

ROSSLYN HILL UNITARIAN CHAPEL



9 key dates in the history of this Chapel

1600s

A time of great upheaval in religion and Protestants who were not of the Church of England were called Dissenters or Non-Conformists.

1662

The Book of Common Prayer was made compulsory and 2,000 ministers resigned their living/stipend. It was known as the Great Ejection of 1662.

1692

Records confirm that by this date Dissenters were meeting in Hampstead in the house of Isaac and Rebecca Honeywood. Their house stood where Willoughby Road intersects with Kemplay Road and this is the date the Chapel dates worship on this site from.

1736

The old Chapel (probably an old wooden farm building owned by Isaac Honeywood) was rebuilt in brick as a formal place of worship.

1828

The old Chapel was taken down and rebuilt with the same bricks, only smaller, to hold 150 subscribers. Members at this time described themselves as Presbyterian. This building was the basis for the current Chapel Hall.

1850 and 1856.

The old Chapel was first lengthened in 1850 and then widened in 1856, to hold first 200, and then 300 worshippers respectively.

1862

Under the Ministerial leadership of Rev Thomas Sadler the current Chapel was built. It was considered then to be able to hold 400 with a possibility of adding a gallery for 60 more. It was from this point that the Chapel was actively known as Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel.

1906

The small workshop that had been build next to the hall was converted into a parlour, this was developed and enhanced over the years and by the 1950s had become known as The Manse and is where the Minister lives.

1992

The Chapel celebrated the 300th anniversary of worship on the site and installed a coloured glass window at the back of the Chapel of a flame and chalice - the symbol of Unitarianism today.