



Open Mind

The Bulletin of Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel

June 2015

*It is the month of June,
The month of leaves and roses,
When pleasant sights salute the eyes
And pleasant scents the noses.*

Nathaniel Parker Willis

June Services

Sunday 7 June (11.00 am)

Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill preaching
'Some Things Are Harder To Say'

This is a sermon about the courage it takes for us all to speak truthfully to one another about what is in our hearts and on our minds. This is a sermon about those moments when we hesitate to give words to our thoughts and feelings, either because we are afraid or because we are not prepared or because we hesitate and hold back for lack of confidence. Come join us this morning!

Sunday 7 June (7.00 pm)
Evening Gathering
'Music, words, reflection and silence'

Come and join us for meditative music, thought-provoking words, followed by silence & reflection. Led by Margaret Perry & Ingrid Tavkar

Sunday 14 June (11.00 am)

Flower Communion Sunday
Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill preaching
'All religions are true. All religions have some error'

The title of this morning's sermon is a famous quotation from Gandhi. It bespeaks his deep respect for the world's great religions and his simultaneous understanding that no religion is perfect, or perfectly correct, in all that it propounds. Come join us for an interesting morning.

Sunday 14 June (7.00pm)

Evening Gathering
'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 21 June (11.00 am)

**Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill and
Rev. Rob Gregson preaching**
'Always in Transition'

This morning our congregation will be fondly bidding adieu to Reverend Rob Gregson (and Corey and Addie) as he prepares to return to the US after five years of ministry with our chapel and with SimpleGifts ministry in Bethnal Green. Rob and Patrick will reflect on the various transitions we all must make in life. Do come join us for a farewell reception following the service!

Sunday 21 June (7.00 pm)

Evening Gathering
'Summer Solstice celebration'

We celebrate the longest day, the triumph of the light and the abundance of summer with ritual, music, poetry and flowers. Everyone is welcome. Led by the Wheel of the Year group

Sunday 28 June (11.00 am)

Guest Preacher Rev Kate Dean
'Living with Uncertainty'

When life looks a little unstable and you're not sure of the road ahead, how does our Unitarian faith help us to deal with uncertainty?

Sunday 28 June (7.00pm)

Evening Gathering
'Living with Uncertainty'

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

**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 **July** issue of 'Open Mind' is **Friday 19 June 2015**.

From the Editor

*It is the month of June,
The month of leaves and roses,
when pleasant sights salute the eyes
and pleasant scents the noses.*

Nathaniel Parker Willis

June – 'the herald of summer' - evokes thought of being out of doors, birdsong everywhere, nature bubbling and boiling over with rampant growth, roses in full bloom, sweet tasting strawberries, BBQs, and summer solstice celebrations.

In Britain, June can be either a gloriously hot month, or just a damp disappointment. While writing these words, it is cold and raining, so I'm hoping that summer is still around the corner.

In our northern hemisphere, summer begins at the 'summer solstice', also known as 'midsummer' which falls on or around 21 June – a magical time when the days are longest and the nights are shortest. This was when ancient peoples gathered to celebrate the sun and its life-giving power.

At Rosslyn Hill Chapel, we have the opportunity to continue this custom with our 'Wheel of the Year' evening service on Sunday 21 June. Why not join us and help us celebrate the longest day, the triumph of the light and the abundance of summer with ritual, music, poetry and flowers? Everyone is welcome!

There are, of course, other opportunities to get more involved in our Chapel community.

'Values in Action' (p.4) offers an opportunity to share news about how we demonstrate our Unitarian values! – You might like to tell your Chapel friends how you demonstrate your Unitarian values!

'Thinking of Becoming a Member?' (p.6) - If you have been attending our chapel services for some time, you might consider making Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel your spiritual home and community.

'Potluck Lunches' - The next 'Potluck Lunch' will be on Sunday 5 July in the side aisle at 12.30pm (after the morning service). We look forward to seeing you there!
Ingrid Tavkar

**Celtic Blessing**

*As the sun spirals its longest dance – Cleanse us.
As nature shows bounty and fertility – Bless us.
Let all things live with loving intent
And fulfil their truest destiny.*



PO'Nderings

From our Minister
Rev Patrick T. O'Neill

My Annual Letter to a Missing Member
Dear Old Friend,

As you well know by now, it is not our regular custom around here to chase after anyone who happens to be absent from chapel for a while. We hope you don't read that as a lack of caring on our part, you are indeed important to us. But usually, unless we hear directly that there's a problem or an illness, we assume that friends will always return to chapel when circumstances are right. Weekly Sunday attendance at a Unitarian congregation is by no means mandatory. Of course, we hope folks will make coming to church their usual practice, a part of their weekly routine. But we also understand there are times when that won't happen. When an old friend does reappear on Sunday after an absence, we don't ask where you've been. What we usually say is, 'Great to see you!' But you may be sure your absence is felt. This is a different place without you.

We understand that chapel membership and participation is sometimes a cyclical thing. There will be times when church is a greater or lesser part of our lives. But we hope that the bonds are deep and the connections do remain. The interdependent web that is our congregation continues to add new friends and participants week by week. But your place among us remains reserved, until you tell us otherwise. Yet this fact remains true also: the chapel is shaped, guided, and directed by those who lend it their presence. There is no such thing as status quo in a living community. Good things have been happening here lately. Energy is high.

If, for whatever reason, you've been away from church for a while, we want you to know that you still have a cherished place among us. We've been growing and changing a bit since you were here last; no doubt you have, too. It would be great to have back among us again, even if only for a visit now and then. We think you'd like some of the new folks who now make RHUC their own. You've been missed around here! In the meantime, we'll keep a light in the window for you.

Sincerely,
Patrick O'Neill, Minister

*Now may Peace be with us
and in us and through us.
And may Goodness and Mercy
follow us all the days of our life.*

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

CHAPEL POETRY GROUP – meets on **Monday 1 June at 7.30pm**. For more information contact George Appleby (Tel: 020 7424 9733, email: gappleby@talktalk.net)

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE meets on **Tuesday 9 June at 7.30pm**

CHAPEL MANAGEMENT BOARD meets on **Thursday 11 June at 7.00pm** in the Chapel Committee room. Members of the Chapel are welcome to attend but please contact the Chair, Kerry Reid (khornreid@hotmail.com), ahead of time as a courtesy.

CHAPEL BOOK GROUP – will not meet in June. For further information, please contact Bill Ellington at (ellingtonbill@btconnect.com)

STITCH & STORIES GROUPS – meet on **Thursday 25 June (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 LUNCHESES - The next 'Pot Luck Lunch' will be on **Sunday 5 July** 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



The planned Questing Groups class led by our minister, originally scheduled for Monday evenings in June, has been postponed and will be re-scheduled for a time when more people are available....po'n

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.

If you would like to share news of VALUES IN ACTION during morning service on the FIRST Sunday in the month please send details of your topic to Leighton Cole (email: leightoncole@hotmail.co.uk) Chair of Social Action Committee, so that these brief contributions can be co-ordinated. Thank you.

*I am only one
But still I am one.
I cannot do everything,
But still I can do something.
And because I cannot do everything
I will not refuse to do the
Something that I can do.*

Edward Evertt Hale



Come and join fellow Unitarians on **Saturday 27th June** to take part in the London Pride Parade to celebrate the LGBT+ community, and to show our support for equality. Fancy dress is welcome, but not essential - the theme this year is 'Pride Heroes'. We will be meeting from 12.00 midday at Portman Close (exact meeting point to tbc) - please arrive by 12.30pm. The parade begins at 1.00pm and ends at 4.30pm in Whitehall. More information about the actual parade is on the website prideinlondon.org

Please email or speak to Julia Reid (Social Action Committee) to show your interest (hirstjulia@hotmail.com).

WHAT IS 'ALL OUT'?

LOVE. EQUALITY. ACTION!

In 76 countries it's a crime to be gay. All Out is changing laws and shifting cultural norms to build a world where no person has to sacrifice their family, freedom, safety or dignity because of who they are or who they love. (<https://allout.org/about-en>)



COFFEE & TEA MONEY DURING JUNE

will be donated to 'ALL OUT!' and our Sunday collection basket will also be divided with 'ALL OUT' during June.

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.

OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY



Flower Communion Sunday 14 June 2015

Say it with flowers! Bring a flower to Chapel today and take part in our annual Flower Communion - a tradition begun by Dr. Norbert Capek, the Unitarian minister in Prague, who was killed in Dauchau concentration camp in 1942. We share our flowers to make one beautiful display, and from this service we take away a flower, given by another, symbolizing our shared celebration of community. All are welcome and there will be a flower for anyone who has no flower to bring today.



**A date for your diaries!
Sunday 5 July 2015
(11.00am & at 7.00pm)**

Service led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill

Special Guest Speaker Rev Jim Robinson

Mark your calendars! This Sunday we welcome back to our pulpit the Rev Jim Robinson, former minister of our Chapel. A reception for Jim and Applesed follows the service today.

On Sunday 17 May, Rev John Clifford (GA President), led our service focusing on '**Democracy: the worst possible system of governance except for all the others**' and here are some parts of this service.

If you would like a copy of his sermon, contact Rev Clifford - clifford@universalist.ednet.co.uk

Opening Words

May the peace of this house bring calm.
May the joy of this hour make our hearts glad.
May the challenge of this hour awaken our courage.
May the communion of his hour
confirm our togetherness.



**King John
Sigismund**

ACT OF RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE AND FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE

The decision of the Diet of Torda in 1568:

'Our Royal Highness, as he has decreed on matters of religion, together with the Diet, now confirms again that in every place the preachers shall preach and explain the Gospel, each according to his understanding of it, and if the congregation like it, then it shall be considered good; if not, no one shall compel them, for their soul would not be satisfied, but they shall be permitted to keep a preacher whose teaching they approve. Therefore none of the superintendents or others shall annoy or abuse the preachers on account of their religion, in accordance with the previous resolutions of the Diet, or allow any to be imprisoned or punished by removal from his post on account of his teachings, for Faith is the gift of God; this gift comes from hearing and hearing by the word of God'.

Closing Words

May the deeds we do with our hands,
And the words we speak with our lips,
And the thoughts we feel in our hearts,
Be at all times worthy of the divine spark
within us and within everyoen we meet.

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**



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, or speak to one of the Stewards.

7 June
14 June
21 June
28 June

Julia Reid
Leighton Cole
James Chiriyankandath
Zoe Gerrard

Worship Assistants

7 June
14 June
21 June
28 June

Ken Levy & Jane Williams
Zoe Gerrard & Derek McAuley
Kathryn Cave & Carolina Borata
To be announced

Stewards



Other events in the Chapel

Tuesday 2 June (7.00pm) - Beatie Wolfe & The Pack's Summer Show. Tickets: £8.50 (Adv) / £10 (Door).
Info: <http://www.beatiewolf.com/tickets/02june15>

Saturday 6 June (10.00am-12.00pm) - Hampstead Women's Club Nearly New Sale. All items 50% off from 12:30-2pm. £1 donation at the door.

Thursday 11 June (5.00-7.00pm) - Private 'Ikebana' lesson by Keiko Huby in Basement Cottage 2. If you are interested in attending please call Keiko on (m) 07967 306774

Saturday 13 June (11.00am-5.00pm) - Hampstead Craft Fair. Exhibitor & Visitor info - 020 7813 0677

Sunday 14 June (3.00pm) - Concert by Students of Sarkis Zakarian

Thursday 18 June (8.00pm) - *'The Joy of Singing'* - A celebration concert in aid of the New London Children's Choir given by members - past and present. Tickets £25 available from 07808 157635 or NIcctickets@gmail.com

Thursday 25 June (5.00-7.00pm) - Private 'Ikebana' Lesson by Keiko Huby in Basement Cottage 2. If you are interested in attending please call Keiko on (m) 07967306774



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 11 June 2015 at 7.00pm** in the Chapel Committee Room.

Meeting held on Thursday 14 May 2015

Kerry Reid in the chair

Pricing for Car Park, Chapel and Hall: Spaces in the Chapel's car park are rented out and provide a valuable source of income, as well as serving local businesses. The pricing of these spaces is reviewed each May. The fees charged by the Chapel will be benchmarked against other spaces rented in the local area before they are adjusted.

The fee schedule for the Chapel and hall was adjusted according to inflation in September, 2014. This was the first time this had been done in a number of years and resulted in a significant increase in hire costs, (and fees payable to the Minister and caretaker). Bookings continue to come in, but it was decided to keep these as they are, in order to remain competitive with other venues in the area.

The Matthew Copley Organ: Work is due to commence on this in the summer, once our main licensee, the Academy School, has broken up for the summer.

Renovation of the Chapel Hall: A brief, for the Chapel's architect, has been drawn up, with input from the Academy School, the Rona Hart Dance Academy and the Estate Group. Funding was agreed to employ our architect to find solutions which accommodate all parties.

Priorities for the Board: The renovation of the hall is covered above. A discussion about growing our membership and infusing it with a sense of mission, and the communication of our mission to the wider community took place.

Staffing: Staffing Committee and Board member Ken Levy gave a detailed report.

Administrator's Report: Our Administrator and Operations Manager, Sharron Conduit, updated the Board on the various works carried out to maintain the estate. Quotations to refresh the Chapel kitchen are being sought.

Treasurer's Report: Two extra lines have been added into the Chapel's accounts. These were to bring the Social Action Committee's income and payments within the accounts. The gift aid for these was discussed and is proving to be a complicated issue! Opportunities to update our bookkeeping procedures are being explored.

Committee Reports: Reports from the **Communications Team** and **Social Action Committee** were gratefully received.

Included in the Communications Team's report was a copy of the half page advert placed in the Camden New Journal's directory. The committee's wish to see a greater awareness of the Chapel and Unitarianism within and beyond the local community, and its welcome of the Minister's initiative in calling a joint meeting of the Membership and Communications Team, is in line with the Board's priorities.

The Social Action Committee continues to provide a valuable contribution to the Chapel, raising funds to donate to various charities through a number of initiatives. They are currently seeking volunteers to help deliver items donated to the Food Bank, which mount up quickly, due to the generosity of the congregation! Please speak to Leighton Cole if you are able to assist with this.

The Committee has also organised for the Chapel to take part in the 'Pride in London Parade' on Saturday, 27th of June. Members will meet at 12.00 noon on the day. Please contact Julia Reid if you wish to take part.

Chair's Report: New wording for the Order of Service, drawing attention to the charitable donations made by the Chapel, through its plate collection, and the cost of running the Chapel (£5 000 per week) was discussed. A sign to go above our donation box, along similar lines was put forward.

JUNE DIARY

(* = further details elsewhere in Bulletin)

Monday 1 June

7.30pm – Poetry Group meets*

Wednesday 3 June

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

7.30 pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel*

Sunday 7 June

11.00am – Morning service

*'Some Things Are Harder To Say' **

Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill

7.00pm – Evening service

*'Music, words, reflection and silence' **

Led by Margaret Perry & Ingrid Tavkar

Tuesday 9 June

7.30pm - Social Action Committee meets

Wednesday 10 June

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

7.30pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel*

Thursday 11 June

7.00pm – Management Board meets*

Sunday 14 June**Flower Communion Sunday**11.00am – Morning service – *'All religions are true.**All religions have some error' **

Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill

Sunday 14 June7.00pm – Evening service – *'Meditation'*

Led by Ingrid Tavkar

Wednesday 17 June

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

7.30pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel*

Sunday 21 June11.00am - Morning service – *'Always in Transition' **

Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill and Rev. Rob Gregson

preaching

7.00pm – Evening service – *'Summer Solstice'**

Led by our Wheel of the Year group'

Wednesday 24 June

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

7.30pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel*

Thursday 25 June

7.00pm - Stitch & Stories *

Sunday 28 June

11.00am - Morning service –

*'Living with Uncertainty' **

Guest Preacher Rev Kate Dean

7.00pm – Evening service –

*'Living with Uncertainty' **

Led by Margaret Perry.

Chapel Directory**Chapel Office**

Sharron Conduit

Tel: 020 7433 3267

Fax: 020 7435 7457

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

Care & Support

Contact Chapel Office

Email: admin@rosslynhillchapel.com

The Minister

The Rev Dr Patrick O'Neill, The Manse, 3 Pilgrim's Place,

London NW3 1NG Tel: 020 7435 3506

E-mail: revponeill@aol.com

Children's Programme

Contact Chapel Office

Email: admin@rosslynhillchapel.com

Bulletin Team

Ingrid Tavkar, Editor

Editorial Team: Margaret Perry,

Janna Williams, Erich Wagner

Layout: Ingrid Tavkar

Tel: 020 8455 0162; Email: RHUCbulletin@yahoo.com

Registered Charity 1131346

Registered Co. No. 05992717