

General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches



# Annual Reports 2012

General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches  
The Nightingale Centre  
The Sustentation Fund





*Unitarians at the 2012 GA Meetings held at Keele University*

## **Photographers**

We would like to thank everyone who provided photographs for this report, including Giles Croucher, James Barry, John Hewardine, Mary Rae and Andrew Mason.

**Cover image:** by James Barry.



The Eighty Fourth

# 2012 Annual Reports

General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

*Registered Charity No. 250788*

The Nightingale Centre

*Registered Charity No. 242256*

The Sustentation Fund

*Registered Charity No. 235449*

## Contents

President's Report	4
Executive Committee	5
Local Leadership	9
Ministry	14
Visibility	16
Youth	20
Wales	21
Nightingale Centre	22
GA Financial Review	25
Independent Auditor's Report	26
Financial Summaries	
- GA	27
- Nightingale Centre	30
- Sustentation Fund	32
Being a Charity	34
Staff	37
Committee Members	38
Our Members	40
Congregational Contributions	42
Our Heritage	44
2012 Annual Meetings	47

## Unitarian Headquarters

Essex Hall, 1 Essex St,

London WC2R 3HY

Telephone: (020) 7240 2384

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



## GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### General Assembly President 2012-2013, Lis Dyson-Jones

As my Presidential year moves towards its end I am reminded of many events and occasions when it has been an honour to represent this Movement. I have been able to visit all sixteen districts and dozens of congregations, travelling the length and breadth of the country. I have conducted worship, attended meetings, presented chalice children with certificates, met many old friends and made even more new ones. I have spoken at dinners and shared in celebrations which have honoured others in their service to the denomination. Indeed, this unique role has given me the opportunity to experience many momentous and joyful occasions and everywhere, I have been welcomed with kindness and open hearts. I have attended significant meetings of the Sustentation Fund and been closely involved in discussions of the Stipend Review Committee. I was deeply sorry when arctic conditions prevented me from attending one particular weekend event.



*Lis Dyson-Jones  
President*

It has been a privilege to represent the General Assembly at the National Ceremony of Remembrance in Whitehall and several special services to celebrate the Anniversary of the Great Ejection of 1662. I have been warmly welcomed at both of our colleges as I witnessed the success of newly trained Ministers and the support and dedication of their colleagues and those providing training.

I have tried, whenever possible, to encourage 'being what we say we are' – the theme I introduced at the Annual Meetings in Keele, last April and it is one we must all continue if we are to grow and thrive. I cannot stress too strongly my support for Ministry and those responsible for the spiritual nurturing and care of our congregations. I am very aware of the difficult financial circumstances experienced by many of our congregations but if we are to value Ministry as we should, then we must also recognise our responsibility in supporting those who give much to us.

I have been glad to support Associate Membership, the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) and to endorse the 2013 Peace Fellowship Appeal for the British Red Cross and this year it has been significant that I have been able to support the work undertaken on behalf of Safeguarding, Assisted Dying and Equal Marriage. We can be proud of those who have worked to further responsible liberal attitudes to these issues of 21<sup>st</sup> Century life. They have brought our Unitarian ethos to the forefront of the public debate.

Preparations are well underway for my visit in February to the Khasi Hills and the Unitarians of the North East India. It will be a great honour to represent the General Assembly at the 113<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference to celebrate 125 years of Unitarian witness there and especially to join in the celebrations at the Unitarian Church in Jowai as they recognise 125 years of service and Ministry. During my visit I will make presentations to the Kharang Rural Centre Members and look forward to meeting old and new friends from India and other parts of the Unitarian world.

I have been encouraged by many during my time as President and have been inspired by the enthusiasm of those new to Unitarianism who have recently 'found us', as well as those who work tirelessly in order to maintain liberal places of faith for those recognising and valuing our principles. To everyone who works for and on behalf of our denomination, I am grateful.

This year has been memorable and unique and I offer my thanks to the General Assembly for giving me the opportunity to experience it as your representative. I would also thank all those who have welcomed me into their homes and have offered such generous hospitality. It has been amazing.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - TRUSTEES' REPORT



The Executive Committee (EC) acts as the trustee body of the General Assembly and is responsible for determining the overall direction and development of the Assembly in line with the decisions and policies agreed at the Annual Meetings and the requirements of charity and other legal requirements. The Executive Committee provides strategic leadership and is responsible for ensuring the effective use of the assets of the General Assembly.

### Aims

In September 2010 an overall goal was identified of building “sustainable and thriving Unitarian and Free Christian communities” in order to focus activities on where the national Unitarian body could make a real difference. With limited people and financial resources the Executive Committee determined a set of aims for the General Assembly arising from the consultation on “Difficult Choices”. This recognised that the achievement of these aims involved close working together at congregational, district and national levels. The four aims remain:

- encouraging and supporting leadership at local level (“Local Leadership”)
- developing Ministry within the denomination (“Ministry”)
- raising the visibility of the Unitarian movement (“Visibility”)
- improving the services to the movement provided by staff and volunteers (“Improving services”)

### Achievements

The highlights for the year include:

- approval of the largest number of students for ministry training for many years.
- Improving Safeguarding arrangements, including a revised policy and awareness training to support congregations.
- making a significant contribution towards the change in the law permitting civil partnerships in religious premises and subsequently influencing Government on equal marriage. This is one of the few occasions when the Unitarian and Free Christian movement can genuinely claim to have made an impact on public policy in recent years.
- The Executive Committee encouraged the Chief Officer to pursue greater involvement in the political process of consultation which has raised the public profile of the Unitarian movement and built stronger relationships with like-minded liberal religious communities such as the Quakers, Liberal Judaism and the Movement for Reform Judaism.
- Achieving a positive financial position during a period of growing austerity with pressure on “live giving” and ensuring control of spending.
- Arranging the Executive Committee consultation meeting with District representatives on improving communications and involving a wider group in consideration of key issues facing the movement.



## How are we doing against the targets?

The EC set out an objective against which the achievement of the aims could be measured.

Our objective over the next five years is to become a thriving and increasingly visible liberal religious community throughout Great Britain” (by September 2015).

- We will increase our membership by 20%
- We will increase the number of qualified and active Ministers to at least fifty
- We will ensure that all Unitarian congregations can have access to professional Ministerial or recognised lay leadership and support
- We will ensure that all volunteers have access to training and support

In the last report a commitment was given to reporting on progress in subsequent reports. In relation to the objective we have assessed the current position as follows:

- *We will increase our membership by 20%*

Currently our only means of measuring membership are the very imprecise quota statistics which are set out by congregation in this report. This is of course only one measure of activity at congregational level. However, it is important for establishing a baseline for financing the work of the General Assembly. It is extremely disappointing to report that the quota for 2011/12, which drew on membership at in mid-2011, continues to show a fall; this year of 134 from 3602 to 3468. Whilst some of this reflects local decisions to make donations rather than to pay a quota and therefore does not reflect membership accurately, the overall quota-paying membership has fallen in 28% of congregations. It has remained stable or grown in 72%. This remains a significant challenge and underpins the work to develop the 2020 congregational development programme.

- *We will increase the number of qualified and active Ministers to at least fifty*

The number of active Ministers currently working in congregations is kept under regular review with a forecast for the years to 2015 based on assumptions about retirement. As detailed in the report from the Interview Panel the number of applications for ministry training received, and the number selected for training, was high. Our view is that, taking account of other changes affecting individuals, the target of 50 ministers by 2015 is on course to be achieved. There are however concerns about the funding of training and of the number of ministries available and also the ability of congregations to fund full-time positions which have been raised by the Sustentation Fund.

- *We will ensure that all Unitarian congregations can have access to professional Ministerial or recognised lay leadership and support*

The Ministry and Local Leadership Strategy Groups have taken forward initiatives designed to improve leadership capacity in congregations and can demonstrate real progress. They liaise on how these might best be developed in a co-ordinated manner.

- *We will ensure that all volunteers have access to training and support*

By the Big Red Survey announced at the last Annual Meetings, the Local Leadership Strategy Group have consulted with congregations and districts on their needs and designed and led volunteering training.



## **Communications**

The Executive Committee has continued its efforts to improve communications with the wider Unitarian Movement, in particular following the Resolution approved at the Annual Meetings which called for them to be enhanced. The role of “link” EC member has been looked at again and is central to improving the relationships between the Executive Committee and Districts.

Arrangements were made to organise a consultation meeting at Cross Street Chapel and the Executive Committee has considered the outcomes. Key Messages are circulated after each meeting to The Inquirer, The Unitarian and UNI-News. The agreed Minutes of Executive Committee meetings are also available via UNI-News.

## **Social Justice and Visibility**

The Unitarian movement has achieved more media coverage than probably ever before – both print and online - primarily as a result of the civil partnerships in religious premises legislation and subsequent debate on equal marriage in England and Wales and equal marriage proposals in Scotland.

We have a distinctive stance based on our deeply held values. It has also proved invaluable in building relationships with a range of like-minded faith and secular groups and raised our visibility in the public arena.

The Chief Officer has been an effective ambassador for the Movement externally. We have built upon our already good working relationships with the Quakers – which led to Paul Parker giving the keynote address at the Annual Meetings - and Liberal Judaism and latterly the Movement for Reform Judaism.

Following the Annual Meetings’ decision to refer the motion on assisted dying back for further consultation support was given to

Fulwood Old Chapel, Sheffield to produce and circulate a consultation report to congregations and ministers. Several local and district meetings have been arranged in preparation for the return of the issue to the 2013 Annual Meetings. The Report has been well received as a distinctive and well presented discussion of the issues from a faith basis. Work continued on education with the Accord Coalition and on other social justice issues.

## **2020 Congregational Development Programme**

Preparatory work has been undertaken during the year to develop the programme announced at the Annual Meetings in 2012. Considerable work has been carried out by several volunteers to develop the thinking about the scheme, put in place the basic administrative processes prior to a launch and to develop a website presence. The Executive Committee approved ‘pump-priming’ funding of £50,000 arising from a legacy received by the General Assembly.

## **Risk Management and Public Benefit**

Work has been undertaken to improve risk management processes and to more effectively identify and manage the key risks to the Assembly. The risk register has set an agenda for action and is regularly reviewed. The Executive Committee has referred to the guidance given by the Charity Commission in relation to public benefit when reviewing their aims and objectives and in planning future activities. In particular the Executive Committee members, in their role as charity trustees, have a responsibility to consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

## **Annual Meetings 2012**

The 2012 Annual Meetings took place at the Keele University from 3 – 6 April 2012 and provided an excellent opportunity for



Unitarians to meet and debate serious issues of concern, both about the future of the Movement and our contribution towards the wider world. It will be well remembered, particularly the challenges to people of liberal faith set out by Paul Parker.

### **Financial governance**

The Accounts of the General Assembly are set out later in this report in summary form along with those of the Nightingale Centre and Sustentation Fund. The Honorary Treasurer describes the very real financial challenges facing the General Assembly. The General Assembly holds sufficient free reserves, not restricted by their purpose or by virtue of endowment, to ensure that it is able to service its annual budgeted expenditure and to ensure that its risks in relation to its pension fund obligations are mitigated.

The EC would like to thank Robert Ince for being prepared to become Acting Honorary Treasurer in addition to his trustee role.

### **Staffing and Volunteers**

“Improving Services” is the strategic objective led by the Executive Committee. Everything we have achieved this year would not be possible without the dedication of our staff, volunteers and supporters. The Executive Committee would like to thank the Chief Officer and staff at Essex Hall for their work and commitment during a period of change in staffing roles designed to enhance capacity to serve congregations and to bring expenditure into line with income. We would thank everyone who serves on the various bodies within the General Assembly for their commitment in a voluntary capacity. We would in particular thank Rosemary Ruston and Louise Rogers who continued to provide support in a volunteer capacity for the Associate Member scheme, which builds relationships between the General Assembly

and individual Unitarians and makes an important contribution to funding, and to Howard Hague for his voluntary work on archiving following his retirement.

### **Executive Committee Elections**

An Electoral Panel was established to be responsible for conducting of the election of five members of the Executive Committee in late 2012. The Panel reviewed the arrangements for the election and made changes, particularly to clarify the criteria for Executive Committee membership and rules governing conduct by candidates. The election period closed on 14 December 2012 with five successful candidates announced. We would like to thank the members of the Electoral Panel, the Chief Officer and staff at Essex Hall and Anne Hock and staff at Popularis for overseeing and undertaking the administrative arrangements for the election.

### **Organisation**

The Executive Committee (EC) met as follows during 2011/12:

18-19 November 2011 London  
6/7 January 2012 London  
24/25 February 2012 Manchester  
5 May 2012 London  
6-7 July 2012 Manchester  
1 September 2012 London

The Executive Committee would like to record its thanks to Rev Andy Pakula who resigned on 01 September 2012.

*By Rev Martin Whitell,  
EC Convenor*



*Note: The photo on page 5 was taken at a meeting in January 2013. Please be aware that Rev David Usher was away on Sabbatical leave at this time.*



# LOCAL LEADERSHIP

## Support for Congregations

### Local Leadership

*By Kate Buchanan and Margaret Robinson*

The role of the Local Leadership Strategy Group (LLSG) is to ensure that every congregation is served by a trained leader. It aims to assess the needs of local congregations and provide appropriate training and facilitation to strengthen spiritual communities. This work is carried out by the two Action Groups – Facilitation Services and Training. The LLSG also oversees a Service Pool of 32 trainers and facilitators who have volunteered to make this happen. We thank all of those people who have volunteered - we will call upon these volunteers when people are required to run training sessions or to assist in facilitation or other services to congregations - but we would like more volunteers to share this work.

The Mission Statement of the group is to encourage and support local leadership through:

- developing and implementing a modular training strategy for local leadership and governance
- providing training to congregations, districts and individuals
- providing advice and support to congregations and districts
- providing facilitation services to congregations and districts.

The Local Leadership Strategy Group met together with the Training and Facilitation Services Action Groups for a training weekend and the first meeting of the two Action Groups on 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2012 at The Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow. The LLSG met once more on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2012. The LLSG liaises with both the Ministry and Visibility Strategy Groups.

In order to plan effectively the group needed to know what congregation and district needs and wants are. To find this out group members made structured telephone calls - the Big Red Phone Survey - to the majority of congregations and districts (from May to December 2012), to find out exactly what was wanted by way of training or other support. A letter was sent to every congregation in advance of the phone call so that they had time to discuss the responses and who would be the best person to take the call. This information will be invaluable to the group in planning what to offer and where to provide it. The group thank all those people who carried out the phone surveys and to all the congregations and districts for the information they provided.

The LLSG has a page on the GA website and has produced a leaflet which has been circulated to all congregations providing a guide to services and training which might be of use to Unitarian congregations, fellowships, groups or societies.

The LLSG organised Officer Workshops at the 2012 GA Annual Meetings: Dawn Buckle and Margaret Robinson led a Secretary Training workshop; Gavin Mason led a Treasurer Training workshop on fraud; and Kate Buchanan led a workshop on Leadership.

The LLSG helped to organise the Safeguarding Training at Kensington, London and Cross Street Chapel, Manchester and led the Volunteer Training sessions.

The LLSG is also responsible for the Chalice Award Scheme, Hucklow Summer School, REvolution, Worship Studies Courses, Building Advisory Group, worship materials, conflict resolution, the Congregational Assessment Process and 'Help is at Hand'.



The Facilitation Services Action Group's role is to organise facilitation services for congregations. The Training Action Group's role is to organise training commissioned by the LLSG.

The Chalice Award Scheme is co-ordinated by Mary Wightman, who will provide congregations and individuals with information about the Scheme. The Chalice Award Scheme has its own webpage on the GA website and leaders working with young people are encouraged to submit updates of their activities, as well as photographs of their young participant's progress, hopefully encouraging others to take part in the Scheme. Leaders of children's groups are reminded that there are grants still available from the Sunday School Income Fund for the purchase of resources for children's and intergenerational groups.

Many Districts have Religious Education Co-ordinators (RECs) who organise, support and help to run RE activities for children, adults and intergenerational within their District. There are still some Districts who do not have RECs, volunteers are needed to fill these roles.

### **Facilitation Services**

The Facilitation Services Action Group (FSAG) aims to help congregations work well together by providing trained facilitators who can lead workshop sessions on a variety of subjects. These include: facilitating vision meetings, which can help set priorities to achieve the potential of a congregation or fellowship; the Congregational Assessment Process (CAP) through which facilitators can offer feedback on congregational practice; conflict resolution assistance to help resolve congregational conflict at all levels; and engagement support for those leading engagement groups.

Any congregation can contact FSAG with their requirements and the group will endeavour to arrange for a suitable facilitator to make a visit.

As part of the ongoing effort by the LLSG to stimulate connection between local congregations and the General Assembly, the group is also exploring the concept of 'Buddying' or Keeping in Touch as a way of connecting congregations with GA services & resources.



*The Local Leadership Strategy Group (LLSG)*

### **Information and Resources**

The Facilitation Services Action Group (FSAG) also oversees the LLSG Information and Resources initiative, which was set up as a direct response to the Big Red Phone Survey. The results of the survey highlighted the need for greater clarity about the resource material and services offered by the General Assembly. Activities under Information and Resources will include revision of the Congregational Support section of the GA website as well as the provision of printed materials as required. The areas covered include; Buildings Advisory Group, which provides advice about maintenance, restoration, funding of congregational buildings; 'Help is at Hand' congregational governance handbook, worship materials, including worship packs, which will be maintained, commissioned and published by this group; adult religious education (RE) learning resources, which will be updated or developed as required and children, young people & intergenerational religious

education materials including the Chalice Award Scheme and other Sunday school resources. Key information and policy documents will be made available on safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

### **Training**

The Training Action Group (TAG) is responsible for education and training. The action group are putting together a modular training scheme which will incorporate some established schemes and others which are currently in development. These modules will be certificated so that participants can build up a training portfolio. It is intended to offer courses in response to demand from local groups, so congregations are encouraged to get in touch to let the group know which modules would be particularly useful to them. Modules include: Worship Studies; Unitarian Studies; Local Leadership; Foundation of Unitarianism; Facilitation and Group Life; Children and Young People; Rites of Passage and Pastoral Care. There are also two substantial education and training courses which exist outside this modular scheme, the Hucklow Summer School and REvolution Training.

The Worship Studies Course (WSC) prepares students for conducting worship and lay preaching. Its aim is to enable Unitarians to become better informed about Unitarian thought and history and to help equip Worship Leaders with the skills and background knowledge they might need. The WSC can be a preliminary course for Lay Pastor or Ministerial training. The WSC has three steps: Foundation Step – prepares students to conduct worship for their own, or neighbouring, congregations or fellowships; Preliminary Step – Introduction to the four modules of study, giving more knowledge for inclusion in service content; Advanced Step – Further and deeper study of the four modules.

The Unitarian Studies Course (USC) gives students increasing personal knowledge and understanding of the Unitarian and Free Christian movement. The USC has two steps: Preliminary Step – introduction to the four modules of study; Advanced Step – Further and deeper study of the four modules.

### **Hucklow Summer School**

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 2012, held from 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> August, was “Sacred Living: Encountering the Holy in the Everyday”. A team of theme speakers gave daily talks on this subject: Bill Darlison, Sue Woolley, Rev Danny Crosby, Kate McKenna and Rev Margaret Kirk. Audio recordings of these talks (and those from previous years) are freely available for download from the Hucklow Summer School website: [www.hucklowsummerschool.org.uk](http://www.hucklowsummerschool.org.uk).

Four different morning engagement groups were offered to adults: “A Conscious Life” with Rev Linda Hart and Rita Woditsch; “Living with Meaning” with Jef Jones and Kate McKenna; “Hello...and Goodbye” with Rev Michael Dadson and Ned Prideaux; and “Bright Lights: Open Minds, Loving Hearts and Helping Hands”, an Intergenerational Engagement Group with Kate Buchanan and Rev Lindy Latham. 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. The Minister of the week, providing pastoral care for participants and supervision for group facilitators, was Rev Elizabeth Birtles. A diverse range of optional afternoon and evening activities were also offered by participants.

Summer school was at full capacity this year attended by fifty-two adults and five children and young people. Fifteen of the participants were first-timers. Prices were kept the same and this may have helped. The panel decided to dig deep into the summer school bursary fund this year as more people than usual were in need of financial assistance to attend. The Panel shall have to find other ways of fund-raising for the bursary fund.

Dr Jane Blackall stepped down from the panel at the end of August 2012, after helping to organise the last eight summer schools, a job she has done superbly, and the Panel would like to express our deep

gratitude for all she has brought to the team in that time. We are also losing Rev Margaret Kirk and Jef Jones from the panel. Margaret made a substantial contribution to summer school over the years, including being the theme speaker for the whole week in 2007. Jef has only been on the panel for one year but he has contributed to theme talks and workshops over the past two years. We thank Jane, Margaret, and Jef not just for all their hard work but also for the way they have influenced the religious nature of summer school. We are delighted to report, however, that two new members will be joining the panel: Rev Liz Birtles and Rev Michael Dadson, both of whom have been very positive supporters of summer school over the years. Preliminary planning for the next summer school has already begun. The overarching theme for 2013 will be “Living at the Edge” and an application form with details of the programme on offer is already on the website.

### **Buildings Advisory**

The Buildings Advisory Group has met once during the year at Leicester Great Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> August. Most of the work is done via email and telephone. The Group thanks the two retiring members for their input, and is pleased to welcome Zoe Bremer to its membership. We particularly miss Mark Pearce’s input as a practicing ecclesiastical architect.

As usual, the main focus of the Group has been on responding to requests for assistance from various Unitarian places of worship which are usually submitted via Essex Hall.

Enquires handled during the year include: replacement heating system at Bridgwater Chapel; matters concerning preventative building maintenance at Bury; upgrading of the heating system and building valuation matters at the Octagon Chapel, Norwich;





renewal of heating system at Glasgow; upgrading of chapel lighting at Mansfield; and a new heating system at Plymouth. Dr Williams’s Library was also advised on the updating of their central heating system and a problem with subsidiary boiler servicing.



*The Octagon Chapel, Norwich - one of the Congregations helped by the Buildings Advisory Group*

The group handled questions from attendees at the 2012 GA Meetings following a talk during the LLSG slot and also follow-up queries from Evesham regarding VAT on their building work.

Group members have attended the following conferences/seminars: CVS association; Heritage Lottery Fund (1 day) – “Grants for Places of Worship”; Churches Tourism Association Convention (3 day residential) – “Up and Running”; and East Midland Unitarians, whose December meeting at Mansfield included a celebration tea for the work that the group had previously advised upon.

## Safeguarding

Safeguarding has been top of the agenda during the year. Rev John Harley led a process of review of the General Assembly’s policy, based on information and advice from the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS). The new ‘Safe and Sound’ policy provides advice and guidance to congregations on all aspects of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults as well as governing the General Assembly’s children’s and youth activities. Golden safeguarding guidelines have been developed for all congregations to follow. Liz Hills, Vanessa Rothwell and Cathie Masztalerz are to be thanked for contributing their expertise to the policy review.

The General Assembly continued to offer support in undertaking DBS (Disclosure Vetting and Barring Scheme – formally called CRB checks) for congregations and for ministers and ministry students. We would thank Rev Sarah Tinker for her work on promoting good practice in safeguarding and very practical help and advice on the DBS. Advice is also provided to congregations by Rev John Harley as safeguarding lead. The CCPAS provide a 24-hour helpline to General Assembly staff and to congregations on safeguarding issues. The CCPAS has been called upon to offer advice to address specific safeguarding issues.

The need for training and improved awareness has also been stressed as part of improving safeguarding. The Youth Leadership Conference had sessions on safeguarding and safety in social networking. The Local Leadership Strategy Group arranged three sessions for congregations in conjunction with the CCPAS which took place in late 2012 and early 2013.

The Executive Committee has been involved in supporting the development of the new policy which it approved in September 2012. It has received reports on issues having identified safeguarding as the highest risk area in its risk register.



# MINISTRY

## A Wider View of Where We're Going

### Ministry—The Big Picture

By Stephen Lingwood

**Mission Statement:** *To provide the General Assembly with excellent spiritual leadership with the skills and ability to develop and lead thriving religious communities.*

As part of the Executive Committee's vision to create thriving Unitarian communities the Ministry Strategy Group has been tasked with envisioning a ministry that is able to develop and lead such communities. We are blessed with many people who minister in our communities in both a lay and professional capacity. And I would like to acknowledge and celebrate that. However, in view of the declining numbers of our congregations and the rapid pace of change in our society, we must pro-actively respond with a ministry equipped to deal with these new challenges.

In short I believe "maintenance mode" is no longer an option, and we must, from now on, be in "missionary mode." This means our communities must see themselves as outward-facing, open to change, and engaged with the world. This is not just what we need to do for growth, it's also I believe a religious imperative: to love our neighbour, and as UUA President Peter Morales has said "feed the spiritually hungry and house the religiously homeless."

When we asked what people longed for most in their congregations at the Annual Meetings in 2012 many comments were in three clear categories: a deeper spirituality, a stronger sense of community, and a clear sense of vision. This is what we all long for in our congregations, and ministry has a unique and vital contribution to make to bring this about.

To achieve that we obviously need people to put themselves forward to train for ministry.

The good news is that seven new ministry/lay pastor students began their training in autumn 2012. This is good news, but it also creates challenges for us (see below).

The Ministry Group decided early on that ministry training needs to be our first priority. We set about creating a draft document setting out the clear skills/competencies we need in new ministers. This document is still in a process of consultation – and constructively critical feedback from everyone is welcomed. This is the "what" we need as an outcome of ministry training.

The "how" is another far more complex issue. Our two training colleges face their own challenges, and we are committed to working closely with them at this critical time. Higher Education is going through a huge change in this country and this is having a knock-on effect, not least financially. We need to find a way not only to continue our training but in fact to provide a richer more comprehensive training than we have before.

While we do not know the outcomes of our deliberations, one thing is very clear: training is very expensive, and unless we find a way to fund it, we will not have any trained ministers in the future. Costs are difficult to calculate but it usually costs something in the region of £20,000 to train a minister. Unless we find a way, as one national community, to raise these funds, ministry itself is under threat. We can no longer do Unitarianism "on the cheap" and if we truly love our faith and our community we need build a spirit of generosity that makes a real difference. This is a broader issue than trained ministry, but its effects are seen most keenly in relation to it.



The challenges we face are significant but if we truly want our local communities to be places of deep spirit, strong community and clear vision then we need to create and empower a ministry that will help make this happen.

### **Interview Panel**

*By Rev Sarah Tinker*

The new Interview Panel team is working well, although we were sorry to say farewell to Rev Chris Goacher, who had chaired the Panel so professionally through a period of change. We thank him for his work. The Panel's review of its processes has been useful and has helped to clarify that choosing candidates for ministry training, assessing their progress throughout training, considering whether they should be entered on the Roll on completion of training and considering the appropriate timing to end their probationary periods on the Roll is crucial for our national movement; it is a task that requires both sensitivity and transparency.

The role of Director of Ministry is vital to our work – both the background administration which makes it possible for us to function and the interactions with individuals and congregations seeking guidance. We thank Rev Linda Phillips for her able conduct of this role.

In January 2011 we welcomed an unusually high number of candidates for interview and offered training places starting in autumn 2012 to John Carter, Jo James, Matthew Smith and Kate Whyman at Oxford and Ralph Catts, Maria Curtis and Anna Jarvis in Manchester. Jef Jones is due to commence training in autumn 2013. Candidates offering themselves for training have reverted to a more normal number this year.

During the academic year to the summer of 2012, seven students were in training:

Harris Manchester College: Jim Corrigan,  
Cody Coyne, Sheena Gabriel, Lewis Rees,  
Sue Woolley

Unitarian College Manchester: Winnie Gordon,  
Shammy Webster

In deciding on the number of training places available, the Interview Panel seeks prior guidance from the Executive Committee and the Ministry Strategy Group, to whom we report. We also encourage potential candidates to consider deeply their sense of calling to ministry and the many other ways that they might serve our movement. Those who do embark on training for our ministry should be congratulated for their commitment and dedication.

### **Director of Ministry**

*By Rev Linda Phillips*

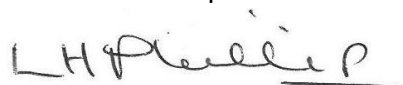
The role of Director of Ministry is interestingly diverse. On one level, it involves enabling the Ministry Strategy Group and the Interview Panel to do their work – providing administrative, professional and advisory support to them. On another level, it involves providing support direct to individual people and congregations who have questions or issues about ministry.

While part-time, I continue to be as accessible as possible whenever an issue arises – both by being available when needed throughout the week, and by being willing to travel when appropriate. I encourage both people and congregations to contact me with any ministry issues.

I also liaise on ministry issues with other denominations. It was useful to be able to contribute other denominations' ministry competencies to the Ministry Strategy Group's debates and other denominations' shared experience of unusually large numbers of candidates for training to the Interview Panel.

I have worked to provide a framework within which to be effective – I've created an Operations Manual for the administrative aspects of my role, for example.

Of course there have been challenges. But overall, I believe the role of Director of Ministry is a key contribution to the provision of "excellent spiritual leadership".



# VISIBILITY

By Dorothy Haughton

The Visibility Strategy Group has not been in its present configuration for very long. To date our work has included responding to a request from the EC to find a strapline appropriate for the national movement. Several people on the Unitarian Facebook page made suggestions which were then amended, polished and shortlisted by a group of volunteers: Adrienne Wilson, Tim Moore and Colleen Burns, led by Phil Tomlin. Our thanks to them. We should like to thank Sarah Tinker and Essex Church, Kensington for allowing us to hold the meeting there.

We were disturbed by the lack of action taken by congregations on motions passed by the GA. We produced a Call to Action that was taken to the Steering Group meeting in York. This is designed to provide guidance and ideas for those proposing motions and to individuals/groups wishing to take action on motions passed.

The group has commissioned professional training on radio interview techniques offered, in the first instance, to a small group of ministers. It is hoped to roll this out to more ministers and lay people in the future. Yvonne Aburrow has agreed to offer a day of 'Training for Trainers' in social media. We should like additional volunteers willing to be trained who would then offer training in their local district on the effective use of social media such as Twitter and Facebook. If you are interested, please talk to Dorothy Haughton

The group has investigated establishing two databases. One will be a searchable database of motions passed at the GA. We hope this will be a useful resource, particularly if

congregational spokespeople are to be interviewed on some topic of local or national importance.

The other would be an events database. This is intended to be a resource for ideas and also create an easily accessible picture of what is happening nationally.

The group has established a list of people with skills in media technology, PR and advertising who would be willing to be a resource bank to be called on when needed. We are looking for more like-minded people to join this group. Please contact Dorothy Haughton.

## Lindsey Press Panel

The accident of the timings of our meetings has meant that the Panel met only once during the year October 2011- September 2012. Derek McAuley joined us again for that occasion.

Whilst there was some little progress on a number of projected publications, we had nothing new to present at the 2012 General Assembly meetings. The situation will be quite different at the 2013 Assembly and the outlook for 2014 seems promising.

The main achievement of the year was the re-publication of *Sing Your Faith*. Because multiple sales to UK congregations was probably nearing completion it was thought that now was the time to transfer the publication to the print-on-demand option offered by Lightning Source. This would also open up the possibility of online sales - something that has already started to happen. The transfer to Lightning Source involved Catherine Robinson in very



considerable work in ensuring that the new copies were of a good quality. David Dawson, at the request of Essex Hall, re-negotiated copyright permission for a further 2,500 copies to cover sales for the foreseeable future. The new printer initially produced 400 copies to meet orders that were pending.

John Harley and Lyanne Mitchell met in Scotland to further the creation of the *Unidoodles* pack.

At short notice, James Barry designed a leaflet advertising our books which Kate Whyman then took to the LDPA Fuse event in February.

We renewed our mission statement and it seems worth reproducing it here:

The Lindsey Press will:

- promote Unitarian perspectives and values by commissioning and overseeing relevant publications, under the Lindsey Press imprint, primarily in book form;
- ensure high quality in both content and design;
- be available to advise other Unitarian bodies on their publication projects.

### **Penal Affairs Panel**

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

The General Assembly created the Panel in 1992 when it had “great concern at the poor conditions and regime at many local prisons.” The Panel was instructed “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.”

While the General Assembly undergoes its reorganisation, the PAP has continued to work at investigating penal policy, keeping Unitarians informed and providing a liberal religious voice. The PAP has met three times and generated many emails not only to discuss issues but to share information with

others. Two further PAP Issues Papers, numbers 13 and 14 “The Story of the ASBO” and “Mental Illness, Learning Difficulties and Justice”, were published during the year. The PAP News, now up to its 13<sup>th</sup> issue, continues to be very well received and the PAP Network has grown to more than 130 Unitarian members. These publications can all be found through the PAP webpage, part of the GA website - [www.unitarian.org.uk](http://www.unitarian.org.uk).

A high spot for the PAP each year is the presentation at the GA meetings which were at Keele University in April 2012. The successful PAP Presentation was addressed by Clive Chatterton who spent 34 years in HM Prison Service and retired as Governor of HMP Styal, a women’s prison in Cheshire. His final act was to write to the Home Secretary expressing his considered view that “Prison does not work” and particularly did not work for the women in his charge.

By turns, Clive amused, enthralled and horrified a packed audience of Unitarians at the PAP’s presentation. He added to the impact of prison statistics with personal experiences – how the prison population remained stable at about 44,000 during the first half of his career from 1975 to the 1990s and how it has since rocketed to 89,000 in 2011.

The PAP responded to consultations by the government and Parliament pressing for less use of imprisonment. The PAP welcomed the cutting back of the use of imprisonment during 2011 – 12 as the policies of the Secretary of State for Justice, Kenneth Clarke MP, took effect, despite repeated statements by Conservative politicians calling for harsher measures. The fall in prisoner numbers, especially of children and young people and women, reflected the renewed emphasis on rehabilitation. The PAP were able to support rehabilitation through employment



and accommodation at a local Criminal Justice Forum following the success of a scheme for released prisoners at Norwich in cutting repeat offending.

Sadly, the Churches Criminal Justice Forum which for years has presented to the government views on penal policy shared nationally by faiths including the Anglicans, Roman Catholics, Baptists, Salvation Army, Quakers and the Unitarians, fell into disuse during 2012.

The concerns of the General Assembly in 1992 remain even more valid and pressing after two decades. The PAP needs new, active members to help in providing “a liberal, religious voice”. Could the PAP be your social responsibility work? Please, do contact us via [bruce\\_chilton@hotmail.com](mailto:bruce_chilton@hotmail.com).

## The Public Face of Unitarianism

*By Derek McAuley, Chief Officer*

Social justice issues have put the Unitarian and Free Christian Movement in the public eye over the past year. In discussion with the Executive Committee we agreed that one of my objectives would be to raise our public profile nationally. This has taken two forms; representing Unitarians in various forums with the aim of developing networks and becoming better known, and seeking media coverage. The latter has both internal and external aspects.



*Meeting the Prime Minister*

## Representing Unitarians

The campaigning work on equal marriage opened doors at the highest level. In July I attended a Reception at 10 Downing St for LGBT community leaders and managed to speak briefly to the Prime Minister. In September the Deputy Prime Minister held a Reception for supporters of equal marriage which I attended and spoke to the recently appointed Culture Secretary, Maria Miller. In June I met members of the Opposition Home Affairs team, including Yvette Cooper. I have built a good working relationship with the Government Equalities Office and with the Ministers for Equality, Lynne Featherstone and now Helen Grant. The year ended with a Reception at Buckingham Palace. Karen Hanley has represented the General Assembly on the churches parliamentary RADAR group.

In the inter-faith arena I have developed my relationships with Rabbi Danny Rich of Liberal Judaism and Paul Parker of the Quakers along with the Movement for Reform Judaism and more recently the United Reformed Church. At the end of year I attended a Reception at Lambeth Palace to mark the retirement of Rowan Williams as Archbishop of Canterbury and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Interfaith Network. Unitarians must remain at the centre of interfaith work and build partnerships. I attended the European Conference of the International Association for Religious Freedom, the first global organization for interfaith dialogue. My interest in Christian Aid has been sustained and the ongoing Unitarian presence is valued.

## Unitarian Media

Making sure that Unitarians in congregations are aware of what is being done on their behalf is important. I have continued the monthly “View from Essex Hall” in “*The Unitarian*” drawing upon a

range of issues; some about how churches should run themselves, others on national work. I have regularly contributed to “*The Inquirer*” ensuring that our national initiatives are promoted. UNI-News, sent to the General Assembly’s email distribution list, remains an effective way to communicate with a group of engaged Unitarians.

### **National Presence**

The word “Unitarian” has featured in most of the national media over the past year, including the BBC, due to our active support for equal marriage along with civil partnerships in religious premises. We have been quoted in “*The Guardian*”, “*The Observer*” and on several news websites such as the Huffington Post. We have regularly featured on the Ekklesia religious think-tank website on this and other matters; including the Resolution passed at the Annual Meetings on IT and civil liberties and the publication of the pack on assisted dying. We have worked with the Accord Coalition to promote inclusive education in

faith and non-faith schools which has been an opportunity to work closely with trade unions and the British Humanist Association. News releases are regularly issued from Essex Hall. The Chief Officers’ blog on the GA website has received nearly 10,000 hits and is viewed from around the world spreading liberal religion far and wide.

It has been good to see that congregations and ministers are taking opportunities to achieve local coverage, often picking up on the national themes. Registrations for undertaking civil partnerships have generated local newspaper and radio coverage. When appropriate we have acted as a link between the media and local ministers on particular issues.

I am very conscious that media and other representational work needs to be based on Unitarian values and upon work of real substance. Importantly, the public face of Unitarianism presented nationally must also correspond to the experience locally when people make contact with local congregations.



*L-R: Retiring Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, Interfaith Activist Harry Shukla MBE and GA Chief Officer Derek McAuley at a Reception at Lambeth Palace to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Interfaith Network.  
(Photo by IFN Member Paresh Solanki)*

## YOUTH Our Future



*Participants at the Junior Weekend at Hucklow*

The Youth Programme undertakes many activities, but its main focus is running Youth events, mostly weekends. During the 2011/12 year, a total of 154 places were taken up on our successful and high-quality Youth events (Junior Weekend: 49 over two weekends; Inter Weekend: 20 over two weekends, Senior Weekend: 43 over two weekends; Bridging Weekend: 14; Five Days Away: 19; Unikids: 9).

Fantastic feedback was received from January's Youth Sunday. Almost every youth programme member contributed to the worship packs, but special thanks must go to Rev John Harley who put a lot of time and effort into gathering the material, and James Barry and Lorna Hill for producing the worship packs. We hope to produce new worship material for future Youth Sundays.

The other key focus throughout 2012 has been training. The Panel have for some years identified the recruitment of new youth leaders for future residential weekends as a potential challenge. In addition to recruitment and a rolling programme of on-the-weekend coaching, we complemented this with some more formal training.

A second Youth Leadership Conference was held, bringing together experienced and future youth leaders to build valuable networks and share skills & experience. During the busy weekend schedule, sessions included safety in social networking, first aid, and safeguarding. The feedback was incredibly positive from all involved, and we very much hope to continue this valuable initiative in future years.

One of the key learning outcomes from the Youth Leadership Conference highlighted the need for formal first aid training (historically we have relied on youth workers being covered by external bodies). Therefore in September a very practical, enjoyable and pertinent course was delivered, which resulted in at least one person from each residential weekend team becoming formally certificated. Additionally, a safeguarding course was organised in July, which supplemented the significant revision of our safeguarding policy. In both cases, a number of local youth leaders also attended.

The Panel spent a great deal of time and effort during 2012 tackling financial issues. Due to complexities (e.g. expenditure and income for some weekends straddling the financial year) this has been a particularly challenging task, but great headway has been made. We have evaluated each element of the youth programme in a cost versus benefit analysis. With some streamlining, this has resulted in a reduction in outgoings. Along with additional support (Beardy Weirdy and Trevor Jones funds, a generous donation, and fundraising from within the programme) we have broken even.

We would like to note however that to run the current provision to the same standard we would have had a shortfall without this additional potentially non-sustainable funding, and the significant time contributions from a small number of volunteer youth workers. Should this income decline in any way, the Panel are concerned we may have to make difficult decisions about cutting some of the current programme in future as all events are now run on a very tight budget with no further capacity for cost cutting without losing quality (which raises safeguarding issues etc).

The Panel would like to acknowledge the effort from all volunteer youth workers running Youth events, which take a huge number of hours to organise even prior to the events themselves. Louise Shatliff was thanked for acting as Chair during this year and for her efforts over the past few years.





## WALES



*Welsh Secretary Carwyn Tywyn presents at the Welsh session at the 2012 Annual Meetings*

Having appointed Carwyn Tywyn as a professional (part-time) Secretary in April 2011, the Welsh Department has been able to initiate some strategic work in 2011-12, which is aimed at developing the Unitarian denomination in Wales for the future. This work invariably involves the two Districts and various congregations in Wales, including the recently formed Undodiaid Bangor Unitarians. The Welsh Department is grateful to the Districts and congregations for their support.

If one project best exemplifies the role of the Welsh Department (and its new Secretary), it is the work on governance and constitutions that has been developed over the last year. This work was initiated by a discussion at the South East Wales District away day in 2011. Subsequently, Carwyn Tywyn has been able to communicate this matter to the neighbouring South Wales District (Ceredigion). As a result, South Wales have initiated their own series of workshops, with Carwyn Tywyn acting as a facilitator, and the first of these workshops featured Derek McAuley as a guest speaker.

Since then, the Department Secretary has continued to emphasise good governance as an ongoing priority for the Welsh Department. The Department remains willing to help any congregation or District with this work.

As an aside to this work, several Welsh congregations have reviewed their insurance policies and have secured improved deals.

Otherwise, the Secretary's working time was taken up to a significant extent by a small number of time-consuming projects: preparing the Welsh session of the GA (on the theme of Visibility); collating and editing the Wales Unitarian Handbook; preparing and organising a stall at the National Eisteddfod of Wales, and procuring various items of promotional merchandise for the Department.

The Department has made some progress in terms of external relations. For the first time, the Unitarians are now affiliated to the Interfaith Council for Wales, the Welsh Council for Voluntary Action, and the Equalities and Human Rights Coalition (a network of equalities organisations that is facilitated by the WCVA), and we seek to develop our activity in all three of these organisations. The Secretary has gained some primetime (Welsh language) coverage on BBC Radio Cymru, and the Unitarians Wales Twitter account has grown to over 300 followers. We have also initiated an informal bilingual newsletter (*Y Fflam / The Flame*) for non-affiliated individual friends of Unitarianism in Wales.

Our ability to capitalise on new, external initiatives, and to develop a media profile, is constrained to a great extent by the part-time working hours of the Welsh Department Secretary. Nevertheless, it is hoped that the work that is in progress offers some new opportunities for our denomination in Wales.



# THE NIGHTINGALE CENTRE

## A Spiritual Home

What a fantastic year it has been for the Nightingale Centre. A year when the Management Committee, wholeheartedly supported by Stella Burney now in her fifth year as Manager, has broadened and consolidated our contribution to Unitarian life. Promoting Unitarian values of inclusiveness, equality and access for everyone has been central to the centre's ethos. The centre has supported the local community in providing our facilities for the village Jubilee Party and other charity events. Land has been provided at low cost for the village school extension. Many visitors to the centre have joined in and supported village and chapel events. The centre endeavours to be a good ambassador in the wider world through its support of Send a Child to Hucklow (SACH) who we congratulate for their magnificent achievement in raising well in excess of their fundraising target in their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year.

### Celebrating the Commitment of the Centre's Staff



*The Nightingale Centre Staff Team*

The year saw many staff developments as well as improvements to the buildings. The sign of committed and effective staff is a willingness to undertake developmental training to enhance performance.

During the year, two qualifications were achieved in NVQ Level 3 and an NVQ Apprenticeship was successfully completed. All members of staff participated in Hygiene and Safeguarding training. The benefits of training are shown by the increasingly positive and appreciative Guest Surveys. Guests notice the improvement in service to customers and make helpful suggestions for further changes. All comments are explored and, where possible, suggestions are implemented. The staff are aware that it is often the small changes which make the biggest difference to the experience of staying at The Nightingale Centre.



*Liz Elliott,  
House Manager*

During the year, the Centre achieved a 5 star rating in Food Hygiene and the Environment Quality Mark. This is a superb achievement.



The Environmental Quality Mark shows the dedication of the Manager and staff in considering the environment in all aspects of the work at the Centre. From using rainwater to flush the toilets to growing herbs, vegetables and fruit for use in the kitchen, everyone plays a part in the commitment to minimise the impact of the Centre on the environment. This can require extra work for the staff and they are to be congratulated not just for this achievement but also for their consistent, hard work in providing a Centre where guests can relax and participate fully in activities with confidence that their needs will be met with a smile.

## Building Improvements

Many large scale Improvements have been achieved this year. All have been carefully scheduled to have minimum impact on guests booked into the centre. All the shower rooms and washrooms have now been refurbished and modernised, including creating an additional disabled toilet with a shower area. A hygienic dining room servery has improved the efficiency of food service. The hot and cold drinks area has been repositioned and modernised. The entrance hall has been refurbished and a reception desk created. The most significant achievement has been the refurbishment of the lounge, addition of a large sun lounge and enlarged sun terrace. Stella Burney's project management of this building work has been exemplary and extremely cost efficient.

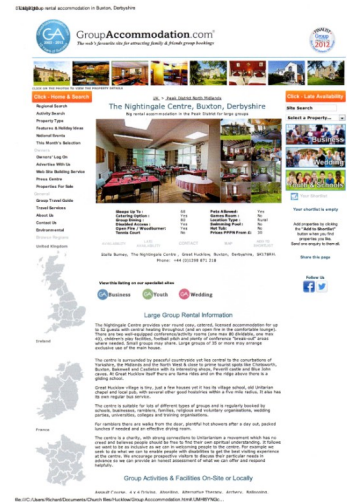


Guests enjoying the new sun lounge

## Marketing the Centre

The centre has had lots of good news to share: our determination to keep our prices as low as we can manage; the improvements we have made for our guests; and our environmental credentials - particularly after tons of effort over the last year or so our being awarded the National Park's coveted Environmental Quality Mark! A feature about the centre appeared in the February 2013 edition of the "Derbyshire Life" magazine.

Of course the "Net" has transformed the way we promote things. Advertising through a website, emails, UNI-News and the like has been a superb way to reach people. On-line accommodation directories like [groupaccommodation.com](http://groupaccommodation.com) and the Ramblers Association accommodation finder have vastly increased our visibility.



But that's no help to those who don't have the Internet and, yes, they do exist. And in larger numbers than we sometimes realise. So we've also reached people through being there at our stall at the GA Meetings, through leaflets, providing information in the rooms (and even the loos) at the centre and by sending printed copies of our annual Brochure in paper form to church secretaries and other contacts.



FOR MORE INFORMATION INCLUDING PRICES PLEASE CONTACT STELLA  
Stella Burney, Centre Manager, Great Haddon, Buxton, Derbyshire, DE12 8JH  
email: info@thenightingalecentre.org.uk telephone: 01298 871218 website: www.thenightingalecentre.org.uk





Several relevant features about the Centre and/or activities at the centre have appeared in the *Inquirer* and *Unitarian* publications, the centre gaining much publicity this year from its association with the 50th anniversary of the Send a Child to Hucklow charity. This connection was substantially reinforced by the presentations at the GA Meetings in April.

Lots of people have helped us promote the centre. Apart from the Manager, staff and Management Committee, John Wilkinson has kept the centre's website up-to-date, Helen Merritt has helped update the What's On page and several people have from time to time provided images including in particular John Hewardine, Sue Teagle and James Barry who has also produced several excellent posters on our behalf. We are very grateful to them.

Word of mouth is probably the best promotion tool - so many people have helped in this way we couldn't begin to list them, but we thank them anyway.

Other opportunities taken to promote the centre include events around the new roundhouse which has produced significant publicity including articles on the websites of Peak District National Park, Sheffield University and other organisations .

In August we again held an Open Day to give a chance for people to see for themselves what the centre has to offer. In 2013 this event moves back to early June.

Congregations are invited to host a stall or simply to come along and join in the fun.

## Nightingale Centre Open Day 1st Jun 13

Come and visit the centre take in lunch, afternoon tea and all the stalls and activities



For details and residential availability contact Stella



t: 01298 871218  
info@thenightingalecentre.org.uk  
www.thenightingalecentre.org.uk





# GA FINANCIAL REVIEW

## Fundraising and Expenditure

By Robert Ince,  
Acting Hon Treasurer



### Overall financial position

Our financial position remains stable in that we are living within our means and that all three charities - The General Assembly, The Nightingale Centre and the Sustentation Fund - only spend as much as they raise in income.

We should all be grateful to the Bowland Trust who match the live giving and without whose contribution we would have to reduce our activities.

Unitarian HQ is efficiently managed with its overall expenditure for the coming year reduced by £50,000.

Our investments are holding their own in terms of income but it seems unlikely, given the national and international financial situation that we will see any significant improvement in the next few years.

### Reporting of the financial accounts

You will have noticed that the way in which the financial accounts in this year's Annual Report have been presented has changed considerably.

We are obliged by the Charity Commission rules to present consolidated accounts for the three charities concerned but, in the light of comments received last year, we have concluded that, for many people, this new method of summarising the accounts makes them more understandable.

For those who wish to see the complete set of accounts, these are available on our website at: [www.unitarian.org.uk](http://www.unitarian.org.uk) or can be requested in hard copy from Unitarian Headquarters.

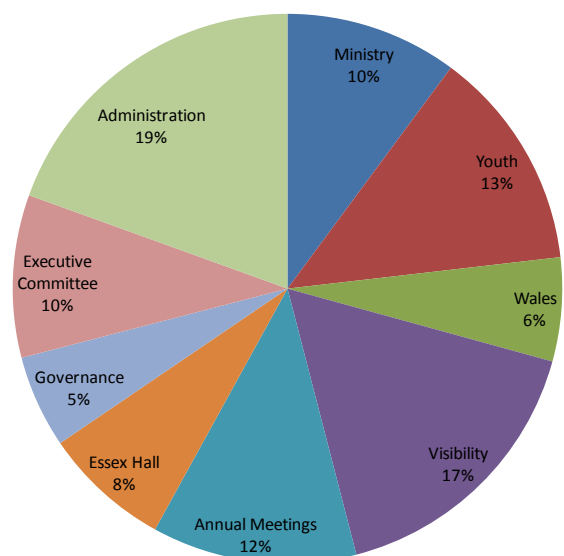
### Administration costs

For the first time this year we have started to analyse the activities of GA staff in order to better understand their value for money.

Whilst these values are approximate, they do show several interesting results:

1. The outside cost of organising the Annual Meetings showed a net surplus of only £3,077 in line with our breakeven policy, but approx. £35,800 was spent in staff time organising and managing the Annual Meetings.
2. The work involved in administering Essex Hall on behalf of the Essex Hall Trust is considerable. However, in return for the £22,300 of staff time, we are compensated with £116,250 by way of Management Fee and Grant.
3. Approx. £16,000 is spent maintaining our Charitable status, without which we would be liable to a significant amount in Tax.
4. Approx. £58,000 is spend on general administration which includes the cost of running Unitarian HQ and of responding to general inquiries from members of the General Assembly.

**GA Staff cost by Activity 2011-12**



There is a very simple message about our financial position:

**We are living within our means.**

**If we wish to spend more, we will have to give more.**



# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S STATEMENT

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S STATEMENT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF UNITARIAN & FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

We have examined the summarised financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2012 set out on pages 28 and 29.

### Respective responsibilities of the trustees and the auditor

The trustees are responsible for preparing the summarised financial statements in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and the recommendations of the Charities SORP.

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full annual financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report.

We also read other information contained in the summarised annual report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statements.

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 2008/3 issued by the Auditing Practices Board.

### Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full annual financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report of The General Assembly of Unitarian & Free Christian Churches for the year ended 30 September 2012.

*Shaw Gibbs LLP*

SHAW GIBBS LLP  
Chartered Certified Accountants & Statutory Auditor  
264 Banbury Road  
Oxford  
OX2 7DY

### TRUSTEES' STATEMENT

The auditor has issued an unqualified report on the full annual financial statements of The General Assembly of Unitarian & Free Christian Churches for the year ended 30 September 2012 and on the consistency of the Trustees' Report with those financial statements.

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## Financial Summary

By Martin Sarbicki,  
Head of Finance  
& Administration



**The income of the General Assembly was £823,157 in the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012.**

This total includes income from the Annual Meetings and courses we run such as Summer School where there is an equivalent amount of expenditure.

Our real income comes from a number of different sources:

- Live Giving
- Bowland Trust
- Grants from Essex Hall Trust & the B&FUA
- Legacies
- Sales of Books
- Investment Income

Live giving increased by 3% to £193,384 although this was below the target we set ourselves at the beginning of the year. Associate Membership fees were up 10%, subscriptions from related charities were up 7% and funds raised from the Congregational Quota increased by 6%.

The grant from the Bowland Trust of £208,539 was also an increase of £41,035 as a result of the live giving increase and a legacy of £45,000.

Income from the sale of books was reduced by nearly 50% to £10,614 as the previous year had seen large sales of the new hymnbook.

Grants from the Essex Hall Trust and Management fees charged to the Trust were a net £46,250, along with a gift-in-kind of free office space valued at £70,000. The B&FUA grant was £25,497, a reduction of £890. The Investment income went down by 12% to £84,571, representing a return of 4.4%.

**The expenditure of the General Assembly was £737,844 in the year to September 2012.**

Strategy Group Programme activities, which includes the Youth Programme, the Welsh Programme, Local Leadership, Visibility and Ministry groups cost £251,478, 59% of which is GA staff time. This is an increase of £46,714 or 23% on the previous year. The cost of committee activities for these groups was £7,236, a reduction in costs of £9,549.

Grants made were £77,927, an increase of £21,012, including a grant of £10,000 to Unitarian College Manchester (UCM).

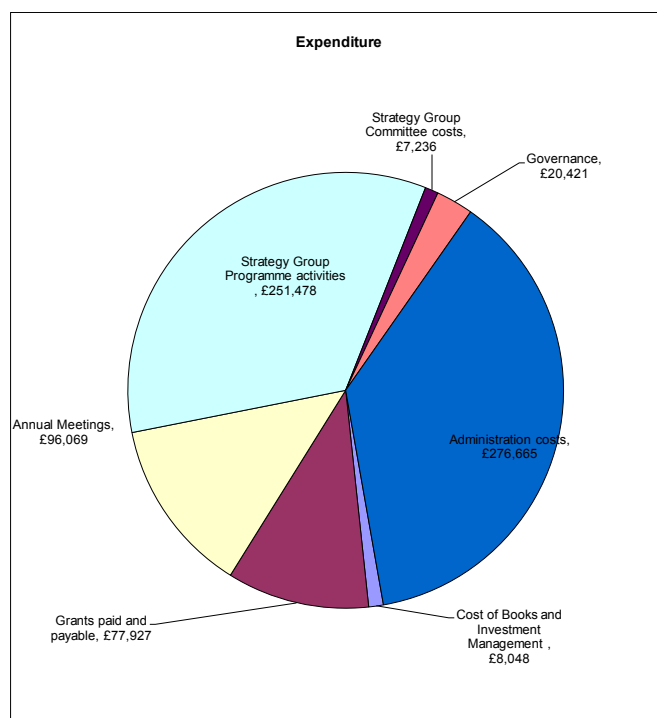
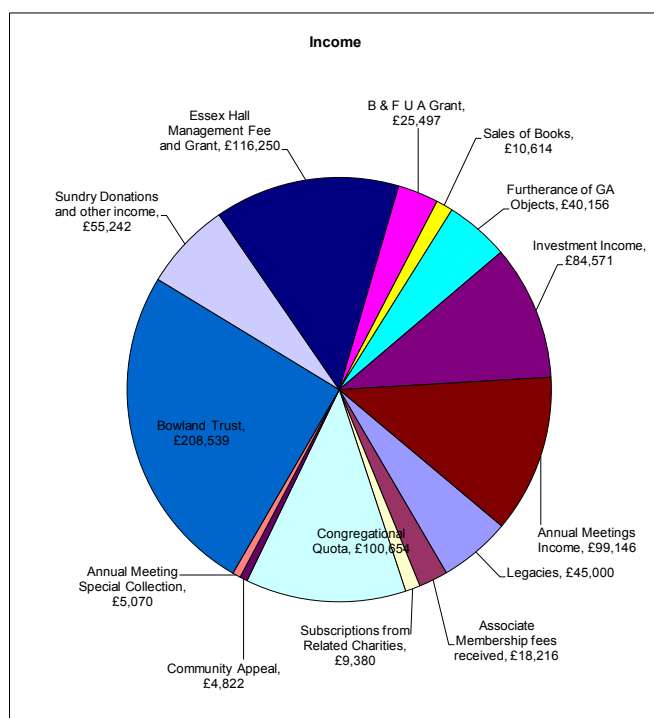
Administration costs were £276,665, a decrease of £24,316. The accommodation charge from the Essex Hall Trust increased to £70,000 from £50,000 (a better reflection of market rates and of space usage).

The cost of the audit, insurances, legal and professional fees was £21,327 compared to £23,062 the previous year. Investment management fees were £1,330, a reduction in £1,911 on the previous year's charge.

## Balance Sheet

### Total Balance Sheet of the Assets managed by the General Assembly at 30 September 2012

	2012	2012	2011	2011
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Tangible Assets	98,791		102,958	
Investments	<u>2,031,887</u>		<u>1,772,260</u>	
		2,130,678		1,875,218
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Stocks	3,549		5,138	
Loans	1,048		951	
Debtors	139,155		82,346	
Short Term Deposits	168,577		213,038	
Cash at Bank and in hand	<u>28,931</u>		<u>28,870</u>	
	341,260		330,343	
<b>Current liabilities</b>				
Creditors falling due within one year	<u>(61,372)</u>		<u>(75,773)</u>	
<b>Net Current assets</b>		279,888		254,570
<b>Total assets less liabilities</b>		<u><b>2,410,566</b></u>		<u><b>2,129,788</b></u>
General Funds		1,389,848		1,249,603
Designated Funds		137,532		133,082
Restricted Funds		357,486		272,282
Endowment Funds		525,700		474,821
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u><b>2,410,566</b></u>		<u><b>2,129,788</b></u>





## Income and Expenditure Report

<b>Where the money came from</b>	2011-12 (£)	2010-11 (£)
<b>Voluntary Income</b>		
Legacies	45,000	2,000
Associate Membership fees received	18,216	16,589
Subscriptions from Related Charities	9,380	8,772
Congregational Quota	100,654	95,246
Community Appeal	4,822	4,617
Annual Meeting Special Collection	5,070	5,037
Bowland Trust	208,539	167,504
Sundry Donations and other income	55,242	14,627
Essex Hall Management Fee and Grant	116,250	86,250
B & F U A Grant	25,497	26,387
	588,670	427,029
<b>Sales of Books</b>	10,614	22,321
<b>Furtherance of GA Objects</b>	40,156	30,845
<b>Investment Income</b>	84,571	95,933
<b>Annual Meetings Income</b>	99,146	87,902
	823,157	664,030

### Where we spent our money

<b>Cost of Books and Investment Management</b>	8,048	18,366
<b>Grants paid and payable</b>	77,927	56,915
<b>Annual Meetings</b>	96,069	82,707
<b>Strategy Group Programme activities</b>	251,478	204,764
<b>Strategy Group Committee costs</b>	7,236	16,785
<b>Governance</b>	20,421	17,209
<b>Administration costs</b>	276,665	300,981
	737,844	697,727
<b>Net Incoming Resources</b>	85,313	(33,697)
<b>Gains/(losses) on investments</b>	195,465	(63,008)
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>	280,778	(96,705)

### Millennium Fund Grants 2011—2012

		£
London District	FUSE event – support with funding	£4,540
Billingshurst Unitarian Chapel	Loop system installation	£700
Great Meeting House, Coventry	Professional survey fees	£900
Bury Unitarian Church	Loop and amplification systems in ancillary rooms	£500
National Unitarian Fellowship	Autocue equipment and associated software	£232
Shrewsbury Unitarian Church	Loop and amplification system installation	£345
St Mark's, Edinburgh	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	£4,350
<b>Total:</b>		<b>£11,567</b>



# THE NIGHTINGALE CENTRE

## Financial Summary

By Colin Partington MBE, Treasurer

This has been a good trading year, despite the difficult economic situation and total income has increased slightly, more than meeting the budget target. The pie charts below show that 54% of our income comes from Unitarians and Send a Child to Hucklow (SACH). Income from rented properties at Barleycrofts were under budget due to unexpected gaps in tenancy.



*The Nightingale Centre*

Excellent control by the management team has resulted in wages and food cost targets being met. Utilities costs were lower than the previous years, despite fuel cost increases, reflecting the effective introduction of energy saving measures.

Donations were substantially down from previous years, perhaps reflecting a general trend in the UK. A generous donation will enable the Centre to increase its discount for Unitarian Youth Programme events from 20% to 25% in 2013.

### Balance Sheet

**Total Balance Sheet of the Assets Managed by the Nightingale Centre at 30 September 2012**

	2012 (£)	2012 (£)	2011 (£)	2011 (£)
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Tangible Assets	2,059,701		2,003,629	
Investments	<u>3,473</u>		<u>2,942</u>	
		<b>2,063,174</b>		<b>2,006,571</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Stocks	4,494		6,036	
Debtors	138,735		145,658	
Cash at Bank and in hand	<u>272,694</u>		<u>311,264</u>	
	<b>415,923</b>		<b>462,958</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Creditors falling due within one year	<u>(44,526)</u>		<u>(46,744)</u>	
<b>Net Current assets</b>		<b>371,397</b>		<b>416,214</b>
<b>Total assets less liabilities</b>		<b>2,434,571</b>		<b>2,422,785</b>
Unrestricted Funds		2,434,571		2,422,785
<b>Total Funds</b>		<b>2,434,571</b>		<b>2,422,785</b>

## Income and Expenditure Report

2011 - 2012 (£)

2010 - 2011 (£)

### Where the money came from

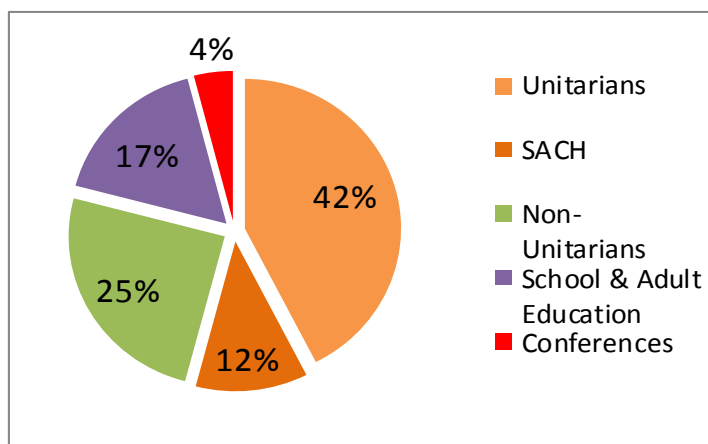
Donations	9,184	23,868
Charges to residents and day visitors	274,199	259,066
Shop Income	8,933	6,144
Investment Income	25,902	24,663
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>318,218</b>	<b>313,741</b>

### Where we spent the money

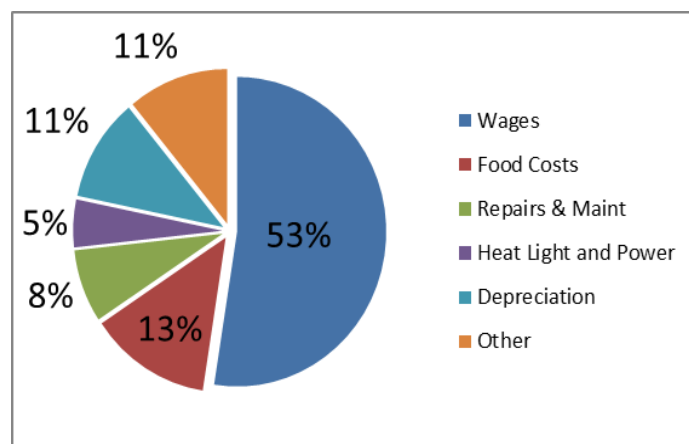
Providing the services	305,028	284,486
Governance costs	950	700
Bank Charges	985	945
<b>Total Outgoing Resources</b>	<b>306,963</b>	<b>286,131</b>

<b>Net incoming Resources</b>	<b>11,255</b>	<b>27,610</b>
Gains/losses on investment assets	531	27
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>	<b>11,786</b>	<b>27,637</b>

### Where it comes from:



### Where it goes to:



# THE SUSTENTATION FUND

## Financial Summary

*By Michael Tomlin – Chair*

**Sustentation Fund:** The accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012 showed an operating surplus of £280 (2011: surplus £3,415). After a year end market revaluation gain of £33,962 (2011: loss £29,760) and investment management fees of £61 (2011: £210) there was an overall surplus of £34,181 (2011: loss £26,555).

**Lay Pastors' Fund:** The accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012 showed an operating deficit of £304 (2011: deficit £145). After a year end market revaluation gain of £1,708 (2011: deficit £971) there was an overall surplus of £1,404 (2011: deficit £1,116).

### Investments

Newton Investment Management Ltd continued as Investment Manager and participated with the Trustees in the Unitarian Investment Panel.

The investments are held in the name of 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 pursue an investment policy that 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 purpose of the fund.

### Balance Sheet

#### Total Balance Sheet of the Assets managed by the Sustentation Fund at 30 September 2012

	2012	2012	2011	2011
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Investments		412,594		376,924
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Cash at Bank and in hand	19,927		19,984	
Investment Manager's Client account	1,095		1,120	
	21,022		21,104	
<b>Current liabilities</b>				
Provision for Investment Manager's fee	(15)		(12)	
<b>Net Current assets</b>		21,007		21,092
<b>Total assets less liabilities</b>		433,601		398,016
The Sustentation Fund		416,664		382,483
The Lay Pastors fund		16,937		15,533
<b>Total Funds</b>		433,601		398,016



## Income and Expenditure Report

	2011-12 £	2011-12 £	2010-11 £	2010-11 £
	Sustentation	Lay Pastors	Sustentation	Lay Pastors
<b>Where the money came from</b>				
Bank Interest and Income from Investments	20,099	446	23,608	589
Donations	2,499		2,646	16
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>22,598</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>26,254</b>	<b>605</b>

### Where we spent our money

Grants	(21,288)	(750)	(21,425)	(750)
Administration Expenses	(1,030)		(1,414)	
<b>Operating Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>(304)</b>	<b>3,415</b>	<b>(145)</b>
Gains/(Losses) on Investments	33,962	1,708	(29,760)	(971)
Investment Management Fees	(61)		(210)	
<b>Total Increase/(Reduction) in Funds Value</b>	<b>34,181</b>	<b>1,404</b>	<b>(26,555)</b>	<b>(1,116)</b>

### The Congregations to whom we gave money

(Combined Sustention Fund and Lay Pastors' Fund)

	2012	2011
Bolton Bank Street	1,300	1,400
Bristol Unitarian Meeting	1,300	1,400
Chowbent	1,300	1,400
Croydon	1,300	1,800
Cotswold Group	1,300	0
Dundee	0	525
Edinburgh	1,300	1,400
Failsworth	450	700
Golders Green	1,300	1,400
Kidderminster	0	0
Knutsford	650	700
Macclesfield	1,300	1,400
Monton	1,300	1,400
Newington Green	1,300	700
Oldham	650	700
Richmond	1,300	700
Rochdale	1,300	1,400
South Devon Group	0	700
South Wales Group	1,700	1,800
Stannington	650	700
Styal	450	500
Wigan	650	700
York	488	0
	21,288	21,425



# BEING A CHARITY

## Operating Within the Rules

### General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

*Registered Charity No 250788*

### The Nightingale Centre

*Registered Charity No 242256*

### The Sustentation Fund

*Registered Charity No 235449*

The General Assembly :

- Is a charity in its own right
- acts as a 'supervisory charity' to many congregations with 'excepted' status
- Is considered a parent charity under law to the Nightingale Centre and the Sustentation Fund

#### The objects of the General Assembly:

##### *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.

*In reference to the penultimate 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.*

#### **The objects of the Nightingale Centre:**

The object of the Charity as stated in the 1964 Charity Commission Scheme is that 'the property shall be used as convalescent or rest homes for persons in need thereof'.

In last year's Annual Report, it was reported that the Nightingale Centre were in dialogue with the Charity Commission with a view to exploring the possibilities of a new Scheme more in tune with antecedent charities of the Children's Holiday Home and of the Florence Nightingale Home and which reflected the current charitable use of the property.

The proposed new objects are in the process of approval at the time of writing.

#### **Proposed new objects of the Nightingale Centre:**

(1) The object of the charity is, for the benefit of the public, to further the religious and other charitable work of the Unitarian and Free Christian Churches including:

- (a) the relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, financial hardship or other disadvantage; and
- (b) the provision of facilities for the education of students of educational establishments.

Subject to the provisions of clauses 5 (Power to dispose of purpose property) and 10 (Disposal of land), the land identified in the schedule to this scheme must be retained by the trustees for use for the object of the charity.

#### **The objects of the Sustentation Fund:**

To aid the maintenance of faithful and efficient Ministers and Lay Pastors serving congregations affiliated to the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.

#### **Trustees**

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) as listed below.

##### GA Executive Committee

Honorary Treasurer: Robert Ince (acting)

Elected Members: Rev John Clifford

Joan Cook

Rev Andy Pakula

(until Sept 2012)

Alison Thursfield

Rev David Usher

Rev Martin Whitell

Co-opted members: Robert Ince

Cathie Masztalerz

Secretary: Derek McAuley

##### Other Appointments:

Solicitors: Charles Russell LLP

Auditors: Shaw Gibbs LLP

Custodian Trustee:

The British and Foreign Unitarian Association  
(Incorporated)



The **Trustees of the Nightingale Centre** are the Members of the GA Executive Committee.

Day to day Management of the Centre is delegated to a Management Committee:

Chair	Marion Baker
Treasurer	Colin Partington
Secretary	Michael Tracey
Other members	Richard Merritt Gwyneth Roper David Copley Dorothy Hewerdine Vanessa Rothwell
EC Link	Robert Ince
Independent Examiners	Fawthrop Williams

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

The **Trustees of the Sustentation Fund** are:

Chair	Michael Tomlin
Hon Treasurer	Martin West
Hon Secretary	Jeff Teagle
Member ex Officio	Lis Dyson Jones Rev Bill Darlison Derek McAuley Robert Ince
Members appointed by the GA	Dawn Buckle Rev Eric Jones Neville Kenyon Rev Jim McClelland Rev David Usher
Independent Examiner	KJ Johnson FCA

## Being a Charity

### Advantages

As a charity the General Assembly is exempt from income tax and corporation tax on its charitable earnings, and there are advantages involving VAT and rates.

Particular decisions on tax decisions are complex and need to be taken with professional advice.

### Responsibilities

As a charity the General Assembly is subject to charity law which insists we behave in a business like manner and fulfil the obligations of the Charities Act.

The General Assembly is subject to supervision by the Charity Commission to whom annual reports and financial accounts must be submitted.

The General Assembly has taken great care and professional advice in relation to its position as a parent charity to the Nightingale Centre and the Sustentation Fund and has concluded that at the moment the objects of all three charities are sufficiently similar and the degree of control exerted by the Trustees of sufficient magnitude that the General Assembly should be considered as a parent charity.

In accordance with this, the GA has fulfilled the requirement to publish consolidated accounts for all three charities.



## STAFF MEMBERS

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

Chief Officer	Derek McAuley	dmcauley@unitarian.org.uk
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### PROGRAMME STAFF:

Director of Ministry	Rev Linda Phillips	lphillips@unitarian.org.uk
Welsh Department Secretary	Dr Carwyn Tywyn	ctywyn@unitarian.org.uk
Youth Coordinator	Rev John Harley	jharley@unitarian.org.uk

### SUPPORT STAFF

Operations Manager, Essex Hall Manager & Annual Meetings Manager	Andrew Mason	amason@unitarian.org.uk
Administrator (Internal)	Mary-Jean Hennis	mhennis@unitarian.org.uk
Administrator (External)	Audrey Longhurst	alonghurst@unitarian.org.uk
IT / Communications	Aniuska Dominguez <i>(From 20 June 2012)</i>	it@unitarian.org.uk
Archivist	Howard Hague <i>(Until 30 June 2012)</i>	

### FINANCE:

Head of Finance & Administration	Martin Sarbicki <i>(From 02 July 2012)</i>	msarbicki@unitarian.org.uk
Finance Officer	John Crosskey	jcrosskey@unitarian.org.uk
Finance Assistant	Fenella Fyle <i>(Until 22 March 2012)</i>	

### CONSULTANTS:

James Barry	<i>(until 30 April 2012)</i>
Karen Mallik	<i>(until 25 July 2012)</i>

### VOLUNTEERS:

Howard Hague	<i>(from 01 July 2012)</i>
Rosemary Ruston	

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

Isabella Clarke	Caretaker
Hepzi Lewis	Cleaner



## GROUP & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following people were members of GA Groups and Committees during the financial year:

### THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Convenor: Martin Whitell

Members: John Clifford (from April 2011), Joan Cook, Robert Ince (from April 2011, Acting Honorary Treasurer from May 2012), Cathie Masztalerz (from September 2011), Andy Pakula (until September 2012), Huw Thomas (Honorary Treasurer until April 2012), Alison Thursfield, David Usher, Martin Whitell.

Staff Support: Derek McAuley, (Chief Officer), Mary-Jean Hennis (Minutes)

### STRATEGY GROUPS

#### Local Leadership Strategy Group

Members: Kate Buchanan (Co-Chair), Peter Davies, Dot Hewerdine (Chair, until Jul 2012), Christine Thompson, Margaret Robinson (Co-Chair), Jean Bradley (until Oct 2012)

Staff Support: Mary-Jean Hennis

#### Ministry Strategy Group

Members: Chris Goacher (until Mar 2012), Linda Hart, Margaret Kirk, Stephen Lingwood (Chair), Wendy Sudbury, Sarah Tinker, Jane Williams.

Staff Support: Linda Philips, Director of Ministry

#### Visibility Strategy Group

Members: Diane Bennett, Philip Colfox (until Apr 2012), Melanie Haberstoh (until Apr 2012), Dorothy Haughton (Convenor), Angela Maher, Meredith Moss (until Apr 2012), Phil Tomlin.

### PANELS / ACTION GROUPS / OTHER GROUPS

#### Annual Meetings

Members: John Clifford, Penny Quest, Alison Thursfield, Martin Whitell.

Staff Support: Andrew Mason (Meetings Organiser), Derek McAuley (Chief Officer).

#### Buildings Advisory Group

Members: Mike Barber (Convenor), Zoe Bremner (from Summer 2012), Mark Pearce (until Spring 2012), Julian Smith (until Summer 2012), Howard Wilkins.

Staff Support: Derek McAuley (Chief Officer)

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

### **Electoral Panel**

Members: Jill Hudson, Wade Miller-Knight, Howard Wilkins.

Staff Support: Derek McAuley (Chief Officer).

### **Facilitation Services Action Group**

Members: Dr Jane Blackall, Kate Buchanan (Chair), Judy Harris, Joy Winder.

### **Hucklow Summer School**

Members: Dr Jane Blackall (Convenor until Sept 2012), Caroline Blair (Convenor from Sept 2012), Kate Buchanan, Jef Jones (until Sept 2012), Rev Margaret Kirk (until Sept 2012), Chris Thompson (Administrator from Sept 2012), Alison Thursfield.

### **Interview Panel**

Members: Alex Bradley, David Dawson, Margaret Kirk, David Shaw, Arthur Stewart, Sarah Tinker.

### **Lindsey Press Panel**

Members: David Dawson, Katie Hall (until Jan 2012), Kay Millard, John Pickering (until Jan 2012), Catherine Robinson, Kate Taylor (Convenor), Kate Whyman.

### **Penal Affairs Panel**

Members: Tony Cann, John Carter, Bruce Chilton (Chair/Secretary), Bernard Omar, Andy Pakula, Tony Rees.

### **Training Action Group (TAG)**

Members: Dawn Buckle, Winnie Gordon, Ann Peart, Margaret Robinson (Chair), Sue Woolley.

### **Welsh Department**

Members: Phil Griffiths (President, South East Wales), Elaine Davies (President, South Wales), Cen Llwyd (South Wales), Wyn Thomas (South Wales), Eric Jones (South East Wales), Anne Jones (South East Wales), Ken Morgan (South East Wales), Megan Jones (South Wales District & Secretary)

Staff Support: Carwyn Tywyn (Welsh Department Secretary)

### **Youth Panel**

Members: Ella Field, John Harley, Helen Hooley, Claire Maddocks, Vanessa Rothwell, Louise Shatliff (Chair), Sue Talbot.

Youth Representatives: Sarah Hall, Tilly Pugh.

Staff Support: John Harley (Youth Coordinator), Andrew Mason (Minutes).

## Our Members

### Honorary Members

Mr Geoffrey Head  
 Rev Dr Peter Godfrey  
 Mr Michael Tomlin  
 Rev J Eric Jones  
 Rev James McClelland  
 Mr David Dawson  
 Rev Keith Gilley

In accordance with rule 4 of the Constitution of the General Assembly the following persons, having contributed not less than £29 each to the funds of the Assembly in the financial year 2011-12, are Associate Members of the General Assembly. Names of Honorary Members and Full Members who have subscribed not less than £29 during the financial year each are also listed.

Adams W Mrs	Calderara B Mrs	Edwards J Ms	Hewerdine AJ Mr
Adkinson EB Miss	Callander GS Rev	Egloff U	Hewerdine C Mrs
Allured M Mr	Camper A Mr	Elder RC Mr	Hewerdine DC Mrs
Archer D Mrs	Cann HA Mr	Evans EM Mrs	Hewis H Mrs
Arthur D Mr	Cartwright CM Rev	Evans S Mrs	Hewis P Rev
Ashworth B Mrs	Chilton CD Mrs		Hill AM Rev
Atkinson JM Mrs	Chilton GEB Mr	Faiers E Mrs	Hills A Rev
Attfield R Prof	Clarke HM Mrs	Fieldhouse AM Miss	Hills EA Mrs
Aylmer V Mrs	Clifford B Mrs	Fieldhouse S Miss	Hird JL Dr
	Clifford JC Rev	Firth RE Mrs	Honeyman N Mr
Baker EW Rev	Cockroft BS Rev	Ford JM Ms	Hoskins DG Mr
Baker M Mrs	Cockroft BW Mrs	Forrester E Mrs	Howarth J Mrs
Barber JM Mr	Cockroft L Rev	Foulkes RO Mr	Howarth M Mr
Barbour R Mrs	Coldwell AH Mr	Fowler AM Miss	Hughes A Miss
Barlow Mrs E	Coldwell DE Mrs		Hughes M
Barwick S Mrs	Collier JS Mr	Gabriel S Ms	Hugill M Ms
Beck R Mr	Cook J Mrs	Gaines R Mr	
Bennett DE Ms	Copley DW Mr	Gienke M Mr	Inkson J Mrs
Birtles E Rev	Copley H Mrs	Goacher C Rev	Inkson RHE Mr
Blair J Mr	Cornford J Mr	Godfrey PB Rev	Isaac AB Mr
Boeke J Rev	Corrigall J Rev	Godfrey S Mrs	Isaac AW Mr
Boeke R Rev	Crompton D Mr	Goodchild J Mr	Isaac RB Mr
Boyce S Mrs	Crompton J Mrs		
Bradley A Rev	Cupper AM Mr	Hague G Mrs	Janes JA Mrs
Bradley J Rev		Hague HR Mr	Jennings G Mr
Brooks B Mrs	Darling DF Mr	Hankinson AS Mrs	Johnson KJ Mr
Brown AHO Mr	Dawson C Mrs	Hardy SJ Dr	Jones A Mrs
Brown I Mr	Dawson D Mr	Harris LA Mrs	Jones A Ms
Buckle D Mrs	Deas E Mrs	Harrison M Mrs	Jones AW Dr
Buckle R Mr	Denby RN Mr	Hastie WJ Mr	Jones B Mrs
Buckley D Mr	Dobson A Ms	Haughton DP Ms	Jones JE Rev
Burbage M Miss	Doel DC Rev Dr	Head G Mr	
Burgess B Mr	Durban J Ms	Healey R Miss	
Burns C Ms	Dyson-Jones E Ms		
Burns M Mrs			





Kay H Mrs  
 Kenyon Mrs B  
 Kenyon NA Mr  
 Kerr C Mrs  
 Kerr DG Dr  
 King L Ms  
 Kirk M Rev  
 Knopf B Ms

Lahage M Ms  
 Lake M Mrs  
 Latta S Mrs  
 Laycock BA Mrs  
 Lingwood S Rev  
 Lovis R Mr (dec'd)

Maguire M Mrs  
 Mason CB Mr  
 Mason GH Mr  
 Mason JA Mrs (dec'd)  
 Mason H Ms  
 Mason JI Mr  
 Maud G Mr  
 McAuley D Mr  
 McClelland A Rev  
 McClelland J Rev  
 Meek J Mrs  
 Merritt H Mrs  
 Merritt R Mr  
 Michell M Ms  
 Midgley C Rev  
 Midgley J Rev  
 Morass L  
 Nuttall M Mrs

Oates ADG Mr  
 O'Connor F Rev  
 Omar B Mr  
 O'Neil SE Mrs

Packer GWC Mr  
 Parsons H Mrs  
 Partington C Mr  
 Partington J Mrs  
 Paxton MRH Mrs  
 Payne B Mrs  
 Peace DI Mr  
 Peace I Mr  
 Pearce G Mr  
 Peart A Rev Dr  
 Pennington AC Mr  
 Percy A Mrs  
 Pilkington C Mr

Ramsden DM Mrs  
 Ratcliffe M Mrs  
 Rathbone B Mrs  
 Reed CM Rev  
 Reed P Mrs  
 Rees AM Mr  
 Reynolds HM  
 Richards J Mrs  
 Richards JCT Mr  
 Richards W Mr  
 Roberts DM Rev  
 Roberts J Dr  
 Roberts J Rev  
 Roberts J Rev  
 Roberts WM Mrs  
 Robinson J Rev  
 Robinson M Ms  
 Robinson M Rev

Robinson M Rev  
 Rogers J Mrs  
 Rogers L Ms  
 Rowson J Mrs  
 Rowson P Mr  
 Ruston AR Mr  
 Ruston J Ms  
 Ruston M Mr  
 Ruston R Mrs

Sampson PW Mr  
 Sanders N Dr  
 Scott JA Mr  
 Seal S Mrs  
 Seccombe JA Mrs  
 Sellman J Ms  
 Short A Mrs  
 Silk J Mrs  
 Silk PA Rev  
 Simmons J Mrs  
 Sinclair A Mrs  
 Slaven S Ms  
 Smith Carole Mrs  
 Smith Christina Mrs  
 Smith Joseph, Mr  
 Smith Julian, Mr  
 Smith KJ Mr  
 Smith L  
 Smith MF Mr  
 Smith RW Dr (dec'd)  
 Soulsby P Sir  
 Sykes J Ms

Teagle JJ Mr  
 Teagle SM Mrs  
 Thursfield A Mrs

Tinker SM Rev  
 Tomlin JR Mrs  
 Tomlin MJ Mr  
 Tucker A Mr  
 Tupman M

Uprichard EM Mrs  
 Usher D Rev  
 Usher GR Rev  
 Usher A Mrs

Voegeli I Mrs

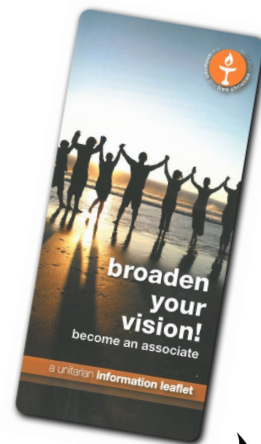
Walker F Rev  
 Warhurst DE Mr  
 Warhurst H Mrs  
 Watson N Ms  
 West MG Mr  
 Whitham P Mr  
 Wightman M Mrs  
 Wightman R Rev  
 Wilkie C, Mrs  
 Wilkins H Mr  
 Wilkinson JS Rev  
 Williams DA Prof  
 Williams DJ Dr  
 Williams R Mrs  
 Williams S Mr  
 Williams WM Mrs  
 Wilson AM Mrs  
 Winder JR Mrs  
 Woodhouse J Mr  
 Woodhouse K Mrs  
 Woolley S Rev  
 Wykes DL Dr  
 Wylie HS Mr  
 Wylie J Mrs (dec'd)

## Not an Associate Member?



Please consider joining. To see the many benefits of membership and also have your name listed here, please go to:

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



## Congregational Contributions

1 October 2011 to 30 September 2012. All collections and donations received are included in the one total against each church. Amounts are shown as at 30 September 2012 and contributions received after that date will be shown in the next annual report.

	Quota Members	£			
<b>England</b>					
Ainsworth	10	290	Cullompton	7	203
Altrincham	44	1276	Dean Row	74	2146
Ashton-in-Makerfield	49	1421	Denton	7	215
Atherton	57	1653	Derby	6	174
Banbury	12	290	Ditchling	21	609
Bath	7	203	Doncaster	18	522
Belper	4	116	Douglas	6	174
Billingshurst	9	261	Dover	4	116
Birmingham Edgbaston	39	1131	Dudley	2	58
Birmingham Hollywood	57	1653	Dukinfield	52	1508
Blackpool	15	435	Eccles	64	1856
Bolton Bank Street	58	1682	Evesham	22	638
Bolton Chorley New Rd	18	522	Framlingham	4	116
Bolton Egerton	30	870	Gloucester	7	203
Bolton Halliwell Road	12	348	Godalming	30	870
Boston	5	145	Great Hucklow	14	406
Bradford Unitarians	18	522	Great Yarmouth	11	319
Bridgwater	6	174	Hale Barns	24	858
Bridport	10	290	Hastings	23	667
Brighton	40	1160	Hinckley	57	1653
Bristol Unitarians	16	464	Hindley	9	261
Bristol Frenchay	15	435	Horsham	34	986
Bury	67	1943	Horwich	6	174
Bury St Edmunds	23	667	Hull	19	551
Cambridge	45	1247	Hyde	2	58
Chatham	8	232	Hyde Flowery Field	8	200
Chelmsford	7	200	Hyde Gee Cross	10	250
Cheltenham	9	261	Ipswich	45	1305
Chester	6	174	Kendal	51	1479
Chesterfield	10	290	Kidderminster	32	928
Chorley	18	522	Knutsford	56	1624
Cirencester	6	174	Leeds	31	899
Coseley	7	203	Leicester	33	957
Coventry	9	261	Lewes	1	29
Cradley	25	725	Lincoln	14	406
Crewkerne	13	377	Liverpool Gateacre	20	580
Croydon	53	1537	Liverpool Sefton Park	25	725

Liverpool Toxteth	6	174	Stourbridge	6	174
London Brixton	16	464	Styal	25	725
London Golders Green	47	1363	Taunton	15	435
London Hampstead	134	4080	Tenterden	7	203
London Islington	45	1305	Torquay	8	232
London Kensington	63	1827	Trowbridge	14	406
London Lewisham	8	232	Urmston	33	957
London Newington Grn	45	1305	Wakefield	19	551
London Stratford	5	145	Warrington	15	435
Loughborough	1	29	Warwick	20	580
Lytham St Annes	0	0	Watford	10	290
Macclesfield	29	841	Whitby	6	174
Maidstone	7	203	Whitefield	45	1305
Manchester Chorlton	10	290	Wirral	27	783
Manchester Cross Street	32	928	Wolverhampton	4	116
Manchester Dob Lane	16	464	Worthing	4	116
Manchester Gorton	5	145	York	39	1131
Mansfield	52	1508			
Mossley	12	348	<b>Wales</b>		
New Mill	5	145	Aberdare	25	744
Newcastle-under-Lyme	20	580	Alltyblaca	3	75
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	22	638	Bangor	8	232
Northampton	8	232	Cardiff	19	551
Norwich	42	1218	Cefn Coed y Cymer	24	667
Nottingham	15	435	Cellan	1	36
Oldbury	2	67	Ciliau Aeron	2	18
Oldham	12	348	Cribyn	4	118
Oxford	39	1131	Cwmsychbant	4	114
Padiham	49	1421	Cwrtnewydd	6	158
Plymouth	25	725	Felinfach	1	50
Portsmouth	50	1450	Lampeter	11	302
Rawtenstall	7	203	Llandysul	3	100
Richmond	42	1218	Llanwnnen	7	186
Rivington	20	580	Newport	7	203
Rochdale	34	986	Nottage	12	358
Scarborough	7	203	Pontsian	4	94
Sevenoaks	20	580	Prengwyn	5	146
Sheffield Fulwood	39	1131	Swansea	9	261
Sheffield Norfolk Street	52	1508	Talgarreg	7	200
Sheffield Stannington	25	725	Trebanos	20	580
Shelf	8	232	Wick	6	174
Shrewsbury	19	551			
Sidmouth	5	145	<b>Scotland</b>		
Southampton	15	435	Aberdeen	6	155
Southend-on-Sea	4	116	Dundee	22	638
Southport	10	290	Edinburgh	67	1943
St Albans	9	261	Glasgow	32	928
Stalybridge	10	290			
Stockton-on-Tees	22	638			
			<b>Total:</b>	<b>3,468</b>	<b>£100,654</b>



## OUR HERITAGE

### General 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	Mr Roy W Smith, DHL
1994-07	Mr Jeffrey J Teagle
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
2010-12	Mr Huw Thomas, MA, CA, MSc
2012 -	Mr Robert Ince (Acting)

### Deputy Treasurers

1996-98	Mr Michael Tomlin
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## Past Presidents

1929	Rev C J Street, MA, LLB (B&FUA)	1971-72	Rev H John McLachlan, MA, BD, DPhil
1929	Rev Henry Gow, BA, BD (Nat Conf)	1972-73	Mr M Humphreys Winder, BA
1929-31	Mrs Sydney Martineau	1973-74	Rev D Jacob Davies, BA
1931-32	Mr J Harrop White, JP	1974-75	Mrs Gwyneth J M Thomas, BSc
1932-34	Rev Alfred Hall, MA, DD	1975-76	Rev Evan David Davies
1934-35	Mr Ronald P Jones, MA, FRIBA	1976-77	Mr George Morrison, MA
1935-36	Mr George G Armstrong	1977-78	Rev Dr Peter B Godfrey, BA, DD
1936-37	Rev H McLachlan, MA, DD, LittD	1978-79	Mr Geoffrey Head, BA
1937-38	Mr N Bishop Harman, MA, LLD	1979-80	Rev A Hilton Birtles, JP, BA
1938-39	Rev R F Rattray, MA, PhD	1980-81	Dr June Bell, MA, MB, BS, PhD
1939-40	Mr J T Bibby	1981-82	Rev Eric Wild, BA
1940-41	Rev E Rosalind Lee, MA	1982-83	Mrs Eleanor Dixon
1941-42	Mr P M Oliver, CBE, BA	1983-84	Rev Arthur J Long, MA
1942-43	Rev H J Rossington, MA, BD	1984-85	Mrs Helen M Nicholson, MBE
1943-44	Mr R H Mottram, JP, FRSL	1985-86	Rev Sydney H Knight
1944-45	Mr Alfred Pilling, OBE, JP	1986-87	Mrs Sheila Crosskey, MB, ChB
1945-46	Rev Raymond V Holt, MA, BLitt	1987-88	Rev Derek Smith
1946-47	Mr Harold Baily, MBE	1988-89	Mr Robert HE Inkson, BSc, FSS, FIS
1947-48	Rev Lawrence Redfern, MA, BD	1989-90	Rev J Eric Jones, BA
1948-49	Prof FJM Stratton, LLD, FRS	1990-91	Mrs Eila Forrester, BA
1949-50	Rev Fred Cottier	1991-92	Rev Peter Hewis, BA
1950-51	Mr Harold B Moore	1992-93	Mrs Celia Kerr
1951-52	Rev G Randall Jones, MA, BSc, BD	1993-94	Rev James McClelland, MA
1952-53	Miss Dorothy Tarrant, MA, PhD	1994-95	Mr Michael Tomlin
1953-54	Rev Herbert Crabtree	1995-96	Rev Anne McClelland, BA
1954-55	Mr Stanley R Butler, ACA	1996-97	Dr Jane Williams, MB, BCh, BAO
1955-56	Rev Frank A Bullock	1997-98	Rev Clifford Reed, BA
1956-57	Mr C Herbert Pollard, CBE, FSAA	1998-99	Dr B Littlepage, MSc, MRCOG, FFPHMI
1957-58	Rev James Percival Chalk	1999-00	Rev Keith Gilley, BA, MA
1958-59	Rt Hon J Chuter Ede, CH, JP, DL, MP	2000-01	Mrs Judith Crompton, JP
1959-60	Rev Arthur W Vallance, BA	2001-02	Rev John Midgley, BA, BD, MA, MEd
1960-61	Mr Arthur L Blake, OBE	2002-03	Mr Alan Ruston, BSc
1961-62	Rev J Harry Smith	2003-04	Rev Austin Fitzpatrick
1962-63	Mr Kenneth M Street, MM	2004-05	Mrs Dawn Buckle, MEd
1963-64	Rev Walter M Long	2005-06	Rev Brian Cockroft
1964-65	Mr Stanley J Kennett, BSc, PhD	2006-07	Mr David Dawson, MA, GRSM
1965-66	Rev E Shirvell Price, MA	2007-08	Rev Celia Midgley, BA
1966-67	Mr T H Hollingsworth	2008-09	Mrs Joyce Ashworth
1967-68	Rev Fred Kenworthy, MA, BD	2009-10	Rev Bob Wightman
1968-69	Mrs Amy Howarth, MA	2010-11	Mr Neville Kenyon
1969-70	Rev C Gordon Bolam, MA, BD	2011-12	Rev Dr Ann Peart, BA, MA, PhD
1970-71	Mr Arnold Graves, FCA, FCIS	2012-13	Ms Lis Dyson-Jones, JP





## Anniversary Service Preachers

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1929 Rev Alfred Hall, MA, DD              | 1971 Rev Eric S Price, MA                    |
| 1930 Rev H J Rossington, MA, BD           | 1972 Rev Robert N West, BA, BD, DD           |
| 1931 Rev Herbert McLachlan, MA, DD, LittD | 1973 Rev Lancelot A Garrard, MA, BD, LLD     |
| 1932 Rev Herbert Barnes                   | 1974 Rev E Basil Short, BSc                  |
| 1933 Rev John C Ballantyne, MA            | 1975 Rev A Hamilton Birtles, BA              |
| 1934 Rev Charles M Wright, MA             | 1976 Rev Fred M Ryde, MA                     |
| 1935 Rev Lawrence Clare                   | 1977 Rev Dudley E Richards, MA, BD           |
| 1936 Rev Arthur S Hurn, MA, DLitt         | 1978 Rev Anne McClelland, BA                 |
| 1937 Rev Sidney Spencer, BA               | 1979 Rev Eric Wild, BA and Eileen Kielty, BA |
| 1938 Rev Raymond V Holt, MA, BLitt        | 1980 Rev A Ben Downing, MA, BD               |
| 1939 Rev Arthur H Lewis                   | 1981 Rev Gabor Kereki                        |
| 1940 Rev W E Williams, BA                 | 1982 Rev Arthur J Long, MA                   |
| 1941 Rev Fred R Cottier                   | 1983 Rev Bruce Findlow, BA                   |
| 1942 Rev Rev Leslie Belton, MA, MSc       | 1984 Rev O Eugene Pickett, BA, BD, DD        |
| 1943 Rev E George Lee                     | 1985 Rev D Elwyn J Davies, MA, BD, PhD       |
| 1944 Rev Stanley Mossop                   | 1986 Rev Peter B Godfrey, BA                 |
| 1945 Rev Reginald W Wilde, MA, MSc, PhD   | 1987 Rt Rev William McMillan, MA             |
| 1946 Rev Wallace B Travener               | 1988 Rev William F Schulz, MA, DMin, DD      |
| 1947 Rev Frank A Bullock                  | 1989 Rev Frank Walker, BA                    |
| 1948 Rev Frederick May Elliot, MA, DD LLD | 1990 Rev Glyn Pruce, STB, MA                 |
| 1949 Rev G Randall Jones, MA, MSc, BD     | 1991 Rev Andrew Hill, BA                     |
| 1950 Rev Mortimer Rowe, BA, DD            | 1992 Rev Leonard Smith, MA, PhD              |
| 1951 Rev Lawrence Redfern, MA, BD         | 1993 Rev Denise Boyd                         |
| 1952 Rev H G Woodford                     | 1994 Rev Keith Gilley, BA, MA, BDQ           |
| 1953 Rev Arthur L Agnew, OBE, BA, DD      | 1995 Rev Clifford Reed, BA                   |
| 1954 Rev Sydney P Whitehouse, MA, BLitt   | 1996 Rev Judith Walker-Riggs, DD             |
| 1955 Rev H Stewart Carter, MA             | 1997 Rev John A Buehrens, DD                 |
| 1956 Rev Basil Viney                      | 1998 Rev David C Doel, MA, PhD               |
| 1957 Rev Arthur W Vallance, BA            | 1999 Rev Alec Finbow, BA                     |
| 1958 Rev W J Carter, MA                   | 2000 Rev Joy Croft, BA, MA, MTh              |
| 1959 Rev Wilfred Waddington, BA, BD       | 2001 Rev Penny Johnson                       |
| 1960 Rev Dana L McGreeley, DD             | 2002 Rev Bill Darlison, BA, MA               |
| 1961 Rev Phillip N Tindall, BA, BD, PhD   | 2003 Rev John Clifford, BA, MSc, ThM         |
| 1962 Rev C Gordon Bolam, MA, BD           | 2004 Rev Ann Peart, BA, MA, PhD              |
| 1963 Rev A Margaret Barr, MA              | 2005 Rev J Eric Jones, BA                    |
| 1964 Rev Fred Kenworthy, MA, DD           | 2006 Rev Peter Hewis, MA                     |
| 1965 Rev D Jacob Davies, BA               | 2007 Rev Brenda Catherall, BA                |
| 1966 Rev John Radcliffe, BA               | 2008 Rev Art Lester, BA                      |
| 1967 Rev Charles Bartlett, BA             | 2009 Rev Margaret Kirk, BA, MA               |
| 1968 Rev Brian L Golland, MA              | 2010 Rev Michael Dadson, BA                  |
| 1969 Rev John Kielty, LLD, DD             | 2011 Rev Jeffrey Gould, BA, MA               |
| 1970 Rev Harry Lismer Short, MA           | 2012 Rev Celia Cartwright, BA                |

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS 2012 - PROCEEDINGS

The eighty-fourth Annual Meetings of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches were held from Tuesday 3 April to Friday 6 April 2012 at Keele University. The programme of General Assembly and affiliated society meetings and workshops commenced during the afternoon of 3 April, preceded by the John Rely Beard Lecture delivered by Rev Peter Owen-Jones on "Inside the Lens: thoughts about ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century".

The first plenary session commenced at 15.45 on Tuesday 3 April 2012 with an opening welcome from the General Assembly (GA) President, the Rev Dr Ann Peart and the lighting of the Chalice. The Standing Orders for the Conduct of Business, as set out on document AGM10/12, were adopted. The Steering Committee, consisting of Joyce Ashworth, Dawn Buckle and Neville Kenyon, were confirmed with thanks offered to former member Rev Andrew Hill. Apologies were received from James Barry, Rev Brian & Rev Lena Cockroft, Rev Keith Gilley, Rev Linda Hart, Robert Inkson, Rev Derek Smith and Rev Patrick O' Neill. Written greetings were received from Past President Eleanor Dixon. The President gave a short eulogy giving thanks for the life of Dr Roy Smith, former General Secretary, who passed away in December, stating that the Unitarian Movement in Great Britain would be a sadder place with him gone.

The Executive Committee (EC) Convenor, Rev Martin Whitell, gave thanks to former Committee and Panel members and introduced the current members of the EC. He thanked Dot Hewerdine, Lis Dyson-Jones and Sir Peter Soulsby who had retired from the EC and welcomed Rev John Clifford, Robert Ince and Cathie Masztalerz who had subsequently joined. The Convenor reported on the work of the EC during the previous

year and their plans for the future. He highlighted that the role of the EC was to determine the overall direction of the GA, providing leadership and ensuring that the resources of the Movement are employed effectively. Their agreed objective was for British Unitarians and Free Christians to become a thriving and increasingly visible community over the next five years. He reported on performance against the measures agreed – disappointingly quota membership had fallen, however, applications for ministry training had risen. It should be recognised that the Commissions and Panels had completed the tasks that they had set out to do, and that the Strategy Groups would be moving forward with the priorities that had been highlighted through the consultation process of 2010.

The Reports of the Communications Commission, Denominational Support Commission, Education and Training Commission, Faith & Public Issues Commission and Ministry Commission were presented. Questions were received and responses given. Discussion took place on the work of the former Worship Panel and a commitment was given that arrangements would be made to ensure it was properly addressed in the new structure. Dawn Buckle paid tribute to Jean Mason, who had so recently passed away, and who was a staunch supporter and real advocate of Religious Education. The use of dedicated funds to support projects was raised and an assurance was given that this would form part of the financial strategy for the future, however, these were limited. It was highlighted that the Ministry and Local Leadership Strategy Groups needed to work closely on "ministry" matters due to the overlap. John Hewerdine was thanked for undertaking the role of GA photographer for many years.



The Convenor thanked the emerging Visibility Group for their work and also the Chief Officer who had established good working relationships with the Quaker and Liberal Jewish faiths. Unitarians had achieved the best media coverage ever in the course of the year with full engagement in public debates with regard to Equal Marriage in England and Wales and in Scotland. Work had also been taken forward on Asylum, the Charter for Compassion and with the Accord Coalition on inclusive education. The 2020 Congregational Development Programme was highlighted as an exciting new initiative being developed to renew existing congregations and plant new congregations. He introduced the role of the EC link to Districts and how this would be further developed. Finally, the Convenor thanked the Welsh Unitarians for a very successful Annual Meetings held in Swansea the previous year. Following dinner, the Opening Celebrations were held in the Westminster Theatre. All involved were to be thanked for making the evening such a success.

The second plenary session commenced at 08.45 on Wednesday 4 April 2012 with Opening Reflections led by Rev Dr Vernon Marshall. The Convenor introduced the GA Staff and International visitors to the Annual Meetings. The Report of the Local Leadership Strategy Group (LLSG) was presented by Dorothy Hewardine and other members of the Group. The importance of Safeguarding was highlighted with two awareness training courses with the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service being arranged. It was emphasised that it was a legal requirement for all charities, including churches, to have a safeguarding policy in place. A successful conflict resolution seminar had been held. The presentation concluded with a mock phone conversation relating to “why would a congregation need LLSG support”?

The Report of the Ministry Strategy Group was presented by Stephen Lingwood. Their

immediate projects were the recruitment of more ministry students, Ministry Inquiry Days and a residential Student Conference at Great Hucklow. The Hibbert Trust was thanked for funding the latter event. All aspects of Ministry would be reviewed over the next two years; including standards for admission to the Roll, funding and organising of training, ministry in practice, continuing professional development and funding of ministries.

The Report of the Visibility Strategy Group was presented by Angela Maher. They wished to see Unitarian Congregations growing and being more visible in their local communities which included building strategic alliances with like-minded groups and taking advantage of the communication tools that are available. They would make these tools easier for congregations to find and would offer support nationally. They had considered the use of professional public relations support. An update was provided on IT in general concluding with the news that Unitarians now have access to online television programming and thanked those who had provided financial support. The President thanked the Strategy Groups for their informative presentations. A motion from Stockton Unitarian Church, on compulsory non-military service, as amended, was defeated.

The third plenary session commenced at 10.45 on Wednesday 4 April 2012. Huw Thomas, Honorary Treasurer, presented the Annual Accounts for the year ending 30 September 2011. The financial performance showed a deficit overall of £33,000 with dividend income from investments in particular having fallen. A clean audit opinion had been received. Looking to the future he described the financial outlook for the General Assembly as a “perfect storm brewing” due to declining contributions, impact on Bowland doubling, less support being provided, reduced membership and pressure on local congregation finances.



There was, however, a 'window' over the coming few years to deal with this. The General Assembly must think very seriously about its future financing. In conclusion the Honorary Treasurer thanked the Chief Officer and GA staff who had been working through a very difficult time and thanked the EC for their support. He stressed the importance of the Movement working together as a community.

Questions were received on: rotation of the Auditors; totalling the Quota figure in the Annual report, which would be done in 2013; encouraging live giving; and should a contingent liability be shown in future accounts for the Ministerial Pension Fund deficit? The latter was described as a matter of judgement given there was only a remote possibility of this happening and actions were being taken to address the issue. It was asked if a summary of the accounts would be presented and this would be investigated subject to the legal requirement to present the accounts in the SORP format. The President thanked the Honorary Treasurer for his valuable work over the past two years as he has announced that he would be retiring from the position at the Annual meeting. The Honorary Treasurer presented the Anniversary Appeal.

The Report of the Stipend Review Committee was presented by the Honorary Treasurer. It was commented that the level of stipend increase recommended was inadequate and it was stressed that this was a minimum stipend and not a recommended stipend. Congregations were asked to submit comments in writing to the Chief Officer on the matters raised by the end of November 2012. The Report was accepted.

The Anniversary Service was held on the evening of 4 April 2012 and was led by Rev Chris Goacher. The Anniversary Preacher was Rev Celia Cartwright.

The fourth plenary session was held at 08.45 on Thursday 5 April 2012 with Opening Reflections led by a group of young people. The 2020 Congregational Development Programme was presented by the Rev Andy Pakula. A motion on proxy voting presented by the Watford Fellowship was approved. The report of the Nightingale Centre was presented by Marion Baker along with a video. A motion on assisted dying presented by Fulwood Old Chapel, Sheffield was referred back for further consultation.

The fifth plenary session commenced at 11.00 on Thursday 5 April 2012 with a video to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Send a Child to Hucklow Fund. The Report of the Sustentation Fund report was presented by Michael Tomlin and received. A new timetable for receipt of applications from congregations was announced. A motion on equal marriage presented by the Scottish Unitarian Association and the Merseyside and District Missionary Association was approved.



*Keynote Speaker, Paul Parker,  
Recording Clerk for the British Quakers*

Mr Paul Parker, Recording Clerk for the British Quaker Yearly Meeting, gave a Keynote Address on the "Future of Liberal Religions from a Quaker Perspective". That evening a Gala Dinner took place in the Keele Hall Ballroom.

The sixth plenary session commenced at 09.00 on Friday 6 April 2012 with Opening Reflections led by Gavin Lloyd. The President asked for permission to admit an emergency motion to the agenda and this was approved. A motion from the Executive Committee to name Reverend Keith Gilley as an Honorary Member was approved unanimously. A video on the REvolution programme was shown. A motion presented by the North and East Lancashire Unitarian Mission on enhancing Executive Committee communication was approved. A youth presentation on the Send a Child to Hucklow Fund was received.

The seventh plenary session commenced at 10.30 on Friday 6 April 2012. A motion presented by Stockton Unitarian Church on compulsory voting was defeated. An emergency motion on government proposals to access private information was presented by the Executive Committee and approved.



*Outgoing GA President, Rev Dr Ann Peart*

The final plenary session saw the approval of Procedural Resolutions (below). Rev Dr Ann Peart gave her Presidential Address as outgoing President. Elisabeth Dyson-Jones was installed as President for 2012/13 and spoke to the Annual Meeting. She conducted a closing service of worship and the Annual Meetings closed at 12.30pm.

## Resolutions

The following resolutions were agreed:

1. From the Scottish Unitarian Association & the Merseyside & District Missionary Association

This General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches calls upon Her Majesty's Government and the Scottish Government to ensure that legislation is passed so that all couples, same-sex or mixed sex, have equal access to civil marriages, religious marriages and civil partnerships. We have no wish to impose this legislation on those faith traditions who feel, for religious reasons, unable to comply.

2. From the North & East Lancashire Unitarian Mission

This General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches requests the Executive Committee urgently to prioritise and formalise a policy which will enhance the Executive Committee's communication both to and from the District Associations and the congregations.

3. From Watford Unitarian Fellowship

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, calls upon its Executive Committee to ask the Constitutional Review Group to prepare proposals to change the constitution to allow proxy voting at the Annual Meetings.

4. From the Executive Committee

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches recognises the considerable contribution of the Reverend Keith Gilley to Unitarians in the UK by naming him as an Honorary Member.

5. From the Executive Committee (Emergency Resolution)

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches deplores the proposed legislation allowing Government



access to all private e-mails, texts, mobile phone and internet use, and calls upon all United Kingdom Unitarians and Free Christians to oppose vigorously this gross violation of the rights of privacy and civil liberty.

### 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 LLP be reappointed as Auditors.
- 3) That the thanks of the Assembly be given to Huw Thomas for his services as Honorary Treasurer, and to district association and local officers for their invaluable services. This meeting authorises the Executive Committee to make appropriate interim arrangements to ensure that the functions of the Honorary Treasurer are fulfilled until a permanent appointment can be made.
- 4) That greetings be sent to kindred churches and societies abroad.

5) That the thanks of the Assembly be given to the Reverend Celia Cartwright for preaching the Assembly Sermon.

6) That the thanks of the Assembly be given to the Reverend Chris Goacher, 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.

7) 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.

8) That Elisabeth Dyson-Jones be appointed President of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches for the year 2012-2013.

9) That Reverend Bill Darlison be appointed as Vice-President for the year 2012-2013.

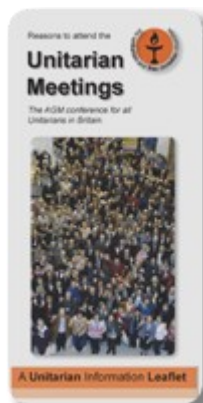
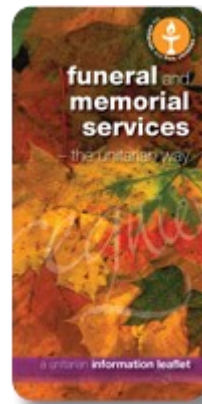
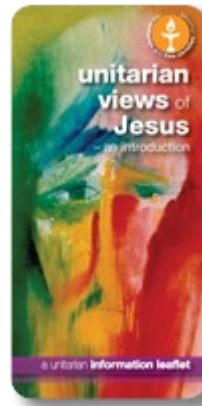
10) That this eighty-fourth General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches expresses its gratitude for the services provided by Reverend Dr Ann Peart as President during the year 2011-2012.

## Annual Meetings Keele 2012 Accounts

	2012	2012	2012	2011
Summary of Financial Results	Income	Expenditure	Balance	Balance
Accommodation and Conference Fees	88,422	83,903	<b>4,519</b>	14,872
Group Registration	3,931	0	<b>3,931</b>	4,189
Wood Green Trust	6,517	0	<b>6,517</b>	4,375
Other Donations to Meetings	276	0	<b>276</b>	861
Printing and Postage	0	3,257	<b>-3,257</b>	-3,172
Pre-AGM Expenses	0	818	<b>-818</b>	-1,056
Room Hire and Audio Visual	0	1,320	<b>-1,320</b>	-8,122
Speakers, Fees and Social event	0	2,188	<b>-2,188</b>	-2,371
Sundries	0	1,387	<b>-1,387</b>	-1,767
Travel	0	2,201	<b>-2,201</b>	-1,648
Youth Honoraria & Expenses	0	1,066	<b>-1,066</b>	-966
Transfer for future Meetings	0	0	<b>0</b>	0
Previous Year's transfer	0	0	<b>0</b>	0
	<b>99,146</b>	<b>96,069</b>	<b>3,077</b>	<b>5,195</b>



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