



Open Mind

The Bulletin of Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel

December 2015

*"May you have the gladness of Christmas which is hope,
the spirit of Christmas which is peace,
the heart of Christmas which is love."*

(Ada V. Hendricks)



December Services

Sunday 6 December (11.00am)
Guest Preacher Terri Quaye
'Not All Barriers Are Hostile'

Being able to see the hidden barriers in others and how we can accommodate this is our caring

Sunday 6 December (7.00pm)
'Music, Words, Reflection and Silence'

'Music is the mediator between the spiritual and the sensual life.' *Ludwig van Beethoven*
Led by Margaret Perry & Ingrid Tavkar.

Sunday 13 December (11.00am)
Guest Preacher Rev Kate Dean
'Christmas Highs and Lows'

Some of us look forward to the festive season with excitement and anticipation whilst others face it with grim determination or even sadness. We will explore different ways that Christmas is celebrated or endured and how we might support those expecting a Blue Christmas this year.

Sunday 13 December (7.00pm)
'Meditation'

The essence of meditation is simply to reach a 'state of being' - Come and join us for silence, reflection, poetry and music. Led by Ingrid Tavkar

Sunday 20 December 2015 (11.00am)
'Christmas Reflections'
Guest Preacher Martyn Watson

A reflective space that invites a search for meaning in the Christmas story, for our contemporary age.

Sunday 20 December 2015 (7.00pm)
'Winter Solstice Celebration'

Drawing from Celtic and other traditions we will celebrate the darkest time of the year and the return of the Light. Led by members of our 'Wheel of the Year' group.

Thursday 24 December 2015 (6.30 pm)
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Rev Martin Whitell (District Minister)

This is a wonderful way to begin your Christmas celebrations. Our District Minister leads us in a traditional Candlelight Service of traditional and other seasonal readings and Carols with special music from our Music Director, Matthew Fletcher, and soloists. It is strongly suggested you arrive early to assure seating, as this is the most crowded service of the year.

Sunday 27 December 2015 (11.00am)
Guest Preacher Jeannene Powell
'Reaping the old for the new spiritual you!'

With new year about to be upon us, we'll look back at what we can harvest from 2015, and explore how we can deepen our spirituality in the year ahead.

Sunday 27 December 2015 (7.00pm)

Please note there will be NO service tonight!



The Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel in the heart of Hampstead



We gather for worship and fellowship, to create a caring community where all feel supported in our search for meaning and value. We advocate justice, liberty, honesty, integrity, peace and love. Unitarians are an open faith community celebrating diverse beliefs. Although Unitarianism has its roots in Jewish and Christian traditions, it is open to insights from all faiths, science, the arts, the natural world and everyday living.

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, and a variety of monthly events for all age groups. The Chapel is licensed for marriages, civil partnerships, same sex marriages 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 **January** issue of 'Open Mind' is **Friday 18 December 2015**.

From the Editor

Winter Holidays!

Winter, with its long dark nights, is the time of year that we celebrate the light at the heart of darkness. That's why lighting candles and filling our homes with twinkling lights are major symbols for this season of winter holidays. Many cultures celebrate the rebirth of the light – Hindus have Diwali, Jews have Hannukah, Pagans have Yule, Christians have Christmas. These holidays remind us that darkness will yield to light. The sun does come back, and spring will follow winter. Nature is only slumbering, she is not comatose, and she will awaken as the wheel continues to turn.

Contrary to the natural rhythms of the earth, our culture makes this season the busiest time of the year – many of us are frantically running around shopping, cooking, baking, decorating, and partying.

Yet, when we pay attention to the rhythms of this season, we realise that the long dark nights of November and December are a time of preparation for the coming of the light. This offers us a great opportunity to pause, to take a break from the rush of everyday, and simply be – to sit quietly, not expecting anything, just breathing, stilling our mind, calm and at peace. So, let us slow down to renew ourselves and reconnect with spirit in some way, and find inner strength and resolve.

This season is a time to rest in faith that through the darkness of winter the sun will return. Blessings are with you as you journey towards the coming of the light.

Ingrid Tavkar

*Again did the earth shift
Again did the nights grow short,
And the days grow long.
And the people of the earth were glad
And celebrated each in their own ways.*

Dian Lee Moomey



Christmas at Rosslyn Hill Chapel



**WELCOME
YULE!**

**Thursday
17 December
9.30am-12.30pm**

Come and help fill the Chapel with light and colour for Christmas and the Winter Festivals. Mulled apple juice and mince pies. Contact Janna Williams:
j.williams16@virginmedia.com



**Christmas
Reflections
Sunday 20 December
(11.00am)**

**Winter Solstice
Sunday 20 December
(7.00pm)**

Come! Come! Who ever you are to celebrate YULE – Winter Solstice with music, poetry, & reflection



**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
Thursday 24 December
(6.30 pm)**



Message from the Management Board

Our minister, the Rev. Patrick O'Neill has now retired. We have many wonderful guest preachers to take the services over the next couple of months and hope to have a temporary minister in place to lead all services in the new year. Meanwhile, we have elected an excellent search committee to seek a new settled minister. We hope to have someone in place in six months to a year's time.

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

CHAPEL POETRY GROUP - If you like to read and /or write poetry, the group meets on **Monday 7 December at 7.30pm**. For more information contact George Appleby (Tel: 020 7424 9733, email: gappleby@talktalk.net)

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE meets on **Tuesday 8 December at 7.30pm**

THE CHAPEL MANAGEMENT BOARD meets on **Thursday 10 December at 7.00pm** in the Cottage basement science room at the Chapel. Members of the Chapel are welcome to attend but please contact, as a courtesy, Kerry Reid (Chair), in advance.

STITCH & STORIES GROUP – meets on **Wednesday 9 December (2.00pm-4.00pm)** - to knit and crochet for various charity projects, and to share personal stories. For more information contact: Ingrid Tavkar (Tel: 020 8455 0162; email: ingridtavkar@gmail.com)

POT LUCK LUNCHES - The next lunch 'will be on **Sunday 6 December** 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

DECEMBER DIARY**Wednesday 2 December**

5.45pm – Tai Chi in the Chapel*
7.30pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel*

Sunday 6 December

11.00am – Morning service -
'Not All Barriers Are Hostile'
Guest Preacher Terri Quaye

12.30pm – Pot Luck Lunch in the side aisle*

7.00pm – Evening service
'Music, Words, Reflection & Silence'
Led by Margaret Perry & Ingrid Tavkar

Monday 7 December

7.30pm – Chapel Poetry Group meet *

Tuesday 8 December

7.30pm – Social Action Committee meets*

Wednesday 9 December

5.45pm – Tai Chi in the Chapel*
7.30pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel*

Thursday 10 December

7.00pm – Management Board meets*

Sunday 13 December

11.00am - Morning service -
'Christmas Highs and Lows'
Guest Preacher Rev Kate Dean

7.00pm – Evening service -
*'Meditation'**
Led by Ingrid Tavkar

Wednesday 16 December

5.45pm – Tai Chi in the Chapel*

Thursday 17 December

9.30am-12.30pm – Christmas Decorating in the Chapel*

Sunday 20 December

11.00am - Morning service
'Christmas Reflections' *
Guest Preacher Martyn Watson

Sunday 20 December

7.00pm – Evening service –
*'Winter Solstice Celebration'**
Led by the Wheel of the Year group

Thursday 24 December

**6.30pm – Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service**

Led by Rev Martin Whitell
(District Minister)

Sunday 27 December

11.00am - Morning service
*'Reaping the old for
the new spiritual you!'* *
Guest Preacher Jeannene Powell

7.00pm – Evening service

**Please note
there will be NO service tonight!**

(* = further details elsewhere in Bulletin)

**Chapel Office**

Sharron Conduit
Tel: 020 7433 3267

Chapel E-mail

admin@rosslynhillchapel.com

Chapel Online

www.rosslynhillchapel.com
www.facebook.com/rosslynhillunitarianchapel

Chapel Address

Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel, 3 Pilgrims Place
London NW3 1NG United Kingdom

The Minister

Contact Chapel Office
Email: admin@rosslynhillchapel.com

Care & Support

Contact Chapel Office
Email: admin@rosslynhillchapel.com

Children's Programme

Contact Chapel Office
Email: admin@rosslynhillchapel.com

Membership

Contact Claire Julian
Email: claire.marley@mac.com

Bulletin Team

Ingrid Tavkar, Editor
Editorial Team:
Margaret Perry, Janna Williams, Erich Wagner
Layout: Ingrid Tavkar
Email: RHUCbulletin@yahoo.com

Registered Charity 1131346
Registered Co. No. 05992717