



Open Mind

The Bulletin of Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel

May 2014

May Services

Sunday 4 May (11.00am)
Flower Communion Sunday
Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill preaching
'The Seven Principles of Unitarianism'

This Sunday we celebrate our annual Flower Communion Sunday. Flower Communion has been a Unitarian tradition ever since they were started in Prague in the 1930s. Everyone is invited to bring a cut flower to add to our communal bouquet and everyone takes one home. Dr O'Neill's sermon today outlines the principles that undergird our Unitarian philosophy. Come join us for worship today...and bring a friend along.

Sunday 4 May (7.00pm)
'Beltane Celebration'

The Wheel of the Year group leads a pagan service celebrating the festival of Beltane, focusing on purification, love and fertility. Come! Come! Whoever you are...and celebrate Beltane with music, poetry, & reflection.

Sunday 11 May (11.00am)
Guest Preacher Matthew Smith
'Facing Loneliness'

The service explores how we can transform loneliness by a more intense engagement with the present moment and through the experience of inclusive religious community. Come join us for worship today...and bring a friend along.

Sunday 11 May (7.00pm)
Beginning our new 2nd Sunday Evening Series
'Meditation'

Thich Nhat Hanh, the 87-year-old Zen master, states, 'Meditation is not to get out of society, to escape from society, but to prepare for a re-entry into society.' - 'When we observe deeply, the fruit of our meditation will naturally transform into some kind of action.' Come and join us for silence, reflection, poetry and music. Led by Ingrid Tavkar.

Sunday 18 May (11.00am)
Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill preaching
'That Which Does Not Change'

Do we live in a world of bewildering flashing change? Most certainly we do. Is it frightening at times, bewildering at times, confusing at times, easy to lose our way and lose sight of our values? Indeed. It is religion's task to anchor us in the winds of change so that in the midst of the shifting storms of the external world, we still know who we are. This morning we'll consider that which does not change. Come join us for worship today!

Sunday 18 May (7.00pm)
Beginning our new 3rd Sunday Evening Series
'Exploring Our Values'
Session 1: Mapping Our Spiritual Journey

The exercise of this first session is designed to give participants an overview of where their personal spiritual journey has led them to date, and a listing of some of the influences that have thus far helped shape their religious understanding. Led by our Minister. On the 3rd Sunday evening of each month we will explore a different 'value' of the spiritual journey. You'll want to bring a notebook! And why not bring a friend along, too!

Sunday 25 May (11.00am)
Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill preaching
'The Thick and Thin of Religion'

History provides many examples, according to historian Jonah Blank, of religions that have flourished and then ultimately disappeared because they did not observe a balance of thick and thin, the rational and the emotive, the thought as well as the poetry and ritual of religion, the mind and the inspiration that compose human vision at its most complete. Come join us this morning as Dr O'Neill leads us in an interesting conversation about the 'Thick' and 'Thin' of religion!

Sunday 25 May (7.00pm)
Beginning our new 4th Sunday Evening Series
'Witnessing Our Faith: Where Are We Called?'

This evening we begin a monthly series, 'Witnessing Our Faith', in which we will examine the notion of where and how our personal faith calls us to certain actions or endeavours that give witness to our faith. As Gandhi once said, 'Faith has consequences. I live in a certain way, and I do certain things because of my personal faith.' Dr. O'Neill introduces us this evening to the spiritual notion of "calling" and asks each of us to consider where we might feel called by the promptings of faith. Come join us for a lively discussion which will continue now every 4th Sunday evening of the month.

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

**The Rosslyn Hill 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 2014**.

From the Editor

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

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.

The Wheel of the Year continues to turn. Spring gives way to summer's first bloom. In Celtic tradition, it is known as Beltane. Pagans celebrate Beltane with Maypole dances, leaping over fires, preparing May baskets filled with flowers and goodwill to be given to friends and family, as well as taken to elderly neighbours or nursing homes.

On the first Sunday in May, we will celebrate with a 'Flower Communion' during the morning service. In the evening, the Chapel's Wheel of the Year group will celebrate 'Beltane' with music, poetry, reflection and dance.

Sunday Evenings at the Chapel - During May, we will start a new format for our evening services as follows: 4 May – Wheel of the Year, 11 May – Meditation, 18 May Exploring Values, 25 May – Witnessing our Faith (see front page). So please come some Sunday evenings and lend us your presence and your energy. **Ingrid Tavkar**

The powers 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

Spring Prayer

In this season of life renewed,
May the spirit of Spring
Inhabit our hearts,
And bring to bloom the dreams
That we have carried through our winter.

May the spirit of the birds
Make nest in our souls,
Take wing in our awareness,
Bring song to ears grown dull
From lack of listening.

May the freshness of the flowers
Bring vibration to our vision,
Bring color to our imaginations,
Perfume our passage through the world.

May the winds of grace
Give billow to the sail of our endeavors.
May April's rains, suddenly arrived,
Softening the soil of our souls,
Give root to green expectation.

This world we know must find anew
The ways to be reborn, remade, repaired,
Recalled from the madness of war,

Spirit of Life,
Spirit of Spring,
Inhabit our hearts
This greenest of days,
And bring to bloom
The flowers of Peace, the best that is in us.
Amen.

....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.

Monthly Activities and Meetings

QUESTING GROUPS – a Religious Education programme for adults, led by our Minister Rev Patrick O'Neill. Meeting on **Thursday 1 May at 7.00pm**, in the Chapel.

CHAPEL MANAGEMENT BOARD meets on **Thursday 8 May at 7.00pm** in the Chapel Committee room. Members of the Chapel are welcome to attend but please contact the Chair, Kerry Reid, ahead of time as a courtesy.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE meets on **Tuesday 13 May at 7.30pm**

CHAPEL BOOK GROUP – will meet again on **Thursday 15 May at 7.30pm** at the Magdala pub at 2a South Hill Park. We will be discussing 'Americanah' by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. For further information, please contact Bill Ellington at ellingtonbill@aol.com

CHAPEL POETRY GROUP – will **not** meet in May. For more information contact George Appleby (Tel: 020 7424 9733, email: gappleby@talktalk.net)

STITCH & STORIES GROUPS – meet on **Thursday 8 May (1.00-3.00pm) & Thursday 22 May (7.00pm-9.00pm)** - to knit and crochet for various charity projects, and to share personal stories. The group is open to anyone who would like to learn to knit or crochet as well. Everyone is welcome. For more information contact: Ingrid Tavkar (Tel: 020 8455 0162; email: ingridtavkar@gmail.com)

POT LUCK LUNCHES - The next 'Pot Luck Lunch' will be on **Sunday 25 May** in the side aisle 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 or make a financial contribution (£2.50 minimum). We look forward to seeing you there.
Margaret Perry

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 Kerry Reid (Chair) in advance. The next meeting will be on **Thursday 8 May at 7.00pm** in the Chapel Committee room.

Meeting held on 10 April 2014

Dominic Williams as chair

Visa Process: Rev Patrick O'Neill and Patricia Williams are working with a lawyer to expedite the renewal of their visas.

Wheelchair access: Came up again and is being researched by the Estates Group. The caretaker is now opening both gates at the front of the Chapel before the Sunday services. This allows access to the Chapel for wheelchair users.

Staffing / Contractual issues: The Administrator's and Caretaker's contracts are still being negotiated. Following Anthea Williams' recent resignation, a replacement for her role as leader of the Children's Programme is being sought.

Accounting: A review of the current system is underway, as is research into computer based streamlining. General procedures for safeguarding funds and possible new bank accounts are also in discussion by the Treasury Committee.

Local Links: A mention was made (with plenty of lead time!) about the need to have better communication between the organisers of the Hampstead Christmas Fair and RHUC, to give the Chapel greater visibility at the event.

Music: The need to motivate the talents of the members and congregation and others, and the need for a Music Committee, to continue the tradition of quality music at RHUC was raised.

Celebration of the 35th Anniversary of Ministry



Easter Sunday was the 35th anniversary of Rev Patrick O'Neill's Ministry. We marked this occasion with a small celebration, and cake was served after the morning service.

Patrick's response. 'May I say a deep thank you for the beautiful cake on Sunday! I felt celebrated'.

Dear Members of Rosslyn Hill Chapel

It has been decided that a pledge towards either mounting an exhibition of his artwork, or towards the publication of a book that he has been planning for some time would be an appropriate gift, from the congregation, to Patrick to mark this anniversary. A collection was made after the service towards this.* Kerry Reid (Chair, RHUC)

*If you wish to donate to this fund by cheque, please make it payable to Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel (and write 'Minister's 35th Anniversary' on the back) and send it to the Chapel office.

OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY



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 (SAC) 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 Claire Julian, SAC member, [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)

The Prince's Trust



The Prince's Trust is a youth charity that helps change young lives. It was founded in 1976 by Charles, Prince of Wales to help young people. The Prince's Trust is an approachable and diverse organisation which values and respects people's different backgrounds, characteristics, ideas and beliefs.

The Trust gives practical and financial support to disadvantaged young people, developing key workplace skills such as confidence and motivation. They work with 13 to 30 year olds who have struggled at school, have been in care, are long-term unemployed or have been in trouble with the law.

The Trust has helped more than 750,000 young people since 1976, and supports 100 more each working day. More than three in four young people they helped last year moved into work, education or training. Around one in five young people in the UK are not in work, education or training. Youth unemployment costs the UK economy £10 million a day in lost productivity, while youth crime costs £1 billion every year.



Stitch & Stories Group

The 'Stitch & Stories' group meets twice a months to knit and crochet for various charity projects, and to share personal stories. One of the projects we support is 'Knit for Peace' (website: knitforpeace.org.uk) and one of their slogans is: 'Here at Knit for Peace we believe that knitting is good for people in all sorts of ways. As well as being fun and therapeutic, knitting brings people together and gives us a way of helping others in need'.

The Stitch & Stories Group offers an opportunity for those interested to use their time and talents to create simple treasures for others in need. The group is open to anyone who would like to learn to knit or crochet as well. Everyone is welcome. We meet twice a month - on the 2nd Thursday (1.00-3.00 pm) and 4th Thursday (7.00-9.00 pm) - at 81 Montpelier Rise, London NW11 9DU. Ingrid Tavkar (Tel: 020 8455 0162; email: ingridtavkar@gmail.com)

Volunteers invited



Serving tea/coffee at 12.00pm in the side aisle is an enjoyable and useful activity. Please see Margaret Perry to offer 30 minutes of time to suit you. Thanks.



COFFEE & TEA MONEY DURING MAY

will be in aid of **'The Prince's Trust'** and our Sunday collection basket will also be divided with 'The Prince's Trust' during May.

OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY

Flower Communion

On Sunday 4 May, we
celebrate a
'Flower Communion'
during the morning service



Background of this service

Dr. Norbert M. Capek founded the Unitarian Church of Prague, in today's Czech Republic, in the 1920's. Many of those in his church resisted traditional religious expressions, but Dr. Capek believed it was necessary to communicate to children that there were still such things as love, friendship, good will and joy. Seeking a symbol for what he believed, he conceived the Flower Festival Service, which was first observed on 4 June 1923.

In this annual rite, each person contributes, and receives, a flower. We bring a flower as we enter, and these are collected into large baskets which are then brought to the front of the sanctuary. The very words used by Dr. Capek are repeated and then each person takes a flower different from the one that was brought. In this Flower Communion we signify our faith in life and beauty and hope. The flowers also signify our community of many colors and shapes and sizes. In bringing one with us we recall that the beauty of the whole awaits our unique contribution. In taking a different one away we acknowledge that our lives are blessed by those around us.

Dr. Capek was outspoken in defence of liberty. In 1941, he and his daughter were arrested by the German Gestapo. He was charged with treason, imprisoned ultimately at Dachau and was executed in 1942. Today 'Flower Communion' are celebrated annually in Unitarian congregations across the world in his memory.

Consecration of the Flowers

'Infinite Spirit of Life, we ask thy blessing on these thy messengers of fellowship and love. May they remind us, amid diversities of knowledge and of gifts, to be one in desire and affection, and devotion. May they also remind us of the value of comradeship, of doing and sharing alike. May we cherish friendship as one of thy most precious gifts. May we realize that whatever we can do, great or small, the efforts of all of us are needed to do thy work in this world.'

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



Song on May Morning

Now the bright morning-star,
Day's harbinger,
Comes dancing from the East,
and leads with her
The flowery May,
who from her green lap throws
The yellow cowslip
and the pale primrose.

Hail, bounteous May, that dost inspire
Mirth, and youth, and warm desire!
Woods and groves are of thy dressing;
Hill and dale doth boast thy blessing.
Thus we salute thee with our early song,
And welcome thee, and wish thee long.

John Milton 1660



Chapel Flowers

A big thank you to all those who helped to make our Chapel look so beautiful for Easter. Thank you to Patricia Williams for the organising, preparation and decorations.

OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY



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



Other Events in the Chapel

Sunday 4 (1.30-6.00pm) - Labyrinth Walk by Richard Nickols (020 7586 4589). Reduced rate for RHUC Chapel Members

Saturday 17 (10.00am-2.00pm) – Hampstead Women’s Club Nearly New Sale raising money for Age UK Camden and certain other charities

Sunday 18 (2.30pm for 3pm) - Concert
Diederick Potgieter is presenting a programme of classical piano music. The concert is in aid of Rosslyn Hill Chapel and all proceeds of the event will be donated to the Chapel. Tickets are £15 per person (concession £10) and includes a glass of bubbly/wine.
For tickets, please contact Armand Botha on 07542904949 or e-mail: armandbotha@ymail.com

Saturday 24 (12.00pm) - Ikebana Exhibition by the Sogetsu School of Ikebana, London Branch



Worship Assistants

4 May	Julia Reid
11 May	James Chiriyankandath
18 May	Julia Reid
25 May	Zoe Gerrard

Stewards

4 May	George Appleby & Lorna
11 May	Christopher Mason & Will Hopper
18 May	Janna Williams & Zoe Gerrard
25 May	Victoria & Bill Ellington



When April steps aside for May,
Like diamonds all the rain-drops glisten;
Fresh violets open every day,
To some new bird each hour we listen.
Lucy Larcom

MAY DIARY

(* = further details elsewhere in Bulletin)

Thursday 1 May

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

Sunday 4 May - Flower Communion Sunday11.00am – Morning service -
'The Seven Principles of Unitarianism'*
Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill7.00pm – Evening service - 'Beltane Celebration'*
Led by the 'Wheel of the Year' group**Wednesday 7 May**5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*
7.30pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel***Thursday 8 May**7.00pm – Management Board meets*
1.00 – 3.00pm – Stitch & Stories Group meets***Sunday 11 May**11.00am – Morning service – 'Facing Loneliness'
Led by Matthew Smith7.00pm – Evening service – 'Meditation'*
Led by Ingrid Tavkar**Tuesday 13 May**

7.00pm – Social Action Committee meets

Wednesday 14 May5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*
7.30pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel***Thursday 15 May**

7.30pm – Book Group meets*

Sunday 18 May11.00am - Morning service -
'That Which Does Not Change'*
Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill7.00pm – Evening service -
'Exploring Our Values'*
Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill**Wednesday 21 May**5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*
7.30pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel***Thursday 22 May**

7.00-9.00pm – Stitch & Stories Group meets*

Sunday 25 May11.00am - Morning service –
'The Thick and Thin of Religion'*
Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill

12.30pm – Pot Luck Lunch in the side aisle*

7.00pm – Evening service –
'Witnessing Our Faith: Where Are We Called?''*
Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill**Wednesday 28 May**

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

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