



Open Mind

The Bulletin of the Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel

January 2011

January Services

Sunday 1 January (11.00am and 7.00pm)

Rev. Dr Patrick T. O'Neill

“Reflection on Janus and the Dancing Particles”

A sermon for January - About the Roman god Janus after whom the month is named. The two-faced god who faces into the future and back to the past at the same time. The god of gateways and new beginnings. Come join us and begin your new year in good spirits!

Sunday 8 January (11.00am only)

Rev. Rob Gregson (Guest Preacher)

"Keeping Faith with London"

Though located in village-like Hampstead, our Chapel is very much an urban church. How do we, as individuals and a congregation, fully engage with our fellow Londoners, those we see in the pews next to us and those who live in a city worlds away from our own? What might it yet mean, four months after the riots and looting of last August, to keep faith with those who call London "home" and, by so doing, to remain true to some of the most cherished tenets of our Unitarian faith?

Sunday 8 January (7.00pm) - Service to be announced

Sunday 15 January (11.00am and 7.00pm)

Rev. Dr Patrick T. O'Neill

“The Story of Le Chambon and How Goodness Happened There”

"What does it mean to be a good person? What moral imperatives lie at the heart of our humanness when faced with moral choices?"



Special Reminder to Mark Your Diaries and Save the Date!

On Saturday 7 January at 3.00pm

Please join us at Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel for

a special celebration service of induction

for our new minister,

The Rev. Dr Patrick T. O'Neill

as the 37th Minister of the Chapel.

Visiting Clergy invited to robe and process.

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Editor.....2	Our Chapel Community.....4-9	Our Larger Unitarian Movement.....11
Chapel Activities.....3	News from the Management Committee.....6	January Diary.....Back Page
PO'Nderings.....3		

The Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel
The 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, monthly lectures, and a variety of monthly events for all age groups.

The Chapel is licensed for marriages and other ceremonies.

**For more information, visit our website at
www.rosslynhillchapel.com**

From the Editor

"Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end!"

The Romans dedicated the first of January to their god of gates and doors - Janus, who has a distinctive artistic appearance in that he is commonly depicted with two faces - one regarding what is behind and the other looking toward what lies ahead. Thus Janus is representative of contemplation on the happenings of an old year while looking forward to the new. Rev. Patrick's first sermon in the New Year will focus on "Janus" and no doubt give us food for thought.

The start of the New Year is a good time to focus on what the Chapel means to all of us; and what we can do to enhance our community!

Last December, John Lawrence and Tanya Morrison, co-Chairs of the Chapel's Management Committee, wrote to all members, and we repeat their message in this issue (see p. 8 or see attachment)

In February (Sunday 26), the Annual General Meeting will be an opportunity for members and friends to air their views about how we do things at Rosslyn Hill Chapel, and I'd like to echo John's suggestion:

"this is an opportunity to review the past and look ahead, so in the run-up to the AGM, I would like to ask each of you to consider if there are any additional ways in which you might help the Chapel. A starting point might be to consider the following question:

'What do I get from the chapel in terms of spiritual nourishment, social contact and sheer enjoyment compared with what I contribute in terms of help where it is needed or cash to keep everything running?'"

Let us work together to continue to help our beloved community flourish and grow.

Ingrid Tavkar (Editor)

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

Deborah Frankel
Tel: 020 8209 1000
Email: debfrankel@totalise.co.uk

Children's Chapel

Charlotte Illingworth
Tel: 020 8882 3491
E-mail: cillingworthuk@yahoo.co.uk

Bulletin Team

Ingrid Tavkar, Editor
Editorial Team:

Melanie Haberstroh, Margaret Perry, Janna Williams
Layout: Corey Fabian Borenstein
Tel: 020 8455 0162; Email: RHUCbulletin@yahoo.com

Registered Charity 1131346
Registered Co. No. 05992717

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



PO'Nderings: "Epiphanies Great and Small"

From our Minister
Rev. Patrick T. O'Neill

According to the church calendar, the Christmas season ends officially on the Feast of the Epiphany, the first week in January. The Gospel accounts are a bit vague on the timing, but tradition holds that the Three Wise Men from the East were late arriving in Bethlehem. The ox and lamb and the shepherds had all celebrated a full two weeks before Caspar, Balthazar, and Melchior finally made it to the humble stable.

It is a grand story these three royal pilgrims present to the imagination. Travelling by night, these kingly Zoroastrians reach across the centuries, laden with strange gifts for an unknown child. The gold we still understand. The frankincense and myrrh require some modern footnotes.

The Gospels never tell us what became of the Magi. We don't know if this particular trip was their only such one, or (blasphemy to suggest) whether they were in the habit of doing this sort of thing. We don't know how many comets they followed over the years, how many birthplaces they visited, or (blasphemy to suggest) exactly how many infants they honoured in this fashion. It makes for interesting, if somewhat heretical, speculation.

Writers and poets have always loved the Epiphany story, with its imagery, pathos, and simple humanity. It matters little whether the story we have is accurate in every detail. The birth of prophets requires some imagination, some poetry, some pageantry. This world without its stargazers, without its pilgrims, without heavenly portents now and then, is a stark and barren place.

The occasional comet still streaks across winter skies, to be sure. But our capacity to be awestruck has diminished. Babes, more and more of them, continue to be born in rude huts - and we pray that at least some of them will grow to be prophets. But kings no longer attend their births, and gold and frankincense and myrrh seem small recompense in a cold and violent world.

I say, here's to epiphanies, great and small, whenever they occur. A blessing on all Wise Men and Women, East and West. Here's to the stargazers and pilgrims everywhere, who are still foolish enough and brave enough to follow their stars, bringing their uncommon gifts to us all. See you in Chapel....

...po'n

Publisher's Statement: "Open Mind" is a tool of outreach for the Rossllyn 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.

Chapel Activities



Weekly Activities

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 Youth Group will be continuing with Lizzy Lawrence as the adult advisor. Please contact Lizzy at 020 7328 2251 for details.

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.

January Activities and Meetings

Tuesdays 3 January, 17 January, and 31 January - "Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life" by Karen Armstrong in the Chapel at 7.30pm. Come and discuss this book. Contact: Leighton Cole (email: leightoncole90@hotmail.com)

10 January - Social Action Committee will meet at 7.30pm

12 January - Management Committee meets at 7.00pm in the Committee Room in the Chapel. Members of the Chapel are welcome to attend but contact the Chair, John Lawrence, ahead of time as a courtesy.

19 January - The Book Group will meet at 7.30pm at the Magdala at 2a South Hill Park in Hampstead, to discuss "The Feast" by Margaret Kennedy. Contact: Bill Ellington (Tel: 020 7354 0397, email: Ellingtonbill@aol.com)

January - If you like to read and /or write poetry, the Chapel Poetry Group will meet at 7.30pm in the Chapel. For more information contact George Appleby (Tel: 020 7424 9733, email: gappleby@talktalk.net)

OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY

Mark Your Diaries



Unitarianism 101: An Introductory Class

Led by our Minister, Rev. Dr Patrick O'Neill

When: Sunday 22 January 1.00pm to 2.30pm

Where: At the Manse

New to Unitarianism? Or are you a long-time member wanting to know more about the principles that are foundational to our unique approach to faith and religion? This is a class designed especially for you! An excellent introduction for those considering formally joining our membership. Or for the merely curious!



Welcoming Children Workshop

led by Emily Manvel Leite with Patrick O'Neill and Charlotte Illingworth

Sunday 29 January

12.20-12.45pm lunch, 12.45-2.15pm workshop

Are you interested in making our Chapel community welcoming and fun for children of all ages? Plan to join us for a delicious soup and bread luncheon and a fun, active workshop to make concrete plans for the ongoing support and improvement of our Children's Chapel. Older children are welcome to attend. Childcare will be provided for younger children.

For further details call Emily on 020 7722 1128.

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 February issue of 'Open Mind' is **Monday 16 January 2012**.



Do you have good quality second-hand books to donate for the RHUC Book Sale?

Please bring them to the Chapel as soon as you can!

The sale is on Saturday 17 March 2012.

All proceed will be donated to charity projects.

MARYLEBONE SHELTER FOR WOMEN –

Our Christmas Eve collection will go entirely to the Marylebone Shelter for Women.

Walking the Parks

In October I did a sponsored walk to raise money for C4WS who are the organisation behind our cold weather shelter. Lots of people sponsored me and I raised £450, which is an amazing amount. This money will be used to help guests who are being settled into new homes. My walk took me across Hyde Park, Green Park and St. James' Park on a lovely autumn day when the leaves were turning from green to red and orange. Thank you so much to everyone who sponsored me. Leighton Cole

Amnesty's "Send a Message of Hope" Campaign



amnesty.org.uk

This year, we will again be supporting Amnesty International's greeting card campaign. We will send messages of goodwill and solidarity to people whose rights have been abused, and those in danger for defending human rights. Cards will be available in the Chapel after morning services on 8, 15, 22 & 29 January, so that the congregation can send a message of hope to prisoners of conscience in many different parts of the world.

OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY



KIDSCOMPANY

Keeping Faith

Sir Thomas Abney School Pantomime

On Monday 5 December a group of seven London Unitarians - Deborah Burnstone from Newington Green/New Unity of Islington and George Appleby, Lorna Mikhelson, Emily Manvel Leite, Margaret Perry, Janna Williams and Rob Gregson - travelled to the Sir Thomas Abney School in Hackney to see a pantomime and work with a small group of children involved with the Kids Company charity. Members of the congregation raised £350 to sponsor the theatre troupe and the above representatives from the Keeping Faith initiative went to the school to see the performance and work with kids who have been identified as needing extra help.

Keeping Faith has chosen Kids Company as the focus of our effort to make a difference following the August riots. If you would like to learn more and possibly become a part of this on-going work and all the fun it brings - we had a great lunch afterwards! - please contact Rob Gregson at mattorobg@gmail.com or on 074 1128 0667.

Many thanks to all those who contributed to what will be the first of many such exchanges!

On another aspect of the Chapel's work with Kids Company: Many thanks to the over 20 individuals, couples and families at Rosslyn Hill who chose a tag from our Wishes Tree and purchased a gift to make a child's holiday wish come true. These members of our congregation provided everything from baby dolls, colouring books, and dinosaur toys to underwear, woolly gloves, and Christmas dinner; giving well over £250 worth of donations to this worthy cause and making many holidays brighter for needy children. Special thanks to Janna Williams, who helped distribute tags, and to Ann Finer, who obtained and arranged the pine boughs to display the tags.

Emily Manvel Leite

Chapel Flower Rota

January – February 2012

Sunday 1 January Helene
Friday 6 January Christmas Clearup

10.00am – 2.00pm. We need everyone's help with packing the decorations away in boxes, clearing the window ledges and saying a fond goodbye to Christmas. Also to decorate the Chapel for Rev Patrick's induction service on Saturday 7 January. Please help us to make it special for Rev. Patrick's Induction. Please let me know if you are available to help on Friday 6 January. Thanks. Helene 07778 176425, Helenehow@aol.com

Sunday 15 January Ethaar
Sunday 22 January Janna
Sunday 29 January Charlotte
Sunday 5 February Camino
Sunday 12 February Helene
Sunday 19 February Patricia
Sunday 26 February Christina

New dates available for Sundays in March are: 11 and 19.

Helene and Ann thank Patricia, Charlotte, Ethaar, Judy, Julia, Deborah, Janna, Anthea and Carina for joining them in decorating the Chapel for the Christmas festivities. It was a heart-warming co-

Helping Hands at Services

Stewards

1 January Ann Finer & Hillary Ratna
8 January Paul & Carin Van Der Bruggen
15 January
22 January Judy Harris
29 January

Worship Group Reps

1 January Janna Williams
8 January Julia Reid
15 January Leighton Cole
22 January James
29 January Kate Buchanan

News from the Management Committee

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 either John Lawrence or Tanya Morrison (co-Chairs) in advance. The next meeting will be on Thursday 13 January 2012 at 7.00 pm in the Chapel (in the Committee Room).

Induction of Rev. Patrick O'Neill as settled Minister at the Chapel on Saturday 7 January, at 3.00pm: Rev. O'Neill told the MC that the Search Committee had preparations for this event well in hand. Invitations had gone out to local ministers and to members and clergy from other churches in the area were invited.

Minister's Report: Rev. O'Neill reported that he plans to hold a retreat for the MC and the Elders in the New Year. A small gathering from these groups had already met for an informal discussion about, amongst other things, the nature of membership and future directions.

Worship Group Report: The Worship Group's system for the Sunday morning and evening services is working well under Rev. O'Neill's leadership. Kate Buchanan, the Group's leader, is stepping down in January. The MC thanked her warmly for her work with the WG since she took up the post in February 2009.

Property Sale Group: Paul ver Bruggen outlined the current state of negotiations. Progress has been made and exchange of contracts is expected unless further problems arise.

Kathee Myers has resigned from the MC. The Chair thanked her for hard work and commitment to the Chapel over many years. She has worked on the sale of the Willoughby Road site from the start, and set up and overseen the letting of the car park spaces. Income from the car park now boosts the Chapel's funds significantly.

The Hall: The re-roofing of the Hall has now been completed. The scaffolding is due to be removed and the approach to the Manse cleared by mid December.

The Hall Fundraising: Approaches are being made, seeking substantial donations for the planned work to refurbish the Hall.

Administrator's Report: I.T: Sharron Conduit's report noted that there had been a number of problems with the office computer and it may be necessary to find other technical computer support.

Seating capacity of the Chapel and the Hall: Sharron (absent from the meeting) would be asked to check the capacity of both the Hall and the Chapel and report to the MC.

Treasurer's Report: £11,500 has been collected, by Erich Wagner, from Gift Aid, underlining the need for members to help us use this tax break where possible. The Chair reported that the Chapel's financial situation looked quite satisfactory at present. In future the Chapel's accountant will report an annual monthly cash flow forecast on a monthly basis.

Co-Chair's Report: John Lawrence reported that five members of the MC, including himself, will not be seeking re-election at the AGM to be held on Sunday 26 February 2012. In preparation for the AGM a letter from the co-Chairs has been sent out to members to go over the role and responsibilities of the MC and to air some issues about participation in Chapel life and financial commitment. The January issue of "Open Mind" is featuring the AGM to encourage members to contribute their views and votes at this essential event in the life of the Chapel.

Events in the Chapel



Saturday 14 January (10.00am - 11.45am) New Year's Raga in the Chapel - £12/£8

Susan Ann Jones will hold another Indian singing workshop, teaching the morning Raga of Ganesh, God of New Beginnings and Remover of Obstacles. This way of singing is meditative and can take you to a deep place in yourself, as well as being light and playful. Explore singing as a group and individually to experience the beautiful acoustics of the Chapel.

Saturday 21 January (7.30pm) - Concert by the Cratoule Singers – Opera & Song

Sunday 22 January (2.00pm - 4.00pm) - Concert by Music Students of Erica Shimada

Saturday 28 January (9.00am - 5.00pm) – Charity Singing by Hampstead Chamber Choir



**Annual General Meeting 12.30pm on
Sunday 26 February 2012**

Please come along to the AGM!

The Management Committee is keen to invite candidates for the committee so anyone thinking of applying can do so and consult John Lawrence (jlawrence@l-s-l.com) if they would like to discuss.

OUR CHAPEL COMMUNITY

Where I Stand: Kieran Seale



I started coming to Chapel by accident, but now I have been a member here for a number of years, I am amazed at how much I belong... and that I couldn't really go anywhere else. I was brought up as a Roman Catholic – an experience that was enough to put me off all religion for several decades! It was only when a friend of mine expressed an interest in trying a different type of religion and I was able to introduce her to the Chapel (where an old school friend was a member) that I became involved myself.

I consider myself to be an atheist. I certainly don't believe in a "God" in the sense that most religions would define it – someone who created the world etc.

It's amazing that people can believe that any single set of religious beliefs are universally "true" and that other religions are "wrong". I find it difficult to get my head around how Christians, for example, think. To believe that millions of Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims or Jews are somehow "wrong" in their religious belief because they don't believe that Jesus Christ is their Saviour is, I think, laughable. Being able to explore and celebrate the variety of religious belief in the world through Chapel is something I would recommend to anyone. But to say that any one is right or wrong is as meaningful as arguing about who is the best artist or composer who ever lived.

If I want to be really provocative I like to think that Unitarians – tolerant, inclusive and open minded – are much more followers of Jesus Christ (and therefore entitled to call ourselves "Christian") than those that claim to be Christians and consider him to be a/the God.

I firmly believe that an open and inclusive way of thinking about religion is the future and that Unitarianism – and the Chapel – will grow and thrive.

Community of
Camden Churches
Cold Weather Shelter

Rosslyn Hill Chapel's Cold Weather Shelter 2011

This is the fourth year that we have participated in the cold weather shelter project. Seven churches in Camden offer an evening meal, overnight stay and breakfast to around 15 guests with each church taking one night of the week. Rosslyn Hill's evening was Friday this year. Our guests were amazing – warm, funny and friendly, and I know that the volunteers enjoyed their time with them. We had fabulous food, much of it donated, and regular supplies of cupcakes which some of the guests found addictive (!) and begged for extras to take away in the morning. We had music, games, conversation and laughter. Sixty-six people volunteered and worked hard to make the guests' stay a pleasant one. Sadly, only 17 members of the congregation volunteered, which does call into question whether this is a Rosslyn Hill Chapel project that will continue. I do hope so, as this is a social action project that really changes people's lives and makes a difference to the community where we live. Leighton Cole

"Coming together is a beginning,
staying together is progress,
and working together is success."
-- Henry Ford

At the start of the New Year, 'Open Mind' focuses on the life of Chapel and looks ahead.*John Lawrence**Tanya Morrison*

14 December 2011
Dear Friends,

In preparation for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Sunday 26 February, we thought it might be interesting and helpful to set out some thoughts about the Chapel, looking at the role of the Management Committee (MC) and the importance to the future of the Chapel of volunteers and a strong financial base.

The AGM gives members the opportunity to gain an overview of what's been happening in the Chapel during the year. The co-Chairs of the MC report to members, the Treasurer presents the accounts and members can read about the work of the activity groups. Your comments and suggestions for the future and your votes all give the MC an idea of what you think should be the Chapel's priorities and policies. The AGM is of course the time to elect new members to the MC. There will be a number of vacancies, and you may like to think now if there's someone you feel would be a valuable member of the Committee, or you may consider standing

yourself. Do contact one of us (Tanya or John) or speak to a member of the MC if you would like more information.

The Board (also known as the Management Committee) is the governing body of the Chapel. As a registered charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee, we are governed by the rules of the Charities Commission and Companies House. The Committee is responsible for all the important decisions made, in consultation of course with the Minister, members and the congregation as appropriate. Recent members of the Chapel may not be aware that in Unitarianism all chapels are entirely self-sufficient and make their own decisions regarding the Minister, worship, finances and charitable and social activities. The main areas the MC is involved in include:

In the past two years, since Rev. Jim Robinson left, the Management Committee has been responsible, through the Worship Group and the Search Committee, for maintaining a high level of worship services and pastoral care and for finding and contracting with our new Minister,

Rev. Patrick O'Neill, and helping Patrick and Patricia settle in.

The MC oversees the management of the Chapel's property, which consists of the Chapel itself, the Hall, the Cottages and the car park. We are responsible for maintaining cordial and beneficial relationships with our external clients, the Academy School, the Rona Hart Dance Academy and the clients who pay to use the car park, and with those who rent the Chapel for rites of passage, concerts and other events. These collectively support the Chapel.

We support and encourage the Chapel's many social action initiatives.

We have a duty of care to maintain the buildings as can be seen by the recent work on the Hall, although this is an area that has been neglected somewhat in the past.

We are also involved in protecting the interests of individual members by helping to resolve disputes involving members, and of the Chapel as a whole if outside parties seek to engage with the Chapel in inappropriate ways.

The MC is guided by our Unitarian values and each meeting begins with a 'devotional' led by the Minister. The work of the Management Committee is a key part of the life of the Chapel. Being on the committee gives one a fascinating opportunity to see a wide spectrum of the Chapel's activities and to strive to influence it for the common good.

Rossllyn Hill Chapel would not exist without the committed support of a number of people who keep the various committees and working groups functioning harmoniously in a financially secure and safe environment. At the AGM, several people will be standing down from the MC as they come to the end of a term of service or have resigned, and there may be changes in leadership of other groups. This is an opportunity to review the past and look ahead, so in the run-up to the AGM, I would like to ask each of you to consider if there any additional ways in which you might help the Chapel.

A starting point might be to consider the following question:

"What do I get from the chapel in terms of spiritual nourishment,

social contact and sheer enjoyment compared with what I contribute in terms of help where it is needed or cash to keep everything running?"

First, the Chapel needs more volunteers both to replace some who may be stepping down, but also to take on additional roles as the Chapel grows. All help is welcome: as many people are busy, many are needed to take a share, however small, of the responsibilities. Volunteering is a special kind of activity. In this context it is useful to view the work you may do for the Chapel as an extension of your spiritual life, working not for money or ambition but working with others to help create something good.

Second, we need to pay our own way. The congregation has never in the past decades paid more than about 50% of the cost of providing the Minister, the worship space and the other facilities that are required to operate as a place of worship. It costs, for example, £40 a year for us to register each member with the General Assembly. We need to think hard about giving, so we build to a point where we can increase our commitment to and provide support for significant social action

programmes. To achieve this, the average contribution per member would need to be in the region of £500 - £750, depending on how you define it. We could then use any excess from rentals to help other people and projects.

At Rossllyn Hill Chapel we are proud of our long history as a Unitarian place of worship since 1692. To carry on this work, we cannot stand still. In Patrick, our settled minister, the Chapel has an inspiring leader. We hope you will think about how you can support the Chapel in 2012. Please get in touch if you have any comments or proposals or would like to know more about the work of the Management Committee. We would love to hear from you.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year,

John Lawrence / Tanya Morrison
Co-Chairs Management Committee.
jlawrence@l-s-l.com
tanyajmorrison@gmail.com

Copies of the Chapel's Standing Orders and Articles of Association are available from the Chapel Administrator, Sharron Conduit: admin@rosslynhillchapel.com

Let's Be Happy!

One could say: Happiness is the absence of physical and mental pain. This is our natural, basic state. So, without any pain life is comfortable and I feel fine. But it seems, to be happy, we humans have to be able to pursue goals. When working towards a target, we are engaged and happy with the progress we are making.

Sometimes a pain makes me unhappy. And then something occurs which suspends the discomfort and replaces it with a feeling of happiness, for instance, when I am involved in an interesting discussion, or while helping someone solve a problem.

A friend told me that he once looked through his photo album of 30 years ago and realized how happy he was then, without realizing it at the time. Since then I often step back mentally to scan the scene I am in. It makes me realize how happy I am NOW and I relish the feeling.

I believe our main purpose in life is to learn and become wiser. I think this is our responsibility to ourselves and our fellow human beings. By fulfilling this purpose and being constructive and helpful, maybe we reward ourselves with feeling happy. Britta Burtles

(Articles express the views of the author)



A treat for music-lovers and a success for Changing Faces

On 27 November renowned pianist, Chisato Kusunoki, returned to the chapel to perform another fundraising concert for Changing Faces, the charity that supports and represents people with disfiguring conditions, and their families [<http://www.changingfaces.org.uk>]

The 70 or so guests were treated to a virtuoso performance of Schubert, Liszt, Bach, Rachmaninoff and Liadov. Chisato's playing demonstrated meticulous technical skill and emotional expression, combined with both subtlety and power, all of which left the audience in awe. Several people commented on the privilege it was to be so close to such talent on such an informal and intimate occasion.

Tea and delicious home-made cakes were, according to one of the guests, "offered with such care" by the Social Action Committee, contributing to the friendly atmosphere.

The charity's Founder and Chief Executive, James Partridge, was present at the concert and spoke about optimism and

resilience during morning service the same day. As a result of a retiring collection at the end of the service, and the fundraising from the concert itself, a wonderful £820 was raised. This will support an expansion of Changing Faces' teams around the country, teams who change lives and change minds. They offer unique, specialist practical and emotional support to individuals with disfiguring conditions and education for professionals. They also campaign for 'face equality' - a world where people with disfigurements are treated fairly and enjoy equal rights and opportunities throughout their lives.

Thanks to Leighton Cole and all members of the Social Action Committee, and to all who attended the concert, for making the event such a success.

Submitted by Claire Julian

After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music.
(Aldous Huxley)

Our Larger Unitarian Movement

A Magical Mystery Tour Through Colour

A one-day workshop with Art and
Spirituality Network, London

Explore the imaginative and emotional qualities of colour with art-making, movement, gentle creativity and ritual. A workshop led by Angela Schutz and John Harley. Cost: £25 (includes art materials and drinks - reductions available if needed, £15 to members of Golders Green Unitarians) - Advance booking essential. Bring some lunch to share. For booking form and further information go to www.artandspirituality.net



The Festival of Unitarians in the South East (FUSE)

Friday 3 – Sunday 5 February 2012

The FUSE is being lit.... A full programme is being planned, featuring:

- A keynote presentation by Robin Ince, TV presenter, comedian and scientist
- A major worship service, led by Rev. Patrick O'Neill, minister at Rosslyn Hill Chapel, Hampstead
- More than twenty workshops on church life, personal spirituality, music and art

Networking and fun

The Weekend Festival will be held in Chatsworth Hotel, Worthing www.chatsworthworthing.co.uk. Single rooms will be £195. Shared rooms will be £145. Day delegate rate is £47 (plus £19 for dinner).

Bursaries will be available on the basis of need. Registration and the website are open now. Check out the full programme and book soon! www.fusefest.org.uk

Contact: Rev. David Usher

E-mail: davidusher@ldpa.org.uk



New Unitarian Social Action Project in Bethnal Green!

Saturday 10 December saw the launch of free community dinner for a new social action programme based at Mansford Street Unitarian Chapel in Bethnal Green.

The programme is run by a small group of Unitarian volunteers from across London, who are hosting a series of three dinners/teas to discover the needs of the thriving but economically stretched area of Bethnal Green, where Unitarians have had an active (but recently waning) presence for 180 years.

Be a part of it! Do something different with a small portion of your time! Please contact Rev. Rob Gregson for more information on how to be a part of the January 21 event: mattorobg@gmail.com or 074

1128 0667

January Diary

Sunday 1 January

11.00am – Morning service – “Reflection on Janus and the Dancing Particles”*

Led by Rev. Dr Patrick T. O’Neill

7.30pm – Evening service - “Reflection on Janus and the Dancing Particles”*

Led by Rev. Dr Patrick T. O’Neill

Tuesday 3 January

7.00pm - “Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life” in the Chapel*

Friday 6 January

10.00am - 2.00pm - Tidying up Christmas decorations*

Saturday 7 January

3.00pm – Rev. Patrick O’Neill’s Induction service*

Sunday 8 January

11.00am – Morning service – Led by Rev. Rob Gregson (Guest Speaker)

7.00pm – Evening service – Service to be announced

Tuesday 10 January

7.30pm – Social Action Committee meet*

* indicates information available elsewhere in the bulletin

Wednesday 11 January

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

7.00pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel*

Thursday 12 January

7.30pm – Management Committee meets*

Sunday 15 January

11.00am - Morning service – “The Story of Le Chambon and How Goodness Happened There”*

Led by Rev. Dr Patrick T. O’Neill

7.00pm – Evening service – “The Story of Le Chambon and How Goodness Happened There”*

Led by Rev. Dr Patrick T. O’Neill

Monday 16 January

7.00pm – Poetry group meets in the Chapel*

Tuesday 17 January

7.30pm - “Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life” in the Chapel*

Wednesday 18 January

5.45pm – Tai Chi class in the Chapel*

7.00pm – Choir rehearsal in the Chapel*

Thursday 19 January

7.30pm – Chapel Book Club*

Sunday 22 January

11.00am – Morning service – “Moral Deafness: The Responsibility to Respond”*

Led by Rev. Dr Patrick T. O’Neill

12.30pm – “Unitarianism 101: an introductory class” in the Manse*

7.00pm – Evening service – “Moral Deafness: The Responsibility to Respond”*

Led by Rev. Dr Patrick T. O’Neill

Sunday 29 January

11.00am – “What to Bring and What to Leave Behind: How to pack for a Religious Journey” *

Led by Rev. Dr Patrick T. O’Neill

12.30pm – Welcoming Children Workshop*

Sunday 29 January

7.00pm – “Celebration of Imbolc”*

Led by the ‘Wheel of the Year’ group

Tuesday 31 January

7.30pm - “Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life” in the Chapel



January Services, cont'd from front page

Sunday 22 January (11.00am & 7.00pm)

Rev. Dr Patrick T. O’Neill

“Moral Deafness: The Responsibility to Respond”

There is a particular kind of self-absorption that allows some people simply to block out bad news and proceed with the mundane and petty concerns of their lives, unaffected by people in crisis around them. The condition is called, “moral deafness.” What is our responsibility to respond to the pain of the world? Are you listening?

Sunday 29 January (11.00am only)

Rev. Dr Patrick T. O’Neill

“What to Bring and What to Leave Behind: How to pack for a Religious Journey”

Sunday 29 January (7.00pm)

“Celebration of Imbolc”

This is one of the eight great Celtic holy days of the year. It is dedicated to the goddess Brigid and celebrates mid-winter with fire, water, and Ritual. Led by members of our ‘Wheel of the Year’ Group

These were the questions ethicist Phillip Hallie was studying when he came across the remarkable story of an obscure French Alpine village and what happened there during World War II. Come hear this inspiring story this Sunday. And bring a friend along with you!