

Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel



Bulletin December 2009



This is a Unitarian Chapel. Our religion is a spiritual journey and each one of us is an explorer. Reason is our map and conscience is our compass. Loving kindness is our way in the world.

Services:

Morning Service: Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

Evening Service: Sunday at 7:00 p.m.

Children's Chapel: We begin together as one community. Following a special story for the children, they then leave for their own activities in the hall. (11.00 a.m. service only.) Deadline for submissions for January Bulletin is

Monday 21 December 2009
RHUCbulletin@yahoo.com

DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

Every Sunday 11am and 7pm in the Chapel

6 December (11am and 7pm) - "The Copenhagen Summit and a New Spiritual Paradigm".

We all know the problem: global climate change caused by green house gas emissions. We know the possible dire consequences if the global temperature rises above too much. To meet this challenge we need to change at all levels: politically, environmentally, economically, life style, and spiritually. We will consider each level with a focus on the spiritual. Can we turn this crisis into an opportunity?"

13 December (11am and 7pm) – "Jesus and the Nature of Love"

We have all heard the words: "Love one another" and "Love God with all your heart ... and your neighbour as yourself" – but how do we practice these teachings from Jesus? We have to look further into the New Testament story to learn what Jesus says about the nitty-gritty of love in human life.



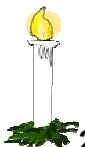
20 December (11am) – "Ceremony of Carols"

Our annual Ceremony of Carols Service will include our Chapel Choir and lots of Christmas Carols, alternated with words and thoughts to celebrate the wonder and joy of Christmas. Bring your joy of music to this very special service.



20 December (7pm) – "Winter Solstice"

This is a Holy Day of Yule in the Pagan 'Wheel of the Year'. Drawing from Celtic and other earth traditions we will celebrate the darkest time of the year and the return of the Light.



24 December (Thursday 6pm and 8pm) - Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

We will hold two identical services on Christmas Eve (6pm and 8pm). This is one of the loveliest services in the Chapel year. Bring a candle, bring your friends and family, and bring your child like joy and hope as we celebrate the birth of one of the greatest spiritual teachers in human history.



25 December (Friday 10am) – "Christmas Day Service"

An opportunity for those who would like to gather on Christmas Day for worship and a time of fellowship.

27 December (11am and 7pm) – "Endings and Beginnings"

As 2009 closes and 2010 opens, we will explore the nature of endings and beginnings. This will include our annual "fire ceremony" where we write down what we need to let go of and what we want to bring into our life – and then place what we want to let go of in a fire on the chapel lawn and take home what we want to bring into our life.

CHAPEL ACTIVITIES IN DECEMBER

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL meets **every Sunday** at the **11am service**. New children are always welcome.

CHAPEL YOUTH GROUP for young adults from ages 9 to 15 will meet on **Friday 11 December, 7pm to 9pm** in the chapel with Jim Robinson. Our guest facilitator (bringing games and art projects) will be the Director of Youth Activities for the Unitarian denomination in Britain, John Harley.

CHAPEL CHOIR rehearses each **Wednesday evening at 7:30pm** in the chapel. They will be singing at our 20 December Carol service and then be taking a break until January. New voices are always welcomed into the choir. No audition necessary.

TAI CHI CLASS is held each **Wednesday 5:45pm** in the chapel.

CHANTING AND MEDITATION evening will be held **Tuesday 1 December, 7:30pm** in the chapel, led by Reverend Danielle Wilson. We alternate chanting traditional spiritual passages with times of quiet meditation.

JESUS STUDY GROUP will meet **Thursday 3 December 7:30pm** in the chapel. We will be exploring two New Testament books: *Book of the Acts* and *Revelations*. Diverse view points are encouraged. Discussion facilitated by Jim Robinson.

SPIRITUAL HEALING will be offered on **Sunday 6 December, 12:30 – 1:30**, in the chapel hall by the chapels healing ministry team. This is a gentle "laying on of hands" which affirms that Spirit can work through the hands and prayers of one person to help facilitate healing in another. This does not in any manner replace traditional or complementary medicine or counselling.

LABYRINTH WALKING MEDITATION On **Sunday 13 December 2pm to 4pm** a labyrinth, patterned after the famous labyrinth at Chartres Cathedral, will cover the chapel floor space and is available for walking. Facilitated by Rev. Danielle Wilson.

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

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE meets on **Thursday 10 December 7.30pm** in the chapel. Members of the chapel are always welcomed to attend but as a courtesy please let the Chair of the committee (Paul ver Bruggen) know you will be coming.

CHAPEL POETRY GROUP will meet on **Thursday 17 December 7:30pm** at the home of Jane Adams For directions call Jane 7328 6610. Bring along a poem or two (written by yourself or a favourite poet) to share.

CHAPEL BOOK GROUP will **not meet in December**. We will meet again on **Thursday 21 January, 7:30pm** at the Magdala Pub, South End Green, Hampstead. We will be discussing Robert Graves famous work "*I Claudius*".

CHAPEL LUNCHEON - a '*festive lunch*' will be held on **Sunday 20 December at 12.30pm** in the hall following the morning service. All welcome! Offers of help and contributions would be very welcome. Contact: Ingrid Tavkar Tel: 020 8455 0612; email: ingridtavkar@tiscali.co.uk



Ministerial Search Committee

The Search Com continues to meet fortnightly on Sundays. The seven members are;- Danielle Wilson(Chair), Claire Julian(Sec), Scott Turnbull, Hilary McCollum, Jane Crispin, Harold Frankel, Margaret Perry. Within considerations of confidentiality, the Search Com. members welcome questions, suggestions and enquiries. The original optimistic schedule has fallen behind but an advert appears in the current edition of 'The Inquirer', and will also be in the next edition in a week's time. The advert will be posted on the Vacant Pulpit's List at the end of November, with the closing date of January 8th

Three expressions of interest have now been received. In the first place applications are sent to Dr Ann Peart at GA, Essex Hall, and thereafter are forwarded to RHUC almost immediately. Should there be no successful applicants from U.K then the post will be advertised internationally early in January.



News from "Stitch and Stories" group

BLESSING OF THE DOLLS will be held at the **Sunday Service on 6th December**. Chapel knitters have been creating dolls, blankets, and other items for charities. Completed items will be blessed before being sent to charities in KwaZulu Natal (South Africa) and to orphanages in Bulgaria. Knitters are invited to bring any finished items along to the blessing. A big Thank You! - to all our knitters and to Ingrid Tavkar, co-ordinator of the project.

Community of
Camden Churches
Cold Weather Shelter

As part of the Camden Cold Weather shelter programme, our chapel will be hosting homeless men and women on Saturday evenings through Sunday morning, in the chapel hall, on Saturdays in December. Please notify Leighton Cole if you would like to help (7433 3267).

OUR FAITH IN ACTION

Cold Weather Shelter

This year the chapel is taking part in Camden Churches' Cold Weather Scheme for the homeless. We will offer a meal, overnight stay and breakfast to 14 homeless people on 6/7, 13/14, 20/21 December. It is a well run scheme, but we do need volunteers. If you think you might like to help whether it is setting up tables, taking down bedding or chatting with the guests, please get in touch. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Leighton Cole on 020 7433 3267.

TREE DECORATORS NEEDED!



We will be putting up Christmas decorations and dressing the tree on

SATURDAY 19th DECEMBER

10 am to 1 pm

Please come along, enjoy the festive spirit and help for as long as you can.

Mince pies will be on offer (and chocolate biscuits for the young)

Contact: **Ann Finer 020 7267 3313**

Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel Monthly Lecture Series presents

"Can Buddhism meet the spiritual needs of post-Christian Britain?"

An interactive discussion with **Munisha (Catherine Hopper)**, Member of the Western Buddhist Order

As Director of The Clear Vision Trust, Munisha makes DVD and online materials for young people interested in Buddhism. Her talk will include a video, followed by a Q&A session and a lively discussion in small groups.

7.30pm Monday 7th December 2009

ROSSLYN HILL UNITARIAN CHAPEL Hampstead London NW3 1NG

Suggested Donation: £5.00.

Reservations and enquiries: 020 7433 3267 admin@rosslynhillchapel.com

This is a joint event between Rosslyn Hill Lectures Committee and the Urban Unitarians.

UGANDAN UNITARIANS - Following a wonderful visit from **Reverend Mark Kiyimba**, in which he spoke in the chapel during a Sunday service and also met with our Management Committee, the Social Action Committee recommended that we become a Partner Church with the **Masaka Unitarian Congregation (Uganda)** which includes the AIDS Orphanage and a Unitarian School (open to all). The Management Committee unanimously agreed with establishing a Partner Church relationship. Details of this will be worked out in the coming year. Leighton Cole will visit the Masaka Congregation sometime in 2010. Thank you to two chapel members who anonymously contributed £500 for the Unitarian AIDS orphanage in Masaka.



MARYLEBONE SHELTER FOR WOMEN – Our Christmas Eve collections will go entirely to the Marylebone Shelter for Women. We hope to raise upwards to £1,000 for the shelter on that one evening.

CHAPEL REP NEEDED FOR CHURCHES TOGETHER

Rosslyn Hill Chapel is a member of the Hampstead area Churches Together ecumenical group. We need two reps to attend their quarterly meetings and liaise between the chapel and this ecumenical group. If interested please contact Jim Robinson at 020 7435 3506 or maryjimrobinson@btconnect.com.



HELPING DURING THE INTERIM

Between the leaving of Jim Robinson as our minister and the start of a new settled minister there will be an interim period. Our guess is that this will last four months (although it could be shorter or longer). During this time members of the chapel will need to help out in some enjoyable and important ways. If you would like to help with any aspect during the interim period (Sunday worship, pastoral visits, children's chapel, membership etc) please contact **Jim Robinson at 020 7435 3506** or maryjimrobinson@btconnect.com.



Unitarian chapels in North and West London are coming together for an evening of home-grown entertainment - a talent show with a Valentine's theme.

Help us raise funds for Unitarian causes:

Be a star - We're looking for songs, skits and poetry (3mins max.) with a Valentine theme. Spaces are limited! Please contact Kate by **15 January**: kateboo@gmail.com 07870 322 519

Be a volunteer - We're looking for volunteers to help set up and run the bar. If you're interested, please contact Margaret: margaretperry14@hotmail.com 020 7284 0790

Be a fan - put this date in your diary and join us: **13 February 2010**



NEWS FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Any member of the Chapel is welcome to attend the Management Committee (MC) meetings as an observer. The next meeting will be on Thursday 10th December 2009 at 7.30 pm.

Management Committee Meeting on Thursday 12th November. Paul ver Bruggen (Chair)

Appointment a new Chapel Administrator! As many members know, Leighton Cole, who has worked tirelessly as Administrator for 7 years is leaving in January. A search committee, headed by Hillary Ratna, was set up to look for a new administrator. Sharron Conduit has been appointed. Sharron was warmly welcomed at this meeting. She has been working as PA to the director of Human Resources at the British Library and before that for a Local Authority and a football club. She has worked for many years as a volunteer for the Samaritans. Sharron will shadow Leighton during December and take over in January.

The question of a farewell present for Leighton was discussed. A visit, on behalf of the Chapel, to the Rev. Mark Kiyamba's church in Masaka, Uganda was proposed, This was agreed by the MC. Glen said he would check on the cost of flights to Uganda and report back.

Jim said the Social Action committee had proposed that Rosslyn Hill Chapel should work in partnership with Rev. Kiyamba's church. This proposal was agreed unanimously by the MC.

Minister Search Committee

Danielle Wilson (chair) reported that the vacancy was now being advertised (see 'The Inquirer' and our website www.rosslynhillchapel.com). If no suitable candidate comes forward from the UK, the post will be advertised in the EU and after that, in the States.

The Code of Conduct, drawn up by the Way Forward Group, was approved by the MC and would be discussed after the service on Sunday 22nd November in a 'Meet the Management Committee' session.

Website developments were discussed. Kate Buchanan described a training course for Engagement Groups she had attended. The General Assembly is encouraging the formation of these small groups with shared interests. The website could include reporting of groups' activities. Jim offered to hold a Saturday workshop for leaders of Chapel groups.

Minister's Report

Jim stressed the need for the Chapel to prepare for the period of transition. Services can either be led by the members (lay-led), by an interim minister, or 'paid lay led'. He proposed four subcommittees: Worship, Pastoral Care, Youth and Children's Chapel, and Social Events be set up and running by January. Members will be invited to volunteer at the service on 22nd Nov.

Administrator's Report

Work on the roof had started and a number of other repairs done. Erich was thanked for the work he'd done on some of these jobs.

Treasurer's Report

The MC agreed with Glen's proposal that the money from an investment which had matured, be invested with the Abbey National (2½ %).

Glen having taken advice from the Auditors, proposed that all accounts (eg the Flower Fund and the Lectures) should be brought into the main Chapel account, and this was agreed.

English Heritage might give a grant to cover 50% of the cost of major works on the roof.

Membership Report

Jim reported that applications for membership had been received from Jane Adams, Maria Wallace, Ella and Andrew Appleyard, Paul and Ruth Ayres, Cheryl Tudor, Joe Britto, and Mercedes Bar-Joseph. Approved unanimously.

Chair's Report

Paul and Glen had met with the Academy School. The school's recent Ofsted report pointed out the need for greater security. The MC discussed the implications of the gates being locked during school hours. Kathee felt this might be unacceptable for some of the car parking customers, so Glen and Paul agreed to go back to the school and check Ofsted's exact requirements. The MC will revisit the issue at the next MC.

AOB

Talent Show, 13th Feb 2010 Kate is looking for talent, for the show which she, Margaret Perry and Deborah Frankel are arranging. Local Chapels will be contributing.

The President of the General Assembly, Rev Bob Wightman conducted the evening service on 8th Nov. The Ministers from Golders Green, Stoke Newington and Kensington Chapels were present. £300 was present to Rev Wightman for the work of the GA.

Willoughby Road Sale Update

After the overwhelming EGM decision (83%) to sell our property on Willoughby Road (WR), the Management Committee (at its June '08 meeting) set up the WR Sale Project Group. The Management Committee also established an Investment Project Group to develop an Investment Policy for the investment of the funds from the sale of WR. In July of '08 whilst preparing to market our property, our neighbours at no 2 Willoughby Road sent us a letter alleging that the house (which we had permission to build) would infringe on their right to light.

As the agents were concerned about marketing a property, whose value was based on a planning application which might prove problematic to build, they recommended that we address our neighbours' concerns by engaging a Right To Light surveyor to do a daylight survey. This was done and while there was negligible (therefore un-actionable) loss of light to living areas to our neighbours there was a possible actionable loss to their stairwell, a storage room and a downstairs toilet (all of which were non living areas). As the market was beginning to weaken it was decided that we should modify the plans to avoid any possible problems in the sale.

In February we instructed architects and they have now designed a house which will not cause any loss of light to our neighbours. Recently they provided the Management Committee with the following statement -

Our architects have advised us that:

- 1) a planning application for a high quality house in the centre of Hampstead on an empty site will hugely increase its value.*
- 2) over the last few months, there has been a huge increase in activity in the housing market and that they have never been busier.*
- 3) our architects are now very close to gaining planning permission. They have been negotiating with the officers and have reached a position where the planning officers have asked them to make a planning application having received every indication the local authority will support their revised scheme.*
- 4) if the planning application is granted, it will be for a house that does not infringe the Daylight and Sunlight rights of our neighbour. Our architects and our Daylight and Sunlight expert have been very careful to ensure this. This is a project that we will be able to sell to either a developer or a homeowner who will be able to make an immediate start.*
- 5) if in the unlikely event that planning permission is not granted, our architects' planning consultants tell them that they believe that we would win at appeal, especially bearing in mind a larger house has already been consented. They believe a refusal by Camden would be politically motivated and not based on objective planning grounds.*

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to talk to either **Kathee Myers, Paul ver Bruggen,** or **John Lawrence.**



Our Larger Unitarian Movement

The congregations of Newington Green Unitarian Church and Unity Church Islington invite us to the Induction Service of the **Reverend Dr. Andrew Pakula**. The service will take place at Newington Green Unitarian Church at **2pm on Saturday, 16th January 2010**, and will be followed by a reception at Unity Church Islington.

We are pleased to announce that Derek McCauley is now the Chief Executive Officer at our British Denominational Headquarters, which is located on Essex Street in London. The former Chief Executive Officer, Steve Dick, is now dividing his work time between the Horsham Unitarian Church and the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists.

Events at Rosslyn Hill Chapel in December

Saturday 28 November 10am to 3pm - Christmas Fair

Saturday 28 November at 19.30 – Hampstead Chamber Choir –Crowning Glories
Tickets £10, £8 concs. Information from Tim Shelton 020 8348 4899.

Sunday 29 November at 3.30pm – Chamber Music Concert in aid of Indonesian Appeal.
Tickets at the door.

Friday 4 December at 7.30pm the Emmy Destinn Foundation present:
An Evening of Opera with Janacek, Dvorak, Puccini, Mozart
Further information: edf@destinn.com. Tickets at the door: £15, conc.£10

Saturday 5 December at 7.30pm BACH AND BEYOND: A CHAMBER MUSIC SOIREE
Musicians from Morley College play music for winds, strings, voice and piano.
Tickets £5 at the door

Thursday 17 December at 7.45pm – (pre-concert talk at 7.15pm) Florin Concert: strings, flute and oboe playing Mozart, Britten, Back and Beethoven.
Tickets £10 on the door.



Rosslyn Hill Chapel Directory

Chapel Office	Leighton Cole	(020) 7433 3267(Tel) (020) 7435 7457(Fax)
Chapel Email	admin@rosslynhillchapel.com	
Chapel Website	www.rosslynhillchapel.com	
Chapel Address	Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel Office, 3 Pilgrims Place, London NW3 1NG United Kingdom	
The Minister	The Reverend Jim Robinson, The Manse, 3 Pilgrim's Place, London NW3 1NG (020) 7435 3506 Email address: maryjimrobinson@btconnect.com	
Bulletin Editor	Ingrid Tavkar	(020) 8455 0162 Email: RHUCbulletin@yahoo.com

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Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel is in London's Hampstead village on Rosslyn Hill between Willoughby Road and Pilgrim's Lane. It is 440 yards down Hampstead High Street on the same side of the street as Hampstead Tube Station. The 46 and 268 buses stop nearby.

DECEMBER DIARY

(* = further details elsewhere in Bulletin)

Tuesday 1 December

19.30 - Chanting in the chapel*

Wednesday 2 December

17.45 - Tai Chi class in the chapel*

19:30 - Choir rehearsal in the chapel*

Thursday 3 December

19.30 - Jesus Study Group*

Sunday 6 December

11:00 - Morning service - *"The Copenhagen Summit and a New Spiritual Paradigm"* - Rev Jim Robinson

12.30 - 1.30pm - Spiritual Healing in the chapel*

19:00 - Evening service - Rev Jim Robinson

Monday 7 December

19.30 - Lecture of the month*

Tuesday 8 December

19:30 - Social Action Committee meets*

Wednesday 9 December

17.45 - Tai Chi class in the chapel*

19:30 - Choir rehearsal in the chapel*

Thursday 10 December

19.30 - Management Committee meets*

Friday 11 December

19.00 - Chapel Youth Group meet in the chapel*

Sunday 13 December

11:00 - Morning service - *"Jesus and the Nature of Love"** - Rev Jim Robinson

14.00 - 16.00 Labyrinth Walking Meditation*

19:00 - Evening service -* Rev Jim Robinson

Wednesday 16 December

17.45 - Tai Chi class in the chapel*

19:30 - Choir rehearsal in the chapel*

Sunday 20 December

11:00 - Morning service - *"Ceremony of Carols"** - Rev Jim Robinson

12.30 - Chapel 'festive' lunch*

19.00 - Evening service - *"Winter Solstice"**
Rev Jim Robinson

Thursday 24 December

18.00 and 20.00 - *"Christmas Eve Candle Light Service"** -

Friday 25 December

10.00 - *"Christmas Day Service"** - Rev Jim Robinson

Sunday 27 December

11:00 - Morning service - *"Endings and Beginnings"** - Rev Jim Robinson

19.00 - Evening service - Rev Jim Robinson

Merry Christmas

