



Open Mind

The Bulletin of Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel

September 2014

Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it,
and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth
seeking the successive autumns.

George Eliot



September Services

Sunday 7 September (11.00am)

Guest Preacher Rev Johanna Boeke (Jopie)
'Connecting with the Holy'

The problem with facing words like 'Holy' and what it means seems to invoke a feeling of confusion and embarrassment in many Unitarians. The sermon is an attempt to explore a more personal, modern and meaningful sense of the Holy.

The Rev Jopie Boeke is a retired Unitarian Universalist minister, who served churches in Berkeley, California, London Kensington, Horsham and Godalming. She is a native of The Netherlands and married to the Rev Richard Boeke, whom she met at an IARF congress in The Hague in 1964.

Sunday 7 September (7.00pm)

'Music and the Spirit'
Led by Ingrid Tavkar

'Music is the mediator between the spiritual and the sensual life.' *Ludwig van Beethoven*

Sunday 14 September (11.00am)

Guest Preacher Rev Rob Gregson
'Lost and Found'

Many of us feel that we are in an ongoing journey to find something that feels elusive and rare - peace of mind, a sense of purpose, home. A sermon at the end of summer on losing things so that we can have a chance at finding them again.

Sunday 14 September (7.00pm)

'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 21 September (11.00am)

'Harvest Festival'
Guest Preacher Roberta Wedge

A moment of celebration: in a land of plenty we risk forgetting to be grateful. Today we'll have a chance to revel in the harvest, enjoy the fruitfulness of the season, and bask in the sunshine of our achievements. But - you didn't expect there NOT to be a "but", did you?

Please Note: We're asking everyone to bring non-perishable goods to Chapel today – these will be donated to a charity as part of our annual Harvest Celebration!

Sunday 21 September (7.00pm)

'Autumn Equinox Celebration'

Led by members of our 'Wheel of the Year' group, and drawing from the Celtic earth/pagan tradition, we will celebrate the autumn equinox. The service is participatory and one of the eight great Celtic celebrations during the 'Wheel of the year'.

Sunday 28 September (11.00pm)

'Showcase of Chapel Groups & Activities'
Led by members of the Worship Group

Do you want to find out more about the different groups and activities at the chapel? Then come along on Sunday 28th September. After a short service led by the Worship Group, starting at 11.00am, there will be stalls around the Chapel run by the various groups, where you can find out more about what happens at Rosslyn Hill.

Sunday 28 September (7.00pm)

'Readings and Reflections'
Led by Leighton Cole

**The Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel
I 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 **October** issue of 'Open Mind' is **Friday 18 September 2014**.

From the Editor



In September some of our thoughts turn to the Jewish New Year, the Autumn Equinox, and Harvest celebrations (see p. 5). It is also the time when our regular Chapel activities recommence and new initiatives are planned – this offers many opportunities for all of us to 'give it a measure of our devotion' and help our beloved community at Rosslyn Hill to continue to grow and flourish.

So what is on offer during September? Our Minister, Rev Patrick O'Neill will have knee-replacement surgery on 12 September, followed by some weeks of recuperation and therapy. This means we will have visiting Guest Preachers during September and October.

On Sunday 7 September, we welcome back Rev Jopie Boeke who will lead the morning service on the theme 'Connection with the Holy'

On Sunday 14 September, Rev Rob Gregson will lead the morning service on the theme of 'Lost and Found'.

On Sunday 21 September, we welcome Roberta Wedge, to help us celebrate the fruits of harvest and giving thanks for all that we have received. Harvest is a 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.

Everyone is invited to bring non-perishable goods to Chapel – these will be donated to a charity as part of our annual Harvest Celebration!

During the evening service, the Wheel of the Year group invite us to celebrate the Autumn Equinox with reflection, poetry and music.

On Sunday 28 September, during the morning service, we welcome back our Chapel Choir, and after the service there will be 'Showcase of Chapel Groups & Activities', as well as 'Macmillan Coffee' time in the side aisle.

Last but not least, I'd like to draw your attention to the request for 'helping hands' - to help decorate our Chapel for Harvest (see p.5), and lend a hand with the Open Chapel afternoon (see p.5)

*'Coming together is a beginning,
staying together is progress,
and working together is success.'*



PO'Nderings

From our Minister
Rev Patrick T. O'Neill

Hope your summer is going well. Patricia and I had a few days down in beautiful Cornwall by the sea. A part of the country we haven't seen before, we loved it.

It's my pleasure to announce that the Management Board has unanimously approved the appointment of Kristin Howe and Holly VanderMolen as the Chapel's new Co-Coordinator of the Children's Programme as of 1 September 2014. Both Kristin and Holly are teachers at the American School here in London, both have Master's degrees, both have years of teaching experience, and both come to us with Unitarian backgrounds. In addition, both Kristin and Holly have young children of their own who will be participating in the programme. I hope you will extend to them a warm welcome when they join us on the first Sunday of the month.

Holly and Kristin will be sharing the position, allowing each other time to be part of the adult congregation while managing their responsibilities as parents and full-time teachers during the week. I'm sure you will be as impressed as I am meeting them.

Meanwhile, Gabriela Selin is leaving the Creche position in October after nine years of fine service to our wee ones and families. Thank you Gabriela for all you given to our Chapel! We'll have a chance to have a more formal recognition for Gabriela on the last Sunday of September.

How blessed our Chapel has been over the years with the talented and caring teachers who have staffed our Children's Programme! Of course, we continue to rely on parents and other volunteers to make our children's time at Chapel a quality experience. Here's to a new year of learning and fun for all our children.

This coming Sunday will be my last appearance in the pulpit for the next eight weeks or so. I'll be Boston for a family wedding on 6 September, then back here for my knee-replacement surgery on 12 September, followed by some weeks of recuperation and therapy. Do keep me in your thoughts during that time, and I'll keep all of you in mine. The Worship Group has lined up some excellent Guest Preachers in my absence, so don't miss them!

Thanks for all you do for our Chapel!
...p'on

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

Tuesday 2 September – Poetry Group will meet at 7.30pm. For more information contact George Appleby (Tel: 020 7424 9733, email: gappleby@talktalk.net)

Tuesday 9 September - Social Action Committee will meet at 7.30pm

Thursday 11 September - Management Board will meet at 7.00pm in the Chapel Committee Room. Please contact Kerry Reid (kornreid@hotmail.com) if you wish to attend.

Thursday 18 September - Book Group will meet at 7.30pm at the Holly Bush, Holly Mount, NW3 6SG in Hampstead, to discuss Dickens's fine novel 'Our Mutual Friend'. For further information, please contact Bill Ellington at ellingtonbill@aol.com'

Sunday 21 September (11.00am) - Harvest Festival
Please Note: We're asking everyone to bring non-perishable goods to Chapel today – these will be donated to a charity as part of our annual Harvest Celebration!

Sunday 28 September - Macmillan Coffee Morning
- (after the morning service)
To accompany the 'Showcase of Chapel Groups and Activities' there will be a Macmillan Coffee morning in the side aisle. There will be delicious cakes and fresh coffee, and all donations will go to Macmillan, a cancer support charity. Donations of cakes and cafetieres are much appreciated. Please bring on the day. Julia Reid

OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY



COLD WEATHER SHELTER -

never too soon to plan to take part..

As we lament the passing of that wonderful hot summer, planning is in hand for our involvement in Camden's Cold Weather Shelter initiative - our seventh year.

Homelessness can affect anybody, for any reason, the most common being relationship breakdown and lack of money.

Again we will open the Chapel hall on Friday nights (from 7th November to mid-January) to provide up to 15 homeless guests each week with dinner, conversation and entertainment, a safe bed, and a hearty breakfast. There are lots of ways to help - serving food, chatting, playing board games, staying overnight, cooking, or donating towards the costs (approximately £100 per week).

Last year 60 Chapel members and friends helped out. One said it was the best volunteering experience ever, another said it was the best food.

And there's plenty of time to find out more; here are some diary dates:

Sunday 14 September, - Rev Rob Gregson will be preaching on a theme related to homelessness, and we will hear from Becky Walker of C4WS Homeless Project (Camden Community Churches Cold Weather Shelter, the overall organisers) on the pressing need for support like the Chapel's. The offertory will help to fund our efforts.

All volunteers are asked to attend a training session (options below, only one session required):

14 September, Sunday, 12.30 - 2.00 pm followed by refreshments/social time or

26 September, Friday, 7.00 - 8.30 pm followed by refreshments/social time.

The guests tell us our Shelter really does change lives. If you would like to take part or to find out more, please contact the Chapel co-ordinator, Claire Julian, on 020 7435 8254 or claire.marley@mac.com. Thank you.

Claire Julian (Social Action Committee)



COFFEE & TEA MONEY DURING SEPTEMBER

will be in aid of our 'Cold Weather Shelter' and our Sunday collection basket will also be divided with 'Cold Weather Shelter' during September.

News about the Children's Programme

The Management Board has unanimously approved the appointment of Kristin Howe and Holly VanderMolen as the Chapel's new Co-ordinators of the Children's Programme as of 1 September 2014. Both Kristin and Holly are teachers at the American School here in London, both have Master's degrees, both have years of teaching experience, and both come to us with Unitarian backgrounds. In addition, both Kristin and Holly have young children of their own who will be participating in the programme. Please extend to them a warm welcome when they join us on the first Sunday in September.



News from the Management Board

The Board did not meet in August. The next meeting is on **Thursday 11 September** at 7.00pm, in the Cottage basement Science room, at the Chapel. Any member of the Chapel is welcome to attend the Management Committee meetings as an observer.

If you would like to attend, as a courtesy, please contact Kerry Reid email: khornreid@hotmail.com, in advance.



There will be a Special General Meeting for Chapel members after the morning service on **Sunday 12 October**.

A light soup-and-sandwich lunch will be available.

OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY



Wedding Announcement

Kate Buchanan, ministry student and member of Rosslyn Hill Chapel, married Stewart Dean at the Chapel on 26th July and will now be known as Kate Dean. The service, conducted by Rev Patrick O'Neill, featured two choirs and was followed by tea in the hall and an evening celebration back in the chapel. The day was alive with music, including a singing groom!



News from the Flower Group

The Flower Group welcomes anyone who would like to join them on Saturday 20 September (9.00am-1.00pm) to decorate for our Harvest Festival. Materials are provided. It is easy and good fun. Just come along or phone Janna for further details (j.williams16@virginmedia.com)



Worship Assistants

7 September	Julia Reid
14 September	Julia Reid
21 September	Leighton Cole
28 Septemberst	Zoe Gerrad

Stewards

7 September	Leighton Cole & Kerry Reid
14 September	Janna & Anthea William
21 September	George Appleby & Lorna Mikhelson
28 September	Will Hopper & Chirstopher Mason



Open Chapel Event

Sunday 21 September from 2-5pm

Following the success of the Open Chapel afternoon in the past we are opening the Chapel during the Open House weekend. Passers by, members and friends are all welcome. This is an opportunity to find out more about our beautiful Chapel, have a cup of tea and browse through some books.

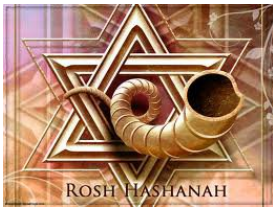
Can you lend a hand to make this event a success? If you would like to contribute a cake or buns for the teas or come along to greet visitors and help for an hour or so you would be very welcome. Please contact Janna Williams, email: j.williams16@virginmedia.com.

Other events in the Chapel Events



Saturday 6 September (11.00am-5.00pm) – Hampstead Craft Fair. For information Tel: 020 7424 0027 or visit the website: www.craftmaker.net

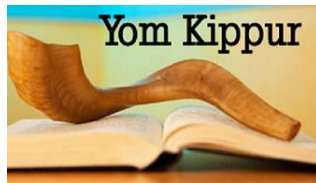
REFLECTIONS



Jewish New Year

Rosh Hashana

This Jewish religious holiday, celebrated on 24 September 2014, literally meaning Rosh – head, and Hashanah - the year, or Jewish New Year. During this solemn holiday, Jews begin ten days of penitence, which ends on Yom Kippur, which is the day of atonement. During Rosh Hashanah, Jews pray for forgiveness, a good year, and long life. The Rabbi sounds a ram's horn called the shofar, which calls Jews to repent. Three sets of prayers are recited during Rosh Hashana - to remind people of God's omnipotence, that God responds to the shofar, and that God remembers deeds.



Yom Kippur

The most sacred of the Jewish holidays, Yom Kippur (3-4 October 2014) is the day of atonement. The day is spent fasting and praying, and it occurs ten days after Rosh Hashana. Atonement really means 'at-one-ment'. Fasting and spending the day in reflection is a good way to spend this day for peace of mind, or to spark one's creativity.



The Harvest is In!

*The harvest is in,
the evenings lengthen,
the summer is gone,
and autumn is here -
come and give thanks
for the earth and her bounty,
come and worship the God
of the circling year.*

Rev Cliff Reed



Autumn

*At first the trees are tinged with yellow or red,
then a few leaves start to fall;
the first chilly morning is felt,
the days are noticeable shorter,
and there's a hint of change in the air.*

*The abundant growth of high summer
looks blowsy now,
and in the kitchen garden
the harvest gathers pace.*

*This is a magical time of year
when the contrast between light and dark
is most apparent,
and there is a richness in the land.
Time to celebrate the bountiful earth.*

Ark Redwood

Autumn Equinox

*Autumn Equinox is Thanksgiving,
a time of gifts and blessings worldwide.
The Crops are harvested,
the menas to nourish life
through the death of winter,
and winter is not far away.*

*Day and night are equal,
and balance of giving and taking,
of light and dark,
summer and winter,
life and death,
are the focus of this time.*

*Though the year is waning
and winter approaches,
the emphasis is less on death
than on the message of rebirth
in the harvest seeds
and the plenty of the season.*

(adapated from Diana Stein)

Our Larger Unitarian Movement

**Oh I do like to be
beside the Seaside!**



Junior Weekend

Calling all 7 - 11 year olds!

Friday 3 – Sunday 5 October 2014

The Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow

Why not come along to our next fun-filled junior weekend? We always love to see new faces, as well as those who've been before. Over the weekend you'll meet lots of new friendly people, play games, make craft activities and all sorts of other things.

For more information contact John Harley at Tel: 07985 900935 email: jharley@unitarian.org.uk

Unitarian Peace Fellowship



Annual Gathering

10th-12th October 2014

At the Nightingale Centre

Join us for an inspirational and uplifting weekend of workshops and fellowship - because in the words of Martin Luther King Jr:

'The hope of a secure and liveable world lies with disciplined nonconformists who are dedicated to justice, peace and brotherhood'.

The weekend begins on Friday with a buffet supper, and ends on Sunday with lunch after attending the Sunday service at Great Hucklow Unitarian Chapel.

To book contact Sue Woolley on 01604 870746 or email: sue.woolley@virgin.net

Everyone Welcome!

The Lindsey Press

(publishing arm of the General Assembly)
has published a new and very timely book.

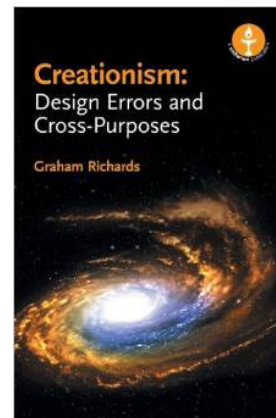
'Creationism: Design Errors and Cross-Purposes'

by Graham Richards,
former Professor of the History of Psychology at
the University of Staffordshire

A resurgence of fundamentalist religious thinking on both sides of the Atlantic is creating demands for the anti-evolutionist, Bible-based doctrine of Creationism and the less doctrinaire but equally unprovable concept of 'Intelligent Design' (ID) to be taught in the school science curriculum as genuine alternatives to the theory of evolution. The two sides seem to be intractable: Creationists are impervious to scientific reasoning, and scientists rely on attacking them in sterile, materialist terms. While presenting the scientific case against Creationism and ID, Graham Richards argues that these beliefs contain a number of deep conceptual contradictions which their scientific critics have failed to discern. He also finds the physical-science camp guilty of an arrogant and patronizing contempt for religion in general. This book aspires to widen the debate, encouraging both sides to re-appraise their own positions.

Order directly from The Lindsey Press, Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London WC2R 3HY.
<http://www.unitarian.org.uk/pages/unitarian-books> - Price £9 plus p&p

Further information can be obtained from Audrey Longhurst at The Lindsey Press, who can be contacted at 020 7240 2384 or by email: alonghurst@unitarian.org.uk



SEPTEMBER DIARY

(* = further details elsewhere in the Bulletin)

Tuesday 2 September

7.00pm – Poetry Group meets *

Wednesday 3 September

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

Sunday 7 September

11.00am – Morning service –
'Connecting with the Holy' *

Guest Preacher Rev Johanna Boeke

7.00pm – Evening service – *'Music and the Spirit'* * Led by Ingrid Tavkar

Tuesday 9 September

7.00pm – Social Action Committee *

Wednesday 10 September

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

7.30 pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel *

Thursday 11 September

7.00pm – Management Board meets in the Chapel *

Sunday 14 September

11.00am – Morning service –
'Lost and Found' *

Guest Preacher Rev Rob Gregson

7.00pm – Evening Gathering –
'Meditation' * Led by Ingrid Tavkar

Wednesday 17 September

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

7.30 pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel

Thursday 18 September

7.30pm - Book Group meet*

Saturday 20 September

9.00am-1.00pm - Harvest
Decorating in the Chapel *

Sunday 21 September

11.00am – Morning service –
'Harvest Festival' *

Guest Preacher Roberta Wedge

12.30PM - *'Harvest Lunch'* *

2.00- 5.00pm – *'Chapel Open Day'* *

Sunday 21 September

7.00pm – Evening Gathering
'Autumn Equinox Celebration' *

Led by our 'Wheel of the Year' group

Wednesday 24 September

5.45pm–Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

7.30 pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel

Sunday 28 September

11.00am – Morning service –
'Showcase of Chapel Groups & Activities' *

Led by members of the Worship Group

12.00am – *'MacMillan Coffee Morning'* *

7.00pm – Evening Gatering –
'Readings and Reflections' *

Led by Leighton Cole

Chapel Directory

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Children's Programme

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'The Unitarians – Nurturing faith, celebrating life, embracing differences'.