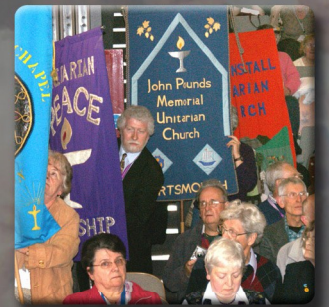
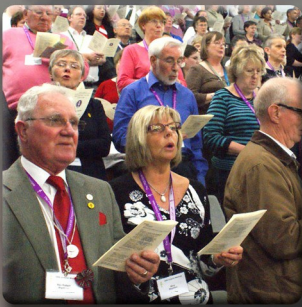




# Annual Report 2009



## The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches



Prepared for the Nottingham 2010 Annual Meetings

# The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Registered Charity, No. 250788

The eighty-first

## Annual Report

Submitted at the Annual Meeting  
of the Assembly 2010

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### Photographs

We would like to thank John Hewerdine and James Barry for providing the images for this document.

### Report Availability

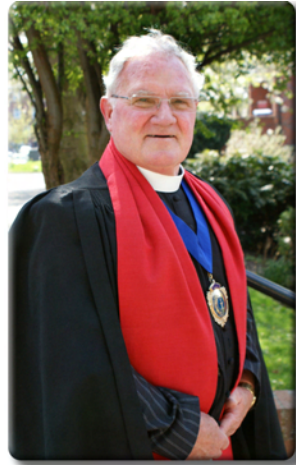
If you require a large print version of this report, please do contact us. This report can be found in PDF format on our website: [www.unitarian.org.uk](http://www.unitarian.org.uk) (listed on the sitemap page).

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# Rev Bob Wightman

## President of the General Assembly 2009-2010



During my Presidential term I have visited many Districts, Churches, Chapels and Fellowships throughout the country many of whom have had special celebrations taking place. Since Mary and I had a unique year of office both as Presidents we have made some visits together.

My visit to the Synod of the NSPCI in Northern Ireland was a very uplifting experience and I trust that we have renewed our working relationships for future years.

Mary and I visited Australia and New Zealand where we were able to give them an insight into the way that the General Assembly communicates with Districts, Churches and Fellowships within the UK and how we are exploring ways to keep our Denomination alive. This I feel was beneficial to them as they too are struggling to sustain Ministry. Mary also gave them information on the National Women's League which they were grateful to receive.

My visit to Wales was coupled up with Mary's Women's League visit where we enjoyed a tour of the Welsh Parliament followed by two District meetings and whistle-stop visits to our Welsh Chapels.

During the year I attended the Sustentation and Ministers Pension Fund meetings and the British & Foreign Unitarian Association annual dinner.

Mary and I attended the Remembrance Service at Whitehall. A very poignant Service in these troubled times throughout the world.

I accepted an invite to attend one of the Executive Committee meetings to be given an update on their future priorities.

I would like to finish my report by thanking everyone for allowing me to hold this prestigious position and for making my Presidential year a memorable one. Also for the support given by the members of my own Church in Dundee. I look forward to the Annual General Meetings in April.

May we look to the future with hope.

*Bob Wightman*

## General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, LONDON, WC2R 3HY  
Telephone: (020) 7240 2384 Fax: (020) 7240 3089

**Chief Officer:** Derek McAuley



*Derek McAuley*

The **Trustees** of the General Assembly are the Members of the GA Executive Committee, which comprises the Honorary Treasurer, and eight elected Members (Members may be co-opted to fill vacancies occurring during a triennial) as listed below.

### GA Executive Committee

**Honorary Treasurer:**

Martin West (until April 2009)  
Derek McAuley (from April 2009  
until November 2009)

**Elected Members:**

Jennifer Atkinson (until April 2009)  
Dawn Buckle (until April 2009)  
Joan Cook (from April 2009)  
Jim Corrigan (from April 2009)  
Lis Dyson-Jones  
Dorothy Hewerdine  
Neville Kenyon (until April 2009)  
Rev Andy Pakula (from April 2009)  
Rev Dr Ann Peart  
Sir Peter Soulsby  
Rev David Usher (from April 2009)

**Co-opted Member:**

Derek McAuley (from April 2008  
until April 2009)

**Other Appointments:**

Solicitor: Charles Russell LLP

Auditors: Shaw Gibbs LLP

Custodian Trustee: The British and Foreign Unitarian Association (Incorporated)

## General Assembly Officers and Honorary Members

### Secretaries / Chief Executives

#### Chief Officers

1928	Rev S H Mellone, MA, DSc
1928	Rev R Travers Herford, BA, DD
1929-49	Rev Mortimer Rowe, BA, DD
1949-69	Rev John Kielty, LD, DD
1969-79	Rev Brian L Golland, MA
1979-94	Dr Roy W Smith, DHL
1994-07	Mr Jeffrey J Teagle, MSc
2007-09	Rev S Dick, MSc
2009-	Mr Derek McAuley, MA, BSSc

#### Treasurers

1928-39	Lieut-Col S Chatfield-Clarke, DL
1939-59	Mr Ronald P Jones, MA, FRIBA
1959-70	Sir C Herbert Pollard, CBE, FCA
1970-71	Mr Albert Forrester, FCA
1971-79	Mr Arnold Graves, FCA, FCIS
1979-98	Mr Geoffrey Head, BA
1998-05	Mr Michael Tomlin
2005-09	Mr Martin West
2009	Mr Derek McAuley, MA, BSSc

#### Deputy Treasurers

1996-98	Mr Michael Tomlin
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#### Honorary Members

Dr June Bell, MA, MB, BS, PhD  
Mr Geoffrey Head, BA  
Rev Dr Peter Godfrey, BA, DD  
Dr Roy Smith, DHL  
Mr Michael Tomlin  
Rev J Eric Jones, BA  
Rev James McClelland, MA



*Recent Honorary Member  
Rev James McClelland*



*Recent Honorary Member  
Rev J Eric Jones*

## Presidents

- |         |                                     |         |   |
|---------|-------------------------------------|---------|---|
| 1929    | Rev C J Street, MA, LLB (B&FUA)     | 1980-81 | Dr June Bell, MA, MB, BS, PhD                 |
| 1929    | Rev Henry Gow, BA, BD (Nat Conf)    | 1981-82 | Rev Eric Wild, BA                             |
| 1929-31 | Mrs Sydney Martineau                | 1982-83 | Mrs Eleanor Dixon                             |
| 1931-32 | Mr J Harrop White, JP               | 1983-84 | Rev Arthur J Long, MA                         |
| 1932-34 | Rev Alfred Hall, MA, DD             | 1984-85 | Mrs Helen M Nicholson, MBE                    |
| 1934-35 | Mr Ronald P Jones, MA, FRIBA        | 1985-86 | Rev Sydney H Knight                           |
| 1935-36 | Mr George G Armstrong               | 1986-87 | Mrs Sheila Crosskey, MB, ChB                  |
| 1936-37 | Rev H McLachlan, MA, DD, LittD      | 1987-88 | Rev Derek Smith                               |
| 1937-38 | Mr N Bishop Harman, MA, LLD         | 1988-89 | Mr Robert HE Inkson, BSc, FSS, FIS            |
| 1938-39 | Rev R F Rattray, MA, PhD            | 1989-90 | Rev J Eric Jones, BA                          |
| 1939-40 | Mr J T Bibby                        | 1990-91 | Mrs Eila Forrester, BA                        |
| 1940-41 | Rev E Rosalind Lee, MA              | 1991-92 | Rev Peter Hewis, BA                           |
| 1941-42 | Mr P M Oliver, CBE, BA              | 1992-93 | Mrs Celia Kerr                                |
| 1942-43 | Rev H J Rossington, MA, BD          | 1993-94 | Rev James McClelland, MA                      |
| 1943-44 | Mr R H Mottram, JP, FRSL            | 1994-95 | Mr Michael Tomlin                             |
| 1944-45 | Mr Alfred Pilling, OBE, JP          | 1995-96 | Rev Anne McClelland, BA                       |
| 1945-46 | Rev Raymond V Holt, MA, BLitt       | 1996-97 | Dr Jane Williams, MB, BCh, BAO                |
| 1946-47 | Mr Harold Baily, MBE                | 1997-98 | Rev Clifford Reed, BA                         |
| 1947-48 | Rev Lawrence Redfern, MA, BD        | 1998-99 | Dr Beverley Littlepage, MSc,<br>MRCOG, FFPHMI |
| 1948-49 | Prof FJM Stratton, LLD, FRS         | 1999-00 | Rev Keith Gilley, MA                          |
| 1949-50 | Rev Fred Cottier                    | 2000-01 | Mrs Judith Crompton, JP                       |
| 1950-51 | Mr Harold B Moore                   | 2001-02 | Rev John Midgley, MA, MEd BD                  |
| 1951-52 | Rev G Randall Jones, MA, BSc, BD    | 2002-03 | Mr Alan Ruston, BSc                           |
| 1952-53 | Miss Dorothy Tarrant, MA, PhD       | 2003-04 | Rev Austin Fitzpatrick                        |
| 1953-54 | Rev Herbert Crabtree                | 2004-05 | Mrs Dawn Buckle, MEd                          |
| 1954-55 | Mr Stanley R Butler, ACA            | 2005-06 | Rev Brian Cockroft                            |
| 1955-56 | Rev Frank A Bullock                 | 2006-07 | Mr David Dawson, MA, GRSM                     |
| 1956-57 | Mr C Herbert Pollard, CBE, FSAA     | 2007-08 | Rev Celia Midgley, BA                         |
| 1957-58 | Rev James Percival Chalk            | 2008-09 | Joyce Ashworth                                |
| 1958-59 | Rt Hon J Chuter Ede, CH, JP, DL, MP | 2009-10 | Rev Bob Wightman                              |
| 1959-60 | Rev Arthur W Vallance, BA           |         |   |
| 1960-61 | Mr Arthur L Blake, OBE              |         |   |
| 1961-62 | Rev J Harry Smith                   |         |   |
| 1962-63 | Mr Kenneth M Street, MM             |         |   |
| 1963-64 | Rev Walter M Long                   |         |   |
| 1964-65 | Mr Stanley J Kennett, BSc, PhD      |         |   |
| 1965-66 | Rev E Shirvell Price, MA            |         |   |
| 1966-67 | Mr T H Hollingsworth                |         |   |
| 1967-68 | Rev Fred Kenworthy, MA, BD          |         |   |
| 1968-69 | Mrs Amy Howarth, MA                 |         |   |
| 1969-70 | Rev C Gordon Bolam, MA, BD          |         |   |
| 1970-71 | Mr Arnold Graves, FCA, FCIS         |         |   |
| 1971-72 | Rev H John McLachlan, MA, BD, DPhil |         |   |
| 1972-73 | Mr M Humphreys Winder, BA           |         |   |
| 1973-74 | Rev D Jacob Davies, BA              |         |   |
| 1974-75 | Mrs Gwyneth J M Thomas, BSc         |         |   |
| 1975-76 | Rev Evan David Davies               |         |   |
| 1976-77 | Mr George Morrison, MA              |         |   |
| 1977-78 | Rev Dr Peter B Godfrey, BA, DD      |         |   |
| 1978-79 | Mr Geoffrey Head, BA                |         |   |
| 1979-80 | Rev A Hilton Birtles, JP, BA        |         |   |



*Joyce Ashworth gives Rev Bob Wightman  
the chain of office*

## Anniversary Service Preachers

- 1929 Rev Alfred Hall, MA, DD  
 1930 Rev H J Rossington, MA, BD  
 1931 Rev Herbert McLachlan, MA, DD, LittD  
 1932 Rev Herbert Barnes  
 1933 Rev John C Ballantyne, MA  
 1934 Rev Charles M Wright, MA  
 1935 Rev Lawrence Clare  
 1936 Rev Arthur S Hurn, MA, DLitt  
 1937 Rev Sidney Spencer, BA  
 1938 Rev Raymond V Holt, MA, BLitt  
 1939 Rev Arthur H Lewis  
 1940 Rev W E Williams, BA  
 1941 Rev Fred R Cottier  
 1942 Rev Rev Leslie Belton, MA, MSc  
 1943 Rev E George Lee  
 1944 Rev Stanley Mossop  
 1945 Rev Reginald W Wilde, MA, MSc, PhD  
 1946 Rev Wallace B Travener  
 1947 Rev Frank A Bullock  
 1948 Rev Frederick May Elliot, MA, DD LLD  
 1949 Rev G Randall Jones, MA, MSc, BD  
 1950 Rev Mortimer Rowe, BA, DD  
 1951 Rev Lawrence Redfern, MA, BD  
 1952 Rev H G Woodford  
 1953 Rev Arthur L Agnew, OBE, BA, DD  
 1954 Rev Sydney P Whitehouse, MA, BLitt  
 1955 Rev H Stewart Carter, MA  
 1956 Rev Basil Viney  
 1957 Rev Arthur W Vallance, BA  
 1958 Rev W J Carter, MA  
 1959 Rev Wilfred Waddington, BA, BD  
 1960 Rev Dana L McGreeley, DD  
 1961 Rev Phillip N Tindall, BA, BD, PhD  
 1962 Rev C Gordon Bolam, MA, BD  
 1963 Rev A Margaret Barr, MA  
 1964 Rev Fred Kenworthy, MA, DD  
 1965 Rev D Jacob Davies, BA  
 1966 Rev John Radcliffe, BA  
 1967 Rev Charles Bartlett, BA  
 1968 Rev Brian L Golland, MA  
 1969 Rev John Kielty, LLD, DD  
 1970 Rev Harry Lismar Short, MA  
 1971 Rev Eric S Price, MA  
 1972 Rev Robert N West, BA, BD, DD  
 1973 Rev Lancelot A Garrard, MA, BD, LLD  
 1974 Rev E Basil Short, BSc  
 1975 Rev A Hamilton Birtles, BA  
 1976 Rev Fred M Ryde, MA  
 1977 Rev Dudley E Richards, MA, BD  
 1978 Rev Anne McClelland, BA  
 1979 Rev Eric Wild, BA and Eileen Kielty, BA  
 1980 Rev A Ben Downing, MA, BD  
 1981 Rev Gabor Kereki  
 1982 Rev Arthur J Long, MA  
 1983 Rev Bruce Findlow, BA  
 1984 Rev O Eugene Pickett, BA, BD, DD  
 1985 Rev D Elwyn J Davies, MA, BD, PhD  
 1986 Rev Peter B Godfrey, BA  
 1987 Rt Rev William McMillan, MA  
 1988 Rev William F Schulz, MA, DMin, DD  
 1989 Rev Frank Walker, BA  
 1990 Rev Glyn Puce, STB, MA  
 1991 Rev Andrew Hill, BA  
 1992 Rev Leonard Smith, MA, PhD  
 1993 Rev Denise Boyd  
 1994 Rev Keith Gilley, BA, MA, BDQ  
 1995 Rev Clifford Reed, BA  
 1996 Rev Judith Walker-Riggs  
 1997 Rev Dr John A Buehrens  
 1998 Rev Dr David C Doel, MA, PhD  
 1999 Rev Alec Finbow, BA  
 2000 Rev Joy Croft, BA, MA, MTh  
 2001 Rev Penny Johnson  
 2002 Rev Bill Darlison  
 2003 Rev John Clifford, BA, MSc  
 2004 Rev Dr Ann Peart, BA, MA, PhD  
 2005 Rev J Eric Jones, BA  
 2006 Rev Peter Hewis, MA  
 2007 Rev Brenda Catherall, BA  
 2008 Rev Art Lester, BA  
 2009 Rev Margaret Kirk, BA, MA



*Rev Margaret Kirk,  
2009 Anniversary Service Preacher*



## Affiliated Societies and GA & Essex Hall Staff Members

The following societies are affiliated to the General Assembly:

British League of Unitarian and other Liberal Christian Women (The Women's League)  
Canadian Unitarian Council - Le Conseil Unitaire du Canada  
L'Église libérale protestante de Bruxelles  
European Unitarian Universalists  
Foy Society  
National Unitarian Fellowship  
Provincial Assembly of Presbyterian and Unitarian Ministers and Congregations of  
Lancashire and Cheshire  
Unitarian and Free Christian Music Society  
Unitarian and Free Christian Peace Fellowship  
Unitarian Association of Lay Ministry  
Unitarian Christian Association  
Unitarian Historical Society  
Unitarian Holiday Conference  
Unitarian Lay Preachers' Association  
Unitarian Society for Psychical Studies  
Unitarian Union of North East India  
Unitarian Women's Group  
The Ministerial Fellowship

### GA & Essex Hall Staff

The following were members of the GA Staff during the financial year:

James Barry	(from July 2009)
John Crosskey	
Rev Steve Dick	(until March 2009)
Fenella Fyle	
Howard Hague	
Rev John Harley	
Mary-Jean Hennis	
Audrey Longhurst	
Karen Mallik	(from April 2009)
Andrew Mason	
Peter Teets	(until June 2009)

The following were members of the Essex Hall Staff during the financial year:

Isabella Clarke	(Caretaker)	
Valerie Wright	(Cleaner)	(until September 2009)
Hepzi Lewis	(Cleaner)	(from September 2009)

## The Object of the Assembly

From the Constitution of the General Assembly as amended 19 April 2001 and approved by the Charity Commission and further amended 27 March 2008.

### **Preamble**

We, the constituent congregations, affiliated societies and individual members, uniting in a spirit of mutual sympathy, co-operation, tolerance and respect; and recognising the worth and dignity of all people and their freedom to believe as their consciences dictate; and believing that truth is best served where the mind and conscience are free, acknowledge that the Object of the Assembly is:

### **Object**

To promote a free and inquiring religion through the worship of God and the celebration of life; the service of humanity and respect for all creation; and the upholding of the liberal Christian tradition.

To this end, the Assembly may:

Encourage and unite in fellowship bodies which uphold the religious liberty of their members, unconstrained by the imposition of creeds;

Affirm the liberal religious heritage and learn from the spiritual, cultural and intellectual insights of all humanity;

Act where necessary as the successor to the British and Foreign Unitarian Association and National Conference of Unitarian, Liberal Christian, Free Christian, Presbyterian and other Non-Subscribing or Kindred Congregations, being faithful to the spirit of their work and principles (see appendix to the constitution), providing always that this shall in no way limit the complete doctrinal freedom of the constituent churches and members of the Assembly;

Do all other such lawful things as are incidental to the attainment of the above Object.

### **Further Information**

In reference to second last clause of Object, the following is a statement of the Objects of the British and Foreign Unitarian Association, as set forth in Rule 2 of its Constitution:

*The diffusion and support of the principles of Unitarian Christianity, including the formation and assistance of Congregations which do not require for themselves or their Ministers subscription to any doctrinal articles of belief; the publication and circulation of biblical, theological, scientific and literary knowledge related to Unitarian Christianity; the doing of all such other lawful things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects or any of them.*

The following is a statement of the Objects of the National Conference of Unitarian, Liberal Christian, Free Christian, Presbyterian and other Non-Subscribing or Kindred Congregations, as set forth in Rule 1 of its Constitution:

*To consult, and when considered advisable to take action, on matters affecting the well-being and interests of the Congregations and Societies on the Roll of the Conference, as by directing attention, suggesting plans, organising expressions of opinion, raising funds to carry out the foregoing objects.*

## Annual Meetings 2009 Abstract of Proceedings

The eighty-first Annual Meetings of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches were held from Wednesday 15 April to Saturday 18 April 2009 at the University of Chester. The programme of departmental and affiliated society meetings and workshops commenced during the afternoon of 15 April 2009. The opening celebration, conducted by Rev Celia Midgley, took the form of a Service for Gathering and Celebration of Ministry.

The first business session commenced at 08.45 on Thursday 16 April 2009 and was chaired by the General Assembly President, Joyce Ashworth. The Standing Orders for the Conduct of Business Meetings, as amended, were adopted. The Steering Committee, consisting of Rev Andrew Hill, Mike Tomlin and Dr Jane Williams were confirmed. No apologies were received. Sir Peter Soulsby, Executive Committee Convenor, introduced General Assembly staff. The Annual Report of the Executive Committee was then introduced by Sir Peter Soulsby. The Annual Accounts for the year ending 30 September 2008, and a budget for the year ending 30 September 2009 were presented by Martin West, Hon. Treasurer. He thanked John Crosskey for his valued work and presented him with a fountain pen.

The second business session commenced at 10.45 on Thursday 16 April 2009. Dawn Buckle presented the Education and Training Commission report. Gold chalices were presented to five young people. Mike Tomlin presented the Sustentation Fund report. Martin West presented the recommendations of the Stipend Review Committee, which were approved after a short debate. Marion Baker presented the Nightingale Centre report. Rev Jeffrey Gould presented the Faith and Public Issues Commission report. A silver salver was presented to Geoffrey Head to recognise his many years of service as Treasurer of the British and Foreign Unitarian Association.

The third business session commenced at 08.45 on Friday 17 April 2009. Diane Bennett presented the Communications Commission

report and Dot Hewerdine the Denominational Support Commission report.

The fourth business session commenced at 09.00 on Saturday 18 April 2009. Rev Dr Ann Peart presented the Ministry Commission report. A presentation was made to Rev Dr Peart to recognise her contribution as Principal of Unitarian College Manchester and Chair of the Ministry Commission. The handover to the new Executive Committee took place and retiring members were thanked for their contribution.

The final business session saw the Presidential Address by Joyce Ashworth and the installation of Rev Robert Wightman as President for 2009/2010. Rev Wightman spoke to the Annual Meeting.

### Resolutions

The following Resolutions were agreed:

#### 1) FROM - The General Assembly Executive Committee

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches welcomes and endorses the Heads of Agreement for the Accord with the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland in document AGM11/09.

#### 2) FROM - The General Assembly Executive Committee

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches recognises the considerable contribution of The Rev James McClelland to Unitarians in the UK by naming him as an Honorary Member.

#### 3) FROM - The General Assembly Executive Committee

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches recognises the considerable contribution of the Rev J Eric Jones to Unitarians in the UK by naming him as an Honorary Member.

#### **4) FROM - The Yorkshire Union**

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches asks the Executive Committee to consider adopting a shorter and more dynamic working title for our movement in the UK and bring their proposals to the GA meetings in 2010.

#### **5) FROM - The Yorkshire Union**

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches asks the Executive Committee to compile a set of behavioural principles that can be seen to underpin our theological diversity. They should ideally be brief, simply expressed, easily understood, and attractive to the new inquirer. These principles should be presented for consideration at the GA meetings in 2010.

#### **6) FROM - The Unitarian Women's Group**

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, given that Social Justice is at the heart of our ministry and witness, urges the Executive Committee of the General Assembly to appoint a paid Social Justice Officer with responsibility for raising awareness of significant social issues, internationally and within our denomination.

#### **7) FROM - Westgate Chapel, Wakefield**

That, provided a suitable candidate can be found, this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches urges the Executive Committee to appoint a salaried and dedicated Information Officer.

#### **8) FROM - The Foy Society**

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, mindful of the fact that not all members of our religious body are allowed to be Leaders of the Scout Association without compromising their personal faith, encourages the Scout Association to be more accepting of diversity in matters of ultimate belief.

#### **9) FROM - North and East Lancashire Unitarian Mission**

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches notes with regret the reluctance of some Christian faith schools to accept Unitarians as pupils and expresses its concern at such religious discrimination to Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and to Her Majesty's Government.

## **Procedural Resolutions**

1. That the Report of the General Assembly Executive Committee and the Accounts of the General Assembly be received and adopted.
2. That Shaw Gibbs & Co be reappointed as Auditors.
3. That Derek McAuley be appointed Honorary Treasurer for the year 2009-2010.
4. That the thanks of the Assembly be given to Martin G West for his services as Honorary Treasurer, and to district association and local officers for their invaluable services.
5. That greetings be sent to kindred churches and societies abroad.
6. That the thanks of the Assembly be given to the Reverend Margaret Kirk for preaching the Assembly Sermon.
7. That the thanks of the Assembly be given to the Reverend John Harley, worship leader for the Anniversary Service, and to all those who provided music and other content for the Anniversary Service and on other worship occasions during these Meetings.
8. That the thanks of the Assembly be given to the members of the General Assembly staff and to all volunteers for their inestimable help in organising the Meetings.
9. That the Reverend Robert Wightman be appointed President of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches for the year 2009-2010
10. That Neville Kenyon be appointed as Vice-President for the year 2009-2010.



# Report of the Executive Committee

## Executive Committee

**Elected Members:** Jennifer Atkinson (until April 2009), Dawn Buckle (until April 2009), Joan Cook (from April 2009), Jim Corrigan (from April 2009), Lis Dyson-Jones, Dot Hewerdine, Neville Kenyon (to April 2009), Derek McAuley (to April 2009), Rev Andy Pakula (from April 2009), Rev Dr Ann Peart, Sir Peter Soulsby MP (Convenor) and Rev David Usher (from April 2009)

**Appointed Member:** Honorary Treasurer: Martin West (to April 2009), Derek McAuley (from April 2009)

**Secretary:** Rev Steve Dick (Chief Executive, until March 2009)

The Executive Committee met as follows during 2008/2009:

20-21 November 2008	London
15/16 January 2009	Manchester
12-13 March 2009	Birmingham
8-9 May 2009	Manchester
15 June 2009	London (special)
17-18 July 2009	Manchester
4-5 September 2009	London

The year 2008/2009 was a year of transition with changes to the membership following the election held in the Autumn of 2008. Jennifer Atkinson, Dawn Buckle, Neville Kenyon and Derek McAuley did not seek re-election and at the Annual Meetings were thanked for their hard work and commitment. The Executive Committee developed an induction process recognising that the learning of the first three years needed to be taken forward. The members of the Electoral Panel were thanked for co-ordinating the national election process. Neville Kenyon was appointed as General Assembly Vice-President from April 2009. Derek McAuley was appointed as General Assembly Honorary Treasurer following the decision of Martin West not to seek re-appointment. The Annual Meetings expressed their thanks to Martin West for his huge contribution to the work of the General Assembly.

The work of the Executive Committee embraces a wide range of strategic and operational matters and much of the activity of the General Assembly is delegated to the Commissions and Panels. However, it is a challenging agenda about matters where there are often differing and occasionally strongly held views. A risk management plan has been developed setting out the key risks facing the General Assembly and how these are to be managed. We have referred to the guidance given by the Charity Commission in relation to public benefits when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular the Executive Committee in their role as trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

The Executive Committee has continued its efforts to improve communications with the wider Unitarian movement. Each member of the Executive Committee has a link to one or more of the Districts, which involves ensuring regular reports are produced on our work and occasional attendance at District meetings and/or other gatherings. Members also link to the Commissions to ensure greater awareness and co-ordination of activities. The agreed Minutes of Executive Committee meetings are now circulated to the GA-List and an EC Blog has been set up on the website.

Growth and Renewal remained high on the agenda. Following on from the full day spent at the 2008 Annual Meetings, further work was undertaken as part of the 2009 Annual Meetings. We welcomed Rev Jane Dwinell from the United States as a keynote speaker on "Growth in Unitarian-Universalist Communities", Jim Corrigan spoke on "12 Top Tips for Growth" and we heard from four individuals on their growth and renewal experiences during the year. The 300 attendees worked together as Districts to explore what could be done locally and we considered our individual responses to the question 'What's that badge? A Flaming what?' otherwise known as the 'lift pitch' or 'lift line'. The outcomes from the two Growth and Renewal days, including the 'lift pitches' are available on the GA website.

The Annual Meetings theme was “Valuing and Supporting Ministry” and the immense contribution of the Ministerial body was publicly acknowledged in a number of ways. Having considered the outcome of the second Valuing and Supporting Ministers Day, the Executive Committee arranged a third consultation day for Ministers which provided an opportunity to share views and build relationships. The work of the Ministry Commission is described in detail later in this report. Jeff Teagle was invited to spearhead fundraising efforts for the Ministerial Students’ Fund. This Fund gives grants to support students studying for the Ministry and funds specific student related costs.

The work of the various Commissions is described in Commission reports. There has been increasing awareness of the need for greater focus and co-ordination of activities between the Executive Committee, the numerous volunteers who give freely of their time and energy, and the staff team. The work on action plans, which sought to bring some structure to our work and improve awareness of the range of activities, has been taken forward. The annual planning meeting with Commission Chairs was held on 14 February 2009. The work on action planning proved invaluable to the “new” Executive Committee as it set about to develop its strategic priorities. The Executive Committee identified the following priorities for the General Assembly:

- Paid professional leadership for our congregations
- Volunteer leadership and local governance skills
- Raise profile (including communications and social responsibility)
- Finances and fundraising
- Spiritual and theological development

A number of initiatives have been developed to reflect these priorities. However, each required significant financial resources and the Executive Committee is considering how it can raise additional funding as well as re-direct existing funding to support development.

The Accounts of the General Assembly are set out later in this report. The Executive Committee, as trustees under Charity Law for

England and Wales, have responsibility to ensure that the finances of the organisation are effectively managed in line with the objectives. The past year has been a difficult period. However, income has held up although no substantial legacies were received. The expenditure of the General Assembly has come under pressure and the Executive Committee has had to seek to balance the requirements of statutory responsibilities, the need to fund current activity and the demands for increased spending on particular initiatives. The finance function has been strengthened to improve control and monitoring of the financial position. The General Assembly has been able to support Unitarian organisations affected by the difficulties with London Scottish Bank and Martin West is to be thanked for all his hard work in this emergency.

The outcome of the future ministry (fm) initiative was presented to the 2009 Annual Meetings with dissemination of the report in summary form. Further work was undertaken with two clusters to develop proposals and a final report was produced in June 2009 with a fm pilot proposed. Due to the financial situation the Executive Committee has not yet been able to approve the significant funding required to support the pilot, however, elements may be taken forward. The recommendation on a high-tech ministry model has been referred to the Communications Commission for further work. The members of the fm Panel are to be thanked for their hard work and commitment over the five years of the development of the project. Much has been learned and is already being implemented in various ways.

The Executive Committee has also had to focus on staffing matters and ensure the proper running of the General Assembly administration during a period of change. In March 2009 Rev Steve Dick left the position of Chief Executive. The Executive Committee would like to thank Steve for his contribution to the work of the General Assembly, both as a Committee member and then as Chief Executive. The Executive Committee would like to acknowledge the efforts made by staff who have maintained the administration of Essex Hall, particularly in organising so well the Annual Meetings in Chester. In April 2009 Karen Mallik was appointed on a consultancy

basis to provide high-level finance support to the General Assembly and in June 2009 also took on part-time the role of Interim Chief Officer. In June 2009 Peter Teets resigned as a member of staff and subsequently support around IT and communications has been obtained from James Barry on a consultancy basis. The Essex Hall Trustees are to be thanked for facilitating the re-location of the staff team to much improved office accommodation.

Before moving to make a new Chief Executive appointment, the Executive Committee reviewed the support and administrative needs of the Denomination. At its meeting on 15 June 2009 the Executive Committee agreed to begin the process of recruiting a new Chief Officer to replace the role of Chief Executive. The Executive Committee, having taken external advice, decided to reconfigure the role with a focus on the need for effective management; co-ordination of our voluntary effort and delivering the General Assembly's strategic vision. A recruitment exercise took place over the summer period and in September 2009 Derek McAuley was appointed as Chief Officer. He took up the post on 30 November 2009. The Executive Committee looks forward to working with Derek, who brings a wealth of relevant managerial and governance experience to the position.

Communication remains a vital part of the work of the General Assembly. The Communications Commission lead on a range of communications initiatives. The website has been extensively revised and the changes have been well received. Consideration has been given by the Executive Committee to both internal and external communications and how the Movement might raise its own profile.

The Executive Committee expresses its thanks to all members of the General Assembly staff and those who serve on Commissions and Panels, particularly those they directly sponsor; the Funding Development Panel and the Partnership Support Panel.

Since the end of the financial year the Executive Committee has been developing the themes set out in this report. Growth is essential to the long-term sustainability of the

Unitarian and Free Christian Movement and the Executive Committee is working with the new Chief Officer to take forward initiatives to support local congregations, upon whom the future must depend. There are great opportunities at this time of uncertainty and change for a Movement such as ours; our challenge is to focus the activity, energy and commitment set out in this report in building the future we desire. This will, of course, require difficult choices at national and local level.

## Funding Development Panel

**Chair:** Neville Kenyon

**Members:** Neville Kenyon, Derek McAuley (from April 2009), Louise Rogers, Rosemary Ruston, Martin West (until April 2009)

**In attendance:** Andrew Mason

**Remit:** *To increase live giving to the General Assembly.*

Activity in 2008/09: The Community Appeal is the on-going fundraising initiative. It was promoted by the denominational press and a leaflet and posters were sent out to all congregations. GA Weekend was publicised with a message from the GA president. It was moved to mid-summer, being held on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June with the theme 'Telling Our Stories'.

A Summary of the Annual Report was prepared for the 2009 Annual Meeting. The aim of this is to help publicise the work of the General Assembly in an accessible format so that all Unitarians feel a greater empathy for and have a greater understanding of the work of the GA.

The Associate Members' newsletter continued in its improved format and a new Associate Members leaflet was design and produced. The donate page was added to the GA website.

The total raised for the General Assembly during the reporting period for 2008/09 (including Gift Aid) was £28,017 made up of

- Associate Members: £15,044;
- Community Appeal: £7,497; and
- Anniversary Service Collection: £5,476.

Aims for 2009/10: To focus on:

- Associate Members;
- General Assembly weekend, 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> June;
- The Annual Meetings, in particular . the Anniversary Service;
- To have a legacy campaign;
- To encourage congregations to participate in Heritage Weekend with an aim of increasing donations and raising their profile; and
- To upload fundraising guidelines onto the GA's website.

## Partnership Support

**Convenor:** Rev Michael Dadson (until July 2009)

**Referrals Secretary:** Joy Winder

**Panel Consultant:** Rev Steve Dick (until March 2009)

Last year the Partnership Support Panel reported its aim of achieving the transition from being an agency which responds to situations of crisis in the relationship between a congregation/fellowship and its spiritual leader – which was the case when it was called Review and Support – to becoming an agency which seeks to encourage the establishment and supporting of those relationships in ways which will make such crises less likely to develop in the first place.

Since then, further consultations have taken place and, in September 2009, a proposal for an innovative way forward was accepted by the Executive Committee subject to further discussion and collaboration with Ministers. A summary of this proposal follows this brief report.

Plans are now in hand for the residential workshop and we look forward to completing the transition by the autumn of 2010.

The Panel has continued to offer facilitation & support when invited by congregations and Ministers.

## Proposal from Partnership Support Panel October 2009

**Spiritual Partnerships:** A relationship between one or more congregations with a spiritual leader agreeing to work together using their different but compatible skills and efforts to maintain an effective spiritual community which achieves its aspirations.

**Purpose:** To offer support to partnerships and relationships within our Unitarian communities through:

- Investing in a real service which will strengthen spiritual continuity and development
- Promoting partnership to enable congregational health & function

### Rationale:

- To be successful the partnership between the “minister” (spiritual leader) and the congregation – a mutually creative spiritual journey – needs careful preparation & nurturing.
- Experience over many years of working with communities in crisis, shows that the seeds of the crisis are almost always sown during the start-up of the relationship.
- The Partnership Support Panel, supported by the Executive Committee, has conducted research & extensive consultations during the last 3 years to identify ways of supporting such relationships from beginning to end, culminating in a gathering in September 2009 which produced the proposal below.
- This group took account of the current restraints of financial and, perhaps more importantly, human resources.



**Proposal:** From April 2010 Partnership Support Panel, Congregational Assessment Process, Groups Working Well, Hospitality & Engagement Support will merge and emerge as a small core panel with a 'field' pool of trained and experienced practitioners.

**Proposed next steps:** It is vital that the ongoing support offered by the current Panels is not lost and that their individuality is respected & sustained. It is envisaged that the key element influencing future work will be that developed by Engagement Support relating to Small Group Ministry and being in right relationship.

**November 2009 – April 2010:**

Current Panels continue with their plans for meetings, training, workshops etc. Funding taken from current budgets.

**Between January 2010 & June 2010:**

A residential workshop takes place to which members of all the merging Panels are invited plus appropriate staff/EC person. The workshop will be planned & led by leaders from the Engagement Support & Partnership Support Panels.

**From October 2010:** New plans in place with agreed budget of £7,000, Annual recruitment & training planned, Specialist training & support in place, Services widely known, available and accessible.



*The new EC Members are welcomed by the GA President*

*L-R: Joan Cook, Rev Andy Pakula, Jim Corrigall, Rev David Usher, Rev Dr Ann Peart, Lis Dyson-Jones, Dot Hewardine, Sir Peter Soulsby MP*

## Financial Summary of General Assembly Accounts

<b>Twelve months to 30 September 2009</b>			
<b>Income</b>	<b>Actual 12 months to 30.09.09</b>	<b>Actual 12 months to 30.09.08</b>	<b>Budget Year to 30.09.09</b>
Legacies	250	44,230	10,000
Associate Membership	15,044	14,818	15,000
Subscriptions	3,307	5,959	5,000
Congregational Contributions	83,747	83,767	86,000
Community Appeal	7,497	5,398	5,500
Special Collections	5,476	5,448	5,500
Dividends	90,275	79,700	80,000
B&FUA	29,855	28,449	30,000
Essex Hall Management Fee	20,000	20,000	20,000
Essex Hall (In kind)	50,000	50,000	50,000
B&FUA Management Fee	3,952	3,751	3,750
Inquirer Accountancy Fee	2,500	2,500	2,500
Speed Trust Management Fee	1,200	1,200	1,200
Bowland Trust	136,337	194,676	150,000
Sundry Donations	10,992	18,175	15,000
Annual Meetings	5,888	61	0
Youth Officer Grant (Chalice Appeal etc)	22,500	-40,000	22,500
Rent - and ground rent	24	24	0
Payroll Calculation Service	2,829	2,540	3,000
Sales	0	2,870	4,000
Exceptional items	1,337	2,190	2,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>493,010</b>	<b>525,756</b>	<b>510,950</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Programme Activity (See Over)	226,136	247,284	234,820
Administration Costs (See Over)	295,575	278,781	280,250
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>521,711</b>	<b>526,065</b>	<b>515,070</b>
<b>Net Incoming Resources</b>	<b>(28,701)</b>	<b>(309)</b>	<b>(4,120)</b>

**Twelve months to 30 September 2009**

**Expenditure**

	Actual 09	Actual 08	Budget 09
<b>Executive Committee</b>			
Commission Expenses	24,449	18,420	16,000
Grants IARF/ICUU/Hucklow	4,000	24,222	8,000
Grant to Inquirer	2,500	3,000	3,000
Fund Raising Panel	2,303	1,758	2,000
Meeting with Ministers	3,230	3,513	3,000
Partnership Support Panel	995	1,770	4,000
Child Protection	179		
	37,657	52,683	36,000
<b>Education and Training Commission</b>			
Commission Expenses	1,271	1,908	2,000
JUEG Panel	593	(725)	1,600
Groups Working Well Panel	1,443	779	1,500
Hucklow Summer School Panel	2,781	2,204	2,300
RE Publications Panel	0	90	500
RE Coordinators Panel	(2,021)	3,316	500
Sunday School Income	76	(932)	(950)
Organisational Leadership Panel	472	3,085	500
Engagement Support Panel	945	1,484	1,000
Chalice Award Panel	677	334	500
	6,236	11,543	9,450
<b>Denominational Support Commission</b>			
Commission Expenses	3,343	3,447	5,000
Programmes	11,379	2,925	6,000
Worship Panel	1,605	1,407	1,500
Youth Panel	435	1,261	2,000
Hymn Book Panel	195	1,296	500
Buildings Advisory Panel	157	601	2,000
District Association Panel	162	1,825	1,000
Welsh Committee	4,235	3,399	4,000
Congregational Assessment Panel	0	2,008	500
	21,510	18,169	22,500
<b>Ministry Commission</b>			
Commission Expenses	1,084	795	1,000
Programmes	(805)	3,012	3,550
Interview Panel	2,103	2,722	2,500
	2,382	6,529	7,050
<b>Communications Commission</b>			
Commission Expenses	2,153	3,681	4,000
Publication Panel	681	567	1,000
Information Panel	2,144	(26)	2,350
Programmes	4,520	5,572	5,600
	9,498	9,794	12,950

*Continued on next page.*

Faith and Public Issues Commission			
Commission Expenses	2,172	3,193	1,750
Ecumenical Panel	345	0	350
Interfaith Panel	267	175	520
Penal Affairs Panel	570	619	750
Social Responsibility Panel	322	12	1,000
	3,675	3,999	4,370
Commission Sub-Total	80,958	102,717	92,320
Non Commission Specific Programme Expenditure			
Salaries to Programme Work	145,178	144,568	142,500
<b>TOTAL PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>226,136</b>	<b>247,285</b>	<b>234,820</b>
General Administration			
Salaries, Pensions, etc.	145,178	144,568	142,500
Ex Gratia Payments	12,000	0	0
Accommodation (In kind)	50,000	5,000	50,000
Officers Travel & Expenses	4,410	9,807	10,000
Office Expenses	44,197	42,245	45,000
Election Expenses	5,098		
Staff Training	1,002	1,423	1,500
Audit	6,800	6,020	6,000
Investment Management Fees	3,286	4,157	4,500
Legal and Consultancy Fees	15,629	11,751	10,000
Insurances	5,057	4,732	4,750
Ministers' House Repairs	95	7	1,000
Irrecoverable VAT	2,823	4,070	5,000
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>295,575</b>	<b>278,781</b>	<b>280,250</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>521,711</b>	<b>526,066</b>	<b>515,070</b>

## Annual Meetings Costs 2009

	Income	Expenditure	2009 Balance	2008 Balance
Accommodation and Conference Fees	67,456	51,369	16,087	(3,384)
Donations to Meetings	6,288		6,288	12,663
Printing and postage		2,601	(2,601)	(4,484)
Group Registration	3,475		3,475	6,747
Pre-AGM Expenses		895	(895)	(1,643)
Room Hire and Audio Visual		1,143	(1,143)	(3,928)
Speakers & Fees plus Social event		3,297	(3,297)	(325)
Receptions and Sundries		431	(431)	(837)
Travel		3,523	(3,523)	(1,484)
Youth Honoraria & Expenses	1,000	1,073	(73)	(1,263)
Transfer for future Meetings		10,000	(10,000)	(2,000)
Previous Year's transfer for this meeting	2,000		2,000	
	<b>80,220</b>	<b>74,331</b>	<b>5,888</b>	<b>62</b>

# Communication Commission

**Chair:** Diane Bennett

**Members:** Marion Baker, Diane Bennett, Stephanie Cage (until July 2009), Sheila Culshaw (from August 2009), Janet Eldred (until April 2009), Jim Corrigan (EC link from April 2009), Neville Kenyon (EC link until April 2009), Kate Taylor, John Wilkinson.

## Mission Statement

*To encourage the growth and development of the Unitarian community by promoting a clear, contemporary Unitarian message via traditional and innovative means, in accordance with liberal values.*

## Activities

### Leaflets

The review of leaflets continues. Further leaflets have been published, including *Unitarians Celebrate Birth* and *Unitarian Views of Jesus*, with more in preparation. Some have been referred to more appropriate commissions. The commission is grateful to those authors who give of their time to revise and provide content for publications, and also to Kate Taylor who has led on this project, with assistance from Janet Eldred and Marion Baker.

### Online worship

The CC continued to support the National Unitarian Fellowship (NUF) in the pilot project to produce high quality resources for online worship. A number of resources have been produced and were demonstrated at the 2009 Annual Meetings. There are plans for further resources, including recordings of short services. Further consideration has been given to the future ministry (*fm*) report and recommendations relating to “high-tech ministry”.

### Consistent Identity

The Communication Commission (CC) has continued to promote implementation of the consistent identity. At the GA meetings in 2009 there was a brief update on the Upper Chapel Sheffield pilot project to implement the consistent identity. A full report will be given at the 2010 Annual Meetings.

The notice board project, which makes available to congregations funding to support new notice boards designed in line with the consistent identity, continues to be successful. Over forty congregations have been awarded grants.

A new project providing grants of up to £250 to develop local promotional activity and materials was launched. A total of £1,500 has been made available to this project.

### Publicity and promotional activities

The new travelling display was launched at the 2009 annual meetings. Subsequently, one panel was redesigned and produced as an A2 poster – it is also available to download from the national website. Work is ongoing to develop a new set of wayside pulpit posters. A bookmark, based on the ‘Unitarians Welcome You’ theme, was produced in three colours and has proved popular.



*The new travelling display*

Mugs, bearing the words “freedom, reason, tolerance” and the chalice logo, have been produced. The chalice badges continue to be popular, and ideas for further merchandise are being explored.

Staff at Essex Hall continue to respond to queries, received increasingly via the web. The CC has been reviewing the advertising strategy, including consideration of appropriate media and content.

### National website

Thanks must go to James Barry for his work on development of the redesigned national website, and to those who worked with James including Yvonne Aburrow, member of the Web Panel (now disbanded), and John Wilkinson. The website was launched in October 2009.

The CC has maintained links with Unitarian Communication Co-ordinators' Network (UCCN), including liaison with the group supporting local congregations and participation in the 2009 conference.

The Panel met three times during 2008-9.

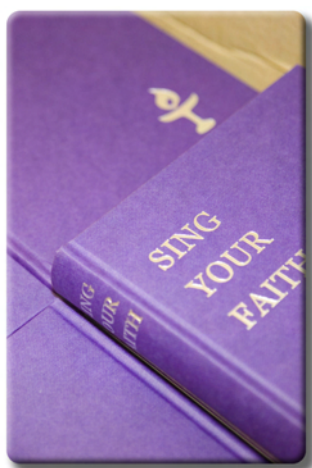
### Lindsey Press Panel

#### (Formerly Publications Panel)

**Convenor:** Kate Taylor

**Members:** David Dawson, Margaret Hamer, Kay Millard, Catherine Robinson, Kate Taylor.

The great achievement of the year lay in the publication of the new hymn book *Sing Your Faith* which had been put together by dedicated work over some years by the ad hoc Hymn Book Panel. The book proved so popular (and at such a competitive price!) that the 2,000 copy print-run was swiftly exhausted and a reprint became necessary. The book was well publicised, by the 2009 GA Press Officer, in local and regional papers relevant to contemporary Unitarian contributors, and was featured on BBC local radio stations in two areas. The involvement of the Lindsey Press Panel lay principally in advising on some of the bibliographic technicalities.



*New hymn books*

That apart, the year has been largely exploratory rather than productive.

We have been especially anxious to bring out material for children and during the year Rev John Harley, the General Assembly's Youth Officer, has been working with others - in particular Lorna Hill and Lyanne Mitchell - to create a Doodle book which will introduce young people to Unitarian ways, themes and values. We have also been questing for a co-ordinator to bring together a collection of short plays, or ideas for improvisation, for children across the age-range.



*Trying the doodle book*

We must report, however, that others are so hard-pressed that finding collaborators or editors amongst the Unitarian community is not proving at all easy. We are, for example, looking for a commissioning editor for a compilation on *Unitarian Perspectives on Contemporary Religious Practice*.

However, we now have a new collection of worship material from the Reverend Cliff Reed, to be entitled *Sacred Earth* and expect to publish it in 2010. In the longer term, Stephen Lingwood is considering gathering together a collection of commissioned essays on *Emerging Patterns of Ministry*. We are also exploring the possible publication of some responsive prayers drawn from a substantial body of work by an author from Northern Ireland.

# Denominational Support Commission

**Chair:** Dot Hewerdine

**Members:** Joyce Ashworth, Lis Dyson-Jones, Dorothy Hewerdine, Rev Cen Llwyd, Rev Celia Midgley and Vanessa Rothwell.

**Special Projects:**

Fellowships Research – John Greenwood  
District Support – Rev Martin Whitell.

**Mission Statement:** *The mission of the DSC is to give practical support, responsive and pro-active, which enables our congregations to flourish in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.*

**1. Aims:**

- Supporting the denomination through the work of Panels & working groups
- Collaborating with other Commissions on specific projects
- Linking with the Executive Committee to ensure that the work of the DSC & its Panels fits with the EC's overall strategy
- Presence at the Annual Meetings
- Monitoring the DSC budget in consultation with the Panels & working groups.

**2. Key Achievements:** Our key achievements during this year have been facilitating the work of our Panels (recorded in separate reports).

**Hymn Book Panel:** Special mention must be made in this report of the Hymn Book Panel which completed its work ahead of time and successfully launched the new Purple Hymn Book, 'Sing Your Faith', at the Annual meetings in Chester. Further print runs were needed almost immediately as the book proved very popular with congregations throughout the General Assembly! The Panel also organised a recorded 'Hymn Sing' to produce CDs for congregations wanting to use the new hymn book but without access to live music.

The work of this Panel has been both creative and tedious (the gaining of copyright permission is not a job for the faint-hearted)! The Panel has now retired; their job well done.

We offer our deep appreciation and congratulations on their achievement.

**Annual Meetings 2009:**

The 'Celebrating Our Congregations' presentations proved once again to be a highlight of the business meetings. Learning from our experience in 2008, the presentations were of a higher technical standard and enjoyed by those who saw them. Thanks must go to Lis Dyson-Jones and Peter Teets for driving, guiding and compiling these presentations.

The DSC stand took an innovative form as a village offering displays, seating and meeting places for delegates and visitors. Our thanks to Vanessa Rothwell for creating and directing this project.

**3. Future Planning:**

- Continuing support for the work of Panels.
- Continuing support for the 2 special projects; District Support & Fellowships Research.
- Celebrating our Congregations at AGM 2010.
- DSC 'village' display at AGM 2010.
- Support for the Youth Road Show at the 2010 Annual Meetings.
- Support for the Youth Panel to run additional Family events in collaboration with The Nightingale Centre.
- Continuing to develop plans for the future of the Welsh Department in collaboration with the Welsh Department Committee and the Executive Committee.

**4.** The members of the Commission work hard both during their meetings and between meetings on progressing the work of supporting the denomination. This involves both ensuring that our Panels have the resources they need for their valuable work and responding to new needs for support when these are identified. We look forward to another productive year.



## Buildings Advisory Panel

**Convenor:** David Warhurst

**Members:** Marion Baker, Bryan Simpson (to February 2009), Mark Pearce (from November 2008), David Warhurst.

**Historic Buildings Consultants:** John Goodchild, Graham Hague, Judy Hague.

We were pleased to welcome Mark Pearce to the Panel during the year. Mark is an Architect who specialises in ecclesiastical buildings and is a trustee of The John Gregson Trust, bringing valuable expertise and contacts to the Panel. We were sorry that Bryan Simpson had to leave the Panel due to personal commitments and we are most grateful for his contribution during his period of membership. We are pleased that Bryan continues to be available to us as one of our panel of experts.

The main areas of the Panel's work during the past year were as follows:-

- Continuing to extend our database of sources of funding for church building projects.
- Developing further advisory 'Fact Sheets' for inclusion in the *Help is at Hand* handbook where appropriate.
- Developing contacts with a number of experts in various aspects of buildings related issues in addition to our historic buildings advisors. We now have a contact list of 13 Consultants covering Architecture, Quantity Surveying, Mechanical and Civil Engineering, Land Management, Historic Buildings and Fund Raising. We are planning to invite the Consultants to a Workshop in October 2009 to review the work of the Panel and their role in relation to it.
- Making links with external bodies relevant to the Panel's work such as the Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors' Association (EASA), The Chapels Society and the Churches Legislation Advisory Service (CLAS).
- Dealing with a significant 'case load' of specific enquiries from churches. These cover such diverse issues as liability to VAT for particular building projects and

organ restoration, sources of funding, aspects of listed building status, heating systems, sale of a building and disposal of artefacts, major renovation works, dealing with wood rot, and building surveys. Some enquiries can be answered immediately from the Panel's knowledge and experience. Others require research and advice from specialists before we can respond.

- Continuing collaborating with the DSC and other Panels to identify areas of common concern and the development of appropriate protocols for communications, publications etc.

As in the previous year, by far the majority of specific cases we have dealt with during the year were requests for help and guidance with fund raising which continues to be the biggest area of concern for most congregations with building repairs or projects to be done. As the Panel still does not have access to funds with which to make grants to assist congregations, the main thrust of our work is advising congregations on possible sources of funding.

## District Support

**Coordinator:** Rev Martin Whitell

**Members:** Jane Couper, Rev Cen Llwyd, Alison Thursfield, Rev Martin Whitell, Sue Woolley.

The District Support Panel was set up following a consultation conducted by the EC in the summer of 2008 to consider the importance of our District Associations. The panel works as a project team and sponsored by and works under the umbrella of the Denominational Support Commission.

Work began in earnest after the 2009 Annual Meetings in Chester, where representatives met to share information about their Districts in a session led by Rev Cen Clwyd called "Speed dating".

We have described our strategy as follows:  
*"The strategy of the District Associations Project is to enable District Associations to support and encourage existing and future Unitarian activity in their areas and beyond. The vision includes the sharing of resources, both locally and nationally."*

We are eager to assist Districts in the work they are already doing and to facilitate Districts working more collaboratively rather than attempting to set up a new direction.

During the course of 2009 a flow of correspondence has taken place between Districts and the panel and we have produced information papers on District activities, a guidance paper on the role of a District President and a survey of District Websites. A newsletter has been published prior to these meetings and 'buddies' from the panel have been assigned to the Districts.

Work in progress at the time of writing includes

- creating a database of each District's resources
- more guidance documents about the roles of District officers
- a project concerning valuing our elderly Unitarians,
- a District self-assessment exercise which will enable Districts to identify their strengths, the challenges they face and their progress. This will be launched at the 2010 Annual Meetings.

Any comments, suggestions and requests would be much valued so please don't hesitate to contact a panel member.

## Congregational Assessment

### Process

**Facilitation Coordinator:** Joyce Ashworth

During the year six congregations sought advice about undertaking the Process, four of those going on to make applications to proceed. The important process of monitoring is still ongoing with three of these congregations and a visit date has been agreed and facilitators appointed for the remaining case.

The Congregational Assessment Process affords congregations an opportunity to objectively observe and discuss all aspects of church life with independent and impartial facilitators and subsequently to put in place strategies and to set realistic goals for the future.

## Fellowships Research

**Research Coordinator:** John Greenwood

The research has been commissioned to enable the DSC to prepare an action plan by establishing the status and needs of fellowships. The study is being carried out by a volunteer, John Greenwood, an experienced market researcher and Unitarian. The research includes the identification of the current number of fellowships, how they started, the relationships between fellowships and district associations, the status and effectiveness of fellowships and fellowships' support needs. The research is being undertaken through a combination of email, telephone and visits to fellowships. The first stage questions to be used were agreed at the DSC meeting in November 2008 meeting. The pilot first stage of the research was carried out over the summer of 2009. The preliminary findings were presented to the DSC at their autumn meeting in Manchester. These results were most encouraging. The remaining fieldwork is to take place over the winter of 2009/2010 to be reported on in Spring 2010.



## Welsh Department

**Chair:** Ken Morgan

**Secretary:** Rev Eric Jones

**Members:** Lis Dyson Jones & Rev Cen Llwyd (General Assembly); Megan Jones & Rev Wyn Thomas (South Wales); Anne Jones and Ken Morgan (SE Wales); Ann Harris & Lewis Rees (District Presidents).

**1. Secretary's Retirement:** Rev Eric Jones will retire as Secretary in April 2011. Meetings have been held between representative of the Department and members of the Denominational Support Commission to plan for the future. Ideally, a part-time post should be created (possibly half-time) with money from the Assembly and from the Welsh Congregations to fund the post. Meetings have been held at District level to explore this possibility and later, it is hoped to meet representatives of each congregation to explain the position fully.

**2. Unitarian Day Gathering:** representatives of the twenty Welsh Congregations met at Carmarthen to discuss some of the work of the Welsh Department and to look at the future role of the Department. There were contributions from people of all ages with some children being present also. A translation system was used during the day and Liz Birtles came and told us of the newly gathered Unitarian Group in Bangor, Gwynedd. It was an inspiring occasion with many useful comments gathered from the day's discussions.

**3. Unitarians in Bangor:** The Secretary visited the newly formed Unitarian Group at Bangor and was delighted to meet so many Unitarians who had been gathered in such a short time. At that time, they numbered 27 (including 7 children). Most of them travelled some distance - from Anglesey, the North Wales coast, as well as from around Bangor. They are well organised, enthusiastic and full of vision and hope for their future. They are a long way from any centre of Unitarian presence and this can be a disadvantage in terms of inviting people from outside the group to visit them as well as not being part of any District Association. They have, however, a lot of talent among them and when the Secretary visited them, there were 3 other Unitarian Ministers present.

**4. Heritage Book:** The Heritage book "Gardens of Faith" was published in 2006. The book contains details of Unitarian Places of Worship from the past, with details of history and location and it proved very popular with only a few copies remaining of the 300 printed. A further booklet on the location and background of the 21 current Unitarian Congregations in Wales ('The Good Ground') was published in the summer of 2009. This has been completely sold out and a re-print will be needed as very few have been sold outside Wales to date and the book was aimed at a better understanding of the Welsh Churches for Unitarians outside Wales. The cost is £5 per copy.

**5. Presidential Visits:** Rev Bob Wightman visited both Districts in October 2009 (see below), being present at a well attended meeting at Aberdare and at Capelygroes in Ceredigion. His presence was very much appreciated. Neville Kenyon is expected to visit both Districts in the autumn of 2010.

**6. Eisteddfodau:** It is hoped to have a Unitarian presence at the National Eisteddfod to be held at Ebbw Vale in August 2010. The Eisteddfod of the Welsh League of Youth will also be held in the Aeron Valley and in the centre of the Black Spot will be held in May 2010 and we hope to have some kind of event on that occasion also.

**7. Reports:** The Department has received reports from the Executive Committee and from both Districts. We also receive reports from some of the Commissions.

**8. New Presidents:** The Department welcomes the two new District Presidents as from Oct. 2010 - Sarah Boyce from South East Wales and Coun. Haydn Richards from South Wales.



*The GA President is presented with a copy of 'The Good Ground' during his visit to Wales*

## Worship Panel

**Convenor:** Rev Joy Croft

**Secretary:** Adrienne Wilson

**Members:** Rev Joy Croft, David Dawson, Martin Gienke, Rev Linda Hart, Barbara Smith, Adrienne Wilson.

### 1. Meetings

The panel met three times this year, as usual. Approaching the end of another triennium, we decided to hold the January 2010 meeting as an open one to attract potential new members and increase denominational awareness of our work.

### 2. At the Annual Meetings

Again in 2009, we arranged brief devotions to begin each business session and worship, including a communion service, to start each day. We were encouraged by the consistently high attendances at morning worship despite the pressure of GA activities. Young Unitarians, offered an imaginative afternoon worship event under our auspices.

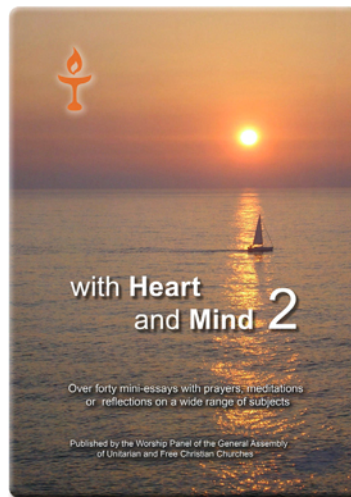
We thank Mel Prideaux, who led a worship workshop on all age services, and Stephanie Ramage, who designed the 2009 Quiet Room. Sadly, the Quiet Room seemed less well-used than in previous years. Its popularity does seem to depend on its location. The Worship Panel has long felt the importance of this quiet space amid the GA bustle. Knowing how much work goes into its creation, however, we would appreciate feedback from GA attenders as to its value to them.

The panel's offerings at the 2010 Meetings will include a Taizé vesper and a labyrinth walk. We shall also be celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the Worship Subcommittee / Committee / Panel with a retrospective exhibition and readings – some by the original contributors – from the forty years of worship publications.

### 3. Worship Resources

Thanks go to Rev Margaret Kirk for her pack commemorating Charles Darwin, ready at the beginning of 2009 so that Unitarians could play their part in the year-long celebration of Darwin's work and its impact.

Rev Dr Ann Peart is preparing a pack to mark Elizabeth Gaskell's two hundredth birthday in 2010. It should be available at the 2010 Annual Meetings. 'With Heart and Mind II' should also be on sale there. David Dawson is editing it with a new list of Unitarian contributors.



*With Heart and Mind 2*

### 4. Workshops

A workshop for worship leaders on "Alternatives to the Hymn Sandwich" took place at Wakefield in June. Revs Joy Croft and Linda Hart led it and have been invited to repeat it in the Western Union in February 2010 and the Eastern Union in March.

The panel welcomes invitations from districts and congregations to lead worship workshops on themes of concern to them.

## Youth Panel

**Chair:** Louise Shatliff

**Minutes Secretary:** Andrew Mason

**Members:** Ella Field, Helen Hooley, Vanessa Rothwell, Louise Shatliff, Howard Wilkins, Eloise Williamson, Rev John Harley (GA Youth Coordinator).

### Mission Statement

*The Youth Panel's aim is to develop and sustain a strong network of young people within our denomination and to ensure an arena for the presentation of the views and opinions of young people with a view to future membership of the denomination.*

We have a commitment to running challenging events for young people that are safe, accessible, enjoyable and run in a professional manner with a Unitarian and Free Christian ethos at their core. The panel continued its work in line with the above mission statement.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Youth Panel for their continual presence at the meetings. I would also like to say a special thank you to both John Harley and Andrew Mason (who

organises the meetings) for their great support. And last but by no means least all the volunteer leaders who make the weekends and Youth Activities within this denomination possible.

Once again in 2009 we held two Junior, Inter and Senior weekends and also a FDA (five days away). They were all very well supported and we hope the same will happen in 2010. There is so much preparation goes into these weekends, it would be absolutely fantastic if we could continue to fill them year after year. We held a new weekend in 2009 which was called Bridging weekend and this was designed to help the children who were too old to attend the weekends to bridge over to BUYAN. This is so they can still get together as young adults.

The 2010 theme at the Annual Meetings is Youth. I think as a denomination we have a lot of great things to offer the Youth of today, we just need to move forward and shout about it. The weekends at Hucklow are such a fine example of this, as some great friendships have grown there and lasted for years. Most of the children who attend the Senior weekend now, have been together since junior weekend and are great friends.

**Top:** *Inters & Seniors at the Hucklow trough.*

**Bottom Left:** *Juniors enjoy a story. (pic by Sue Howard).*

**Bottom middle:** *Seniors pass round a candle during 'circle time'.*

**Bottom right:** *Inters creating art work based on emotions.*



## Education & Training Commission

**Chair:** Dawn Buckle

**Staff Support:** Mary-Jean Hennis

**Members:** Jane Blackall (from Sept 2009), Dawn Buckle, Maggie Davies (until Sept 2009), Rev John Harley (ex officio), Joan Hill, Margaret Kirk, Jean Mason, Rev Jean McNeile, Margaret Robinson, Liz Shaw, and Mary Wightman.

**Mission Statement:** *To provide a framework for education and training within the Unitarian movement which will enhance the development of people of all ages as both individuals and Unitarians.*

Once again the Commission report begins with a tribute to one of the Commission's band of hard working volunteers who died during the year – Patricia Walker-Hesson. Patricia was a member of the Hucklow Summer School panel from 2004. She was a participant in the School for many years before that. She was Dean for three years and a workshop co-leader last year, after which, she stepped down from the panel. Patricia was a strong advocate of the value of experiential, group-oriented, religious education as a pathway to spiritual fulfilment. She is sadly missed.

Despite tight budgets, the Commission continues to work productively and co-operatively, largely due to being composed of representatives from all the panels within the Commission. This means that all panels are aware of each others' Action Plans and activities increasing understanding and enabling helpful links to be made.

All panels have something to celebrate:

Chalice Award Panel – young people at Dukinfield and Altrincham achieved Gold Awards during the year. It is hoped that they will be joined by young people from Dundee to receive their Awards at the GA Meetings.

Engagement Support Panel – held a successful conference in October with an attendance of more than 20. They were also involved in exploring co-operation between other

Education and Training Commission (ETC) and Denominational Support Commission (DSC) Panels to provide Partnership Support to congregations and spiritual leaders.

Groups Working Well Panel – arranged a dialogue between various panels and individuals who provide group facilitation training to ensure that Facilitation Skills in Ministry courses can continue to be provided for student ministers. The panel was also involved in exploring the cross panel Partnership Support described above and will become part of the new initiative responsible to the Executive Committee.

Hucklow Summer School Panel – had the highest number of attenders, in August, 59 including 5 children. The children achieved their Silver Chalice Awards during the week and adults heard inspiring keynote lectures from the Rev Sarah Tinker and others and participated in co-facilitated group workshops each day on the theme The Journey.

Joined Up Education Panel – all four of the students who began ministry and lay pastorate training this academic year had achieved or were moving up the Steps of the Worship Studies Course (WSC). A successful three session, national, residential WSC Foundation Step course was run with 10 students attending from across the country. Liz Shaw, who has administered the course with great efficiency and care for the students, for 7 years, or so, stepped down in January 2010. Fortunately, a volunteer to take over the role appeared in the form of Winnie Gordon. To whom the panel is very grateful.

Religious Education Co-ordinators Panel – two members of the panel have been heavily involved in the development of REvolution, a new training course for RE leaders of young people. Although attendance was rather disappointing, the RE Conference in October was a useful learning and sharing opportunity for all involved. Two of the youngest Religious Education Co-ordinators in the country, Claire Maddocks and Eloise Williamson, led two of the sessions.

Support for Organisational Leadership Panel – the handbook Help is at Hand was successfully transferred onto the new GA website and is downloadable. SOL is now a ‘virtual’ Panel and is collecting items that might usefully be added to the handbook in the future.

REvolution Steering Group – the REvolution course is now fully planned. Experienced tutors are in place to lead the two age-related strands for young people 5-11 and 12-17 years. Both strands will have some intergenerational content. Funding fell into a GA black hole for a while but thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, plus the consequent Bowland Trust matching, the REvolution will go ahead. It will be launched at the GA Meetings and the first weekend session will be held at the Nightingale Centre on the weekend of 22 - 24 October 2010.

Other activities – 4 grants in connection with activities for young people were given from the Sunday School Income Fund to Godalming, Lewes, Dukinfield and Stalybridge.

- an ETC webpage has been added to the GA site and planning is afoot to improve it shortly.
- - publications had modest sales this year and a list of books, courses etc has been placed on the ETC webpage.

Plans for the future will depend on two crucial factors:

- a continuing stream of volunteers to step into the shoes of the three members of the Commission who have indicated that they wish to step down at the GA Meetings, Joan Hill and Dawn Buckle who have been on the Commission since its inception and the Rev Margaret Kirk who has been a welcome more recent addition.
- sufficient continuing funding to enable the Commission, its panels and working groups to continue their fine work.

Our small Unitarian and Free Christian community has much to be proud of in our religious education provision due entirely to the excellent, informed and talented volunteers who devote so much time and energy into providing a high quality service. We must not let our provision deteriorate due to an unthinking change in emphasis by the movement. If we are to grow, religious education for all, for a lifetime, needs to be at the heart of all we do.

## Chalice Award Panel

**Convenor:** Joan Hill

**Secretary:** Rev Jean McNeile

**Members:** Rev John Harley, Joan Hill, Sue Hodgson, Claire Maddocks (from April 2009), Rev Jean McNeile (until Sept 2009), Mary Wightman.

There have been a number of changes this year both to the scheme and the Panel. After the retirement of the Minutes Secretary, Rev Jean McNeile, we have been fortunate to welcome Claire Maddocks onto the panel. She already has much experience in using the scheme at Summer School and has continued to use it with success again this year. The new issue of the main Award scheme and the separate Green level including leader's information was available at the Annual General Meetings 2009. and interest was shown at the Education and Training Commission Stall. Since then the new publicity leaflets have also been distributed to congregations and we are grateful to Essex Hall Staff. Their helpful efforts at a very busy time made this possible.



*Chalice awards given out at Chester 2009*

The new leaflets give an explanation of the scheme and its uses as a tool for leaders working with young people and also a provider of ideas for intergenerational groups. The new logo is now available in the form of t-shirt templates for all four levels and can be obtained from Essex Hall in addition to the Green, Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates.

This has been a bumper year for Gold achievements. Young people from Altrincham, Dukinfield, and Dundee have completed this top level and we hope that many of them will have their perseverance recognised by the

denomination at the Annual General Meetings at Nottingham this year, when there is to be an emphasis on youth. These communities and others up and down the country take a pride in the efforts of their youngsters and sometimes special services take place in our churches to applaud their efforts. Members of the panel have been invited to see their work and present the certificates. At Dukinfield the young people themselves planned and ran a service on the theme " Diversity of Flowers and People. " This ended with a slideshow displaying the children's names and certificates were presented by Dawn Buckle, Chair of the Education & Training Commission. Excellent practice!

An article about this event and information about the new leaflet and its aims were both published in *The Inquirer* promoting awareness of the beneficial uses of this continuously evolving scheme. More interested parties were introduced to the Chalice Award Scheme at the Religious Education Weekend in November. After some initial planning at a panel meeting Claire Maddocks put together an introductory presentation and also ran practical sessions which were very well received.

Our unique programme is becoming more widely used throughout the denomination and we look forward to the possibility of running Fun Days in consultation with Junior Weekend leaders and generally extending multiple facets of the Chalice Award Scheme in the future.



*Claire Maddocks running a craft session*

## Engagement Support Panel

**Convenor:** Rev Margaret Kirk

**Secretary:** Dr Jane Blackall

**Members:** Joyce Ashworth, Dr Jane Blackall, Karen Hanley, Rev Margaret Kirk, Rev Lindy Latham, Rev Jim Robinson.

### Mission Statement

*To offer ministers and lay persons the skills and practices to enable them to facilitate groups/communities that live out the relationship of right relationship with each other and with God.*

### Scope of Remit

To provide training and give support to those facilitating Engagement Groups within the Unitarian and Free Christian community and to promote the value of Engagement groups within congregations and fellowships.

### Meetings

Meetings were held on 13<sup>th</sup> May and 4<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

### Support and Information

In addition to the Engagement Groups and Small Group Ministry leaflet and the Engagement Support Panel website, a new leaflet promoting an intergenerational approach, "Bright Lights – Doing Church Differently" was available for delegates at the GA meetings in Chester 2009, since which congregations, fellowships and district secretaries have received them in GA mailing. The panel is indebted to Jane Blackall for the design and production of this information.

Jim Robinson led workshops in the LDPA, for Unitarian students at Manchester Harris, Oxford and in the Midland Union.

### The Engagement Conference: Sharing the Spiritual Journey through Diverse Activities

This conference took place on 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> October 2009. It was well advertised on the GA-List and in *The Inquirer*. Twenty three participants from a wide geographical area attended together with all six members of the panel. The 24 hour programme provided an opportunity to share ideas about the breadth and variety of groups, to experience facilitation and discuss the meaning of covenant. A report



of the conference appeared in December's *The Inquirer* written by Yvonne Aburrow, one of the participants.

Since the conference, the panel has received requests from a few of the participants, for support in the setting up of groups

### **Intergenerational Groups**

As a result of the Bright Lights publicity, this model has stimulated interest and the panel has received enthusiastic reports from two congregations experimenting with this approach. Part of our action plan (2008) to have 6 Bright Lights groups nationwide in 3 years is looking like a possibility and attracted a lot of interest at the October conference.

### **Action Plan**

We have yet to undertake the survey of Engagement groups and small group ministry in the UK and the revision of our handbook.

### **Future Plans**

From April 2010 we merge with the Partnership Support panel, Congregational assessment, Groups Working Well & Hospitality to form a core panel with a pool of practitioners drawn from the merging panels to offer support to partnerships and relationships within our Unitarian communities. It is intended that funding for our specialist work in the promotion and support for Engagement groups will continue.

Rev Jim Robinson will be returning to the States in the Spring of 2010. We will miss his gentle guidance and dedication enormously and wish him well in his future career.

## **Groups Working Well Panel**

**Chair:** Dawn Buckle

**Members:** Dawn Buckle, Rev Michael Dadson (until June 2009), Dot Hewerdine.

The Groups Working Well (GWW) panel continued with its commitment to provide facilitation skills training for students in ministry training. It was clear that with the Rev Michael Dadson's decision to step down from the panel, that the training was in jeopardy. The panel therefore held a face to face dialogue between other volunteers with expertise in facilitating groups and others with a vested interest in ministerial training. This included members of the Engagement Group Support and Summer School panels and representatives of the Ministry Commission, and the then Principal Designate of Unitarian College, Manchester.

The dialogue opened up questions about the general nature of ministerial training which need to be further aired in other forums. A pool of possible tutors for future Facilitation Skills in Ministry (FSiM) training was formed. It was decided that there would be no lengthy FSiM training for students in the 09/10 academic year but shorter courses would be held in Oxford and Manchester led by members of the Engagement Support Group and the Groups Working Well panels respectively. These have since been successfully accomplished.

Both members of the GWW panel were part of a discussion initiated by the Denominational Support Commission's Partnership Support Panel (PSP) in September to discuss how best to offer support to partnerships and relationships within our Unitarian communities, particularly those between spiritual leaders and their congregation. As a result of this consultation the PSP put a successful proposal to the Executive Committee which will mean that from April 2010, the work of the GWW panel will be combined with that of other groups into a newly formed panel that will be directly responsible to the Executive Committee. (See *Denominational Support Commission report for more details.*)

This is therefore, the final report of the GWW panel in its current form.

## Hucklow Summer School Panel

**Members:** Patricia Walker-Hesson (Dean) (until August 2009), Dr Jane Blackall (Administrator), Caroline Blair (from August 2009), Maggie Davies (until August 2009), Rev Lindy Latham, Dr Mel Prideaux.

**From the mission statement of Hucklow Summer School:** *“The core purpose of Hucklow Summer School is religious education: we focus on matters of religion and spirituality and intend to draw out and develop the potential of all participants. We aim to provide a balanced programme, offering a rich mix of activities for both the heart and head, and a variety of optional sessions showcasing a range of worthwhile activities which participants might “take home” and try out in their own congregations and communities. We also ensure that there are plenty of opportunities for relaxed fellowship and fun during the week. Small group activities are at the heart of summer school and provide a safe environment for deep exploration and personal relating. Morning theme talks provide a contrast in style to the small group activities, stimulate dialogue on religious and spiritual matters, and allow participants to engage with the topic on an intellectual level. Summer School also provides opportunities for daily spiritual practice such as morning meditation and evening epilogues. Summer School brings fellow Unitarians together and allows them to get to know each other deeply and form lasting and meaningful connections. It is our hope that participants will be inspired and challenged to develop and promote high-quality religious education activities when they return home.”*

The theme of Hucklow Summer School 2009, held from 15-22 August, was “The Journey”. Our theme speaker, Rev Sarah Tinker, was assisted by storyteller Rev Dr Linda Hart and a team of ‘fellow travellers’ who each contributed to one of the theme sessions: Jim Corrigan, Rob Oulton, Rev Dr Vernon Marshall, David Francis Darling, and Caroline Blair. Feedback on the theme talks was very positive indeed. Audio recordings of these talks are now freely available for download from the Hucklow Summer School website:

[www.hucklowsummerschool.org.uk](http://www.hucklowsummerschool.org.uk).

Four alternative morning engagement groups were offered to adults: “Gems for the Journey” with Rev Dr Linda Hart and Patricia Walker-Hesson; “In Whose Shoes...? Finding Your Own Feet” with Rev Michael Dadson and Alison Thursfield; “Travellers’ Tales: Harvesting the Stories of our Lives” with Sheena Gabriel and Rev John Harley; and “Sole to Soul: Walking as a Spiritual Practice” with Dr Mel Prideaux and Maggie Davies. These small groups met for six two-hour sessions over the course of the week and were intended to give participants an intensive experience of liberal religious education, providing – we hope – examples of best practice in small group facilitation. Our children’s programme was, once again, led by Claire Maddocks and Eloise Williamson. All five of the young people who attended summer school successfully completed the silver chalice award during the week. Minister of the week, providing pastoral care for participants and supervision for group facilitators, was Rev Lindy Latham.

A diverse range of optional afternoon and evening activities were also offered by Summer School participants: a mid-week labyrinth walk was a powerful experience for many of those who took part in it; an introduction to dramatherapy was also particularly well-received; sessions on poetry, singing, dancing, prayer, games, crafts, walking, and an ‘around-the-world’ disco and social evening to round off the week also went down well. A new and widely welcomed innovation was the provision of two free spaces (a ‘chill-out tent’ and a social space in the lounge) which were kept available throughout all of the afternoon and evening sessions for use by those who wanted to take a break from the optional activities on offer and simply sit in silence or spend the free time chatting with new friends.

This was the largest summer school ever: 59 people (54 adults and 5 children) participated in summer school 2009, of whom 20 were attending for the first time, following another concerted effort to encourage new participants to Hucklow through a word-of-mouth campaign. Planning for the next Hucklow Summer School began in the autumn of 2009. The overarching theme will be “Speaking of God: Unitarian Adventures in Theology” and an application form with further details of the programme on



offer is due to be released by the end of Jan 2010.

Finally, the panel would like to pay tribute to two dear friends of summer school, Simon John Barlow and Patricia Walker-Hesson, who died in the past year. Simon John and Patricia were both passionate supporters of liberal religious education and were hugely significant to the development of Hucklow Summer School. We have been greatly affected by their deaths and the summer school community misses them both deeply.

### Joined Up Education Panel

**Members:** Dawn Buckle (Convenor), Rev Ernest Baker, Rev Alex Bradley, Richard Lovis, Rev Dr Vernon Marshall, Elizabeth Shaw (Administrator), Sue Woolley (from March 2009), Rev Dr Arthur Stewart (for information only).

Registration on the two modular courses (Worship Studies & Unitarian Studies) has not increased during the year, mainly because of the difficulty in students not being able to access the Foundation Step at District Level. As a result the Joined-Up Education Panel (JUPE) have organised a National Foundation Step over three weekends. The first took place in September 2009, and the second and third will be in January and March 2010. We have ten people registered on this course.

JUPE met only twice this year and it has been agreed that all tutors will now attend both meetings and be part of the panel.

JUPE is as always very grateful to the tutors: Rev Ernest Baker, Rev Alex Bradley and Rev Dr Vernon Marshall for their continuing service to training Lay Worship Leaders.

### RE Co-ordinators Panel

**Convenor:** Margaret Robinson

**Members:** Rev Dr Vernon Marshall, Jean Mason, Margaret Robinson.

**Mission Statement:** *To advance the cause of religious education for children, young people and adults by providing resources, opportunities for sharing insights, and practical training in spiritual growth and renewal.*

The RE Co-ordinators (REC) Panel met once during the year to plan the RE Conference and to look at ways of promoting religious education for all in the denomination.

A successful Religious Education Conference, organised by the REC Panel, was held in November 2009 at Hucklow, where ten participants shared good practice, took part in drama therapy, children's, adult and intergeneration RE sessions. They were informed about the Chalice Award Scheme and participated in practical activities from the Green Award. Days opened with meditation, ended with an epilogue and a worship service was held on the Sunday morning

Eleven of the sixteen District Associations have Religious Education Coordinators. Two of the Districts have both an adult and a children's REC. The Panel is working towards having RECs in every District.

Jean Mason (together with her daughter and two granddaughters) attended the UUA Religious Education Conference on Star Island, USA in July 2009, gaining valuable experience, sharing ideas and information with fellow religious educationists.

### Religious Education GA e-mail list

The Religious Education GA e-mail list discussion group now has 43 people signed up, who share ideas and practical activities, ask and answer questions on all aspects of Religious Education.

## Religious Education Leaders Training Course – Revolution

**Mission Statement:** *We are committed to providing a rigorous accredited training course enabling participants to run religious education courses in their congregations and districts, for children, young people, and intergenerational groups.*

The Steering group (Margaret Robinson, Rev John Harley, Jean Mason and Dawn Buckle) met in August 2009, and the Training team (the Steering group plus Liz Hills and Lorna Hill) met in October 2009 to further plan REvolution, the accredited Religious Education Leaders Training Course. Leaders who provide or hope to provide religious education for children, young people and intergenerational groups are invited to join the REvolution as pioneers to lead spiritual exploration. There will be an initial residential weekend 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> October 2010; four training Saturdays 8<sup>th</sup> January 2011, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2011, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2011 and 16<sup>th</sup> July 2011; and a final residential weekend 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> October 2011. In order to be accredited it will be mandatory that participants attend all sessions and complete assignments. REvolution will cover all aspects of religious education. Margaret Robinson is administrator of the course.

## Support for Organisational Leadership Panel

**Chair:** Dawn Buckle

**Members:** Joyce Ashworth, Dawn Buckle, Lis Dyson-Jones, Peter Hanley, Ken Johnson, Barbara Smith.

Since May 2009, when it celebrated the successful dissemination of the handbook, Help is at Hand, to all congregations, districts the Support for Organisational Leadership panel (SOL) has been a 'virtual' panel. The panel is currently collecting items that may result in further additions and corrections to the handbook, as and when necessary, as gaps become apparent and/or legislation changes. Food hygiene and public benefit reporting to the Charity Commission in congregational and district annual returns are already on the list.

The handbook has been successfully transferred onto the new GA website, from where it is possible to download sections or the whole document. Any future changes are likely to be made electronically only with hard copy available on request.

Members of SOL are available to give advice on best practice in congregational governance, based on the handbook, to those who request it.

## Faith & Public Issues Commission

**Chair:** Rev Jeff Gould

**Members:** Jim Corrigan (EC Link, from April 2009), Rev Chris Goacher, Rev Jeff Gould, Karen Hanley, Rev Alan Kennedy, Gavin Lloyd, Rev Feargus O' Connor, Tony Rees, Rev Wyn Thomas, Rev Bob Wightman.

### Mission statement

*We seek to offer the distinctive Unitarian and Free Christian perspectives on matters relating to the arenas of ecumenical, inter-faith and social action engagement, and in turn, inform and stimulate thought and action on these same subjects within the General Assembly."*

The members of the commission have met three times in the past year.

A considerable portion of the commission's work is to ensure that representatives of the General Assembly attend meetings, conferences and special events of relevant ecumenical, inter-faith and social action bodies. In addition to commission members attending such events, Mr David Warhurst liaises with Liberty, Rev Jean McNeile sits on the Spirituality Group of Churches Together in England, and Rev Dr Ann Peart is a member of the Ecumenical Strategy Group for Ministerial Training. In this past year the commission was able to reaffirm the General Assembly's membership of and contributions to (among others) the following organizations: Church Action on Poverty; Christian Aid; Christian Ecology Link; Interfaith Network Forum; Jubilee Debt Campaign; One World Week; United Nations Association; World Disarmament Campaign (now merged with Action for United Nations Renewal); Trade Justice Movement. Representation on RADAR (an ecumenical body concerned with the monitoring of Government and public issues) was highlighted as a priority activity.

The banner that had been produced in the previous year for general use by all GA congregations, district associations and affiliated societies for public demonstrations, events and worship was well used.

The banner reads: **"Unitarians Celebrate the Diversity of Creation!"** It also contains the

GA website address. Thanks go to Howard Hague for his co-ordination of the banner's distribution.



*The diversity banner shown at Chester 2009*

Financial support was given for the World Congress of Faiths and its lecture series at Essex Hall in the course of the year. Appreciation is noted for the Rev Richard Boeke's efforts in administering that series.

The commission has sought to maintain a relationship with the emerging network of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) persons in the General Assembly, and offers funding for appropriate projects in this sphere. It sponsored the use of the banner in several LGBT Pride events across the nation, and funded a post-parade gathering at Manchester's Cross Street Chapel on 29 August 2009.

The commission continued its third year of working in tandem with the Denominational Support Commission to explore the possibility of developing a denominational project on the subject of "Radical Hospitality." This explores the issue of prejudice, and encourages our church communities to be more aware of the overt and 'hidden' messages that members and visitors receive. At the Annual Meetings of 2009, a presentation on this subject took place, and was offered by members of the London District Provincial Assembly (LDPA) Growth Group working party. It is uncertain how this proposal will proceed, and a slot will be offered at the 2010 Annual Meetings in which the way forward will be open for discussion.

Particular thanks must be given to those individuals whose ancillary support of the commission's work in the past year has been invaluable, namely: James Barry; John Crosskey; Fenella Fyle; Howard Hague; Mary-Jean Hennis; Audrey Longhurst; Andrew Mason. Their guidance and support are deeply appreciated. The chairing of the meetings will change as of the 2010 Annual Meetings, and I wish to record my thanks to the General Assembly for the opportunity to convene the meetings of the past three years.

## Penal Affairs Panel

**Chair:** Bruce Chilton

**Secretary:** Bruce Chilton

**Members:** Tony Cann, Bruce Chilton, Emily Hewerdine (to June 2009), Kay Millard, Bernard Omar (from October 2009), Bob Pounder, Sally Ramage, Tony Rees (to May 2009), Kate Taylor (to May 2009).

### ***The Penal Affairs Panel (PAP) is a social responsibility effort of the Unitarians.***

*It was created in 1992 following the General Assembly's "great concern at the poor conditions and regime at many local prisons." The new Panel was given the task "to investigate the current situation on ... penal policy, to keep the denomination informed ..., and to provide a liberal religious voice in response ... to current legislation."*

During the year, PAP met three times and held two long telephone conferences. Most communications are by email. The Panel published two further "**PAP Issues Papers**" on "**Reoffending**" and "**Young Offenders**" and young offenders became the subject of the PAP's presentation to the 2009 Annual Meetings at Chester.

The former Chief Inspector of Probation and Chair of the Youth Justice Board, Rod Morgan, who is now Professor of Law at Bristol University, told delegates at the 2009 Annual Meetings that too many children and young adults find themselves before the courts and, too often, in custody. Once there, they cannot escape "criminalisation" and this increases, rather than reduces, the likelihood of

reoffending. The young people convicted by the courts have multiple problems – only 30% live with both parents, 30% have special educational needs and 32% are excluded altogether from school. (Did you know you can get details about the provision for such children from your local education authority?)

Are today's children so different from their parents? Rod Morgan said "No!" – What happened was a change of government policy. Until the 1990s, government policy was to "divert" young offenders from the courts. Then the policy changed to "closing the justice gap" and convictions increased by more than a third, at a time of no increase in youth offending levels. The numbers of young people imprisoned and the length of their sentences increased dramatically. In 2008-9, more children were locked up in England and Wales than in any other European country, both in absolute numbers and percentage terms.

Getting information to Unitarians about criminal detention and civil detention, mostly of immigrants, is the first task of the PAP. The online **PAP News** which was started in the previous year grew strongly and the PAP was given a webpage on the GA's website.

The second direction of the PAP's work is to comment on justice issues. Members of the Panel have represented the Unitarians on the Churches Criminal Justice Forum and contributed to "the views of the faiths". In expectation of an approaching General Election, work started on drafting questions on criminal justice issues for parliamentary candidates.

Social "responsibility" or "justice" action and service are at the core of Unitarian history and also at the core of the present Unitarian Objects of 2001. Many Unitarians and others pursue religious inquiry through such action and service. Liberal religious voices make a big contribution to justice in the UK today.

Does your Unitarian chapel, church, meeting or group make a contribution? Do you have a PAP Correspondent? Do tell the PAP News.

# Ministry Commission

**Chair:** Rev Dr Ann Peart (until July 2009),  
Rev J Eric Jones (from July 2009)

**Members:** Jen Atkinson, Rev Alex Bradley,  
Joan Cook (from April 2009), David Dawson,  
Rev Dr Linda Hart (from April 2009), Rev J  
Eric Jones, Rev Dr Arthur Stewart, Rev  
Sarah Tinker (from April 2009), Val  
Worthington (from April 2009).

## The Commission's Vision Statement:

*The Ministry Commission's Mission is: "to ensure that the G.A. has good ministerial leadership that works effectively with congregations for the good of all concerned and the development and growth of Unitarian witness".*

## The Ministry Commission -

- sets standards for the acceptance on to the Roll of Ministers and Lay Pastors and on to the Roll of Approved Lay Leaders ;
- recruits and selects students for professional training ;
- monitors progress in training and the probationary years of ministry ;
- receives and reviews regular reports from the training colleges and other schemes of training, monitors progress ;
- takes an overview of ministerial appointments in the UK ;
- seeks to encourage and facilitate good practice in Minister/ Congregation relationships ;
- responds to the changing needs of Ministry and participates in strategic planning where appropriate.

**Meetings:** the Commission met three times during 2009, each time at Essex Hall.

## Overview of the Year

In many ways, 2009 was a difficult year for the Commission in that the Chief Executive, Rev Steve Dick, resigned from his post at the end of March. The Ministry portfolio was then handed to Peter Teets and he in turn resigned at a later date. For much of the year, the Commission was without any Secretarial support at Essex Hall and some of the usual duties were not followed up.

At the end of July, Ann Peart retired as Principal of Unitarian College, Manchester. She also ceased to be a member of the Ministry Commission (of which she was the Chair). The Executive Committee asked Ann if she would be willing to act as a Part-Time administrator for the Commission and she agreed to do so from August 2009 until the end of January 2010. During this interim period Rev Eric Jones agreed to act as Chair of the Commission until a new committee would be appointed after the Annual Meetings in 2010.

Ann has been able to handle the day to day administrative work involved with the Commission and to arrange all the work involved in gathering information for the Interview Panel's meeting in January but much remains to be done.

## G.A. Rolls of Ministers, Lay Pastors and Overseas Ministers

### Deaths:

Rev Elspeth Vallance on 13 February 2009  
Rev Dr Phillip Tindall on 7 January 2010

### Retirements:

Rev Margaret Kirk on 31 March, Rev Dr Ann Peart on 31 July, Rev Brian Packer and Rev Desmond Porter in October, Rev Beryl Allerton on 31 December and Lay Pastor Roger Booth on 30 April.

## Guidelines

The Guidelines for Partnership between Congregations and Ministers were circulated for consultation in 2008. The final stage which deals with conflict has been referred to a legal expert due to the many changes in legislation which have been introduced in relation to this subject over recent years. When we receive the recommendations and the Committee of the Ministerial Fellowship has had the opportunity for input, the whole Guidelines will be available as one document.

## The Colleges:

The Commission receives full reports from Unitarian College, Manchester and from Harris Manchester College Oxford as to the progress of students training for the ministry. Rev Alex Bradley is currently the Principal of Unitarian College after Rev Dr Ann Peart's retirement at the end of July.

### **Inter Commission Panels**

Members of the Ministry Commission have been pleased to co-operate with other Commissions and Panels, especially in regard to future ministry and partnership support panels.

### **GA Directory**

Commission members expressed concern at the lack of information included in the current Directory and also the lack of an up to date Handbook. Comments were sent to the EC.

### **Meeting for Potential Students**

A meeting took place in London in September. It was agreed that it was a useful day for those taking part and that a similar day should be arranged on an annual basis.

### **CRB Check system**

Rev Sarah Tinker has stepped in to help in view of no-one being available at Essex Hall after the resignation of Peter Teets. She is dealing with new applicants only and our thanks to Sarah for her help and support in this sensitive area.

### **Future Plans**

There is still some catching up to be done. The full Guidelines for Ministers and Congregations need to be produced as soon as possible.

An attempt is being made to maintain a full list of possible grant aiding bodies for the purpose of training for ministry. We are pleased that Jeff Teagle has taken on the work of promoting the Ministerial Students Fund. The Fund was established to give financial support to people training to be Ministers. Now we have a much wider category of students - including the training of Lay Pastors and Lay Leaders. The EC agrees in principle that the MF fund should be open to all those training for ministry.

The Mentor process needs to be brought back on line.

A Ministers' "Terms of Appointment" document needs to be completed.

The Commission will also look at Ministerial categories in order to establish whether our present system is the best for our times. This would have training implications also. Some work has been done on this project.

Our main hope is that there will be support staff at Essex Hall in order to carry out some these projects.

### **The Interview Panel**

**Chair:** Dr Jane Williams

**Members:** Rev John Clifford, Rev Chris Goacher, Rev Dr Ann Peart, Rev Cliff Reed, Rev Dr Arthur Stewart, Dr Jane Williams.

**In attendance:** Rev Steve Dick (until March 2009)

The Panel met on two occasions - at Oxford in January and in Essex Hall in June.

Patrick Timperley attended for his Final Interview and was recommended for acceptance on to the GA Roll of Ministers. Andy Pakula also attended for Final Interview and was recommended for acceptance on the Roll of Ministers subject to some conditions which he has now fulfilled.

At present there are five UCM students - Danny Crosby and Bob Pounder are 2<sup>nd</sup> year full-time students for Ministry; Nicky Jenkins and Kath Riley are part-time Lay Pastor students; Myrna Michell, whilst studying at York St John University, has the status of UCM Ministry Student.

At Harris Manchester there are four students at present; Daniel Costley is in his second year as a Ministry Student; Sue Woolley is in her 1<sup>st</sup> year as a Ministry Student; Sheena Gabriel is currently studying at Lay Pastor level; Jim Corrigan is a 1<sup>st</sup> year Lay Pastor student. Lewis Rees hopes to resume studies in Oxford in Autumn 2010.

During the year Rev Linda Hart and Rev David Shaw were recommended for full Ministry status having completed their Probationary periods.

The Mentor system is continuing to work but perhaps not as well as we would hope - it is under active review by the Panel. Thanks are sent to all Mentors on behalf of the Denomination which is grateful for all the work entailed.

We remain aware that the Selection process is a sensitive issue in some quarters. The Panel has to respect confidentiality and to work in line with current government legislation whilst trying to conduct as open a process as is possible.





## Associate Members

In accordance with rule 4 of the Constitution of the General Assembly the following persons, having contributed not less than £30 each to the funds of the Assembly in the financial year 2008-9, are Associate Members of the General Assembly. Names of Honorary Members and Full Members who have subscribed not less than £30 during the financial year each are also listed.

Adams Mrs WJ	Chilton Mrs CD	Forrester Mrs E	Inkson Mr RHE
Adkinson Miss EB	Chilton Mr GEB	Foulkes Mr RO	Inkson Mrs J
Allured Mr M	Clarke Mrs HM	Fowler Miss A	Isaac Mr AW
Archer Mrs D	Cockroft Rev BS		Isaac Mr RB
Arthur Mr D	(Full Member)	Gabriel S	
Ashworth Mrs B	Cockroft Rev L	Gienke Mr M	Janes Mrs JA
Ashworth Mrs J	(Full Member)	Gillman Mr DE	Johnson Mr KJ
Atkinson Mrs JM	Cockroft Mrs BW	Goacher Rev C	Johnson Rev P
Attfield Prof R	Coldwell Mr AH	(Full Member)	(Full Member)
Aylmer Mrs V	Coldwell Mrs DE	Godfrey Rev PB	Johnson Mr PB
	Collier Mr JS	(Honorary Member)	Jones Dr AW
Baker Mrs M	Cook Mrs J	Godfrey Mrs S	Jones Ms A
Barber Mrs E	(Full Member)	Goodchild Mr J	Jones Mrs B
Barber Mr JM	Coombes Rev DF	Greenhalgh Mr F	Jones Rev JE
Barlow Mrs EJ	Copley Mr DW		(Honorary Member)
Barwick Mrs S	Copley Mrs H	Hague Mr H	Jones Mrs A
Beck Mr R	Corrigall Mr J	Hague Mrs G	
Bell Dr J	(Full Member)	Hamer Ms MC	Kay Mrs H
(Honorary Member)	Crompton Mrs J	Handoll Mrs HWG	Kenyon Mr NA
Bennett Ms DE	Crompton Mr D	Hankinson Mrs AS	Kenyon Mrs B
Birtles Rev AH	Crosskey Mr JM	Hardy Dr SJ	Kerr Dr DG
(Full Member)	Crosskey Dr KSM	Harris Ms LA	Kerr Mrs C
Birtles Rev E		Harrison Mrs M	Kirby Rev A
(Full Member)	Darling Mr DF	Hastie Mr WJ	(Full Member)
Blair Mr J	Dawson Mr D	Haughton Ms DP	Kirk Rev M
Blake Mrs C	Dawson Mrs C	Head Mr G	(Full Member)
Bradley Rev A	De Silva Mr M	(Honorary Member)	Knopf Mrs B
(Full Member)	Deas Mrs E	Heale Mr P	
Bradley Rev J	Denby Mr RN	Healey Miss R	Lake Mrs M
(Full Member)	Doel Rev DC	Hewerdine Mr AJ	Latta Mrs S
Brooks Mrs B	(Full Member)	Hewerdine Mrs DC	Laycock Mrs BA
Brooks Mr GE	Donaldson Mrs R	(Full Member)	Lingwood Rev S
Brown Mr AHO	Durban Ms J	Hewis Mrs H	(Full Member)
Brown Mr I	Dyson-Jones Ms E	Hewis Rev P	Lovis Mr R
Buckle Mrs D	(Full Member)	(Full Member)	(Full member)
(Full Member)	Edwards Ms J	Hill Rev AM	
Buckle Mr R	Elder Mr RC	(Full Member)	Maguire Mrs M
Buckley Mr D	Ellis Mrs HA	Hill Mrs M	Mason Mr CB
Burbage Miss M	Evans Mrs EM	Hill Ms L	Mason Mr GH
Burgess Mr B		Hird Dr JL	Mason Mrs J
Burns Mrs M	Faiers Mrs E	Hoskins Mrs AJ	Mason Ms H
	Fieldhouse Miss AM	(Dec'd)	Maud Mr G
Calderara Mrs B	Fieldhouse Miss S	Hoskins Mr DG	McClelland Rev A
Camper Rev A	Finer Mrs MA	Howarth Mr M	(Full Member)
Cann Mr HA	Firth Mrs RE	Howarth Mrs J	McClelland Rev J
Cartwright Rev CM	Ford Ms JM	Hughes Ms A	(Full Member)
(Full Member)		Hugill Ms M	Merritt Ms C

Merritt Mr R  
 Merritt Mrs H  
 Mitchell Ms M  
 (Full Member)  
 Midgley Rev C  
 (Full Member)  
 Midgley Rev J  
 (Full Member)  
 Milne Mrs S  
 Mitchell Ms SCF  
  
 Needham Mrs A  
 Nuttall Mrs M  
  
 O'Connor Rev F  
 (Full Member)  
 Oates Mr ADG  
 Omar Mr B  
  
 Packer Mr GWC  
 Parker A Rev  
 (Full Member)  
 Parsons Mrs H  
 Partington Mr C  
 Partington Mrs J  
 Paxton Mrs MRH  
 Payne Mrs B  
 Peace Mr I  
 Pearson Mrs S  
 Peart Rev Dr A  
 (Full Member)

Percy Mrs A  
 Pilkington Mr C  
 Potts Mr AE  
  
 Ramage Mr RW  
 Ramsden Mrs DM  
 Rathbone Mrs B  
 Reed Rev CM  
 (Full Member)  
 Reed Mrs P  
 Rees Mr AM  
 Reynolds Mrs HM  
 Richards Mr JCT  
 Richards Mrs J  
 Richards Ms R  
 Richards Mr W  
 Roberts Rev D  
 (Full Member)  
 Roberts Dr J  
 Roberts Rev J  
 (Full Member)  
 Roberts Mrs W  
 Robinson Mrs M  
 Robinson Rev M  
 Robinson Mr WS  
 Rogers Mrs L  
 Russell Mrs BS  
 Ruston Mr AR  
 Ruston Ms J  
 Ruston Mr M  
 Ruston Mrs R

Sanders Dr N  
 Scott Mr JA  
 Sellman Ms JR  
 Shaw Rev D  
 (Full Member)  
 Shaw Mrs E  
 Shellabear Mrs D  
 Sherman Dr DM  
 Short Mrs A  
 Silk Rev PA  
 (Full Member)  
 Silk Mrs J  
 Simmons Mrs J  
 Simmons Mr G  
 Sinclair Mrs A  
 Slaven Ms S  
 Smith Sir Cyril  
 Smith Mrs C  
 Smith Dr RW  
 (Honorary Member)  
 Soulsby Sir Peter  
 (Full Member)  
 Sykes Ms J  
  
 Taylor Mrs TM  
 Taylor Miss CMP  
 Teagle Mr JJ  
 Teagle Mrs SM  
 Thompson Ms C  
 Thompson Ms J  
 Thursfield Mrs A

Tinker Rev SM  
 (Full Member)  
 Tomlin Mrs JR  
 Tomlin Mr MJ  
 (Honorary Member)  
  
 Uprichard Mrs EM  
 Usher Rev GR  
 (Full Member)  
  
 Voegeli Mrs I  
  
 Walker Rev F  
 (Full Member)  
 Walker-Hesson Ms P  
 (Dec'd)  
 Ward Mr WH  
 Warhurst Mr DE  
 Warhurst Mrs H  
 West Mr MG  
 Wickens Mrs E  
 Whitham Mr P  
 Wightman Mrs M  
 Wightman Rev R  
 (Full Member)



*Margaret Evans, Associate Member*

*Margaret was recognised at the 2009 Annual Meetings – she has attended almost every GA Annual Meeting since her first time in 1948!*

## Congregational Contributions

01 October 2008 to 30 September 2009

All collections and donations received are included in the one total against each church. Amounts are shown as at 30 September 2009 and contributions received after that date will be shown in the next annual report.

<b>England</b>			
Ainsworth	414.00	Cullompton	138.00
Altrincham	1,196.00	Dean Row	2,024.00
Ashton-in-Makerfield	1,242.00	Denton	0.00
Atherton	1,426.00	Derby	161.00
Banbury	230.00	Ditchling	391.00
Bath	161.00	Doncaster	437.00
Bedfield	46.00	Douglas	138.00
Belper	92.00	Dover	115.00
Billingshurst	161.00	Dudley	23.00
Birmingham Edgbaston	1,150.00	Dukinfield	1,196.00
Birmingham Hollywood	1,196.00	Eccles	1,541.00
Blackpool	460.00	Enfield	391.00
Bolton Bank Street	1,334.00	Evesham	621.00
Bolton Chorley New Road	460.00	Framlingham	230.00
Bolton Egerton	690.00	Gloucester	184.00
Bolton Halliwell Road	368.00	Godalming	805.00
Boston	216.00	Great Hucklow	460.00
Bournemouth	184.00	Great Yarmouth	253.00
Bradford Russell Street	414.00	Hale Barns	690.00
Bradford Unitarians	414.00	Hastings	391.00
Bridgwater	115.00	Hinckley	1,541.00
Bridport	276.00	Hindley	276.00
Brighton	920.00	Horsham	690.00
Bristol Brunswick Square	345.00	Horwich	138.00
Bristol Frenchay	460.00	Hull	644.00
Bury	1,932.00	Hyde	46.00
Bury St Edmunds	529.00	Hyde Flowery Field	200.00
Cambridge	1,173.00	Hyde Gee Cross	299.00
Chatham	184.00	Ipswich	920.00
Chelmsford	230.00	Kendal	1,122.00
Cheltenham	253.00	Kidderminster	690.00
Chester	230.00	Knutsford	1,265.00
Chesterfield	96.00	Leeds	713.00
Chorley	552.00	Leicester	598.00
Cirencester	138.00	Lincoln	322.00
Coseley	161.00	Liverpool Toxteth	207.00
Coventry	230.00	Liverpool Gateacre	460.00
Cradley	575.00	Liverpool Sefton Park	667.00
Crewkerne	299.00	London Bethnal Green	0.00
Croydon	1,173.51	London Brixton	0.00
		London Golders Green	943.00

London Hampstead	3,910.00	Torquay	207.00
London Islington	644.00	Trowbridge	483.00
London Kensington	1,196.00	Urmston	1,113.00
London Lewisham	317.00	Wakefield	414.00
London Newington Green	690.00	Warrington	345.00
London Stratford	115.00	Warwick	437.00
Loughborough	46.00	Watford	253.00
Lytham St Annes	345.00	Whitby	161.00
Macclesfield	1,012.00	Whitefield	1,265.00
Maidstone	161.00	Wirral	460.00
Manchester Dob Lane	368.00	Wolverhampton	46.00
Manchester Chorlton	230.00	Worthing	92.00
Manchester Cross Street	621.00	York	966.00
Manchester Gorton	345.00		
Mansfield	1,150.00		
Mossley	276.00	<b>Wales</b>	
New Mill	138.00	Aberdare	552.00
Newcastle	529.00	Alltyblaca	80.00
Newcastle upon Tyne	506.00	Capel Ifan	0.00
Newport	161.00	Cardiff West Grove	437.00
Northampton	184.00	Cefn Coed y Cymer	552.00
Norwich	805.00	Cellan	36.00
Nottingham	506.00	Ciliau Aeron	40.00
Oldbury	92.00	Cribyn	120.00
Oldham	230.00	Cwmsychbant	108.00
Oxford	874.00	Cwrtnwydd	156.00
Padiham	1,196.00	Felinfach	50.00
Plymouth	529.00	Lampeter	324.00
Portsmouth	1,081.00	Llandysul	100.00
Pudsey	299.00	Llanwnnen	198.00
Rawtenstall	184.00	Nottage	299.00
Richmond	805.00	Pontsian	108.00
Rivington	460.00	Prengwyn	144.00
Rochdale	1,288.00	Swansea	276.00
Scarborough	322.00	Talgarreg	200.00
Sevenoaks	621.00	Trebanos	460.00
Sheffield Norfolk Street	1,344.00	Wick	230.00
Sheffield Stannington	575.00		
Sheffield Fulwood	1,150.00		
Shrewsbury	598.00	<b>Scotland</b>	
Sidmouth	92.00	Aberdeen	1,196.00
Southampton	391.00	Dundee	851.00
Southend-on-Sea	69.00	Edinburgh	1,288.00
Southport	230.00	Glasgow	920.00
Stalybridge	299.00		
Stockport	184.00		
Stockton-on-Tees	506.00		
Stourbridge	161.00		
Styal	575.00		
Taunton	322.00		
Tenterden	184.00		



## Contributions from Districts, Societies & Others

	£	£
<b>Subscriptions</b>		
Arnold Graves Trust income	61.68	
Scarborough Trustees	750.00	
Merseyside District Missionary Association	750.00	
N E Lancs Unitarian Missionary Association	350.00	
East Midland Unitarians	500.00	
Foy Society	100.00	
Adelaide Unitarians	200.00	
National Unitarian Fellowship	95.00	
London District & SE Provincial Assembly	500.00	
		3,306.68
<b>Donations</b>		
Bowland Trust	136,337.00	
		136,337.00
Mill Hill Chapel	20.05	
Manchester Cross Street	200.00	
Bury St Edmunds Trustees	1,000.00	
Liverpool Charity & Voluntary	300.00	
London Hampstead	15.00	
Unitarian Women's' League	50.00	
Auckland Unitarian Church	175.00	
Manchester District	500.00	
Scottish Unitarian Association	150.00	
Midland Unitarian Association	500.00	
Mrs M Baker	1,000.00	
Mr C Partington	500.00	
Mr M G West	250.00	
Dr J Williams	250.00	
Sheffield District Women's League	40.00	
Memorial Hall Trustees	1,000.00	
Mrs D E Bennett	96.40	
Horsham	20.00	
Annesley (CLW) Trust	2,500.00	
Small donations from individuals and gift aid	2,425.55	
		10,992.00
<b>Annual Meetings</b>		
Wood Green Trust	4,000.00	
Mr M G West	300.00	
Rev R Wightman	260.00	
Ms M Jones	320.00	
Hackney & Holt Trust (B&FUA)	647.88	
B&FUA Dr CA Greaves Bequest	567.11	
Mr M J Tomlin	109.13	
Gift Aid	84.00	
		6,288.12
<b>Youth Activities and Commissions</b>		
Lawrence House Fund	1,000.00	
Memorial Hall	2,000.00	
New Gravel Pit Chapel	250.00	
Leonard Chamberlain Subvention	397.85	
Yorkshire Unitarian Union	545.00	
Kendal Trustees	2,000.00	
Leonard Chamberlain Fund	1,500.00	
Merseyside District	600.00	
Mrs T Morrison	150.00	
Dean Row	400.00	
Manchester Cross Street	1,750.00	
		10,592.85
<b>Total</b>		<b>167,516.65</b>

# Accounts of the General Assembly of Unitarian & Free Christian Churches for the Year Ended 30 September 2009

**Registered Charity No 250788**

## **Trustees' Responsibilities in Relation to the Financial Statements**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993, the Charity (Accounts Reports) Regulations 2008 and the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### **Auditors**

A resolution to reappoint Shaw Gibbs LLP as auditors for the ensuing year will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

## **Independent Auditors' Report to the Trustees of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches**

We have audited the financial statements of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian churches for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out in Note 1.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees as a body in accordance with Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 and regulations made under Section 44 of that Act. Our audit has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

### **Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Auditors**

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom General Accepted Accounting Practice) as set out in the Statement of Trustees Responsibilities.

We have been appointed as auditors under Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 and report in accordance with regulations made under Section 44 of that Act. Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993. We also report to you if in our opinion, the Trustees' Annual Report is not consistent with the Financial Statements, if the charity has not kept proper accounting records or if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We read the Trustees' Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

### **Basis of Audit Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of the information in the financial statements.

### **Opinion**

In our opinion:

- The financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice of the affairs of the charity as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009 and of its incoming resources and application of resources in the year then ended and;
- The financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993.

264 Banbury Road  
Oxford  
OX2 7DY

Shaw Gibbs LLP  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
and Statutory Auditor

## Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 30<sup>th</sup> Sep 2009

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
	Note 8i and ii	Note 9	Note 10	Note 12		
<b>Incoming Resources</b>						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Voluntary Income	376,161	4,516	36,309	0	416,986	576,499
Activities for Generating Funds	23,584	0	0	0	23,584	13,080
Investment Income	91,636	2,240	29,229	0	123,105	125,585
Incoming Resources in Furtherance of GA Objects	31,731	0	0	0	31,731	22,097
Other Incoming Resources	64,497	0	0	0	64,497	201,816
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>587,609</b>	<b>6,756</b>	<b>65,538</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>659,903</b>	<b>939,077</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>						
Costs of Generating Funds						
Activities for generating Funds	23,584	0	0	0	23,584	10,210
Investment Management Fees	3,286	0	0	503	3,789	5,252
Charitable Activities						
Grants (See Note 2)	6,500	1,000	95,623	0	103,123	74,100
Programme Activity	237,929	0	20,399	0	258,328	247,095
Governance Costs	273,118	7,389	25,845	0	306,352	270,553
Other Resources Expended	64,169	0	0	0	64,169	102,118
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>608,586</b>	<b>8,389</b>	<b>141,867</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>759,345</b>	<b>709,328</b>
Net Incoming/(outgoing) Resources before Transfers	(20,977)	(1,633)	(76,329)	(503)	(99,442)	229,749
Transfers between Funds (Note 4)	(7,724)	9,158	(234)	(1,200)	0	0
Net Incoming/(outgoing)resources	(28,701)	7,525	(76,563)	(1,703)	(99,442)	229,749
Other recognised gains/(losses) on Investments (See Note 7)	(36,898)	(39)	(13,832)	(2,678)	(53,447)	(552,197)
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>	<b>(65,599)</b>	<b>7,486</b>	<b>(90,395)</b>	<b>(4,381)</b>	<b>(152,889)</b>	<b>(322,448)</b>
Funds Balance Brought Forward	1,325,455	124,015	423,462	477,654	2,350,586	2,673,034
Net Movement in Funds	(65,599)	7,486	(90,395)	(4,381)	(152,889)	(322,448)
<b>Funds Balance Carried Forward</b>	<b>1,259,856</b>	<b>131,501</b>	<b>333,067</b>	<b>473,273</b>	<b>2,197,697</b>	<b>2,350,586</b>



## Balance sheet as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009

			<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	Note			
Tangible Assets	6	63,116		56,677
Investments	7	1,770,968		1,758,049
			1,834,084	1,814,726
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Stocks		10,335		14,348
Loans	14	1,036		4,440
Debtors	11	100,455		165,171
Short Term Deposits		291,059		371,834
Cash at Bank and In Hand		17,162		25,238
		420,047		581,031
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Creditors falling due within one year		(56,178)		(44,915)
<b>Net current assets</b>			363,869	536,116
<b>Net Assets</b>			2,197,953	2,350,842
Creditors - amounts falling due after more than one year			(256)	(256)
<b>Total Assets Less Liabilities</b>			<b>2,197,697</b>	<b>2,350,586</b>
<b>Funds</b>				
General Funds			1,259,856	1,325,455
Designated Funds	9		131,501	124,015
Restricted Funds	10		333,067	423,462
Endowment Funds	12		473,273	477,654
<b>Total Funds</b>			<b>2,197,697</b>	<b>2,350,586</b>

Approved by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2010 and signed on its behalf by

Peter Soulsby – Convenor

Ann Peart – Acting Hon Treasurer

The notes 1-16 form part of these accounts

## Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> Sep 2009

### Note 1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the inclusion of investments at market value and in accordance with applicable accounting standards. In preparing the financial statements the General Assembly follows best practice as set out in the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP)' issued in March 2005 and the Charities Act 1993. The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

- Incoming Resources – Donations, legacies and gifts

These items are included in the year in which they are receivable, which is when the General Assembly becomes entitled to the resource.

- Incoming Resources – Investment income

Income from investments is accounted for in the period in which the General Assembly becomes entitled to the receipt.

- Resources expended

All expenditure is included on an accruals basis. A detailed analysis of expenditure and allocation between funds is detailed in Notes 8 to 10 and 12 to the financial statements. Grant expenditure is detailed in note 2 to the financial statements.

- Staff salary costs

Approximately 50% of the full-time equivalent staff hours are spent on programme work. Accordingly total salary costs have been split equally between programme support costs and management and administration costs.

- Funds accounting: Funds held by the General Assembly are:

**Unrestricted general funds** – these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

**Designated funds** – these are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.

**Restricted funds** – these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor, or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

**Endowment funds** – permanent and expendable endowment funds are the result of gifts to the charity that are to be invested and the income thereof used for the purposes of the charity either as unrestricted or restricted funds dependent on the wishes of the donor.

Further details relating to each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

- Fixed Asset investments

Investments are included at closing mid-market value at the Balance Sheet date. Any gain or loss on revaluation is taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Freehold land and property held jointly are not depreciated. The cost of equipment is written-off by equal annual installments over their expected useful lives as follows:

Furniture 5 years

Computer equipment 3 years

- Stocks – Books, posters, mugs and badges.

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

- Pensions

The General Assembly operates a defined contribution scheme available to all eligible employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in independently administered funds. Pension costs charged in the Statement of Financial Activities represent the contributions payable by the General Assembly in the year.



## Note 2. Direct Charitable Expenditure – Grants

During the year to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009 the General Assembly has made grants to enable the promotion of a free and inquiring religion in the UK and abroad, and for the education of ministers of religion and the relief of poverty. See also Note 4 for details of grants made between unrestricted, designated and restricted funds of the General Assembly.

Grants by Category		£
Grants to UK Institutions		47,518
Grants to Overseas Institutions		6,563
Educational Grants		49,042
Total		103,123
<hr/>		
Grants to Individuals		
Educational Grants		48,712
Young People at GA Meetings		330
		49,042
<hr/>		
UK Unitarian Churches and Institutions		
Dr Hadwen Trust		1,000
Inquirer Publishing Company		2,500
Nightingale Centre		5,587
South Wales Ministry		4,000
Speed Trust Grants to Scottish Churches		30,246
Lay Pastors		750
Youth Programme		156
Young Adult Subsidy GA Zette		279
Church Noticeboards		2,250
Church Advertising projects		500
Richmond Chapel		250
		47,518
<hr/>		
Grants to Overseas Institutions		
India Fund		1,971
Kharang Rural Centre		2,592
ICUU		2,000
		6,563
<hr/>		

### Note 3. Direct Charitable Expenditure

Analysis of expenditure on activities which further the objects of the General Assembly support costs and the cost of administration are shown in Notes 8 to 10, 12, 15 and 16

### Note 4. Transfers between Funds

Note 4 Transfers between Funds				
	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds
Youth Officer				
Sunday School Fund Grant to ETC	155		(155)	
Arnold Graves Trust	62		(62)	
Lewis Edwards Memorial Fund	18		(18)	
Union for Social Service Fund	10	(10)		
H W Fairey Specific Bequest	435	(435)		
James Speed Trust Management Fees	1,200			(1,200)
Animal Welfare Capital Account		(1,000)		
Animal Welfare Income Account		1,000		
Annual Meetings Fund	(10,000)	10,000		

### Note 5. Intangible Income

The General Assembly receives accommodation and services free of charge from Essex Hall Trustees to an estimated value of £50,000 per annum which would have to be paid for if not provided free (See also Note 8).

### Note 6. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Leasehold properties held jointly	Freehold Land and Ground Rent	Equipment Furniture & Computers	Totals 2009
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 October 2008	25,774	21,350	36,256	83,380
Additions			14,284	14,284
<b>At 30 September 2009</b>	<b>25,774</b>	<b>21,350</b>	<b>50,540</b>	<b>97,664</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 October 2007	0	0	26,703	26,703
Charge for Year	0	0	7,845	7,845
<b>At 30 September 2008</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34,548</b>	<b>34,548</b>
<b>Net Book Value</b>				
<b>30 September 2009</b>	<b>25,774</b>	<b>21,350</b>	<b>15,992</b>	<b>63,116</b>

## Note 7. Fixed Asset Investments

<b>Quoted Investments</b>					<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
Market Value at 1st October 2008					1,758,049	2,329,853
Less Sale Proceeds					(286,704)	(954,044)
Add Acquisitions at cost					353,070	934,437
Net (Losses)/Gains on Disposals					(25,691)	(13,684)
Net (Losses)/Gains on revaluation					(27,756)	(538,513)
Market Value at 30th September 2009					<b>1,770,968</b>	<b>1,758,049</b>
Historical Cost as at 30 September 2009					2,022,131	2,036,709
				<b>Cost of</b>		
				<b>Additions or</b>		
<b>Consolidated Investment Portfolio</b>			<b>Historical</b>	<b>Mkt Value</b>	<b>Unrealised</b>	<b>Mkt Value</b>
	<b>Qty</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>30.9.2008</b>	<b>Gain/Loss</b>	<b>30.9.2009</b>	
M&G Charifund	32,441	341,159	356,737	(15,283)	341,454	
Charities Property Fund	64,646	83,999	71,802	(16,782)	55,020	
UK Commercial Property Fund	16,800	14,129	12,307	(496)	11,811	
Rathbone Unit Trust	39,795	308,119	238,811	(8,294)	230,517	
Newton Higher Income Fund	73,465	52,983	40,501	684	41,185	
UK Treasury Stock 4.75% 2020	27,500	31,210	31,210	(1,086)	30,124	
Universal Liquidity Funds	73,000	73,000	73,000	0	73,000	
Halifax 8.75% 2049	100,000	115,321	90,701	(17,500)	73,201	
Bradford & Bingley 13% 2049	50,000	85,272	24,876	(18,750)	6,126	
Barclays Bank plc	40,000	38,791	27,830	4,822	32,652	
M&G Corporate Bond	332,542	109,000	109,000	473	109,473	
Newton Offshore Sterling Fund	144,210	134,141	111,850	230	112,079	
Newton Global Higher Income	94,736	112,285	101,927	6,461	108,388	
Newtons Global Growth & Income	470,007	522,722	508,173	37,765	545,938	
		<b>2,022,131</b>	<b>1,798,725</b>	<b>(27,756)</b>	<b>1,770,968</b>	

## Note 8 i Unrestricted Funds

	Incoming Resources	Fund Transfers	Total 2009	Total 2008
<b>Incoming Resources</b>				
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>				
<b>Voluntary Income</b>				
Legacies	250	0	250	44,230
Subscriptions/Assoc Membership	18,351	0	18,351	20,777
<b>Congregational Contributions</b>				
Quotas	83,747	0	83,747	83,767
Anniversary Service Collection	5,476	0	5,476	5,448
Community Appeal	7,497	0	7,497	5,398
British & Foreign Unitarian Association	33,807	0	33,807	32,200
Essex Hall Trustees	20,000	0	20,000	20,000
Essex Hall Trustees (in kind)	50,000	0	50,000	50,000
Inquirer Management Fee	2,500		2,500	2,500
Speed Trust Management Fee	0	1,200	1,200	1,200
<b>Other Donations</b>				
Bowland Trust	136,337	0	136,337	194,676
Individuals and Districts	10,992	0	10,992	21,660
Annual Meetings	7,204	0	7,204	12,663
Youth Officer	0	0	0	(40,000)
	376,160	1,200	377,360	454,519
<b>Activities for Generating Funds</b>				
Sales of Goods	23,584	0	23,584	13,080
	23,584	0	23,584	13,080
<b>Investment Income</b>				
Dividends and interest	90,275	0	90,275	79,700
Loan repayments	1,337	0	1,337	2,190
Rental Income	24	0	24	24
	91,637	0	91,637	81,914
<b>Furtherance of GA Objects</b>				
Payroll Calculation Service	2,829	0	2,829	2,540
Youth Conferences				
Run by ETC	13,271	154	13,425	9,830
Run by DSC	15,631	397	16,028	9,727
	31,731	551	32,282	22,097
<b>Other Incoming Resources</b>				
GA Annual Meetings	64,497	(9,565)	54,932	85,446
	64,497	(9,565)	54,932	85,446
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>587,608</b>	<b>(7,814)</b>	<b>579,794</b>	<b>657,056</b>
<b>Total Resources Expended (see overleaf)</b>	<b>608,586</b>	<b>(90)</b>	<b>608,496</b>	<b>657,364</b>
<b>Net Incoming/Outgoing Resources</b>	<b>(20,977)</b>	<b>(7,724)</b>	<b>(28,701)</b>	<b>(308)</b>

## Note 8 ii Unrestricted Funds Outgoing Resources

	Charitable Expenditure	Fund Transfers	Total 2009	Total 2008
<b>Resources Expended</b>				
Costs of Generating Funds				
Investment Management Fees	3,286	0	3,286	4,157
Cost of Goods Sold (Books and other)	23,584	0	23,584	10,210
	26,870	0	26,870	14,367
<b>Charitable Activities</b>				
Grants Executive Committee				24,294
ICUU	2,000	0	2,000	-
Inquirer	2,500	0	2,500	3,000
Nightingale Centre	2,000	0	2,000	
	6,500	0	6,500	27,294
<b>Programme Activities</b>				
Executive Committee Programmes	23,314	(80)	23,234	21,961
Executive Committee and panels	7,923	0	7,923	4,005
Education + Training Commission Progs	17,339	0	17,339	13,475
ETC panels	2,322	0	2,322	8,363
Denominational Support Commission	28,907	0	28,907	18,498
DSC panels	8,631	0	8,631	11,872
Ministry Commission Programmes	279	0	279	3,807
Ministry Commission Interview Panel	2,103	0	2,103	2,722
Communications Commission Programme	6,664	0	6,664	9,317
Communications Commission Panels	2,834	0	2,834	541
Faith & Public Issues Progs and Panels	3,685	(10)	3,675	3,903
Salaries due to Programme work	133,928	0	133,928	144,568
	237,929	(90)	237,839	243,032
<b>Governance Costs</b>				
General Administration				
Salaries, Pensions (see Notes 15 & 16)	133,928	0	133,928	144,568
Ex Gratia payments	12,000	0	12,000	-
Officers Travel & Expenses	4,410	0	4,410	9,807
Office Expenses	44,292	0	44,292	42,245
Staff Training	1,002	0	1,002	1,423
Audit and Accountancy Fees	6,800	0	6,800	6,020
Legal Fees and Consultancy costs	15,629	0	15,629	11,751
Accommodation	50,000	0	50,000	50,000
Insurance	5,057	0	5,057	4,739
	273,118	0	273,118	270,553
<b>Other Resources Expended</b>				
GA Annual Meetings	56,248	0	56,248	98,048
Election of Officers	5,098	0	5,098	
Irrecoverable VAT	2,823	0	2,823	4,070
	64,169	0	64,169	102,118
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	608,586	(90)	608,496	657,364

## Note 9. Designated funds

	Balance at 01-Oct-08	Incoming Resources	Charitable Expenditure	Funds Transfers	Investment Losses	Balance at 30-Sep-09
Benevolent Fund	1,237	2,000	-	0	0	3,237
Retired Ministers Housing fund	96,370	-	-	0	0	96,370
Hucklow Summer School Bursary A/C	-	2,516	-	0	0	2,516
HW Fairey Specific Bequest	1,412	2,230	-	(435)	0	3,207
SOEG Designated Fund	3,192	-	-	(397)	0	2,795
Leaflets fund	5,603	-	-	0	0	5,603
SR Designated Fund	6,116	-	-	0	0	6,116
Animal Welfare Capital	1,740	-	1,000	0	0	740
Annual Meetings Fund	-	-	-	10,000	0	10,000
Central Postal Mission	7,396	-	7,389	0	0	7
Union for Social Service	949	10	-	(10)	(39)	910

## Note 10. Restricted Funds

	Balance at 01-Oct-08	Incoming Resources	Charitable Expenditure	Funds Transfers	Investment Losses	Balance at 30-Sep-09
					See below	
Development	40,000	230	14,595	0	0	25,635
Chalice	74,319	996	22,583	0	(2,424)	50,307
Romania Fund	56	100	52	0	0	104
India Fund	10,460	2,099	3,169	0	(427)	8,961
India Fund - Kharang Rural Income	2,873	281	2,592	0	(105)	457
James Speed Trust	20,947	25,841	30,246	0	0	16,543
Lay Pastors Fund	17,605	165	750	0	(675)	16,346
Millennium Fund	87,962	880	12,351	0	(3,595)	72,896
Ministerial Students Fund	134,326	16,899	49,112	0	(5,490)	96,623
YP Chamberlain Fund Subvention	-	1,500	330	0	0	1,170
Nightingale Fund	-	10,234	3,587	0	0	6,647
Past Presidents' Sponsored Walk	-	5,169	-	0	0	5,169
ETC Summer School	-	924	-	(154)	0	770
Humphreys Winder Legacy	3,946	-	-	0	(161)	3,784
Humphreys Winder Income	238	39	-	0	0	278
Lewis Edwards	1,759	18	-	(18)	(72)	1,687
Arnold Graves	6,168	62	-	(62)	(252)	5,916
Sunday School Fund	15,430	-	-	0	(631)	14,799
One World Week	375	100	-	0	0	474
South Wales Ministry Fund	7,000	-	2,500	0	0	4,500

## Note 11. Sundry Debtors

Included in sundry debtors is an amount of £33,853 (2008: £114,951) being the balance of the Grant from the Bowland Charitable Trust due on receipt by the trustees of a certificate from the Auditors following the finalisation of the General Assembly Audit.

## Note 12. Endowment Funds

	Balance at 01-Oct-08	Incoming Resources	Charitable Expenditure	Funds Transfer	Investment Losses	Balance at 30-Sep-09
James Speed	463,760		503	(1,200)	(2,678)	459,379
Millennium Fund	13,894					13,894
	477,654	0	503	(1,200)	(2,678)	473,273



## Note 13. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Tangible		Net Other	2009
	Assets	Investments	Assets	Total
Endowment Funds	-	359,872	113,401	473,273
Restricted Funds	-	319,042	14,025	333,067
Designated Funds	-	93,435	38,066	131,501
Other charitable Fund	63,116	998,619	198,121	1,259,856
	63,116	1,770,968	363,613	2,197,697

## Note 14. Loans

A balance of £1,036 (2008: £4,440) remains of travel loans made in the year to two members of staff.

## Note 15. Staff Costs and Trustees Remuneration

	2009	2008
Wages and Salaries	255,136	252,215
Social Security costs	25,061	23,429
Pension costs	10,159	13,492
Ex-gratia payments	12,000	-
	302,356	289,136

One employee's salary including London Manse allowance was in the range of £60,000 to £70,000. (2008: 1). Staff costs included £22,500 within Chalice fund expenditure.

The average number of employees, (FTE) was 8 (2008: 7)

The trustees neither received nor waived any emoluments during the year (2008: nil)

Travel and subsistence expenses totalling £11,917 were reimbursed to 13 trustees (2008: 9 trustees totalling £6,132.)

## Note 16. Pensions

The General Assembly operates a defined contribution scheme available to all eligible employees other than Ministers. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in independently administered funds.

The Ministers who work for the General Assembly are members of the Ministers' Pension Fund which is a defined benefit scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity and are administered by the Ministers' Pension Fund.

The last actuarial valuation of the Ministers Pension Fund was at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007 and showed a deficit of £266,000 (31.12.2004: £160,000). During December 2008 the administration of the Ministers' Pension Fund was taken over by Jardine Lloyd Thompson .

The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the defined contribution scheme of £ 5,928 and contributions payable to the Ministers Pension Fund of £ 4,231. The amount due for payment at the year-end was £nil (£2008: £nil).

## The Nightingale Centre

**The Annual Report for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009 of the Trustees' of The Unitarian Convalescent and Holiday Centre trading as The Nightingale Centre.**

The charity known as The Unitarian Convalescent and Holiday Centre at Great Hucklow in the County of Derbyshire is regulated by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners sealed 26<sup>th</sup> February 1975. Charity registration number 242256.

Postal address:- The Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 8RH.

The Custodian Trustee is The British and Foreign Unitarian Association (Incorporated).

The Managing Trustees are the persons who are the members for the time being of the Executive Committee of The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches. The Executive Committee shall comprise eight persons elected by a postal ballot and an Honorary Treasurer. The Honorary Treasurer will be a voting member of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee elections will be held every two years with four members elected at each election to serve for a term of four years taking office at the end of the Annual Meetings following their election. All Managing Trustees on appointment attend a weekend induction programme. Under the terms of the Scheme the Managing Trustees may delegate the administrative function of management to an appointed Committee. The Committee known as The Nightingale Centre Management Committee is appointed by the Managing Trustees every three years. The ultimate responsibility for management remains with the Trustees.

The Managing Trustees being the present members of the Executive Committee of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches are:- Jennifer Atkinson (to April 2009), Dawn Buckle (to April 2009), Elizabeth (Lis) Dyson-Jones, Dorothy



Hewerdine, Neville Kenyon (to April 2009), Rev. Dr. Ann Peart, Sir Peter Soulsby, Joan Cook (from April 2009), Jim Corrigan (from April 2009), Andrew Pakula (from April 2009), David Usher (from April 2009), Martin West (Hon. Treasurer - to April 2009), Derek McCauley (Hon. Treasurer - from April 2009).

The members of the Management Committee are:- Marion Baker (Chairman), Michael Tracey (Secretary), Gordon Lowthian (Financial Secretary), David Copley, David Dawson, Dot Hewerdine, Richard Merritt, Vanessa Rothwell.

Managers: Stella Burney and Julie Dadson (to May 2009)

Sole Manager: Stella Burney (from May 2009)

Hon. Solicitor: Andrew Cooper

### Introduction

Celebrating the contribution of staff, Management Committee and the many Unitarian supporters of the Centre has been an ongoing theme in 2009. April saw the well deserved retirement of Mavis Bradbury who has served the Centre loyally for many years. Julie Dadson, manager for over four years, retired at the end of May. She ably steered the Centre through the impact of large building improvements and the inevitable need to modernise the Centre's operations to meet the increasing expectations of guests. Julie's many Unitarian friends will miss her warm welcome and attentive concern for their welfare. Stella Burney brings many years of commercial sales and customer service experience and has benefited greatly from sharing the role of manager with Julie for much

of the financial year. We pay tribute to Julie and Stella jointly for the many improvements and the financial results they have achieved this year through their dedication and hard work.

Andrew Cooper, our legal adviser, has over the years given unstintingly of his time and expertise to the Centre. During the year he also successfully resolved the disputed financial settlement with regards to the change of tenancy of Barleycrofts House. We are very grateful for all his efforts on our behalf.

Thanks are also due to all members of the Management Committee who volunteered many hours of their time to support the work of the managers during this time of change and challenge. In addition we applaud the creativity and determination of Helen Merritt, a Friend of The Nightingale Centre, has performed many time consuming tasks in helping to produce attractive promotional material. Another unsung hero is Colin Partington who spends a couple of days at the Centre each month preparing the accounts. His invaluable work enables prompt and appropriate financial decision-making.

The Nightingale Centre Management Committee reports with cautious optimism on the ongoing operation of the Centre. Our worries in 2009 about the likely impact of the UK economic "credit crunch" proved unfounded as our hard-won and loyal customer base continued to support us. However, we are not complacent and are actively appraising, through our recently installed administrative monitoring procedures, the booking patterns and numbers of guests expected in 2010.

Our focus in the 2009 financial year has been acting on guest survey reports and introducing requested improvements to customer service and guest comfort. However, this has been counterbalanced with our need to reduce expenditure to achieve our goal of breaking even financially on our operating accounts. This goal enables donation income from our many 'Friends of The Nightingale Centre' to be spent on improvements to the fabric of the Centre.

## Finance and Fundraising

It is satisfying to report that despite the economic downturn we have been able not only to meet what was considered to be a challenging Budget for 2008/09 but also to achieve a very satisfactory financial outcome to what was expected to be a difficult year.

Our overall income from people staying at the Centre was slightly down on Budget, but this was more than compensated for by receipts from day visitors, and in particular from weddings and wedding anniversary celebrations. In addition, our income from donations of almost £20000 was well ahead of expectations and we are very grateful to those who have wanted to help the Centre continue to improve its facilities and to provide a spiritual 'home' for the denomination. Also, careful management of costs has contributed to the satisfactory result with a trading profit of £2509 and an overall surplus of £22085.

£11000 has been spent on further improvements to the buildings and just over £5000 has been spent on new equipment. We are constantly looking for ways to keep costs to a minimum without affecting service to our guests, and improvements to our facilities will continue to be put in place as funds permit.



## Marketing

During the last year we have kept under review our existing promotion methods and have developed new promotional tools. Great strides have been made in developing an attractive and more informative website with significant creative input from John Wilkinson. The site has more details of future events, improved illustration and has made use of video attachments and headlines moving across the top of the home page.

Word of mouth continues to be effective with much continuing repeat business. This includes our commercial customers whose use of the Centre is being stimulated further through registration with *conferences uk*. This arrangement has included an email promotion in November to some 20,000 venue-seekers. This will be supplemented by increased localised promotion to businesses nearby who may wish to use our excellent conference/training facilities. We have identified a need for flexibility in pricing to capture initial business interest but it is clear that there is potential to make good returns which can then contribute to the Centre's long-term viability and development.

Important as our commercial and other external customers continue to be, our priority remains that of providing a centre for the Unitarian movement. Regular features about the Centre have appeared in 'The Inquirer'. The national email circulation system has been used to advertise events at the Centre. To complement the latter, and to inform those people not reached through electronic means, 2000 copies of an events Newsletter were sent to churches in Autumn and a further Newsletter distributed before the start of 2010. Posters supporting some of the events have been developed with help from James Barry. These are being reinforced by letters to worship leaders and congregation Secretaries about specific 2010 events. A new leaflet is to be made available explaining how people can help the Centre; this will include information about how to become a 'Friend of The Nightingale Centre'.

At the General Assembly in Chester we hired a stall and used this to spread information about the Centre. Likewise our Open Days in December and June have provided first-hand opportunities to show people what the Centre has to offer. There is continuing use of Yellow Pages (now with a box advert) and selective advertising through organisations like the *Ramblers*.

The Barleycroft holiday cottage has had a reasonable number of lets for a first year but this will need to improve. The contribution of the *Peak Cottages* agency has been disappointing and consequently continuance is under review. Such continual review will apply to all our promotion measures as we seek to establish the most cost-effective ways of reaching potential users of the Centre. We have also been learning from regular examination of what similar centres offer in terms of activities and the prices attached.



new for 2010

**Come and go**

as you please  
**at Hucklow**

Take time out  
See the sights - Relax  
Come alone,  
Bring a friend, Come as a group

**17th-21st May** (£156 half board)  
**31st Aug-1st Sep** (£117 half board)  
More from Stella: 01298 871218  
info@thenightingalecentre.org.uk  
www.unitarian.org.uk/events



## Maintenance & Improvements

A prudent long-term view is taken with regards to maintenance and during the year the two higher level flat roofs have been stripped of the deteriorating bitumen felt covering and completely recovered with a quality modern proprietary membrane which has a long guarantee.

In addition to the on-going maintenance of the fabric of the building there has been the continuing programme of improvements which have included, new chairs in the Hibbert Room, new curtains in the Lounge, Hibbert Room, Library and all the bedrooms. The bedrooms also have new bedspreads and have been further improved by new sockets to enable the better provision of lamps and tea-making facilities. The Library is now a TV/ small meeting room with new soft furnishings and new chairs. The computers provided in this room are well used and much appreciated. It is good to report that the problem with the intermittent Wi-Fi internet connection has finally been resolved. New bedding has been

provided in the Dormitory and a new carpet is to be fitted. Outside addition garden furniture has been provided. In parallel to these improvements has been the continuing programme of redecoration. Investment has also been made in the administrative efficiency of the Centre with the purchase of a new accounts package for the office computer.

The Centre now has a licence to sell alcoholic drinks. Providing this amenity has not been without cost. The profitability of the venture is dependent on beer and wine sales!

Improvements have not been limited to the Centre. Barleycrofts house has been upgraded and now generates an annual rental income of £9000.

It has been another year of challenge and achievement. We are grateful for the gifts *in memoriam* which have funded some of the above improvements and we appreciate the continued financial support of the many 'Friends of The Nightingale Centre'.



**Top left:** The Charles Peach Room. **Top right:** The Centre in moonlight.  
**Bottom left:** The Restaurant. **Bottom middle:** Kitchen crew. **Bottom right:** The Centre in Snow.



**for the Augmentation of Ministers' Stipends**  
**Registered Charity No.235449**  
Founded 1883

# Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER 2009

## **Trustees**

Officers of the General Assembly (Ex Officio)

Rev Bob Wightman, President  
Neville Kenyon, Vice President

Trustees appointed by the General Assembly:

Dawn Buckle  
Geoffrey Head  
Rev Eric Jones  
Rev Jim McClelland  
Michael Tomlin, Chair of the Committee  
Martin West

## **Officers of the Fund appointed by the Committee**

Eileen Wield, Honorary Secretary  
66 Thelton Avenue, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 3LT

Martin West, Honorary Treasurer  
The Chaplain's House, West Lane, High Legh, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 6LR

## **Custodian Trustee**

The British & Foreign Unitarian Association (Incorporated)  
Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London, WC2R 3HY

## **Auditors**

Scott, Roberts, Taylor & Co  
Central Buildings, 5-7 Corporation Street, Hyde, Cheshire, SK14 1AG

## **Bankers**

Bank of Scotland, 55 Temple Row, Birmingham, B2 5LS

## **Investment Managers**

Mellon Fund Managers Ltd., 71 Queen Victoria Street, London, EC4V 4DR



## Structure, Governance and Management

**1. Membership and Officers** - The Trustees are appointed by the Executive Committee of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches on a triennial basis, to manage the Fund. The Custodian Trustee is the British and Foreign Unitarian Association (Incorporated).

**2. The Committee** - The Trustees are appointed by the Executive Committee of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches on a triennial basis, to manage the Fund. The Custodian Trustee is the British and Foreign Unitarian Association (Incorporated).

**3. Meeting** - The Trustees met once during the year on 15th July 2009. The Officers administering the grants maintained a close liaison amongst themselves throughout the year.

**4. Public Benefit Statement** - The Trustees take into account the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and believe that the activities of the Fund are in line with that guidance.

## Objectives and Activities

**5. Objects of the Fund** The objects of the Fund shall be to aid in the maintenance of faithful and efficient Ministers serving congregations affiliated to the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.

## Achievements, Performance and Financial Review

**6. Annual Accounts** - After a net investment loss from disposals of £1,088 (2008: profit £493), a year end market revaluation loss of £8,987 (2008: loss £98,795) and investment management fees of £625 (2008: £962) there was an overall loss of £12,808 (2008: loss £68,418) for the year.

**7. Investments** - Mellon Fund Managers Ltd, continued as Investment Managers and participated with the Trustees in the Unitarian Investment Panel. The investments are held in the name of the Custodian Company of the Bank of New York, 1 Canada Square, London, E14 5AL, on behalf of the Trustees, and may be held outside the United Kingdom. The Trustees wish to pursue an investment policy which provides revenue for their current purposes and enhances income and capital growth over the longer term, thereby enabling them to meet their current and future objectives in accordance with the purposes of the fund.

**8. Grants** - Application forms for grants are available from the Secretary via the District Associations. The Trustees meet in June or July each year to consider applications for grants for the year commencing the first of October following. The grants are then paid in quarterly instalments. Applications for grant-aid towards the payment of stipends were received for the support of 20 Ministries. Of the 20 Awards made 2 ceased during the year due to the Minister moving.

**9. Donations** - We are enormously grateful to the providers of donations to the Fund. This year, in addition to the support of a number of individuals - £1,264, we received from the Midland Union - £500 and the Memorial Hall Trustees - £750. The total donations we received this year amounted to £2,514 (last year.£27,773).

## Auditors

At the Annual Meeting of the Trustees it was resolved to reappoint the Auditors Scott, Roberts, Taylor & Co of Hyde Cheshire.

**Michael Tomlin (Chair)**

15th October 2009

## Sustentation Fund Registered Charity No. 235449

### Independent Auditors' Report to the Trustees of the Sustentation Fund

We have audited the financial statements of the Sustentation Fund for the year ended 30 September 2009, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Regulations made under the Charities Act 1993. Our audit has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

#### Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Auditors

As described in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees' are responsible for the preparation of the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

We have been appointed as auditors under section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 44 of that Act. Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the Trustees' Annual Report is not consistent with the financial statements, if the charity has not kept proper accounting records or if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We read the Trustees' Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

#### Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

#### Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice of the charity's affairs as at 30 September 2009 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, in the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993.

Central Buildings  
5-7 Corporation Street, Hyde  
Cheshire, SK14 1AG

Scott Roberts Taylor & Co  
Accountants and  
Registered Auditors





**Sustentation Fund**  
**BALANCE SHEET at 30th September 2009**

2008		2009
£	ASSETS	£
385,412	Investments at Market Valuation Cost as at 30th Sept.2008:£438,594 (30th Sept.2007:£414,226)	375,337
19,607	Cash at Bank	18,054
1,631	Investment Managers Client A/c	400
21,238		18,454
5	Income Tax Recoverable	6
5		6
406,655		393,797
625	<b>Less LIABILITIES</b> Sundry Creditors	575
406,030		393,222
	<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>	
	Sustentation Fund	
474,448	Balance as at Start of Year	406,030
(68,418)	Increase/(Reduction) in the Value of the Fund	(12,808)
406,030	Balance as at End of Year	393,222

**Note 1** The Custodian Trustee of the Sustentation Fund is The British and Foreign Unitarian Association Incorporated whose Registered Office is at Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London, WC2R 3HY. The Fund is managed on behalf of the British and Foreign Unitarian Association Incorporated by Trustees appointed by the General Assembly of Unitarian & Free Christian Churches at the same address, for the purpose of making grants to assist member congregations of the General Assembly to meet the cost of employing their Ministers.

**Note 2** For greater ease of reading, the figures in these Accounts are shown in round pounds. In places, this may suggest that they do not "add-up". This is due solely to the rounding. There are no discrepancies in the Books of Account.

**Trustees' Responsibilities in relation to the Financial Statements**

The Charities Act 1993 requires the trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year. In doing so the trustees are required to:

1. Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
2. Make adjustments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
3. State whether the policies adopted are in accordance with the SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities (revised 2005)" and with applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
4. Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

M.J.Tomlin  
Chair

M.West  
Hon.Treasurer



**Sustentation Fund**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

for the year ended 30th September 2009

2008		2009
£		£
	<b>TOTAL RESOURCES ARISING IN THE YEAR</b>	
25,280	Bank Interest & Income from Investments (Gross)	25,129
27,773	Donations	2,514
<u>53,053</u>		<u>27,643</u>
	<b>Less EXPENDITURE</b>	
20,317	Grants	27,888
	Administration Expenses	
500	Secretarial Honorarium	500
500	Treasurer's Honorarium	500
512	Travelling Expenses	413
0	Printing & Stationery	27
0	Telephone & Postage	19
378	Audit Fee	<u>404</u>
<u>1,890</u>		<u>1,863</u>
<u>22,207</u>		<u>29,751</u>
30,846	<b>REVENUE SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)</b>	(2,108)
	<b>INVESTMENT DISPOSALS &amp; REVALUATION</b>	
493	Net Gain/(Loss) on Sale of Investments	(1,088)
(98,795)	Unrealised Gain/(Loss) on Revaluation of Investments	(8,987)
(962)	Investment Management Fees	<u>(625)</u>
<u>(99,264)</u>		<u>(10,700)</u>
<u>(68,418)</u>	<b>TOTAL REDUCTION IN THE VALUE OF THE FUND</b>	<u>(12,808)</u>

## Sustentation Fund

### INVESTMENTS

#### Investments at 30th September 2009

	2008		2009	
	Cost	Market Value	Cost	Market Value
	£	£	£	£
Quoted Equities UK	438,594	385,412	422,804	375,337
	<u>438,594</u>	<u>385,412</u>	<u>422,804</u>	<u>375,337</u>

#### Movement in Investments

	Market Value	
	2008	2009
	£	£
Investments held at beginning of year	458,325	385,412
Investments purchased during year	50,202	70,000
Investments sold during year	(24,320)	(71,088)
	<u>484,207</u>	<u>384,324</u>
Net increase in market value	(98,795)	(8,987)
Market value of investments held at end of year	<u>385,412</u>	<u>375,337</u>

#### Schedule of investments held at 30th September 2009

	Cost	Market Value
	£	£
Equities and Unit Trusts		
101,792 Newton Offshore Fund	95,278	79,113
112,249 Newton Higher Income Institution	81,998	62,927
11,935 M & G Charifund	126,802	125,615
39,100 Commercial Property Trust	33,626	27,487
11,621 Charities Property Fund	15,100	9,891
213,559 M&G Corporate Bond	70,000	70,304
<b>Total at 30th September 2009</b>	<u>422,804</u>	<u>375,337</u>



While you will find information on our web site:  
**[www.unitarian.org.uk](http://www.unitarian.org.uk)**, if you would like  
specific information, please complete  
and return the form below.



please  
tick

- Please sign me up to receiving information, events and  
notifications by email (include your email address below)

I would like information on:

- Becoming an Associate Member  
 The Youth Programme  
 The Nightingale Centre Events  
 Leaving a legacy to the Unitarian movement

Name:

Tel:

Email:

Address:

Please either copy this page or detach it and return to:

Unitarian Headquarters  
Essex Hall  
1-6 Essex St  
London  
WC2R 3HY





[www.unitarian.org.uk](http://www.unitarian.org.uk)



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*many beliefs, one faith*  
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