creed, colour, place or origin, or sexual orientation.

You want to support a Unitarian church because it has a free pulpit. Because you can hear ideas expressed there which would cost any other minister his or her job. You want to support it because it is a place where children come without being saddled with guilt or terrified of some 'celestial peeping-tom', where they can learn that religion is for joy, for comfort, for gratitude and love.

You want to support it because it is a place where walls between people are torn down rather than built-up. Because it is a place for the religious displaced persons of our time, the refugees from mixed marriages, the unwanted free-thinkers and those who insist against orthodoxy that they must work out their own beliefs.

You want to support a Unitarian church because it is more concerned with human beings than with dogmas. Because it searches for the holy, rather than dwell upon the depraved. Because it calls no one a sinner, yet knows how deep is the struggle in each person's breast and how great is the hunger for what is good.

You want to support a Unitarian church because it can laugh. Because it stands for something in a day when religion is still more concerned with platitudes than with prejudice and war. You want to support it not because it buys you some insurance policy towards your funeral service, but because it insults neither your intelligence nor your conscience, and because it calls you to worship what is truly worthy of your sacrifice.

There is only one reason for joining a Unitarian church. To support it!"

If you've been attending for a while, and this place feels like a spiritual home to you, what are you waiting for? Call up the Chapel office today and tell us you want to make your membership here official. We welcome your support!

See you in Chapel....po'n

Chapel Activities



Weekly Activities

Children's Programme 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.

Monthly Activities and Meetings

Questing Groups – a Religious Education programme for adults, led by our Minister Rev Patrick O'Neill. Meeting on Mondays **7, 14, 21, 28 October at 7.00pm** in the Chapel. (see p. ? for more information)

Poetry Group – if you like to read and /or write poetry, the group will meet on **Tuesday 1 October at 7.30pm**. For more information contact George Appleby (Tel: 020 7424 9733, email: gappleby@talktalk.net)

Social Action Committee will meet on **Tuesday 8 October - at 7.30pm**

Management Board will meet on **Thursday 10 October at 7.00pm** in the Chapel Committee Room. Please contact Kerry Reid (kornreid@hotmail.com) if you wish to attend.

Book Group will meet on **Thursday 17 October at 7.30pm** at The Magdala at 2a South Hill Park in Hampstead. We will discuss 'Death in Venice' by Thomas Mann. For further information, please contact Bill Ellington at ellingtonbill@aol.com

Pot Luck Lunch - **Sunday 27 October** in the side aisle, after the morning service. This is an informal, friendly occasion - 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. **Margaret Perry**

OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR COLD
WEATHER SHELTER -
FRIDAY NIGHTS & SATURDAY
MORNINGS
NOVEMBER TO JANUARY**



Homelessness can affect anybody, for any reason, the main causes being lack of money and relationship breakdown. It is increasing in Camden - by 42% in the past two years.

The Chapel is joining in Camden's Cold Weather Shelter initiative this winter for the 6th year running, providing up to 15 homeless guests each week with dinner, conversation and entertainment, a safe bed, and breakfast, all in the Chapel hall.

As the guests tell us, our Shelter really does change lives, and it also greatly enriches the lives of the volunteers who help out. There are lots of different ways to help - serving food, chatting, playing board games, staying overnight, making breakfast - or donating towards the costs (£100 per week for the 10 weeks of our Shelter)*. If you would like to take part or find out more, please contact the co-ordinator, Claire Julian on 020 7435 8254 or claire.marley@mac.com

*If you wish to donate by cheque, please make it payable to Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel (and write Cold Weather Shelter on the back and send it to the Chapel office).



Values in Action

The Social Action Committee is delighted to invite anyone who is passionate about a cause or working, volunteering or campaigning for change to tell Chapel friends about it.: Reverend Patrick has offered a 3-minute slot for anyone who wishes to 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 your topic to Social Action Committee member, Claire Julian [claire.marley@mac.com] so that these brief contributions can be co-ordinated.

Rosslyn Hill Chapel supports a Food Bank!

What can we do?

A shopping bag will be displayed in the Chapel where food can be collected. Each month the box of food will be taken to the Chalk Farm food bank so they can distribute it to local people in need. All you need to do is just add one small item from the list below to your shopping every few weeks and bring it to Chapel to put in the box. It is as easy as that!

SHOPPING LIST

Milk (UHT or powdered)
Sugar (500g)
Fruit juice (carton)
Soup
Pasta sauces
Sponge pudding (tinned)
Tomatoes (tinned)
Cereals
Rice pudding (tinned)
Tea Bags/instant coffee
Instant mashed potato
Rice/pasta
Tinned meat/fish
Tinned fruit
Jam
Biscuits or snack bars



Coffee & Tea money during October in aid of WaterAid's work in Tanzania



Tanzania is home to 45 million people – almost half of whom don't have access to safe water and just a quarter of the population have access to adequate sanitation. Each year 20,000 children under five die from preventable diarrhoea.

Since 1983, WaterAid has helped 1.4 million people gain access to safe water and more than 70,000 to sanitation - saving and transforming lives.

Please help them continue vital work in Tanzania

*“Keeping the water pure is one of the first
laws of life.
If you destroy the water, you destroy life.”*

-Oren Lyons, Onondaga Elder

OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY



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, Dominic Williams (dominicwilliams@gmail.com) or look out for Membership Group representatives at Sunday services - they're the ones wearing the ASK ME badges!

Will you Invite-a-Friend to the 27 October service?

As members of the chapel, many of us get a lot out of attending services on Sundays. Why not give the gift of community to someone by inviting them to our special service about friendship on 27 October? It would be rude not to!



Stewards

6 October	Britta & Jim Burtles
13 October	Kama Hajiyevah
20 October	Jane & David Williams
27 October	Leighton Cole

Worship Assistants

6 October	James Chiriyankandath
13 October	Julia Reid
20 October	Leighton Cole
27 October	Zoe Gerrard

Joys & Concerns

Progress Report on Stephanie Heynderickx

There is good news of Stephanie. Though her progress is slow, it is definite and her situation is improving week by week. Her determination is surprising and heartening given how badly injured she was but she still has a long way to go. Please continue to hold her and her family in your hearts and prayers.

When I visited her today, Stephanie, sent a special message for all of us in chapel. Very clearly she asked me to tell everyone she says, "Hello".

Sally Somerville

Other events in the Chapel Events



Friday 11 October (7.30pm) - Concert by Manos, the man, the music. Revealing the profound, at time prophetic, musings of this cherished Greek composer and exploring the range of his music beyond his most famous achievement 'Never on Sunday'. Tickets at the door £12/concessions £10

Saturday 12 October (7.30pm) - A Fantastical & Veritable Grand Variety Evening presented by David and Inna Power. Fine Opera, Old Time Music Hall with wonderful music and pianist. Tickets £15/concessions £10

Saturday 19 October (10.00am-5.00pm) - 'Ikebana' - Japanese flower arrangement workshop with instructor from their HQ in Tokyo.

Monday 21 October (7.30pm) - Concert by Italian Orchestra

Friday 25 October (7.30pm) - Recital - BOSS (Brighton Opera Singers' Studio). A Halloween Concert, featuring works by Purcell, Verdi, Boito, Britten, Humperdinck and many more. Tickets £10/concessions £8

Saturday 26 October (7.00pm) - Concert by Emmy Destinn Foundation

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 Kerry Reid (Chair) in advance. The next meeting will be on **Thursday 10 October 2013 at 7.00pm**, venue tbc.

Meeting held on September the 12th 2013
Kerry Reid as chair.

Special General : The details and arrangements of the forthcoming SGM were discussed and finalised.

Minister's Report: Rev. O'Neill expressed his pleasure that our new website was ready to launch and his thanks to all who were involved in this. He hoped that a discussion could take place regarding the expiry of his visa and the need for a search process to be conducted to fulfil UK Border Agency requirements. Rev. O'Neill noted that the new season has got off to a good start with over one hundred people attending the services on 8th September. He announced his plans to hold a series of Questing Groups in the autumn, as well as some Unitarian discussions for newcomers on occasional Sundays after church. He noted that the contract with our organist Matthew Fletcher has been signed by the minister, the chair and Matthew.

Administrator's Report: The summer has been a busy few months, with work being undertaken both inside and outside the buildings. Sharron expressed her thanks to the caretaker for all his assistance at this busy time. We currently have four vacant spaces in the car park due to some who rent these giving notices that they no longer require them. The licence for the 2013-2014 has been agreed and signed by the Rona Hart Dance School. Sharron expressed concern about the security of our site and it was agreed that we should seek advice on this matter.

Treasurer's Report: It was noted that revenues cover less than one third of expenses when there is no tenant income – an on-going problem for RHUC. A greater contribution of funds by members will help this. We have agreed to make a contribution to the Administrator's pension and the Staffing Committee is working on the details of this. We now have £800k under M&G's management, and £200k split between low interest accounts awaiting the Property Committee's decisions for the maintenance and renovation of our buildings. The Treasurer reminded us that this wealth belongs to future generations and not us. The budget for next year is being formalised. The Treasurer expressed her wish to take the opportunity of the forthcoming SGM to inspire our members to contribute more so that we have something left for future generations.

Other Matters: It was agreed that £1,200 should be made available to purchase two new microphones for the chapel and that a contribution from Chapel funds should be made towards our Cold Weather Shelter.

Chapel Website (www.rosslynhillchapel.org.uk)

As you know the Communications team and I have been working with a designer on revamping the Chapel website. The new site is now completed and went live on 18 September to replace our current site.

There have been a few stop - starts and many learning curves in this process but overall the team was efficient, passionate and committed. We hope that all the necessary information about our Chapel history, community, and spiritual message is clear and present on the new site. Our aim and hope was to create a site that was current, relevant, would attract new visitors to our Chapel and inform our current congregation and members.

The site is a landing pad for all of this and a path for people to further connect with the Chapel through its weekly updated services and events listings, recorded sermons, and community groups. Social media links including: the Minister's Blog, Facebook and Twitter promote further interaction with the Chapel.

I want to extend a 'thank you' to Janna, Ingrid, Margaret on the Communications team for their great contribution, input and hard work. As well, special thanks to Kate, Erich, Rev Patrick O'Neill, Patricia Williams, Dominic and Scott (designer). Without all of your contributions none of this would be possible.

Of course we will consider suggestions and comments to improve the site and expect the site to grow organically throughout the months/years - with Erich Wagner's continued help we will be able to update photos and content on the site as we see fit. **Stella Fakiyesi**



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

Eight Monday evenings in October and November (7.00 pm)

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.

Note: This Autumn series does not repeat the same questions we explored in the Spring. New questions!

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

Be a Part of the Fun and Help
Seniors/New Migrants at the inaugural
"New Neighbours/Old Neighbours" Lunch this October



SimpleGifts: Unitarian Centre for Social Action in Bethnal Green, East London is proud to announce the launch of our "New Neighbours/Old Neighbours" initiative. After a successful trial run this past August, we will open the doors on Thursday 10 October from 12 to 1:30 for a weekly free lunch club for long-time residents of Bethnal Green and new migrants to the area. Located at the SimpleGifts offices at the historic Mansford Street Church and Mission (117 Mansford Street, E2 6LX) old and new neighbours will enjoy a hot lunch cooked and served by Unitarian and local volunteers while sharing their stories, tips and advice about life in East London. Come on Thursday 10 October and hear a short talk about some of the fascinating history of Unitarian involvement in social change in East London going back to the 1850s.

We are eagerly seeking new volunteers willing to come early to chop vegetables, lay out tables, serve locals and help clear up afterwards whilst enjoying the company of other Unitarians and making a difference for seniors and new immigrants

Mansford St. Church is an easy seven minutes walk from the Bethnal Green tube line and has a lift for those with mobility issues. For more information please contact Rev Rob Gregson 07411280667 and for more details about the location/how to find us look on our website: www.simplegiftsucsa.org.uk.

Rev Rob Gregson

OCTOBER DIARY

(* = further details elsewhere in Bulletin)

Tuesday 1 October

7.00pm – Poetry Group meets*

Wednesday 2 October

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

7.30pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel*

Sunday 6 October

11.00am – Morning service –

'Frolicking In Mystery: Making Sense of the Spiritual' *

Led by Guest Preacher Rev Robert T. Latham

7.00pm – Evening service -

'Frolicking In Mystery: Making Sense of the Spiritual' *

Led by Guest Preacher Rev Robert T. Latham

Monday 7 October

7.00pm – Questing Groups session in the Chapel*

Tuesday 8 October

7.30pm – Social Action Committee meets

Wednesday 9 October

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

7.30pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel*

Thursday 10 October

7.00pm – Management Board meets*

Sunday 13 October

11.00am – Morning service –

'First Principle: The Problem of Evil' *

Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill

7.00pm – Evening service –

'First Principle: The Problem of Evil' *

Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill

Monday 14 October

7.00pm – Questing Groups session in the Chapel*

Wednesday 16 October

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

7.30pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel*

Thursday 17 October

7.30pm – Book Group meets*

Sunday 20 October

11.00am – Morning service – *'The Wisdom of Age'* *

Special Service led by the Elders of the Chapel

7.00pm – Evening service – *'The Wisdom of Age'* *

Special Service led by the Elders of the Chapel

Monday 21 October

7.00pm – Questing Groups session in the Chapel Hall*

Wednesday 23 October

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

7.30pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel*

Sunday 27 October

11.00am – Morning service –

'What I Don't Understand About Unitarianism' *

Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill

12.15am – 'Pot Luck Lunch' in the Chapel side aisle*

7.00pm – Evening service –

'What I Don't Understand About Unitarianism' *

Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill

Monday 28 October

7.00pm – Questing Groupssession in the Chapel*

Chapel Directory

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