



Open Mind

The Bulletin of Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel

July 2014

*The serene philosophy of the pink rose is steady.
Its fragrant, delicate petals open fully
and are ready to fall, without regret or disillusion,
after only a day in the sun.
It is so every summer.
One can almost hear their pink, fragrant murmur
as they settle down upon the grass:
'Summer, summer, it will always be summer.'
- Rachel Peden*



July Services

Sunday 6 July (11.00am)

Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill preaching
'Promises, Promises'

It is said that human beings are the only creatures who make promises – or ever need to. What are the promises that help to define your life as it is today? And what are the promises that will define your life tomorrow? Come join us for a lively discussion... and bring a friend!

Sunday 6 July (7.00pm) - Evening Gathering

'On Music and the Spirit'
Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill

Sunday 13 July (11.00am)

Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill preaching
'Get to the Heart of Things'

Life has a way of fogging over sometimes. Important to remind ourselves occasionally to keep our eyes on the prize, keep focused, and clear away the minutiae. Get to the heart of things! Come join us for worship today...and bring a friend along.

Sunday 13 July (7.00pm) - Evening Gathering

'Meditation'
Led by Ingrid Tavkar

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

Sunday 20 July (11.00am)

Guest Preacher: Rev Rob Greggson
'Hitting the Wall'

What long distance runners and religious worshippers have to teach us about making it to the end of our race whole and content with our run.

Sunday 20 July (7.00pm) - Evening Gathering

'Ministry of Dance'
Led by Rose Williams

A summer celebration through dance, words and stillness. Come and celebrate the changing light as it moves slowly from summer towards the autumn equinox.

Sunday 27 July (11.00am)

Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill preaching
'The Things I Don't Believe: The Short List'

I've got my list. Have you got yours? Let's compare. Come join us for a lively conversation this morning!

Sunday 27 July (7.00pm) - Evening Gathering

Rev. Dr. O'Neill leads the discussion on
'The Things I Don't Believe'

**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, 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 **August** issue of 'Open Mind' is **Friday 18 July 2014**.

From the Editor

'Be like the flower, turn your face to the sun'.
Kahlil Gibran

In June, some of us celebrated the 'Summer Solstice' when the sun is at its highest and the day is at its longest – an ongoing shifting of the seasons. It is also time to acknowledge that the power of the sun begins to wane. From now on the days grow shorter and the nights grow longer, and we are drawn back into the 'dark' and Wheel of the Year keeps turning.

So what happens in our Chapel community during July? In many ways, things go on as they always do. We have opportunities to offer a 'helping hand' to ensure that our beloved community continues to grow and flourish.

Our Minister invites us 'to help out by volunteering to assist with the Children's Programme some Sunday mornings' (p.3). Margaret Perry invites 'volunteer help' during coffee hour (p.4). Jim Burtles will be delighted to receive offers from us to act as stewards (p.6). We can support the Chalk Farm Food Bank (p4). Just a few suggestions.

We can also be inspired by our Minister's sermons and a variety of programmes. On Sunday 13 July, we welcome back our Chapel Choir during the morning service. On Sunday 20 July, we welcome Rev Rob Gregson, who will lead the morning service on the theme 'Hitting the Wall'. The Sunday Evening Gatherings offer 'Music and the Spirit', 'Meditation', 'Ministry of Dance', and discussion on 'The Things I Don't Believe'.

Last but not least, I'd like to encourage you to join our 'Quiz Night' on Friday 11 July (p5) - come and have some fun and help us to raise funds for 'SimpleGifts'. 'Happy Summertime!' **Ingrid Tavkar**

*Then followed that beautiful season... Summer....
Filled was the air with a dreamy and magical light;
and the landscape lay as if new created
in all the freshness of childhood.*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow





PO'Nderings

From our Minister
Rev Patrick T. O'Neill

On Children in the Chapel

I hope you were able to be with us in Chapel last Sunday as we honoured Anthea Williams who is stepping down this week after two years of fine service as our Children's Chapel Coordinator. We thanked Anthea with a certificate of appreciation and gratitude from all the children, parents, and members of the congregation. Following the service we cut a celebratory cake and presented Anthea with some token gifts.

As a former teacher myself, married to a professional teacher of many years, and as the proud father of another professional teacher, obviously I am profoundly biased about the importance of what teachers contribute to the welfare of the world. It is always surprising to me how some people undervalue or take for granted what good teachers do for our children. We entrust them to bring their positive influence in their limited time in our children's lives. We each can name some teacher somewhere in our growing up years who affected our lives forever.

At a Chapel like Rosslyn Hill we make a special place for children to have a healthy exposure, albeit for one hour a week, to the principles and ethos of our Unitarian faith. It is a faith tradition that sees in every child a unique and precious personality, and tries to impart by our lessons and by our modelling a deep commitment to tolerance and respect for the whole human family. Whatever religious pathway our children end up choosing for their own life journeys, I am determined that they will always look back on their Unitarian Chapel days with fondness and appreciation.

Anthea Williams leaves us to turn her attentions to the demands of her own family and full-time teaching duties, but she remains part of our congregation. Finding a successor to her position will most likely take some weeks, and our Children's Programme may take a brief hiatus during the summer while we regroup and choose a new Coordinator. But rest assured our Chapel's commitment to being a family Chapel for all ages remains firm. If you can help out by volunteering to assist with the children some Sunday mornings, please call me, we always need good helpers.

See you in Chapel.... 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

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

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE meets on **Tuesday 8 July at 7.00pm**

CHAPEL MANAGEMENT BOARD meets on **Thursday 10 July at 7.00pm** in the Chapel Committee room. Members of the Chapel are welcome to attend but please contact Kerry Reid (khornreid@hotmail.com), ahead of time as a courtesy.

CHAPEL BOOK GROUP – will meet again on **Thursday 24 July at 19.30** at The Magdala at 2a South Hill Park. We will be discussing 'The King Must Die' by Mary Renault. The Book Group does not meet in August. Out Book for September will be 'Our Mutual Friend' by Charles Dickens. For further information, please contact Bill Ellington at (ellingtonbill@aol.com)

POT LUCK LUNCHESES - The next 'Pot Luck Lunch' will be on **Sunday 27 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



VALUES IN ACTION

Do you feel passionate about a cause, project or issue that demonstrates your Unitarian values?

The Social Action Committee 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 Social Action Committee member, Claire Julian [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)



Values in Action in June - Food Bank

Since September the congregation has supplied food for the Chalk Farm Food Bank each Sunday. July's **Values in Action** will celebrate your generosity. You may have wondered what happens to the food you bring and who receives it. Come on Sunday 6 July and you will find out!



COFFEE & TEA MONEY DURING JULY

will be in aid of '**Chalk Farm Food Bank**' and our Sunday collection basket will also be divided with '**Chalk Farm Food Bank**' during July

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.

Donations to Good Causes

Thank you for your generosity in contributing to recent charity collections – half the Sunday morning plate collection and all the coffee/tea money.

We are please to let you know that, so far, we sent donations to the following good causes in 2014:

January, February & March - Amnesty International - £609.91

April - Afasic - £489.36

May - Princes's Trust -£ 416.96

OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY



Quiz Night in Hampstead

Friday 11 July
from 6.30-9.30pm
at the Chapel

There will be a delicious buffet to start with, followed by a fun quiz, with questions for all ages, and prizes for the winners. You do not need to come as a team - teams can be formed on the night. Tickets can be bought in advance from Sharron in the office or from a member of the Social Action group after the service. They can also be bought on the night. Tickets are £10 or £20 for a family. Cash bar available but not included. . We hope to see you there.

All proceeds in aid of '**SimpleGifts**'
the Unitarian Centre for Social Action



Other events in the Chapel

Sunday 6 July (4.00pm) – '*Music for a Summer afternoon*' Instrumentalists from Morley College, directed by Kate Ryder. Tickets on the door: £7/£5 concession. Wine and refreshments served.

Saturday 12 July (11.00am – 4.00pm) - '*Ikebana*' workshop

Saturday 12 July (7.30pm) – '*If Music be the food of love.*' A song recital in aid of 'BEAT' (Beating Eating Disorders Charity)– Tickets £15/£10 to include wine.



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**



Worship Assistants

6 July	James Chiriyankandath
13 July	Leighton Cole
20 July	Zoe Gerrard
27 July	Victoria Ellington

Stewards

6 July	Christopher Mason & Judy Harris
13 July	Ken Levy & Erich Wagner
20 July	Roly Harris & Leighton Cole
27 July	George Appleby & Lorna Mikhelson



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 10 July 2014 at 7.00pm** in the Chapel Committee Room.

Meeting held on Thursday 12 June 2014

Kerry Reid in the chair

Staffing: The Administrator's contract has been finalised and the Organist/Choir Director's contract is nearing completion.

Following Anthea Williams's resignation from her role as Children's Programme Co-ordinator, the Board is seeking someone to appoint to this role. The Board would like to thank Anthea for her hard work and commitment to the role. We have begun the process of advertising the role, but any suggestions should be passed to the Board and would be gratefully received.

SGM: As September will be a busy month for the Chapel, and several Board members will be away, including the Chair of the Estate Group, the decision was made to move the SGM to October. The possible options for the renovation of the hall will be brought to our members for their consideration.

Minister's Report: Rev. O'Neill informed the Board that the Rev. David Usher will be leaving his London District job and moving to a Californian ministry in mid-August. The Chapel will hold a farewell service for him in the afternoon of Sunday 10 August.

Our new Sunday evening service format is proving to be a success and we are seeing an increase in attendance.

The first legal same-sex wedding took place in the Chapel at the end of May. We offer our congratulations to Martyn Watson and Tim Skelly. Thanks are due to Leighton Cole and Sharron Conduit for steering us through the paperwork necessary to register the Chapel for these services. We currently have three more same-sex marriages and several more weddings lined up.

Patrick and Patricia continue to make progress with their application to renew their visas.

Treasurer's Report: We are currently completing the necessary paperwork to open a new petty cash account. This will speed up the process of making payments to contractors etc, and make Sharron's job that little bit easier. We continue to investigate possible new accountants.

Other Business: The Board gratefully received reports from the Flower Group and the Estate Group. The Board would like to thank the Flower Group for their efforts, which continue to help make our Chapel so beautiful for its Sunday services. The Flower Group relies on the generosity of its members, who often do not claim for the flowers they purchase, and the individual members of the congregation who sponsor the flowers on other occasions. If you wish to sponsor the flowers one Sunday, please speak to Sharron, Patricia or Janna.

Summer

*There is burgeoning growth all around.
Joy fills the air as all beings celebrate life.
Sap has well and truly risen and the garden appears
to be bursting with kaleidoscopic colour.
Solstice marks the high point of the year
when all around seems full of exuberance and gratitude.
The warming rays of the sun on our backs
fill us with contentment.
Amid all the frantic activity we find time to pause,
and give thanks.
Abundance beckons.*

Ark Redwood



Our Larger Unitarian Movement



'Enlivening Worship'

with Sarah Tinker
and Jane Blackall

**Saturday 19 July
(11.00am-4.00pm)**

**Kensington Unitarians
Essex Church**

A workshop for all those interested in creating enlivening worship in Unitarian and Interfaith settings. Aimed at those new to worship leading as well as for those with experience, this workshop will cover music, choice of materials, themes, prayers and meditations, as well as presentation styles and ways to appeal to all our senses.

Cost: £5 / £10 / £15 (pay what you can afford). To book, email: jane@kensington-unitarians.org.uk or phone 020 7221 6514 and leave a message with your contact details.



'Celebrating Life's Moments'

with Ant Howe and Sarah Tinker

**Saturday 20 September 2014
(11.00am-4.00pm)**

**Kensington Unitarians
Essex Church**

Come and learn more about leading rites of passage ceremonies such as funerals, weddings and child blessings. A workshop both for those who are new to the role of celebrant as well as for those with some experience, with advice on resources, settings and how to connect with people at key moments in their lives.

Cost: £5 / £10 / £15 (pay what you can afford). To book email: sarah@kensingtonunitarians.org.uk or phone 020 7221 6514 and leave a message with your contact details.

Social Action future Vision

Saturday 12 July 2014 (11.00am to 3.30pm)

SimpleGifts, 117 Mansford St, London E2 6LX

Rob Gregson and Ann Howell of 'SimpleGifts' invite you to a half-day event for a guided-yet-open discussion about the future of our reforming and justice-making common faith. Help us 'think forward' to what a UK-wide vision for social action and social justice might look like over the next 5, 10 and 20 years.

Lunch provided; some home hospitality available for guests coming from afar. Easy access by public transport and fully accessible facilities.

Please RSVP at info@simplegiftsucsa.org.uk or call 0741 128 0667

This event made possible in part by the generosity of our supporters and the GA Millennium Fund.



'Go and do Likewise'

The summer gathering of the Unitarian Christian Association will take place on

Saturday 19 July 2014

**at 117 Mansford Street
London E2 6LX**

(the site of the former Mansford Street Church and Domestic Mission in London's neighbourhood of Bethnal Green).

The timetable for the event is as follows:

2.00pm - Workshop

**2.45pm – The Rev David Usher and
the Rev Rop Gregson**

4.00pm – Afternoon Tea

It would be helpful if you were to indicate your interest in attending by contacting Jeff Gould, UCA Events Officer, email: jeffreylanegould@btinternet.com or telephone 01625 4093 509, mobile 07989 858 963.

JULY DIARY

(* = further details elsewhere in Bulletin)

Tuesday 1 July

7.30 –Poetry Group meets*

Wednesday 2 July

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

7.30pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel*

Sunday 6 July11.00am – Morning service – '*Promises, Promises*'

Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill

7.00pm – Evening service – '*Music and the Spirit*'

Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill

Tuesday 8 July

7.30pm – Social Action Committee meets*

Wednesday 9 July

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

7.30pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel*

Thursday 10 July

7.00pm – Management Committee meets*

Friday 11 July6.30-9.30pm – '*Quiz Night*' ***Sunday 13 July - 'Special Chapel Choir Music'**

11.00am – Morning service –

'*Get to the Heart of Things*'

Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill

7.00pm – Evening service – '*Meditation*' *

Led by Ingrid Tavkar

Wednesday 16 July

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

Sunday 20 July11.00am – Morning service - '*Hitting the Wall*' *

Guest Preacher Rev Rob Gregson

Sunday 20 July7.00pm – Evening service '*Ministry of Dance*' *

Led by Rose Williams

Thursday 24 July

7.30pm – Chapel Book Club*

Sunday 27 July11.00am – Morning service – '*The Things I Don't Believe: The Short List*'

Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill

7.00pm – Evening service – '*The Things I Don't Believe: The Short List*'

Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill

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