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# Open Mind

The Bulletin of Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel

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September 2015

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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 6 September (11.00am)**

**Guest Preacher Rev Martin Whitell**

*'The way of the Pilgrim'*

Towards the end of September many of our Muslim faith friends will be going on Pilgrimage – The Hajj. There are many types of pilgrimage and in this morning's service we will explore the idea of Spiritual Journeys and what they offer us.

**Sunday 6 September (7.00pm)**

*'Music, words, reflection & silence'*

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

**Sunday 13 September (11.00am)**

*'Celebrating Change'*

You have probably heard the saying, 'Change is the only constant in life'. Since change is constantly occurring, then we must learn how to accept it, and even learn to celebrate the changes. Led by members of the Social Action Committee.

**Sunday 13 September (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 September (11.00am)**

**Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill preaching**  
*'In Search of Higher Ground'*

After all, how complicated can it be, this unique human invention called a church? Rent a tent, call for a picnic, gather the troops – you're in business! Just like a circus! Ever wonder why such a quaint place is here, and why so many people have cared about this Chapel, loved this place, needed this place since 1692, over the 300 years? Join us for worship this Sunday, and we'll try to explain ourselves!

**Sunday 20 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 27 September (11.00pm)**  
**Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill preaching**  
*'The Perpetual Migration'*

Impossible to watch a newscast these days without seeing reports of pathetic incidents involving the hundreds of thousands of migrants seeking refuge across the world. As people of conscience in the better-off nations struggle to seek reasonable and humane solutions, it is worth considering the ways in which all souls are 'immigrant souls'. Come ponder with us this Sunday.

**Sunday 27 September (7.00pm)**

*'Tai Chi and Spirituality'*

Tai chi's slow, graceful movements can be used as a meditation to provide relaxed focus, to quiet the monkey mind and to engender a deep sense of relaxation that helps release inner tensions. Led by a member of the congregation.

**The Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel  
I 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](http://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](mailto: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 2015**.

## From the Editor

The creation of a thousand forests  
is in one acorn.  
*Ralph Waldo Emerson*



In September some of our thoughts turn to 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?

On Sunday 6 September, we welcome back Rev Martin Whitell, who will lead the morning service on the theme 'The way of the Pilgrim'.

On Sunday 13 September, members of the Social Action Committee will lead the morning service on the theme 'Celebrating Change', and after the service there will be a '**Special General Meeting**' to elect a Search Committee, tasked with seeking a new settled minister (see p. 7)

On Sunday 20 September, we celebrate the fruits of harvest and give 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 27 September, during the morning service, we welcome back our Chapel Choir.

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

Hoping this finds you in the midst of a good summer that has included a measure of rest and relaxation. My own summer has been extremely busy as Patricia and I have been in the midst of arranging for a new home for ourselves in Seattle where we will be retiring come November 1st. I'm glad to report that after a trip there to scour the area, arrange our finances, and make arrangements for moving ourselves and our belongings 6,000 miles, it does all seem to be coming together. We found a home and we've signed a lease! I don't recommend trying to do this more than once in your life! It's exhausting, full of anxieties and details that can go awry.

The psychology of approaching retirement, along with all its attendant adjustments and transitions, of course, is challenge enough. I'm a professional man. My life has been intensely defined by ministry since first I entered seminary training more than 40 years ago. It's hard for me to even remember not being a minister.

Of course in some ways I will always be a minister whether I'm working or retired. But it will be a sea-change for us not to have our daily life rhythms determined and bordered by the calendar and commitments of parish life. The joys and privileges of my office are many, and I shall miss them for sure. But I'm ready to let go of some of the harder requirements of the work and move to a more leisurely pace. Hobbies that have been secondary in my life (painting, photography, poetry writing) will move up on my personal agenda. Church will always be a part of my life (there's a fine Unitarian congregation about a mile from our new house!) but I look forward to joining my wife in the pews and watching some younger colleagues sit in the big chairs up front.

Before all that however, we have two more months, you and I, to prepare Rosslyn Hill Chapel for transitioning to its next ministry and its next chapter. On September 13th we'll have a Special General Meeting to inform the congregation about all that is involved in searching for a new minister and how things shall be managed in the meantime. You longtime members have done this all before, but newcomers need to be brought along now. At this September 13th meeting we will elect the new Minister Search Committee. The ideal committee should reflect the full diversity of the membership with old members, new members, different constituencies, viewpoints, and theologies all represented. If you think you'd like to be on the committee, do let Board Chair Kerry Reid know of your interest. He's at [khornreid@hotmail.com](mailto:khornreid@hotmail.com)

Me, I'm still at [revponeill@aol.com](mailto:revponeill@aol.com) If you'd like a personal conversation or a coffee with me before my time here comes to an end, I'm happy to do so. In the meantime, see you in Chapel! ....po'n.

## 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

**Monday 7 September – Poetry Group** will meet at 7.30pm. For more information contact George Appleby (Tel: 020 7424 9733, email: [gappleby@talktalk.net](mailto:gappleby@talktalk.net))

**Tuesday 8 September - Social Action Committee** will meet at 7.30pm

**Thursday 10 September - Management Board** will meet at 7.00pm in the Chapel Committee Room. Please contact Kerry Reid ([kornreid@hotmail.com](mailto:kornreid@hotmail.com)) if you wish to attend.

**Thursday 17 September - Book Group** will meet at 7.30pm at the Holly Bush, Holly Mount, NW3 6SG in Hampstead, to discuss D.H. Lawrence 'Sons and Lovers'. For further information, please contact Bill Ellington at [ellingtonbill@aol.com](mailto:ellingtonbill@aol.com)

**Sunday 20 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!

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



### COLD WEATHER SHELTER - never too soon to plan to take part..

Rosslyn Hill Chapel has hosted the Shelter for several years. Again we will open the Chapel hall on Friday nights (from 6th 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).

We need 5 or 6 volunteers for each Friday evening, 2 for each Friday night, and 4 for each Saturday morning (guests leave by 9am). The guests tell us the Shelter really does change lives.

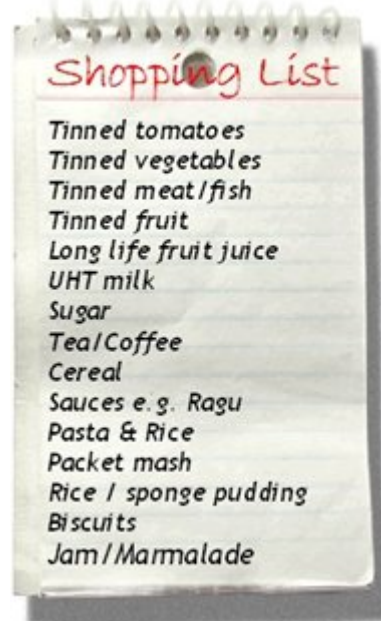
If you would like to take part or to find out more, please contact Leighton Cole (email: leightoncole90@hotmail.com, Tel: 020 8444 9728)

Go to C4WS's website for more information on their work: [www.C4WSHOMELESSPROJECT.org](http://www.C4WSHOMELESSPROJECT.org)



Rosslyn Hill Chapel continues to support a Food Bank in Chalk Farm. Thanks to everyone who has donated so far to our Chapel Food Bank.

Please continue to help us to feed local people in crisis by donating any of the items from the list below and bring them along to Chapel next time you come.



### 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.



### Donations to Good Causes

### Volunteers invited!



Serving tea/coffee at 12.00pm in the side aisle is an enjoyable and useful activity.

Please contact Margaret Perry (margaretperry14@hotmail.co.uk) to offer 30 minutes of time to suit you.

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 pleased to let you know that, so far, we sent donations to the following good causes:

April: £547.35 – Toilet Twinning Project

May: £506.01 – Chennai Unitarian Christian Church Fund

June: £410.03 – All Out! Love, Equality, Action

July: - £437.012 – SimpleGifts

## OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY



### Values in Action

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



### Worship Assistants

6 September	Julia Reid
13 September	Martyn Watson
20 September	Leighton Cole
27 September	Nick Holywell -Walker

### Stewards

6 September	Anne & Roger Harabin
13 September	Zoe Gerrard & Janna Williams
20 September	Carolina Banat & George Appleby
27 September	To be announced



### Stewarding Can You Help? An Appeal to all Members

Stewarding is a simple way to get more involved. Goodstewarding makes a difference: a warm welcome from the stewards is a welcome to the Chapel.

Please look at your diaries and contact Jim Burtles (email: burtlesJ@gmail.com) with any dates in the next few months when you'd be available. If you haven't stewarded at a service before please don't worry as there is always an experienced worship assistant present.



### News from the Flower Group

The Flower Group welcomes anyone who would like to join them on Saturday 19 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)



### Open Chapel Event Sunday 20 September from 2.00-5.00pm

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 5 September (11.00am-5.00pm) – Hampstead Craft Fair.** For information Tel: 020 7424 0027 or visit the website: [www.craftmaker.net](http://www.craftmaker.net)



## REFLECTIONS

**September**

The foliage has been losing its freshness through the month of August, and here and there a yellow leaf shows itself like the first gray hair amidst the locks of a beauty who has seen one season too many....

September is dressing herself in showy dahlias and splendid marigolds and starry zinnias.

October, the extravagant sister, has ordered an immense amount of the most gorgeous forest tapestry for her grand reception.

*Oliver Wendell Holmes*

Summer ends, and Autumn comes,  
and he who would have it otherwise  
would have high tide always  
and a full moon every night;  
and thus he would never know  
the rhythms that are  
at the heart of life.

*Hal Borland*

**Autumn**

Autumn is the eternal corrective.  
It is ripeness and colour  
and a time of maturity;  
but it is also breadth,  
and depth, and distance.

What man can stand  
with autumn on a hilltop  
and fail to see the span of his world  
and the meaning of the rolling hills  
that reach to the far horizon?

*Hal Borland*



Lady Autumn, Queen of the Harvest,  
I have seen You in the setting Sun  
with Your long auburn tresses...  
You sit upon Your throne and watch  
the dying fires of the setting Sun  
shine forth its final colours in the sky...  
Lady Autumn, You are here at last...

*Deirdre Akins*



Smoke hangs like haze over harvested fields,  
The gold of stubble, the brown of turned earth  
And you walk under the red light of fall  
The scent of fallen apples,  
the dust of threshed grain  
The sharp, gentle chill of fall.

Here as we move into the shadows of autumn  
The night that brings the morning of spring  
Come to us, Lord of Harvest  
Teach us to be thankful  
for the gifts you bring us.

*Author unknown*



## OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY

### NEWS FROM THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Any member of the Chapel is welcome to the Board meetings as an observer. If you would like to attend, as a courtesy, please contact the Chair (Kerry Reid) in advance. The next meeting will be on Thursday 10 September 2015 at 7.00pm.

While the Board did not meet in August, work continues nevertheless, and there are some items that we would like to draw your attention to.

The first is a reminder that there will be a Special General Meeting (SGM) on **Sunday, 13 September, at 12.00pm**. This follows a shortened service, led by the Social Action Group. The meeting is expected to last approximately one hour. Childcare will be provided. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss options for the Chapel, following Rev O'Neill's retirement, as of November 1st, to discuss the Ministerial Competences (Minister's Brief), to elect a Search Committee, tasked with seeking a new settled minister and to discuss their 'Code of Conduct', as required by the Chapel's Standing Orders. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting.

The second piece of news is that our Administrator and Operations Manager, Sharron Conduit, has been signed off work for six months, following emergency spinal surgery. Cover is being provided for the time being, by Cassie Tovey and her daughter Annie, while Sharron convalesces at home. They shall be working on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays and any queries should be made to them at the usual email address or telephone number.



### Message from the Management Board

Following Rev Patrick O'Neill's announcement of his retirement as of November 2015, we shall be electing a Search Committee of seven people, to seek a new settled minister. This is extremely interesting work. If you have an interest in seeing our ministry, here at Rosslyn Hill Chapel, continuing to flourish, then please think about being a part of this committee. If you are interested, or would like to know more, please contact the Chair of the Board, Kerry Reid (khornreid@hotmail.com)



### Introduction to new forms of continued education and learning

Do you want to continue studying but can't find the right way of doing so? Come to an introduction on the new, and free, forms of continued education and learning.

The past few years have seen the growth of new forms of online learning as the major universities have put much of their teaching material on line for free. These massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) offer enormous opportunities not just to millions of people around the world who cannot either afford or physically access universities – they also offer unparalleled access to people who see education as a continual process rather than something for the young at one time in their lives.

There are several "platforms" that host courses and the courses themselves are provided by universities from around the world, who put their material into a particular format. Courses can be "attended" by as many as 10,000 students or more. This can all seem a bit daunting at first to the new user or to someone who is not confident of their computer skills. But many courses are for beginners and can just be followed for interest rather than having to be academically challenging.

I have recently completed 10 of these courses and will be pleased to share what I have learned about finding courses, enrolling, studying and completing the courses in a relaxed manner, and perhaps doing courses with a friend or in groups to make it more fun.

In the first instance, please let me know if you would be interested in an introductory talk and I will set one up in due course.

John Lawrence (john@l-s-l.com)



### Special General Meeting

for Chapel members  
after the morning service on

**Sunday 13 September.**

**SEPTEMBER DIARY****Wednesday 2 September**

7.30pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel\*

**Sunday 6 September**

11.00am – Morning service  
*'The way of the Pilgrim'*  
Guest Preacher Rev Martin Whitell

7.00pm – Evening service – *'Music, words, reflections and silence'*\*  
Led by Margaret Perry & Ingrid Tavkar

**Monday 7 September**

7.00pm – Poetry Group meets \*

**Wednesday 9 September**

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

**Thursday 10 September**

7.00pm – Management Board meets in the Chapel Committee room\*

**Sunday 13 September**

11.00am – Morning service  
*'Celebrating Change'* \*  
Led by members of the Social Action Committee

**12.00am – Special General Meeting \***

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

**Wednesday 16 September**

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

**Thursday 17 September**

7.30pm – Book Group meets \*

**Saturday 19 September**

2.00 – 5.00pm - Harvest Decorating in the Chapel\*

**Sunday 20 September**

**Harvest Celebration**  
11.00am – Morning service  
*'In Search of Higher Ground'*  
Led by Rev Dr Patrick T. O'Neill

**Sunday 20 September**

2.00pm- 5.00pm – 'Chapel Open Day'

7.00pm – Evening service  
*'Autumn Equinox Celebration'* \*  
Led by our 'Wheel of the Year' group

**Wednesday 23 September**

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

**Sunday 27 September**

11.00am – Morning service  
*'The Perpetual Migration'*  
Led by Rev Dr Patrick T.O'Neill

7.00pm – Evening services

*'Tai Chi and Spirituality'*  
Led by Mike Grant ???

**Wednesday 30 September**

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

(\* = further details elsewhere in the Bulletin)

**Chapel Directory****Chapel Office**

Sharron Conduit  
Tel: 020 7433 3267  
Email: admin@rosslynhillchapel.com

**Chapel E-mail**

admin@rosslynhillchapel.com

**Chapel Online**

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

**Chapel Address**

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**The Minister**

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London NW3 1NG Tel: 020 7435 3506  
E-mail: revponeill@aol.com

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