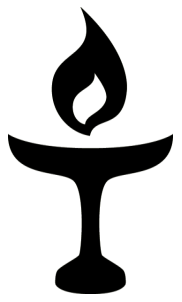


# Annual Reports

## 2013



General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

The Nightingale Centre

The Sustentation Fund





*Unitarians and Free Christians at the 2013 GA Meetings held at the Jubilee Campus of The University of Nottingham*

## Photographers

We would like to thank everyone who provided photographs for this report, particularly John Hewerdine and James Barry

**Cover images:** Mosaic of images by John Hewerdine.

The Eighty Fifth

# 2013 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*

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## GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### General Assembly President 2013-201, Rev Bill Darlison

I never expected that at the end of my presidential year I would be saying, 'This has been one of the best years of my life.' But I am saying it, and I mean it. It's been busy – barely a weekend free the whole time – but immensely enjoyable and rewarding. Everywhere we've gone, Morag and I have been treated graciously, maybe even royally, and we have *never* driven away from a church or chapel without remarking, 'Such fine people'.

It's also been a very educational year. Because I'd spent most of my ministerial career abroad, I didn't know the British Unitarian movement terribly well. I'd not taken services in more than about half-a-dozen churches before I went to Ireland in 1996, and I only seemed to meet up with British Unitarians at the annual General Assembly meetings. But now I've visited dozens of Unitarian places of worship and met with hundreds of people who have never been to a General Assembly. Consequently, I feel I know the movement well and can confidently report on its state of health.

In many ways it is thriving. Numbers are low and our age-profile is high, but the spirit of our members is buoyant and commitment is strong. In addition, our buildings are, almost without exception, beautiful, some breathtakingly so, and the love and sacrifice that have gone into their upkeep throughout the generations are evident to all. Some are obviously better fitted for contemporary worship than others, but everywhere I've detected a willingness to adapt and modify buildings where necessary and this is very encouraging. The One World café in Oldham, which I had the pleasure of opening in November, is an example of the imaginative use of our buildings and assets.

The Presidency has also given me the opportunity to meet Unitarians in other parts of the world. I went to Ireland twice, took part in the Australia and New Zealand Unitarian Universalist Association meetings in Auckland, and, as I write, I'm busy preparing for a trip to Transylvania. As Vice-President I took the greetings of the General Assembly to the Unitarians of Prague who were celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their church in 2012. To experience thriving liberal religious expression in communities throughout the world is very heartening.

Heartening, too, has been the way in which we seem to have embraced the modern media. An interview, two workshops and a Christmas message were all filmed during my presidential year, and all can be seen – along with reflections, worship and workshops presented by others – on UK Unitarian Television, which is playing a significant part in taking our message into the wider community. Lively Facebook pages and intelligent blogs by individual Unitarians show that we can hold our own in contemporary communications.

Among the highlights of the year were the valedictory services at UCM and Oxford, at which I was privileged to meet our new ministers and ministerial students. Their enthusiasm, commitment, and innovative spirit give me great hope for the future.

The Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in May, and the Armistice ceremony at the Cenotaph in November were unexpected pleasures. At both we were treated to royal canapés and crustless, triangular sandwiches, and after the Cenotaph ceremony I was able to speak at length with the new Chief Rabbi, the head of the Salvation Army in Europe, the Moderator of the Congregationalist Church in Britain, and Bishop Moth, the Roman Catholic bishop of the Armed Forces.

It has been my great privilege to serve as your President this year, and I would like to thank everyone who made it possible. Special thanks to my wife, Morag, who has served as my P.A., chauffeur, and companion during the lengthy hours spent travelling. Without her by my side the experience wouldn't have been nearly as productive or enjoyable.



*Rev Bill Darlison,  
President*

*Bill Darlison*

## 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.

The membership of the Executive Committee changed from April 2013 with the election of five members; two continuing - Joan Cook and Robert Ince - and three new - James Barry, Louise Rogers and Jacky Woodman. An induction process took place

### 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. It was 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:

- more students in ministry training than for many years.
- convening a meeting of District Association representatives and Executive Committee members for the first time to explore how to improve communications and work together.
- making a significant contribution towards the change in the law to allow same-sex marriage, particularly in religious premises.
- exploring as a community the sensitive



matter of assisted dying and ultimately reaching a decision at the Annual Meetings on a General Assembly policy approach.

- raising the public profile of the Unitarian movement and building stronger relationships with like-minded liberal religious communities and other progressive organisations.
- achieving a positive financial position during a period of growing austerity with pressure on “live giving” and ensuring control of spending.
- further efforts to embed Safeguarding arrangements within congregations and other bodies.
- initiating a major upgrade of the Essex Hall Information Technology systems.

### How are we doing against the targets?

In 2010 the Executive Committee 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 line with the previous commitment 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. It is extremely disappointing

to report that the quota for 2012/13, which drew on membership in mid-2012, continues to show a fall; this year of 84 from 3,468 to 3,384. It was announced at the Annual Meeting that work would be undertaken by the Executive Committee to look at other measures of congregational health and a survey of congregations was developed for November 2013.

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. In view of the small numbers the decisions of individuals can have a major impact. Our view continues to be that the target of 50 ministers by 2015 is likely to be achieved. There are however concerns about the funding of training, of the number of ministries available and also the ability of congregations to fund full-time positions. The Sustentation Fund has reviewed its policies on grant-giving in order to increase financial support where it can have an impact and supports local initiative.



*New and Retiring Ministers, with the Chief Officer, GA President and Anniversary Service Preacher*

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. 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

The Local Leadership Strategy Group is taking forward a modular training programme.

### **Service Planning**

A service plan was developed which brought together the key objectives and activities of the General Assembly and was considered with the budget planning process in September 2013. It is planned that a more participatory process will take place in 2014 in preparation for 2014/15.

### **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 and how a very difficult financial climate has been negotiated. Spending has been controlled and income maintained. 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. In 2013/14 it is planned to review the reserves policy of the General Assembly. A financial development review will also be taken forward to look at the longer term given the pressures on income and explore how the agreed ending of financial support from the Bowland Trust will ultimately be managed.

The EC would like to thank Robert Ince for continuing to serve as Acting Treasurer in addition to his trustee role.

### **Communications**

The Executive Committee re-allocated the "EC link" roles following its reconstitution in April 2013. The report of the consultation meeting held on 17 November 2012 at Cross Street Chapel, Manchester was considered by the Executive Committee in January 2013 and a number of actions implemented to improve communications. Other issues are being taken forward by the Strategy Groups. Key Messages are circulated after each meeting to *The Inquirer*, *The Unitarian* and in Uni-news. The agreed Minutes of Executive Committee meetings are also available via Uni-news and the agenda of EC meetings is now circulated in advance to District Secretaries.

### **Social Justice and Visibility**

The Unitarian movement has continued to receive increasing media coverage – both in print and online – drawing upon our distinctive values. The passage of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act in July 2013, which relates to England and Wales, and moves to promote equal marriage in Scotland, saw considerable media interest in an inclusive Unitarian perspective.



*Ministerial Student Shammy Webster and Pat Webster renewing their vows*

Following the decision of the Annual Meetings in 2012 to refer the motion on assisted dying back for further consultation, a number of congregational and district meeting were held in preparation for a further motion at the 2013 Annual Meetings. The Consultation Report has been well received as a distinctive and well-presented discussion of the issues and has been used by other faith-based organisations. Following the approval of the Resolution on assisted dying, work has continued, particularly with parliamentarians, lobby groups and leaders of other faith groups. Work on penal reform has been pursued by the Penal Affairs Group and on a number of other public affairs issues.

We have used these opportunities to build relationships with a range of like-minded faith and secular groups and raised our visibility in the public arena, recognising that it is only by working together that we can achieve real change. The Chief Officer has enhanced his role as an effective

ambassador for the Movement externally which was recognised by his election as a Trustee of the Inter Faith Network of the UK and his Award of Excellence in the National Diversity Awards in September 2013.

Support was offered to the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists and the International Association of Religious Freedom in their work to promote liberal religion in all parts of the world.

In the later part of 2013 the Executive Committee launched an Appeal for The Philippines in conjunction with The Red Cross following a damaging typhoon and £20,000 was raised in a few weeks.

### **2020 Congregational Development Programme**

With funding in place of £100,000 (committed and pledged) the Leadership Team have taken forward the programme with efforts to communicate its purposes, invite applications and promote fund-raising. The programme has focused attention on what can be done at local level to develop new fellowships and congregations or encourage renewal.

### **Risk Management and Public Benefit**

The risk register was reviewed in July 2013 resulting in a number of changes reflecting an assessment of the current risks facing the General Assembly. The Executive Committee 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 2013

The 2013 Annual Meetings took place at the University of Nottingham on 11 – 14 April 2013 and provided an excellent opportunity for Unitarians to meet and debate serious issues of concern, join together in worship and celebration and learn together.



*Jubilee Campus, Nottingham -  
2013 Annual Meetings Venue*

## Organisation

The Executive Committee met as follows during 2012/13:

16/17 November 2012	Manchester
4/5 January 2013	London
22/23 February 2013	Manchester
17 May 2013	London
12/13 July 2013	London
13/14 September 2013	London

The Executive Committee would like to record its thanks to former members Cathie Masztalerz and Rev David Usher for their contribution to the work of the General Assembly.

## Executive Committee Election

As reported last year the Executive Committee elections took place in late 2012. In early 2013 the Electoral Panel met and reviewed the procedures that governed the process and submitted a report to the Executive Committee. This was received and will be presented for consideration by the new Electoral Panel to be established for the next election. The Executive Committee would record its thanks to the Electoral Panel members; Jill Hudson, Wade Miller-Knight and Howard Wilkins.

## Essex Hall

The Essex Hall building is owned by an independent trust, the Essex Hall Trust.

The Trustees of the Essex Hall Trust generously provide the General Assembly with free office space, including Business Rates, utility bills and service charges and provide a grant. The General Assembly also receives a contribution towards staffing costs reflecting the management and financial services provided to the Trust. As you will see in the Financial Report, the current value of this 'Gift-in-Kind' is estimated at £123,750 of which the direct value of the office space is estimated at £70,000.

The General Assembly has always sought to use these resources efficiently and effectively. The amount of office space required has reduced due to changes in working patterns and technology. The General Assembly has therefore been in discussions with the Essex Hall Trustees about reducing the amount of office space it occupies. During 2014, the General Assembly will therefore relocate some of its staff within the building. It is hoped this will further strengthen the financial position of the Trust and its continued support of the General Assembly.



The Executive Committee would like to thank the Essex Hall Trustees for this support.

### **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 small staff team provide a necessary resource and the continuity that is essential to take forward numerous projects. The staff team has worked well together and it was sad to lose Dr Carwyn Tywyn, Welsh Department Secretary following his resignation in September 2013.

The key focus for staff is, of course, organising the Annual Meetings. Essex Hall remains a first point of contact for Unitarians and non-Unitarians alike and provides a range of services to congregations and to various Unitarian bodies. Some of the areas where staff are involved is outlined elsewhere in this report, however, much of the day-to-day work often goes unnoticed.

Essex Hall also provides management and financial services to the British and Foreign Unitarian Association Incorporated and the Essex Hall Trust. The Executive Committee would like to thank the Chief Officer and staff at Essex Hall for their work and commitment.

A major programme to renew the Information Technology infrastructure and services is currently underway following a detailed review of needs. This will result in improved services to the wider Unitarian movement as well as enhanced facilities for staff. Another major project initiated during the year is the relocation of General Assembly staff to more suitable accommodation within the context of other tenancy changes in the building.

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 who continued to provide support in a volunteer capacity for the Associate Member scheme, and to Howard Hague for his voluntary work on archives.

*By Rev Martin Whitell,  
EC Convenor*



### **Investment Panel**

*By Michael Tomlin*

The Investment Panel grew out of the unofficial panel set up to monitor the General Assembly’s portfolio of stocks and shares some 30-40 years ago by Albert Forrester and Geoffrey Head. At the same time the Ministers’ Pension Fund had been using Singer and Friedlander as their investment advisors investing in a portfolio of stocks and shares. The trustees of the Pension Fund became concerned that our affairs were not receiving the attention we considered was our due. We therefore held a “beauty parade” and appointed Hendersons as the investment managers.

An approach was then made to the General Assembly to join us so that we would have more influence. And so at first the panel consisted of the General Assembly and the Ministers Pension Fund using an investment manager investing in pooled funds rather than having each charity investing its funds in a variety of stocks and shares being advised by a stockbroker.

This arrangement continued for a number of years until in 2002 Hendersons decided to sell their Charity portfolio to Newtons - part of the American Mellon Group. We were told that the same investment managers would

be looking after our affairs and this arrangement has continued from then on.

As time has gone by other Unitarian and similar charities have joined the investment panel investing their assets with Newtons so that as of October 2013 there is some £17m under Newton management. The majority of the funds are presently invested in Newtons Global Growth and Income Fund and on a comparison with other similar funds over a period of 10 years the Global Growth Fund is amongst the leaders. Some readers may remember a presentation by a member of the Newton team when they were promoting their Social Responsibility Investment fund at the GA Meetings in Keele. This fund is yielding a lower rate of growth and income due to the investment constraints.

Any Unitarian church or charity is welcome to join with us. Certain changes in administration are under way because of more stringent rules for investment managers but we are advised we should not be affected overmuch by these changes.

## **Sustentation Fund**

*By Michael Tomlin*

In October 2012 the members of the Sustentation Fund met for their annual review of the Fund's finances, to make recommendations for grants to be made and also review how the Sustentation Fund relates to the present view of ministry and how grants from the Fund can make a difference.

As a result of our deliberations it was felt we needed a special meeting to include members of the Ministry Strategy Group to decide on our way forward. The meeting was duly held in May 2013 and as a result of this a paper was sent out to all congregations explaining the new way we proposed to allocate grants in future.

It is recognised that the grants at present make up only a small portion of a minister's stipend. In 2012-13 the maximum grant to a congregation for a full time minister was £1,300 against a stipend ranging from £19,392 to £20,844. It was therefore felt that the fund should in future consider making grants for shorter periods, 3 - 5 years, and make somewhat larger grants to a smaller number of congregations or groups.

It was emphasised that when a congregation or group applied for a grant we needed to see a copy of all the accounts prepared for the running of the congregation or group and we also needed to see a budget for the coming year with explanations of any marked differences between the year under review and the budget year.

It was also stressed that an average minimum of £5 per week live giving would be required before a grant would be considered. Live giving to include Gift Aid tax, cash in plate donations and receipts from any gift day appeal.

The fund would also take into account development proposals from the congregation or group. The fund would support District initiatives for multi-congregational ministries which would include proposals for lay leadership in smaller congregations.

## **2020 Group**

*By Ash James*

The 2020 Congregational Development Programme was established to enable and support new and rekindled congregations across Great Britain. By the year 2020 the hope is that at least a dozen such congregations will be in place.

The 2020 team have worked extremely hard this year to both establish protocols and raise the funding essential for such developments to commence.



We were delighted to achieve the initial £100,000 milestone in pledges and donations we believe necessary to support new or rekindled growth over an initial five year start-up period. This meant that `Expressions of Interest` could be sought by a deadline date of September 27<sup>th</sup> 2013. Six such submissions were made, whilst a further three enquiries requested more general advice and support.

Following on from this, further, more detailed `Formal Applications` are expected by a number of these groups with a deadline of February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014. We hope therefore that by late Spring 2014, this will enable the 2020 Group to make a recommendation to the Executive Committee (EC) of the General Assembly, for the first new or rekindled 2020 growth. This will of course be subject to satisfying the rigorous criteria for such growth, as agreed with the EC.

Once established such new growth will be provided with ongoing support and training for the first five years of development. This training will also have relevance to all congregations interested in growth, whatever their status. So we very much hope that we shall become a further point of resource for those determined to grow Unitarianism.

A Training Day has already been held in Birmingham (May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013), and a Training Week open to all and led by the 2020 Team is planned at Great Hucklow (May 11<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014). In addition, there have been information and support sessions at Essex Hall (July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013) Unitarian College Manchester (23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2013) Highland Place, Aberdare (South East Wales Unitarians, 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2013), and FUSE (South East Unitarians, 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2014) plus visits to individual congregations who sought advice.

A website has been established at [www.2020unitarian.org](http://www.2020unitarian.org) to carry all 2020 information, plus a Facebook site. A 2020 explanatory booklet has been widely distributed and updates on progress announced via the Unitarian media and social networks. So it has been an extremely busy and demanding first working year.

None of this would have been possible without the efforts of the committed team who so passionately believe in this bold project. The existing group of Rev Andy Pakula (New Unity), Rev Martin Whitell (Portsmouth), Sue Cooper (York), Jane Couper (Evesham), Andy Phillips (Belper), and Ash James (Kidderminster) were joined in June 2013 by Claire MacDonald (York).



*The 2020 Leadership Team*

*L-R: Ash James, Sue Cooper, Andy Pakula, Martin Whitell, Jane Couper, Andy Phillips*



*New Member,  
Claire MacDonald*

Face to face meetings of the team are kept to a minimum to reduce expenditure. There are though regular telephone conferences and constant email discussions. In turn, the support of other volunteers has been significant. For example, Phill Jenkins and Geo Meadows have given invaluable help in constructing the website and creating the 2020 video.

We are delighted also to have the support of 2020 Consultants the Rev John Harley (National Youth Coordinator, GA), Rev Rob Gregson (Programme Director of Simple Gifts at the Unitarian Centre For Social Action), Rev Ant Howe (Kingswood Unitarians) and Rev Tandi Rogers (Growth Strategist, UUA).

In addition, an essential network of supporters and volunteers has been established to both inform and advise upon growth ideas. We must stress that none of this work would have been possible but for wonderful donors who have committed to supporting the £100,000 needed for these developments.

We expect the coming twelve months will see 2020 working closely with the first new growth, whilst also attempting to raise the second tranche of £100,000 in pledges and donations required to support the next round of 'Expressions of Interest'. At the same time, the team will be continuing to

provide training opportunities and a resource base for everyone interested in congregational growth.

We are grateful for the inspiration provided by previous GA growth strategies and teams, and for the ongoing examples of initiatives taking place around the country. We certainly do not pretend to possess all the answers. We do believe though that locally-driven ideas involving the creation of new or substantially renewed existing congregations will be the most likely to succeed. So we will continue to strongly encourage new members, consultants, supporters and of course, donors, to help with this exciting challenge of growing Unitarianism across Great Britain. If you can help in any way, please do get in touch!



*The 2020 Stall at the Annual Meetings*

# LOCAL LEADERSHIP

## Support for Congregations

### Local Leadership

By Margaret Robinson

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 advice and support to congregations and districts
- providing facilitation services to congregations and districts.

**Safeguarding:** A large number of people have attended the Safeguarding and Volunteer training days at Essex Church, Kensington, London in October 2012, Cross Street Chapel, Manchester in November 2012 and Bristol in April 2013, organised by the Local Leadership Strategy Group (LLSG) together with Rev John Harley and the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS). A further Safeguarding training day was held at Ullet Road, Liverpool in November 2013.

**2013 GA Annual Meetings:** The LLSG ran successful workshops at these Meetings on Safeguarding, Worship, Caring for Volunteers and 'What does the LLSG do?'. Also the results of the Big Red Telephone congregation survey, which was carried out in 2012-2013, were shared. An Information leaflet and a Modular Training Scheme flyer were produced and launched.

**Modular Training Scheme:** A foundation-level modular scheme has been put together by the LLSG. It incorporates some established schemes and others which are in development. Each topic can be offered as a one-day 'taster' workshop, as well as a full foundation-level course of three to four

days. These modules will be LLSG-certified so that participants can build up a training portfolio. These courses will be offered at national and district level in response to demand. A Pastoral Care 'taster' day is to be held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at Cross Street, Manchester.

**Congregational Assessment Process:** Two congregations have been visited in the past year using the Congregational Assessment Process.

**Worship packs:** Two worship packs were produced during the year: One for the 200th Anniversary of the Unitarian Toleration Act 1813, written by Derek McAuley, was launched at the 2013 GA Annual Meetings. Following on from a Resolution, passed at the 2013 GA Annual Meetings, regarding establishing a Unitarian Peace Day, a worship pack on Peace was produced jointly by the LLSG and the Peace Fellowship and sent to congregations in October 2013.



### Worship Resource Material for the Unitarian Day of Prayer for Peace



Compiled by John Phillip Carter and edited by Sue Woolley on behalf of the Local Leadership Strategy Group, September 2013.

General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, London WC2R 3HY

**The Worship Studies Courses:** There were fifty-eight participants on the Foundation Step, fifteen on the Intermediate Step, two on the Advanced Step, and four on the Unitarian Studies Course. Each Foundation Step, held at Kensington, London; York and Bolton had a good retention rate. In 2014, the Midland Unitarian Association and the Western Union are running Foundation Step courses. New guidelines for assessors and a new assessment form have been developed, adopted for the whole Worship Studies Course. Thank you to all the trainers and assessors who have given of their time to make these courses so successful.

**The Chalice Award Scheme:** Two Silver Award Certificates for Eleanor and Martha Parry and one Bronze Award Certificate for Noah Parry, were awarded at Dunham Road Unitarian Chapel. In order to celebrate these achievements, a Teddy Bears Picnic was held in June for Eleanor, Martha, Noah and the congregation.



*Children have started using the Chalice Award here at the Octagon Chapel, Norwich*

The Octagon Chapel at Norwich have several children starting the Green Award and three children are beginning the Green level and three the Bronze level at York Unitarians. Information about the Chalice Award Scheme can be found on the GA website.

**fm (Future Ministry) - Scotland:** The future ministry pilot, which has been running in Scotland, is to be formally concluded by the April 1st 2014. Training days on bereavement and pastoral care have been held and Training for Office Bearers is to take place in the spring or early summer of 2014.

**District Religious Education Coordinators (RECs):** Thank you to the RECs who continue to serve their districts. There are a number of Districts who are looking for volunteers to fill this role.

**REvolution:** It is planned to run a second REvolution course from October 2014 to October 2015, with the following leaders: Rev John Harley, Rev Chris Goacher, Liz Hills and Claire Maddocks.

**Buddying:** The LLSG are hoping to introduce a buddying or local liaison system where each congregation receives a minimum of one phone call each year from a LLSG link representative (ambassador) to build relationships with congregations.

Thanks go to all the volunteers who have served on the LLSG, Training Action Group, Facilitation & Services Action Group, and helped in any way to improve local leadership.

### **The Building Advisory Group**

The Group has had a busy year, conducting most of its business by email, meeting once, in August, at Birmingham New Meeting. This year saw Zoe Bremer join us as a welcome addition to membership of the Group.

The purpose of the Buildings Advisory Group is to offer guidance and practical support on developing, financing, and



maintaining congregational buildings. The main focus of the Group this year, as in previous ones, has been on responding to requests for assistance from various Unitarian places of worship and other denominational buildings. These requests are usually submitted via Unitarian Headquarters.

Enquiries [new and ongoing] handled this year include [in alphabetical order]:

Ainsworth: Possible closure - put in touch with the Historic Chapels Trust.

Birmingham New Meeting: contacted us with regard to a reduction in energy requirements for the building - the building was visited, and a plan of possible actions was submitted.

Bridgwater: consulted us about upgrading the present heating system, to suit a building having very intermittent occupancy. Suggestions have been made.

Bury: Questions about general building maintenance matters.

Chatham: We were contacted for advice concerning updating the building to make it efficient and attractive to worshippers.

Dr Williams's Library: There is potential for improvement to the efficiency of the existing heating system. The library was visited and a plan of action was suggested.

Dukinfield: A problem with water leaks occurring in the Chapel's central heating system. Two visits have been made, and a resulting plan of suggested action has been submitted.

Essex Hall, London: The Group is now represented on the both the Trustee Body and Management Committee, and so has direct input to proposals for developing the accommodation for rent to outside organisations, and for maintaining the efficiency and flexibility of the building's services systems such as heating and air-conditioning.

Hastings: are considering redevelopment of the building and contacted us for advice.



*One of the beautiful stained glass windows at Hastings Church*

Horsham: are obtaining a quinquennial review - guidance has been provided.

Newcastle [Church of the Divine Unity]: We were contacted regarding the urgent need for major, costly, remedial works. An outline report listing some alternative approaches to the problem was prepared and submitted to the Church.

Plymouth: Ongoing guidance and feedback provided concerning the new heating system for the building.

Other activities:

Group members have attended a Churches Tourism Association conference, a seminar on Grants for Places Of Worship, and a seminar on Approach to Bio-diversity Offsetting.

The group provided a presence at the 2013 GA Meetings.

Group members are also involved in planning at a parish council level and in heritage groups including campaigns to preserve and repair two historic places associated with worship.

The group are on the electronic mailing lists of various heritage organisations.



## 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 2013, held from 17th to 24th August, was “Living at the Edge - how do we find meaning in the margins where we find ourselves”. A team of theme speakers gave daily talks on this subject: Rev Rob Gregson, John Naish, Kate Buchanan, Rev Jim Corrigan and Rev Winnie Gordon. 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)



*The Nightingale Centre,  
home of Hucklow Summer School*

Four different morning engagement groups were offered to adults: “On the Edge of Nature” with Rev Nancy Crumbine and Julie Dadson; “Postcards from the Edge” with Rev Sheena Gabriel and Stephen Crowther; “Recovering Who You Are” with Rev Michael Dadson and Alison Thursfield; and “Odyssey for the Soul” with Jim Blair and Rev John Harley.

The young people's engagement group was “Living More Simply” with Caroline Boyce and Glenn Van Lint. 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 was also offered by participants.

Summer School was at full capacity this year despite the increase in cost. It was attended by 56 adults and 4 children and young people. 10 of the participants were first-timers and 4 were returners after a number of years. 9 people received help



from the Summer School bursary fund this year. We shall have to find other ways of fund-raising for the bursary fund.

We are losing Alison Thursfield and Rev Elizabeth Birtles from the planning group this year, both of whom have been positive supporters of Summer School over the years. For four years Alison has made a substantial contribution to Summer School planning as well as leading engagement groups and contributing reflective sessions to the programme of optional activities. Elizabeth has provided invaluable support for all as Minister of the Week for the past two years. We thank Alison and Elizabeth not just for all their hard work but also for the way they have influenced the religious nature of summer school. Our first planning meeting for Hucklow Summer School 2014 will be in September.

## **Safeguarding**

The General Assembly has continued in its quest to raise the profile of safeguarding issues within our congregations, fellowships and the Youth Programme. One key message we hope the whole Unitarian community appreciates is that the safeguarding of vulnerable adults, children, young people and indeed all of us is of paramount importance and significance.

Safeguarding is much wider than child protection; it is about ensuring children and adults are safe and free to learn and explore, for leaders to have the confidence to do their valuable work within a supportive framework and for strategies and guidelines to be firmly in place in case there are problems.

Gone are the days, we hope, when we overhear comments like 'Oh we don't have to bother about safeguarding – we don't have any kids here' or 'That safeguarding policy is just another bureaucratic paper pushing exercise that isn't relevant for a small church like us' etc.

Judging from the sheer numbers of participants who have attended our Safeguarding Training days up and down the country we are slowly changing the culture to a more common sense, engaged and informed mind-set towards this topic.

The General Assembly has now completed training days at a number of locations including: London, The Nightingale Centre, Bristol, Manchester, the Nottingham Annual Meetings and, most recently, Liverpool in November 2013.

The GA Safeguarding team continue to be available to field any questions about any safeguarding issues: Rev John Harley, Rev Linda Phillips & Derek McAuley. Congregations are also welcome to speak directly to the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service helpline for advice.

John Harley continues to process DBS checks (Disclosure Vetting and Barring Scheme – formally called CRB checks) for any youth leaders or those in Unitarian communities who have substantial and regular contact with children or vulnerable adults. Linda Phillips is responsible for dealing with DBS checks for Ministers, lay leaders, lay pastors and students.

Individuals may like to know that DBS checks are now portable and are valid for a new job or role if applicants register with the Update Service. This has to be done within 2 weeks of a DBS check being completed.

# MINISTRY

## A Wider View of Where We're Going

### Ministry—The Big Picture

*By Stephen Lingwood*

The Ministry Strategy Group has been tasked with envisioning a ministry that is able to develop and lead thriving liberal religious communities. This is no small task as the challenges we face in the Unitarian community today are huge. Many of our congregations are in decline and in most cases it will only be excellent, innovative and entrepreneurial ministry that will reverse this decline.

The Ministry Strategy Group has two main roles. The first is overseeing the day-to-day management of the ministry rolls in the denomination (working alongside the Director of Ministry). This involves running Ministry Inquiry Days, overseeing the Interview Panel, and other issues such as safeguarding clearances. The second role is to strategically plan long-term changes that will meet the challenges of ministry in the twenty-first century.

**Ministry training** continues to be the most pressing issue, and the one on which we have spent the most time in the last year. This year we conducted a survey of those who had completed their training in the last eight years in order to better understand training needs for 21st century ministry.

We have also been developing a detailed **competency document** for Ministers. This has involved studying other denominations, speaking to the colleges, and conducting a consultation with the wider denomination. Many thanks to all of those Ministers and non-Ministers who responded to this consultation at last year's Annual Meetings and subsequently.

This work is now coming to an end and we have a clear sense of the skills, knowledge and competencies that Ministers will need to be agents of change and mission in the congregations they serve. We require

academic excellence, spiritual depth, and effective leadership skills of our Ministers. Some may say we are asking too much. But I firmly believe at this critical time it is essential that our Ministers are better trained and skilled than ever before.

But putting this into place effectively will be a huge challenge. At a time when we need to develop the most effective and suitable training our system of training faces a great crisis. Changes to higher education funding means Unitarian College Manchester is facing funding deficits which cannot be sustainable in the longer term. Our training at Harris Manchester College Oxford faces different but significant challenges. This is something that should concern every Unitarian. Our ministry training is in crisis and we need to consider ways forward. If it costs £20,000 to train a Unitarian Minister – how are we going to afford to pay for this? Or is there a more cost-effective way to do our training?

The Ministry Strategy Group has been holding **meetings with Unitarian College Manchester** to find a way to work together on these issues – but no clear consensus has yet been reached. We are committed to continue to work together to find a way forward to meet the challenges of ministry training at this time.

Training has dominated our meetings but we have begun to consider other issues. We are reviewing **the future of the Lay Pastor category** – including the proposal to rename this “Associate Minister.” We are consulting on this issue and welcome feedback on this proposal.

We have also met with the **Sustentation Fund** to consider the issue of congregational funding for ministry. We know that this is an important issue that will have to be considered in more detail in the near future.



## Interview Panel

By Rev Sarah Tinker

The Interview Panel has continued its regular cycle of work throughout the last year, meeting in Oxford in early January to conduct interviews with potential ministry students and meeting in May in London for final interviews with students who are about to complete their training.

The role of Director of Ministry continues to be vital to our work, ensuring that essential administrative tasks are carried out efficiently. The Rev Linda Phillips also provides invaluable guidance for individuals and congregations and we thank her for this.

In January 2013 we offered training places to Kate Buchanan, Kate McKenna (Oxford) and Philip Waldron (Manchester) to commence in autumn 2013.

During the academic year to the summer of 2013, 10 students were in training:

Harris Manchester College, Oxford: John Carter, Cody Coyne, Jo James, Matthew Smith, and Kate Whyman

Unitarian College Manchester: Ralph Catts, Maria Curtis, Winnie Gordon, Anna Jarvis and 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 and we would encourage our wider movement to give them every support and encouragement as they embark on this path.

## Director of Ministry

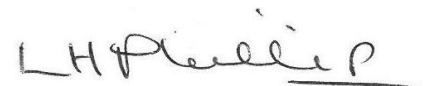
By Rev Linda Phillips



As Director of Ministry, I provide support to congregations, Ministers and Lay Pastors. Part of that role is to support the Ministry Strategy Group and the Interview Panel in their work; another to represent Unitarians in conversations about ministry which take place outside the denomination. As Stephen reports, the Ministry Strategy Group has been particularly busy, and this, combined with the unusually large number of ministry students and the number of inquiries from congregations about inclusion on the Vacancy List has resulted in a busy year for the Director of Ministry.

I have continued to conduct most of the operational functions associated with our ministry on behalf of the Ministry Strategy Group and Interview Panel. For example, this year, I have conducted a major update on Safeguarding clearances for those on our Rolls on behalf of the Ministry Strategy Group, and not only organised the correspondence and interviews for those who have offered themselves for training for the ministry, but also talked to and corresponded with a number of people who are considering taking this step.

Overall, I continue to believe that the role of Director of Ministry is key to the denomination achieving the Ministry Strategy Group's mission statement, and feel privileged to have been entrusted with it.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Phillips".

# VISIBILITY

## Visibility Strategy Group

By Diane Bennett and Phil Tomlin

The Visibility Strategy Group has taken forward several initiatives to help congregations and the national movement improve their public profile.

Media skills training was arranged with The Media Trust, the UK's leading communications charity which works with the media industry to empower charities and communities to "have a voice and be heard".



A small group spent a day developing their practical skills, with a particular focus on the issue of assisted dying in preparation for proactive work if the motion that was to be re-presented to the Annual Meetings was passed. The evaluation showed that all participants rated the training as very good in building their skills and increasing their knowledge and understanding.

Work took place on the development of a new General Assembly strapline. Views were sought using social media and a small group was convened which developed several proposals for consideration by the Visibility Strategy Group and then the Executive Committee. "Nurturing Faith, Embracing Life, Celebrating Difference" was selected.

Yvonne Aburrow delivered a one-day "train the trainers" workshop on use of social media which had potential to assist local congregations. It is envisaged that those trained will support local congregations on a district basis.

A workshop session on "Congregational Visibility" led by Angela Maher was held at the Annual Meetings. The group developed its working relationship with the Unitarian Communications Coordinators' Network (UCCN) and saw potential for promoting more widely the available resources for congregations currently on the GA and UCCN websites. Dorothy Haughton continued an occasional series of columns in *The Inquirer* which often addressed the theme of visibility. A workshop focusing on case studies of successful events was considered.

The group reviewed the proposal of having a national focus on a single social justice issue to be put forward to congregations for action but did not think this was feasible nor desirable given the diversity and varied interests of congregations. Discussions took place with the Chief Officer on a co-ordinated approach to social justice action. Further work took place on "Call to Action" guidance to support motions presented to the Annual Meetings.

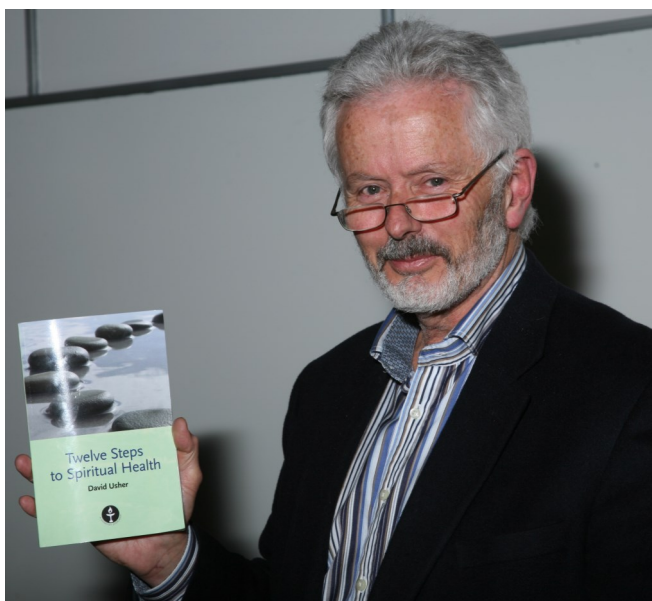
The group would like to thank all those who have supported and participated in its work during the year, in particular Dorothy Haughton and Angela Maher who unfortunately are no longer able to serve.



## Lindsey Press Panel

The Panel has met three times during the year. Derek McAuley joined us on one occasion.

We published two items, launching both at the Panel's slot at the Annual Meetings. One was David Usher's *Twelve Steps to Spiritual Health*, which has seen sales that compare very well with other recent publications.



*David Usher advertising his new book*

The other was the *Unidoodles* folder. This sold well at the Annual Meetings itself but there has been little further demand and, unlike *Twelve Steps* its production and format exclude it from internet sales. The considerable work of copy-editing *Twelve Steps* and seeing it to press was undertaken by Catherine Robinson.

David Dawson devised a four-page A5 colour leaflet advertising our current publications and this was distributed to all congregations.

Whilst some of our projected publications have done no more than develop slowly, we were very pleased to be able to receive an excellent manuscript from a complete

stranger, *Creationism, Design Errors and Crosspurposes*, which accords well with our Unitarian outlook. Work has gone ahead commissioning a stringent review and, subsequent to our accepting it, commissioning a foreword. We anticipate that it will be available for the 2014 Annual Meetings.

A very happy development has been the making available of out-of-print Lindsey Press Publications in digital form via the General Assembly web site, and we must pay tribute to the work of James Barry, initially whilst under contract to Essex Hall and subsequently as a volunteer, in scanning many thousands of pages and cleaning the scans.

## The Penal Affairs Panel (PAP) continues to be a social responsibility activity of the Unitarians.

It was created out of the General Assembly's "great concern at the poor conditions and regime at many local prisons" and directed to "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."

The year began with a submission for the Unitarians to the Parliamentary Joint Select Committee Inquiry on Women Offenders and a complaint to the Ministry of Justice. The usual consultation period on new penal policy and law was to be shortened to 28 days. This makes considered, useful responses difficult for groups like the PAP. The "liberal, religious voice" must now be quicker!

The PAP's work of keeping Unitarians informed about current penal policy has continued apace. The PAP Network has grown to nearly 300 members.

Three issues of PAP News have been published. Several articles and letters from the PAP have appeared in *The Inquirer*. A new PAP Issues Paper, No. 15, on "Votes for Prisoners" appeared during the year; it reaffirmed the PAP's commitment, first made in 2007, to the enfranchisement of all serving prisoners.

Drugs, their contribution to crime and the numbers in prisons, have been a concern of the PAP over many years. The PAP's contribution to the 2013 General Assembly Meetings was on "Illicit Drugs - Time to Rethink". Dave Barry, CBE, Chair of Make Justice Work, and Jane Slater of Transform Drug Policy Foundation were the two speakers. Dave Barry explained how the 500 registered opiate users in the UK in 1971 grew to 50,000 by 1991 and to 350,000 by 2011. Jane Slater suggested the need was to re-orientate drug controls away from criminal enforcement towards a health service-based approach. The delegates at the General Assembly took the message very clearly. What is needed is an independent, in-depth inquiry into drugs problems. The PAP's Motion calling for a Royal Commission, presented through the kind sponsorship of FOY, was passed overwhelmingly.

The Coalition Government's Secretary of State for the Home Office has rejected the Unitarian call for a Royal Commission as "unnecessary". The continuing work of the PAP, with the help of the PAP Network, has been to make the Drugs Resolution effective. Every Unitarian chapel, church, meeting and fellowship has been asked to write to its local MP calling for a Royal Commission into UK's drugs problems. Has yours written?

The work of the PAP has never been easy. The current Transparency of Lobbying Bill seems to threaten cooperation between the faith groups concerned with social action such as the Unitarians. The numbers in prison grow and conditions in prisons

worsen rather than improve. The flood of penal law and policy seems to deepen each year. The PAP's Tony Cann recently agreed with the Unitarians of Cairo Street Chapel, Warrington, that their forebear, John Howard, the Prison Reformer, "would not have been pleased with the lack of progress"!

Is social action part of your religious inquiry? The PAP needs new, enthusiastic members. For information, please contact: [bruce\\_chilton@hotmail.com](mailto:bruce_chilton@hotmail.com).

## **Social Justice and Profile Raising**

*By Derek McAuley, Chief Officer*

Social justice has been at the forefront of much of my work as Chief Officer over the past year and as a result we have managed to have some success in promoting a more inclusive society and in placing the Unitarian and Free Christian Movement in the public eye. I have, of course, worked closely with many other Unitarians and with other progressive organisations; faith and non-faith.

### **Social Justice**

The legislative process in Parliament for the introduction of same-sex marriage provided opportunities to highlight our distinctive stance. The legislation was passed in July 2013 and as a result of our efforts, with others, enables same-sex marriage ceremonies to be performed in religious buildings as well as civil settings. This was a major change from the original Government consultation paper. I was invited to give public evidence on behalf of the General Assembly to a Committee of the House of Commons in February 2013; the first time this has happened as far as I am aware. The evidence is available on [Parliament.tv](http://Parliament.tv) and in Hansard.



Our success was undoubtedly due to the close working with other faith groups; particularly The Quakers, and Liberal and Reform Judaism. I participated in a workshop convened by the Christian Muslim Forum on same-sex marriage. We continued our involvement with the Cutting Edge Consortium; working with trade unions and a range of voluntary and faith groups to challenge religion-based homophobia and transphobia.

It was pleasing to be one of the few representatives of faith groups to be invited to the Receptions held by the Prime Minister, and also the Deputy Prime Minister, to celebrate the passage of the Act. I have subsequently been involved in discussions on implementation of the legislation with a number of Government Departments.

The contribution of Unitarians to a more inclusive society was recognised in my Award of Excellence by the National Diversity Awards in September 2013



*Derek McAuley being honoured at the National Diversity Awards*

The issue of Assisted Dying remains one of the most sensitive areas of public debate as we found during the consultation process prior to consideration of the motion at the General Assembly. The consultation paper has, we understand, been widely disseminated outside the Denomination and is seen as an excellent contribution to the debate. Unitarians have been active in the newly established Inter-Faith Leaders for Dignity in Dying (IFDiD), led by Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain, and Rev Sarah Tinker and Robert Ince have spoken at events. We await further progress with Lord Falconer's Bill in the House of Lords in 2014.

At the end of the year concerns were expressed regarding the effects of the 'Transparency of Lobbying, Non Party Campaigning and Trade Union Bill' which would certainly impede the ability of the General Assembly to engage in public debate and we have worked with other churches and voluntary groups to influence Parliament.

The group on Penal Affairs has continued its work as reported elsewhere in the report and Unitarian Headquarters has provided support, including corresponding with the Home Office on the Resolution on drug law reform passed at the Annual Meetings. Karen Hanley has continued to represent the General Assembly on the churches' parliamentary RADAR group enabling a Unitarian voice amongst the parliamentary staff of the various churches. Alan Ruston and I have ensured that there is always representation at the Churches Legislative Advisory Service (CLAS) quarterly gatherings.



## Inter Faith and Religious Freedom

I said last year that Unitarians must remain at the centre of interfaith work and build partnerships and in May 2013 I was elected as an Executive Committee member (trustee) of the Inter Faith Network of the UK. We continue to give active support to the British Chapter of the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF), including hosting committee meetings at Essex Hall. The celebration of 200 years of Unitarian freedom has been an opportunity to promote freedom of religion more generally in various media, including "Church Times". There was excellent Unitarian participation in a conference in Horsham convened by the IARF, the World Congress of Faiths and the Horsham Interfaith Forum. My interest in Christian Aid has been sustained and the ongoing Unitarian presence is valued.



*International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) Members at the Bahai Headquarters*

## Media Presence

The Unitarian support for equal marriage following that of civil partnerships in religious premises has generated coverage on national television, radio and the press as well as online media. This has resulted in some seeking further information as reflected in views of the General Assembly's website and in use of the search term "Unitarian" on goggle. News releases are regularly issued from Unitarian Headquarters. The Chief Officer's blog on the GA website has now received nearly 16,000 hits and is viewed from around the world, spreading liberal religion far and wide.

Congregations and Ministers are taking opportunities to achieve local coverage and some have explored the use of social media. Unitarian Headquarters regularly acts as a link between the media and national and local spokespersons on particular issues.

## Unitarian Media

I have continued the monthly "View from Essex Hall" in *The Unitarian* and regularly written in *The Inquirer*. Uni-news, sent to the General Assembly's email distribution list, remains an effective way to communicate with a group of engaged Unitarians. Executive Committee "Key Messages" are circulated using *The Inquirer* and Uni-news.

# YOUTH

## Our Future



*The Children's Story at the Anniversary Service*

In 2012-13 the **membership** of the Youth Panel consisted of; Ella Field, John Harley, Claire Maddocks, Andrew Mason, Vanessa Rothwell, Sue Talbot, and youth representatives. In June 2013 the Youth Panel welcomed Sarah Atkinson (with Jen Hazel stepping into the breach when needed) representing the senior end of the programme. At this time Christina Smith also joined us as parent representative. We hope they will all enjoy making a positive contribution to our activities. Finally, we'd like to express a special thank you to Helen Hooley for her much valued parental contribution over the years.

During 2013 the youth programme delivered its annual programme of 9 **residential events**, and contributed to the provision at the GA Meetings. Again we received lots of positive feedback from January's **Youth Sunday** pack, this year in the format of a wonderfully moving piece on CD. The wheels are already in motion to produce next year's worship packs, which will be different again.

In March we took all the juniors through the 'Discover' **Arts Award**, and at the October weekend they were presented with their certificates. Arts Awards are nationally recognised qualifications, and were recognised in the Henley review in cultural education. The awards encourage creativity, independence and collaboration. Hopefully we will have inspired some of the children to take this award onto the next 'Explorer' level, and perhaps some of the

leaders to continue this work within the Youth Programme and beyond.

In June Emma Nichols joined us as our new marketing/**publicity officer**. Emma is an Outreach and Communication Coordinator at The University of Manchester, and also leads the 'Nurturing Spirit' programme at Cross Street Chapel, so is ideally suited to undertaking this role on behalf of the Youth Panel. She is currently working on producing the Youth Programmes first e-newsletter ('YUP News'), and her next focus will be to update our web presence and to develop our social media provision.

We continued our rolling programme of **training** in 2013. This included our ongoing training and mentoring support for new leaders helping run the residential weekends, and delivery of a special tailored Safeguarding Training Day in November. Throughout the next year, the Youth Panel will be championing all youth workers involved in the national youth programme (in the first instance) to complete the NSPCC Online Safeguarding Training Tool.

Looking ahead to the next two years, the Youth Panel is in the process of developing a programme of '**Moments of Magic**' projects, which will run concurrently to the youth programme's present activities. We are now assessing which initiatives to take forward, to generate the greatest reach and impact, for optimal use of fundraised proceeds.

In the summer Sue, Vanessa and John were invited to **speak at the EC**. We presented a review of current youth provision by the National Youth Programme, and also a strategic view of the future. This was a mutually constructive experience, and has led to a lot of discussion about our options for the future, including a consultation on the potential introduction of a Youth Strategy Group.

We must again thank all those who so freely give their time, energy and enthusiasm to the Youth Programme – without you we wouldn't be able to make such a positive impact to so many young lives.



## WELSH DEPARTMENT



*Marking the 200 Year Anniversary of the Trinity Act with a walk at Cardiff St Fagan's*

In May 2013, we saw three changes in the membership of the Welsh Department Committee. Julie Nedin joined in her capacity as the new President of the South East Wales Society. Also elected were Diana Bianchi and Keith Lewis-Jones. On behalf of the Welsh Department, I would like to thank Phillip Griffiths, Anne Jones and Ken Morgan for their work over the last few years on this Committee.

The work of the Welsh Department invariably involves the two Districts and the congregations in Wales, including the Bangor Unitarians.

This report is based on the work of the Welsh Department Secretary up until August 2013 and the continuing work of the Department since.

### Activities undertaken:

- Prepared and facilitated the Welsh Department Workshop at 2013 GA on Visibility, which was very well attended
- Prepared and facilitated three workshops in the South Wales District on governance and leadership
- Collated, edited, published and distributed the "Our Faith" pamphlet to note 200 years of the Trinity Act.
- Completed the process of establishing a draft constitution to be used as a template for the chapels in the South Wales District

- Visited Bangor Unitarians, including participation in a service, followed by an informal discussion on wider Unitarian matters
- Visited congregational officers at Trebanos, Swansea and Nottage Chapels to discuss governance issues, and followed up these discussions
- Prepared and delivered an address to Brondeifi chapel congregation, including calling on Brondeifi to continue in dialogue with the officers of the South Wales District
- Organised a prominent panel of speakers for a Public Meeting at the National Eisteddfod, Denbigh held in August 2013 on the theme of "The internet: the future of faith in Wales?" This event attracted a very good audience and an interview on BBC Radio Cymru the following Sunday
- Contributed to the organisation of Carmarthen Unitarians, including attracting one new member and leading one service (and providing a baby for a naming service!)
- Represented the Unitarians on BBC Radio Cymru on two occasions regarding equal marriage rights
- Cooperated with Keith Lewis-Jones regarding the Unitarians Wales Website and Twitter
- Co-organised the South East Wales Society Summer Rally at Brondeifi, Chapel
- Made regular contributions to 'Yr Ymfynnydd' and the South East Wales Society Newsletters
- Represented the Unitarians on the Christian Aid Wales Committee, the Wales Interfaith Council and the Pantyfedwen Trust. Met with one of the 'Quakers Wales' organisers, and agreed on possible future areas of co-operation



# THE NIGHTINGALE CENTRE

## A Spiritual Home



It has been another year of challenge and achievement. The Nightingale Centre had a difficult start to the year with heavy snow affecting the attendance of several groups. Despite the difficult trading environment, cancellations at short notice and small group sizes the Manager, Staff and Management Committee have worked hard at exercising financial discipline whilst endeavouring to continue to improve the experience of all those who are guests at the Centre.

### Improvements at the Centre

The sun lounge has proved to be a very popular additional facility and guest feedback on the standard of catering, the overall level of service and the on-going improvements has been heart-warming.



*Guests enjoying the Sun Lounge*

We attach great importance to the feedback given in the Guest Surveys and if we are able will action requests or recommendations.

We have also focused on improving our grounds and gardens. If you have been to the Centre this year you will likely have sampled the home-grown fruit, vegetables and herbs. The courgettes even won first prize at Eyam show! We congratulate Sam, the staff member who cares for the vegetable and fruit garden, for successfully developing this aspect of the Centre's sustainability policy. Growing as much of our own food as possible is but one part of this policy which also includes extensive recycling, fitting energy saving devices, using local suppliers and rainwater harvesting.



*The refurbished Lounge*

We have worked closely with the Peak District National Park Authority in developing sustainability projects. It is in fact money from the Peak Park sustainability fund which is financing the Roundhouse project.

It is an authentic replica of the sort of structure that existed in the Peak District in the Iron Age world and they see it as fulfilling lots of sustainability criteria.

The structure is built from local renewable materials so it will not only help children to

learn about an ancient culture in the Peak District but will also help them to see how past methods can be used to advantage in the present.

Young people from a number of groups are involved including pupils from Great Hucklow School, members of Peak District Young Archaeologists and students from Sheffield University.

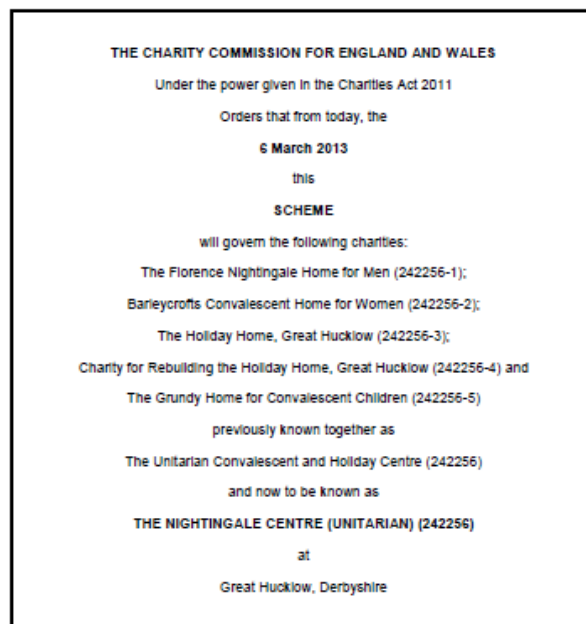


*The Roundhouse*

The Roundhouse, being a large circular structure, will give a cosy atmospheric meeting space. Stella, our Centre Manager, has a vision of young people talking, singing or listening to stories while sitting around the central fire and enjoying toasted marshmallows.

Other projects underway include retiling the lower roofs, planning the improvements to the play area and engaging with a village project to bring high speed broadband to Great Hucklow. We extend a warm invitation to all Unitarians who may not have been to the Centre for a number of years to come and have a look around.

## Charity Commission Scheme



Steven Joshua

A member of staff of the Charity Commission authorised to act on behalf of the Charity Commission

Reference Number: 853/1213  
Case Number: C-349871

1

The new Charity Commission Scheme relating to The Nightingale Centre was sealed in March 2013. One of the primary concerns was to ensure that the religious purpose of the Unitarian movement was explicitly recognised in the stated object of the charity. The object now reads:-

*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.

The object is significant in determining the split between charitable and non-charitable trading. Our accounts this year recognise the new object. The percentage of charitable trading is shown in the financial summary.

## Marketing

Once again the Centre has had lots of good news to share. We want as many people as possible to be aware of the Centre's improved facilities and our continuing to provide an enjoyable stay for our guests while keeping our prices as low as we possibly can manage.

And we want people to be aware of our ever developing environmental credentials.



We have continued to make good use of our own website to communicate what we have to offer. But in addition we have been using other information sources. For example, to attract large groups we have continued to benefit from the use of the site: [groupaccommodation.com](http://groupaccommodation.com).



Walking groups have for some time been a useful source of income for the Centre and a new vehicle for promotion has been our advertising in the Ramblers Association's *Walk* magazine which has a circulation of nearly 100,000 walkers.



For those who don't have the Internet we have reached people through our stall at the GA Meetings, through leaflets and providing information in the rooms at the Centre. An important promotion vehicle has been our annual Brochure sent to all church Secretaries and a range of other contacts.

As in previous years several relevant features about the Centre and/or activities at the centre have appeared in *The Inquirer* and *The Unitarian* publications. Our association with the *Send a Child to Hucklow* charity continues to be a useful link in terms of Centre promotion.

We are indebted to assistance from many people in our promotion of the Centre. Apart from the Manager, staff and Management Committee, we are grateful to John Wilkinson for his work on the centre's website. Helen Merritt has helped update the *What's On* page and provided information for the Events page within UNI-News and the Brochure. Several people have from time to time provided useful photographic images including in particular John Hewardine and John Wilkinson who have this year recorded the changes to the centre following the building improvements. James Barry has again produced excellent posters on our behalf.

In June, we again held an Open Day to give a chance for people to see for themselves the centre's improvements. Thanks are due to those who contributed to the day, running stalls and other activities or simply coming along and joining in. Special thanks are due to the staff team and also to Gwyneth Roper for co-ordinating the event. We plan to hold our next Open Day on 7th June 2014.

As always word of mouth is probably the best promotion tool - so thank you to those many satisfied visitors who have help to spread the word.



*The Tombola Stall at Hucklow Open Day*

# GA FINANCIAL REVIEW

## Fundraising and Expenditure

By Robert Ince,  
Acting Hon Treasurer



During the past 12 months, we have continued to set and manage a balanced budget. With the upturn from the financial markets, our investments have increased in value despite their income still being depressed. The budget of the General Assembly for the coming year, however, has been set for a deficit of £15,000, recognising the need to maintain our commitment to the long-term programmes already in place.

Last year's change to the way in which the accounts were presented in the Annual Report was well received and continues this year. For those who wish to view the full set of accounts, these are available on the national website ([www.unitarian.org.uk](http://www.unitarian.org.uk)) or by application to Unitarian Headquarters.

Although the international financial outlook is improving, it still remains fragile. We do expect to see an increase in value in our investments over the next 12 months, though probably little improvement in their yield. Changes to financial regulation will force a reduction in the service we receive from our Investment Managers, Newtons, and as a result, the Unitarian investment Panel undertook a review of alternative options this year, but concluded that Newtons still provide the most appropriate service for the Unitarian movement.

Our biggest challenge remains the drop in income caused by reducing congregation size and associate membership. We have received no legacies in the past 12 months and their budgeted figure of £10,000 represents our historical average income of £50,000 over a five year period.

We also recognise the need to plan for the cessation of the Bowland Trust matching grant. This grant currently represents nearly one-third of our income and although it will be a further 11 years before we lose this income, the loss is likely to have a severe effect unless we are able to develop a source of equivalent income.

We have been asked on a number of occasions recently about releasing money from our investments in order to finance new initiatives. The overriding principle behind our current level of investment is to ensure that we could meet our obligations as guarantor of last resort for the Ministers' Pension Fund, should such an unlikely situation occur and to cover the current shortfall in the staff Pension Fund. In the meantime, we still derived considerable income from these investments and that enables us to maintain a stable annual expenditure.

This year, a full review was undertaken of our designated and restricted funds. As a result, these funds have been considerably rationalised and effort will be made during the coming year to use these funds to support General Assembly initiatives, especially in support of the new Youth Strategy Group. The overriding principle behind this approach is that the money was given to be used, not invested.

We continue to look for efficiencies in our expenditure. The cost of operating our headquarters reduced by £7,000 despite increases in staff salaries and the costs of running the Executive Committee election that fell in the 2012/13 year.



# 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 £767,261 in the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013.**

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 10% to £177,375. This included £19,636 of donations for the Simple Gifts programme sponsored by the London District. Associate Membership revenue (including Gift Aid) was £17,810.– 98% of that received last year. Funds raised from the Congregational Quota increased by 1% to £101,441.

The grant from the Bowland Trust of £180,123 compared to £208,539 last year, when that year's Bowland grant included the matching of a Legacy of £45,000.

Income from the sale of books was £10,046, a similar figure to last year's.

Grants from the Essex Hall Trust and Management fees charged to the Trust totalled £53,750 along with a gift-in-kind of free office space valued at £70,000. The overall grant increased by £7,500. The B&FUA grant was £30,322, an increase of £4,825. Investment income was £91,188, an increase of £6,617. This represented a return on the value of financial investments of 4.1%.

**The expenditure of the General Assembly was £710,484 in the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013.**

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

Strategy Group Programme activities includes the Local Leadership, Visibility and Ministry strategy groups, and also the Youth Programme and Welsh Programme, and cost £211,746, 71% of which is GA staff time. This is a reduction of £39,732 or 16% on the previous year.

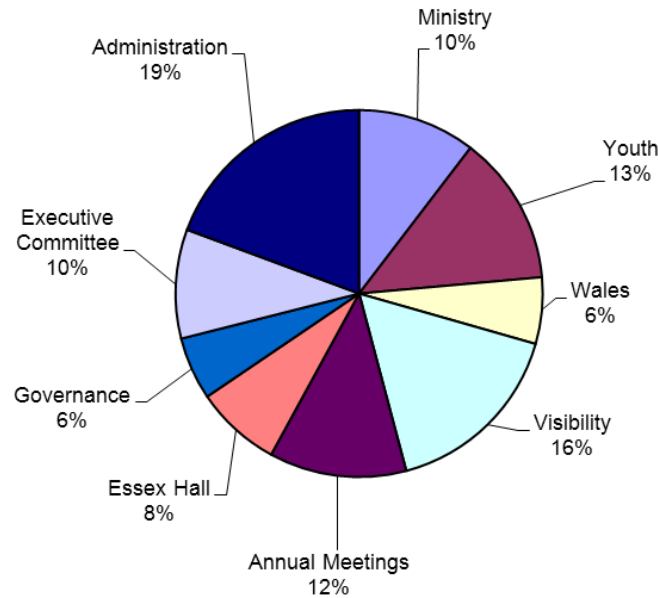
Excluding salaries the net cost of programme activities was £61,400. The cost of committee activities for these groups was £7,523, an increase in costs of £287.

Grants made were £78,151 - £224 higher than last year's figure.

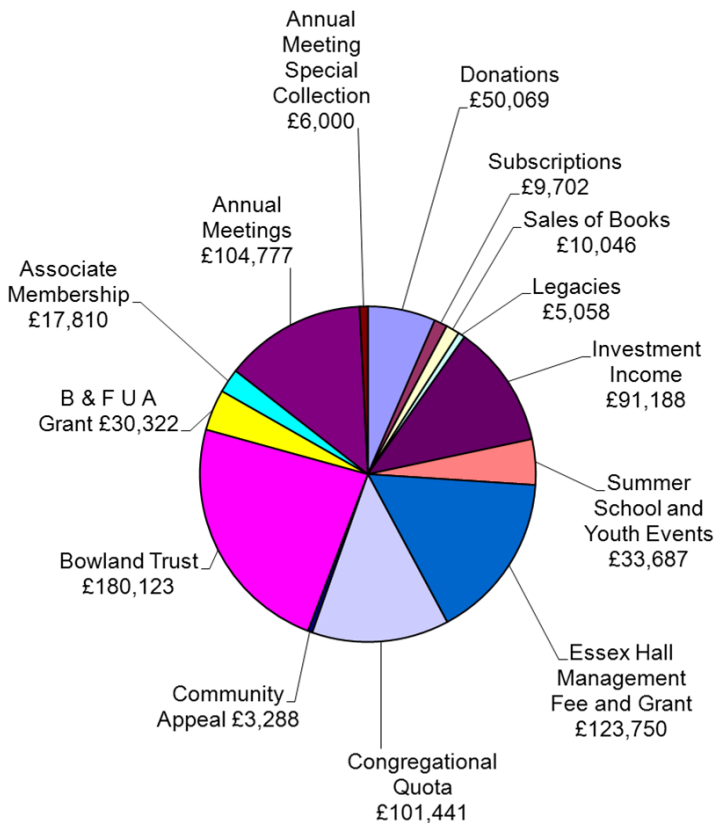
Administration costs were £286,220, an increase of £9,555 to accommodate the Executive Committee Election fees of £6,408 and the work undertaken in determining the GA's IT strategy.

The cost of governance and EC activities was £22,229 compared to £20,421 the previous year, an increase of £1,808. This included the costs of the facilitated meeting with Districts, the Retired Ministers' costs at the Annual Meetings and support for the Safeguarding programmes, together with the costs of the Executive Committee.

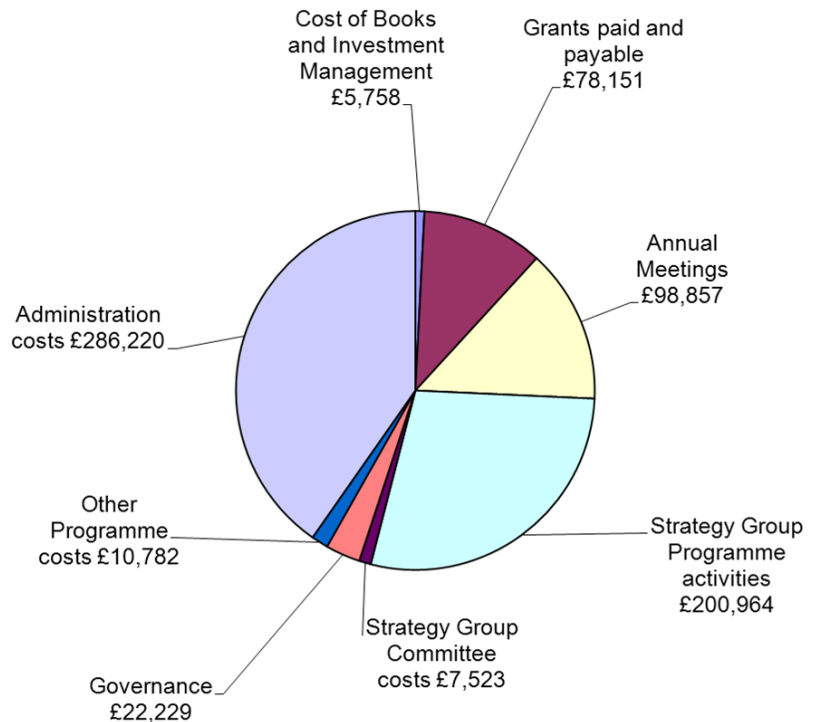
### GA Staff cost by Activity 2012-13



### Income



### Expenditure



## Balance Sheet

### Total Balance Sheet of the Assets managed by the General Assembly at 30 September 2013

	2013	2013	2012	2012
	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Tangible Assets	105,828		98,791	
Investments	<u>2,225,267</u>		<u>2,031,887</u>	
		2,331,095		2,130,678
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Stocks	4,760		3,549	
Loans	1,068		1,048	
Debtors	143,929		139,155	
Short Term Deposits	168,578		168,577	
Cash at Bank and in hand	<u>78,858</u>		<u>28,931</u>	
	397,193		341,260	
<b>Current liabilities</b>				
Creditors falling due within one year	<u>(68,152)</u>		<u>(61,372)</u>	
<b>Net Current assets</b>		329,041		279,888
<b>Total assets less liabilities</b>		<hr/> <b>2,660,136</b>		<hr/> <b>2,410,566</b>
General Funds		1,528,310		1,389,848
Designated Funds		134,630		137,532
Restricted Funds		424,968		357,486
Endowment Funds		572,228		525,700
<b>Total Funds</b>		<hr/> <b>2,660,136</b>		<hr/> <b>2,410,566</b>

## Income and Expenditure Report

<b>Where the money came from</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2011-12</b>
<b>Voluntary Income</b>		
Legacies	5,058	45,000
Associate Membership fees received	17,810	18,216
Subscriptions from Related Charities	9,702	9,380
Congregational Quota	101,441	100,654
Community Appeal	3,288	4,822
Annual Meeting Special Collection	6,000	5,070
Bowland Trust	180,123	208,539
Sundry Donations and other income	50,069	55,242
Essex Hall Management Fee and Grant	123,750	116,250
B & F U A Grant	30,322	25,497
	527,563	588,670
<b>Sales of Books</b>	10,046	10,614
<b>Furtherance of GA Objects</b>	33,687	40,156
<b>Investment Income</b>	91,188	84,571
<b>Annual Meetings Income</b>	104,777	99,146
	767,261	823,157
 <b>Where we spent our money</b>		
<b>Cost of Books and Investment Management</b>	5,758	8,048
<b>Grants paid and payable</b>	78,151	77,927
<b>Annual Meetings</b>	98,857	96,069
<b>Strategy Group Programme activities</b>	211,746	251,478
<b>Strategy Group Committee costs</b>	7,523	7,236
<b>Governance</b>	22,229	20,421
<b>Other Programme Activities</b>	10,782	
<b>Administration costs</b>	286,220	276,665
	710,484	737,844
<b>Net Incoming Resources</b>	56,777	85,314
<b>Gains/(losses) on investments</b>	192,793	195,564
	249,570	280,778

### Millennium Fund Grants 2012—2013

		£
Bradford Unitarians	Sound system	£500
Great Hucklow	Sound system	£1,000
Liverpool Sefton Park	Wedding Fairs Pilot	£1,200
<b>Total:</b>		<b>£2,700</b>



# THE NIGHTINGALE CENTRE

## Financial Summary

By Colin Partington MBE, Treasurer

Despite a continuing difficult trading environment, the active promotion of the Centre throughout the year and the generous donations received has resulted in a satisfactory overall outcome.

Agreement has been reached with the Charity Commissioners regarding our Charitable Objectives, and these are set out below:-.



**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 age, ill-health, financial hardship or other disadvantage; and**
- (b) the provision of facilities for the education of students of educational establishments**

Our financial figures are now set out to show this change and the pie charts show clearly that some 80% of our activities are meeting our charitable objectives.

Once again excellent control by the Centre Management Team has resulted in the wage and food budgets being met. The higher than budgeted Heat Light and Power figures are related to when certain bills were paid, rather than a change in efficiency, though there have been, and will continue to be significant cost increases. The other larger than expected cost was on repairs and maintenance, due to a number of unexpected expensive repairs during the year, and taking advantage during major capital work (the new Sun Lounge!) to do important maintenance work, thus avoiding customer disruption at other times of the year. Donations were again lower than previous years, though slightly higher than last year.

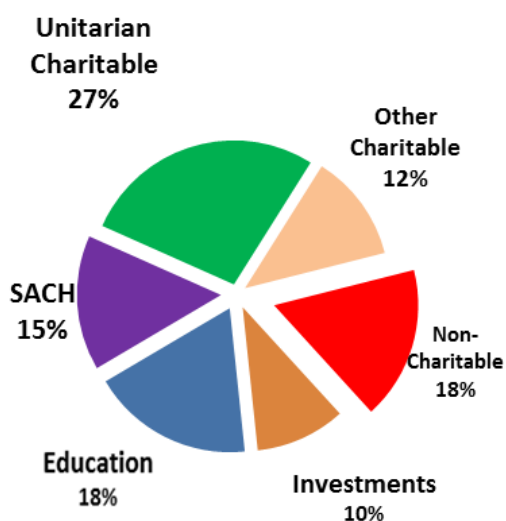
Overall, including donations, the Centre made a surplus of some £12,000 which will be added to our reserves, enabling further essential improvements to the Centre.

### Income and Expenditure Report

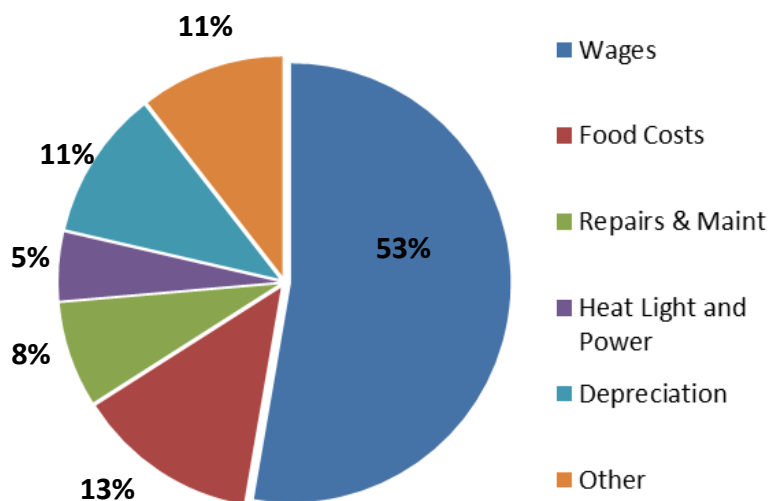
Where the money comes from	2012-2013 (£)	2010-2011 (£)
Donations	9,396	9,184
Charitable Activities	211,401	283,132
Non Charitable Activities	52,850	
Investment Income	31,982	25,902
<b>Total incoming Resources</b>	<b>305,629</b>	<b>318,218</b>
<b>Where we spent the money</b>		
Providing the Services-Charitable	233,487	
Providing the services –non-charitable	60,072	306,013
Governance Costs	750	950
<b>Total Outgoing Resources</b>	<b>294,309</b>	<b>306,963</b>
<b>Net Incoming resources</b>	<b>11,320</b>	<b>11,255</b>
Gains/losses on investment assets	767	531
<b><u>Net Movement of Funds</u></b>	<b><u>12,087</u></b>	<b><u>11,786</u></b>



## Where it comes from:



## How the money is spent



## Balance Sheet

### Total Assets of The Nightingale Centre as at 30 September 2012

	2013	2013	2012	2012
	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Tangible Assets	2,127,662		2,059,701	
Investments	4,240		3,473	
		2,131,902		2,063,174
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Stocks	3,641		4,494	
Debtors	152,152		138,735	
Cash at Bank and in hand	211,193		272,694	
		366,986		415,923
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Creditors falling due within one year	(52,230)		(44,526)	
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		314,756		371,397
<b>Total Assets</b>		2,446,658		2,434,571



# THE SUSTENTATION FUND

## Financial Summary

*By Michael Tomlin – Chair*

**Sustentation Fund:** The accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013 showed an operating surplus of £2,565 (2012: surplus £280). After a year-end market revaluation gain of £21,456 (2012: gain £33,962) and investment management fees of £69 (2012: £61) there was an overall gain of £23,952 (2012: gain £34,181).

**Lay Pastors' Fund:** The accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013 showed an operating surplus of £48 (2012: deficit £304). After a year-end market revaluation gain of £1,516 (2012: gain £1,708) there was an overall gain of £1,564 (2012: gain £1,404).

### 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 2013

	2013	2013	2012	2012
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Investments		436,591		412,594
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Cash at Bank and in hand	22,054		19,927	
Investment Manager's Client account	1		1,095	
Income Tax recoverable	485		—	
	22,540		21,022	
<b>Current liabilities</b>				
Provision for Investment Manager's fee	(14)		(15)	
<b>Net Current assets</b>		22,526		21,007
<b>Total assets less liabilities</b>		459,117		433,601
The Sustentation Fund		440,616		416,664
The Lay Pastors fund		18,501		16,937
<b>Total Funds</b>		459,117		433,601



## Income and Expenditure Report

	2012-13 £	2012-13 £	2011-12 £	2011-12 £
	Sustentation	Lay Pastors	Sustentation	Lay Pastors
<b>Where the money came from</b>				
Bank Interest and Income from Investments	21,806	498	20,099	446
Donations	2,775		2,499	
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>24,581</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>22,598</b>	<b>446</b>

### Where we spent our money

Grants	(20,262)	(450)	(21,288)	(750)
Administration Expenses	(1,754)		(1,030)	
<b>Operating Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>2,565</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>(304)</b>
Gains/(Losses) on Investments	21,456	1,516	33,962	1,708
Investment Management Fees	(69)		(61)	
<b>Total Increase/(Reduction) in Funds Value</b>	<b>23,592</b>	<b>1,564</b>	<b>34,181</b>	<b>1,404</b>

### The Congregations to whom we gave money

(Combined Sustention Fund and Lay Pastors' Fund)

	2013 (£)	2012 (£)
Bolton Bank Street	1,300	1,300
Bolton Unity	650	0
Bristol Unitarian Meeting	1,300	1,300
Chowbent	1,300	1,300
Croydon	1,300	1,300
Cotswold Group	0	1,300
Doncaster	900	0
Edinburgh	1,300	1,300
Failsworth	450	450
Golders Green	812	1,300
Kidderminster	450	0
Knutsford	650	650
Macclesfield	1,300	1,300
Monton	1,300	1,300
Newington Green/Islington	1,300	1,300
Oldham	650	650
Richmond	0	1,300
Rochdale	1,300	1,300
South Wales Group	1,700	1,700
Stand, Bolton	650	0
Stannington	650	650
Styal	0	450
Urmston, Queens Road	650	0
Wigan	0	650
York	800	1,238
	20,712	22,038



# 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:**

(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: James Barry  
(from April 2013)  
Rev John Clifford  
Joan Cook  
Louise Rogers  
(from April 2013)  
Alison Thursfield  
Rev David Usher  
(until April 2013)  
Rev Martin Whitell  
Dr Jacqueline Woodman  
(from April 2013)

Co-opted members: Robert Ince  
Cathie Masztalerz  
(until April 2013)

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	David Copley Dorothy Hewerdine Richard Merritt Gwyneth Roper 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 (until June 2013) Alan Eastwood (from June 2013)
Hon Secretary	Jeff Teagle
Member ex Officio	Rev Bill Darlison Marion Baker 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
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Welsh Department Secretary	Dr Carwyn Tywyn (until Sept 2013)	
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Youth Coordinator	Rev John Harley	jharley@unitarian.org.uk
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### SUPPORT STAFF

Operations Manager, Essex Hall Manager & Annual Meetings Manager	Andrew Mason	amason@unitarian.org.uk
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Administrator (Internal)	Mary-Jean Hennis	mhennis@unitarian.org.uk
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Administrator (External)	Audrey Longhurst	alonghurst@unitarian.org.uk
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IT / Communications	Aniuska Dominguez	it@unitarian.org.uk
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### FINANCE:

Head of Finance & Administration	Martin Sarbicki	msarbicki@unitarian.org.uk
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Finance Officer	John Crosskey	jcrosskey@unitarian.org.uk
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### VOLUNTEERS:

Howard Hague

Rosemary Ruston

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

Isabella Clarke	Caretaker
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Hepzi Lewis	Cleaner
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## GROUP & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

### THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Convenor: Martin Whitell

Members: James Barry (from April 2013) John Clifford, Joan Cook, Robert Ince (Acting Honorary Treasurer from May 2012), Cathie Masztalerz (until April 2013), Louise Rogers (from April 2013), Alison Thursfield, David Usher (until April 2013), Martin Whitell, Jacqueline Woodman (from April 2013).

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

### STRATEGY GROUPS

#### Local Leadership Strategy Group

Members: Kate Buchanan (Co-Chair), Peter Davies, Margaret Robinson (Co-Chair), Christine Thompson.

Staff Support: Mary-Jean Hennis

#### Ministry Strategy Group

Members: Richard Gaines (from May 2013), Linda Hart (until November 2012), Margaret Kirk, Stephen Lingwood (Chair), Melanie Prideaux (from January 2013), Wendy Sudbury, Sarah Tinker, Jane Williams.

Staff Support: Linda Philips, Director of Ministry

#### Visibility Strategy Group

Members: Diane Bennett, Dorothy Haughton (Convenor) (until September 2013), Angela Maher (until September 2013), Phil Tomlin.

### PANELS / ACTION GROUPS / OTHER GROUPS

#### Annual Meetings

Members: Penny Quest, Alison Thursfield, Martin Whitell.

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

#### Buildings Advisory Group

Members: Mike Barber (Convenor), Zoe Bremer, Howard Wilkins.

Staff Support: Derek McAuley (Chief Officer)

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

### **Electoral Panel (until January 2013)**

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: Caroline Blair (Convenor from Sept 2012), Elizabeth Birtles (from September 2012), Kate Buchanan, Michael Dadson (from 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 (Chair).

### **Lindsey Press Panel**

Members: David Dawson, Kay Millard, Catherine Robinson, Kate Taylor (Convenor), Kate Whyman.

### **Penal Affairs Panel**

Members: Tony Cann, John Carter (until April 2013), Bruce Chilton (Chair/Secretary), Bernard Omar, Andy Pakula (until April 2013), 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) (until July 2013), Julie Newdin (President, South East Wales, from July 2013), Elaine Davies (President, South Wales), Cen Llwyd (South Wales), Wyn Thomas (South Wales), Eric Jones (South East Wales), Anne Jones (South East Wales) (until July 2013), Ken Morgan (South East Wales), (until July 2013), Megan Jones (South Wales District & Secretary), Diana Bianchi (from July 2013), Keith Lewis-Jones (from July 2013).  
Staff Support: Carwyn Tywyn (Welsh Department Secretary) (until September 2013)

### **Youth Panel**

Members: Sarah Atkinson (from June 2013) Ella Field, John Harley, Jen Hazel (from June 2013), Claire Maddocks, Vanessa Rothwell, Christina Smith (from June 2013) Sue Talbot (Chair)  
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 (Dec'd)*

*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.*

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





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

Lake M Mrs  
 Latta S Mrs  
 Laycock BA Mrs  
 Lingwood S Rev  
 Lloyd G Mr  
 Lovis C Mrs

Maguire M Mrs  
 Martin C Ms  
 Mason CB Mr  
 Mason GH Mr  
 Mason JI Mr  
 Masztalerz C Mrs  
 Maud G Mr  
 McAuley D Mr  
 McClelland A Rev  
 McClelland J Rev  
 Meek J Mr  
 Merritt H Mrs  
 Merritt R Mr  
 Michell M Ms  
 Midgley C Rev  
 Midgley J Rev  
 Milne SS Mrs  
 Mitchell SCF Ms  
 Moore TJ Mr

Needham A Mrs  
 Nuttall M Mrs  
 Oates ADG Mr  
 O'Brien E Mrs  
 O'Connor F Rev  
 Ogilvie S Mrs  
 Omar B Mr  
 O'Neil SE Mrs  
 Oulton RA Mr

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

Ramage RW Mr  
 Ratcliffe M Mrs  
 Raymond G Mrs  
 Raymond S Dr  
 Reed CM Rev  
 Reed P Mrs  
 Rees AM Mr  
 Rees AM Mrs  
 Reynolds HM  
 Richards J Mrs  
 Richards JCT Mr  
 Richards W Mr

Roberts J Dr  
 Roberts WM Mrs  
 Robinson J Rev  
 Robinson M Ms  
 Robinson M Rev  
 Rogers J Mrs  
 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  
 Sharpe S Mrs  
 Shellabear RD Mrs  
 Short A Mrs  
 Silk J Mrs  
 Silk PA Rev  
 Simmons J Mrs  
 Sinclair A Mrs  
 Slaven S Ms  
 Smith CF Mrs  
 Smith KJ Mr  
 Smith MF Mr  
 Soulsby P Sir  
 Storey D Mr  
 Sykes J

Teagle JJ Mr  
 Teagle SM Mrs  
 Thompson C Ms  
 Thursfield A Mrs  
 Tinker SM Rev  
 Tomlin JR Mrs  
 Tomlin MJ Mr  
 Tucker A Mr  
 Tupman M

Usher A Mrs  
 Usher D Rev  
 Usher GR Rev

Voegeli I Mrs

Wagner E Mr  
 Walker F Rev  
 Warhurst DE Mr  
 Warhurst H Mrs  
 Watson N Ms  
 West MG Mr  
 Whittell M Rev  
 Whitham P Mr  
 Wightman M Mrs  
 Wightman R Rev  
 Wilkie C Mrs  
 Wilkins H Mr  
 Williams DA Prof  
 Williams J Dr  
 Williams RH Mrs  
 Williams SR Mr  
 Williams WM Mrs  
 Wilson AM Mrs  
 Winder JR Mrs  
 Woodhouse J Mr  
 Woodhouse K Mrs  
 Woolley S Rev  
 Wykes DL Dr  
 Wykes E Dr  
 Wylie HS Mr

## 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 2012 to 30 September 2013. Amounts are shown as at 30 September 2013 and contributions received after that date will ordinarily be shown in the next annual report.

England (and Isle of Man)	Quota Members	£			
Ainsworth	8	240	Denton	7	130
Altrincham	44	1320	Derby	3	90
Ashton-in-Makerfield	49	1470	Ditchling	20	600
Atherton	45	1350	Doncaster	18	540
Banbury	10	290	Douglas (Isle of Man)	6	180
Bath	7	210	Dover	4	120
Belper	4	120	Dudley	1	29
Billingshurst	9	270	Dukinfield	35	1050
Birmingham Edgbaston	35	1015	Eccles	62	1856
Birmingham Hollywood	59	1711	Evesham	23	667
Blackpool	15	450	Framlingham	4	120
Bolton Bank Street	58	1740	Gloucester	5	145
Bolton Chorley New Road	18	540	Godalming	30	900
Bolton Egerton	30	900	Great Hucklow	12	360
Bolton Halliwell Road	12	360	Great Yarmouth	9	330
Boston	5	150	Hale Barns	22	660
Bradford Unitarians	18	540	Hastings	23	690
Bridgwater	6	174	Hinckley	46	1380
Bridport	10	300	Hindley	9	270
Brighton	43	1290	Horsham	34	1020
Bristol Brunswick Square	16	480	Horwich	6	180
Bristol Frenchay	15	450	Hull	19	570
Bury	60	1800	Hyde	2	60
Bury St Edmunds	23	690	Hyde Flowery Field	7	200
Cambridge	44	1320	Hyde Gee Cross	8	250
Chatham	8	240	Ipswich	48	1350
Chelmsford	7	210	Kendal	51	1530
Cheltenham	11	319	Kidderminster	33	957
Chester	6	180	Knutsford	54	1620
Chesterfield	10	300	Leeds	31	930
Chorley	18	540	Leicester	33	990
Cirencester	6	270	Lewes	1	30
Coseley	7	203	Lincoln	14	420
Coventry	7	203	Liverpool Gateacre	20	600
Cradley	25	725	Liverpool Sefton Park	25	750
Crewkerne	13	390	Liverpool Toxteth	6	180
Croydon	51	1530	London Brixton	16	480
Cullompton	7	210	London Golders Green	54	1620
Dean Row	66	1980	London Hampstead	134	4080
			London Islington	46	1380



London Kensington	63	1890	Styal	25	750
London Lewisham	6	180	Taunton	13	390
London Newington Green	46	1380	Tenterden	9	270
London Stratford	5	150	Torquay	9	270
Loughborough	1	30	Trowbridge	14	420
Lytham St Annes	0	0	Urmston	25	754
Macclesfield	29	870	Wakefield	19	570
Maidstone	7	210	Warrington	15	450
Manchester Chorlton	10	300	Warwick	19	551
Manchester Cross Street	32	960	Watford	10	300
Manchester Dob Lane	16	480	Whitby	6	180
Manchester Gorton	5	120	Whitefield	40	1200
Mansfield	51	1530	Wirral	24	720
Mossley	12	360	Wolverhampton	4	116
New Mill	5	150	Worthing	3	90
Newcastle upon Tyne	22	660	York	39	1170
Newcastle-under-Lyme	20	600			
Newport, Isle of Wight	7	210	<b>Wales</b>		
Northampton	7	203	Aberdare	24	720
Norwich	46	1380	Alltyblaca	3	62
Nottingham	12	360	Bangor	8	240
Oldbury	3	87	Cardiff	19	570
Oldham	12	360	Cefn Coed y Cymer	21	630
Oxford	39	1131	Cellan	1	36
Padiham	45	1350	Ciliau Aeron	1	16
Plymouth	25	750	Cribyn	4	114
Portsmouth	47	1410	Cwmsychbant	4	114
Rawtenstall	7	210	Cwrtnewydd	6	158
Richmond	42	1260	Felinfach	1	50
Rivington	20	600	Lampeter	11	328
Rochdale	29	870	Llandysul	3	100
Scarborough	7	210	Llanwnnen	7	184
Sevenoaks	24	720	Nottage	10	290
Sheffield Fulwood	39	1170	Pontsian	4	92
Sheffield Norfolk Street	48	1440	Prengwyn	5	146
Sheffield Stannington	25	750	Swansea	10	300
Shelf	8	240	Talgarreg	7	200
Shrewsbury	16	451	Trebanos	20	600
Sidmouth	5	150	Wick	6	180
Southampton	18	540			
Southend-on-Sea	4	120	<b>Scotland</b>		
Southport	8	240	Aberdeen	16	480
St Albans	14	420	Dundee	25	750
Stalybridge	10	300	Edinburgh	68	2040
Stockton-on-Tees	22	660	Glasgow	35	1050
Stourbridge	6	174			
			<b>Total:</b>	<b>3,384</b>	<b>£101,081</b>

**Note:** There is a small difference to the quota figure shown in the Accounts.  
This is a balance following payments made just before or after the year end.



## 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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## 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
		2013-14	Rev Bill Darlison, BA, MA



## 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                |
|   | 2013 Rev Feargus O'Connor, BA, MA            |



## GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS 2013 - PROCEEDINGS

The eighty-fifth Annual Meetings of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches were held from Thursday 11 April to Sunday 14 April 2013 at the Jubilee Campus of the University of Nottingham. The programme of General Assembly and affiliated society meetings and workshops commenced during the afternoon of 11 April, preceded by the John Rely Beard Lecture delivered by Rev Sheila Martin on "Who Holds the Power? Uses and Abuses of Power in Congregations".

The first plenary session commenced at 15.45 on Thursday 11 April 2013 with an opening welcome from the General Assembly President, Elisabeth Dyson-Jones, and the lighting of the Chalice. The Standing Orders for the Conduct of Business, as set out on document AGM10/13, were adopted. The Steering Committee, consisting of Rev Andrew Hill, Neville Kenyon and Rev Dr Ann Peart, was confirmed with thanks offered to the Rev Andrew Hill for stepping in following the withdrawal of Dawn Buckle due to illness. The Meetings stood in silence in memory of Rev Keith Gilley, an Honorary Member of the General Assembly, and former GA Staff Member Wendy Adams. Apologies were received from Rev Jane Barraclough, Dawn Buckle, Stephanie Cage, Margaret Evans, Rev Ann Latham, Rev Dr Leonard & Mrs Joan Smith and Rev Patricia Womersley. Written greetings were received from Rev Brian Kiely on behalf of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists and from the Unitarian Union of North East India. Overseas attendees were welcomed, in particular Rev Dr Teresa Cooley of the Unitarian Universalist Association and Bishop Balint Ferenc and Rev Maria Pap from the Hungarian Unitarian Church. Bishop Ferenc addressed the Meeting. The contribution of the staff of the General Assembly to its work, especially the arrangements for the Annual Meetings, was acknowledged.

The Report of the Local Leadership Strategy Group was presented by Margaret Robinson. It was asked if REvolution would be run again and it was confirmed that it was intended to have a second programme in 2014. Future Arrangements for supporting worship such as the former Worship Committee was raised and Margaret indicated this would be reviewed.

The Report of the Ministry Strategy Group was presented by Stephen Lingwood. Their vision required real change at the grassroots. He had hoped to present proposals on ministry training however complexities of the issues and changes to Government policy had delayed progress. Ministerial competencies were being developed and would be circulated to congregations and the Group were working closely with the Colleges. Other models of ministry such as shared, district and community was raised and it was explained the focus was primarily on congregational ministry. Support for weak congregations was raised and it was recognised that resourcing ministry was a key issue. It was questioned if there were funded ministries for those in training and explained that there were sufficient vacancies to ensure the target of fifty could be achieved.

The report of the Visibility Strategy Group was presented by Dorothy Haughton. Media training was being held for proposed spokespersons, particularly on assisted dying. A 'training for trainers' event in the use of social media was planned for June.

A report on Youth activities was presented by Rev John Harley. He thanked the fifteen volunteer young leaders. Outreach, publicity & marketing was an important issue and the Youth Panel could arrange local roadshows. A CD had been produced for Youth Sunday.



Thanks were given to all external donors, particularly the Wood Green Trust. The Opening Celebrations were held that evening and all involved were to be thanked for making the evening a success.

The second plenary session commenced at 08.45 on Friday 12 April 2013 with Opening Reflections led by Rev Eric Jones. The Executive Committee Convenor, Rev Martin Whitell, reported on their work during the previous year and their plans for the future. He highlighted variable progress on the strategic objectives. He stressed the importance of safeguarding and asked how many congregations now had a safeguarding policy in place. Robert Ince, Acting Treasurer, presented the General Assembly's Financial Review for the year ending 30 September 2012 which was now in a clearer summarised format. Staff activities had for the first time been analysed to help understand the use of our resources. The contributions from Associate Members were acknowledged and thanks given to Rosemary Ruston and Louise Rogers for their support as volunteers. A significant legacy of £45,000 had been received. The Bowland Trust was thanked for their continuing support.

Two written questions had been received. The first related to why the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists (ICUU) was not mentioned in the Annual Report. It was explained that this was a summary report and the General Assembly had participated in various ICUU activities. The second asked for further information on the 2020 Congregational Development Programme. The Convenor confirmed that its work was overseen by a leadership group and there was a stringent application process for funding. The importance of social responsibility and the significance of links with other faith bodies were emphasised and the work of the Chief Officer in these areas was commended. It was suggested that insufficient time had been left for questions

and dialogue and the use of quasi-business language in a religious body was questioned. It was recommended that the terms of reference of the Unitarian Ministerial Students Fund be changed to enable it to give financial support for College fees. The Convenor explained that the Fund raised money explicitly to support the personal needs of students not institutions. Rev Alex Bradley, Principal of Unitarian College Manchester, commended the General Assembly for its financial and other support in a period of considerable change in higher and further education and indicated that the College was financially stable and addressing its challenges.

The third plenary session commenced at 10.45 on Friday 12 April 2013. The Chief Officer reported on the consultation on assisted dying as mandated by the 2012 Annual Meeting. A motion on a day for World Peace from Belper Unitarian Chapel was approved. The Advanced Certificate of the Worship Studies Course was presented to Joan Cook by Margaret Robinson, on behalf of the Local Leadership Strategy Group. A presentation on the President's attendance at the National Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph was shown. Neville Kenyon presented the Anniversary Appeal. The session concluded with a group photograph. The Anniversary Service was held on the evening of 12 April 2013 and was led by Rev Sarah Tinker. The Anniversary Preacher was Rev Feargus O'Connor.

The fourth plenary session was held at 08.45 on Saturday 13 April 2013 with Opening Reflections led by the senior youth group. Ann Sinclair presented the report of the Constitution Review Group on proxy voting which was accepted. It was reported that motion 5 had been withdrawn and that the Anniversary Service Collection had raised £6,000. A motion from Fulwood Old Chapel, Sheffield; Cross Street Chapel, Manchester and 12 Full Members on assisted dying was



approved following an extensive and procedurally complex debate.

The fifth plenary session commenced at 11.00 on Saturday 12 April 2013. The Sustentation Fund report was presented by Michael Tomlin and received. The levels of grants made and the requirements for evidence of “live giving” by congregational members were highlighted. The possibility of changes to the level of support was highlighted and it was indicated that the policies operated by the Fund were to be reviewed and changes were likely to focus support where it could have a real impact. It was also reported that Martin West had resigned as Treasurer and been replaced by Alan Eastwood. Martin was thanked for his work for the Sustentation Fund.

A motion on drug law reform from the Foy Society was approved. The Rev Dr Terasa Cooley of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations in the United States gave the Keynote Address on the impact of huge social change and the new social media environment on faith groups. That evening a Social Event and Talent Evening was held in support of the 2020 Congregational Development Programme.

The sixth plenary session commenced at 09.00 on Sunday 14 April 2013 with Opening Reflections led by Winnie Gordon. A motion from Golders Green Unitarians on the respect for all creation was approved. Bishop Ferenc thanked the President and General Assembly staff for their welcome and presented gifts from Transylvania. A video was shown of the President’s visit to the celebrations of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Unitarian Church in North East India.

The Report of the Stipend Review Committee was presented by the Acting Treasurer who commended the Chief Officer for his background research in support of their work. The need to support and value ministry

was emphasised along with a recognition of the financial pressures facing congregations. The need to draw comparisons with other churches and to involve congregational treasurers was emphasised. The Report was accepted.

The seventh plenary session commenced at 10.45 on Sunday 14 April 2013. Michael Tomlin reported that the Ministers’ Pension Fund had agreed to a change of rules to permit the admission of Lay Pastors. The Convenor introduced the Executive Committee handover. Rev Andy Pakula, Cathie Masztalerz and Rev David Usher (in absentia) were thanked and the five elected members introduced; James Barry, Joan Cook, Robert Ince, Louise Rogers and Jacky Woodman. A ceremony of commitment to the responsibilities of an Executive Committee member was held.

The report of the Nightingale Centre was presented by Marion Baker who highlighted the delight of users at the improved facilities and thanked the members of the management committee. A short video produced at the Youth Panel workshop by Stone Soup on the Chalice symbol was shown. A video on the venue for the 2014 Annual Meetings was also shown.

The final plenary session saw the approval of Procedural Resolutions (below). Elisabeth Dyson-Jones gave her Presidential Address as outgoing President. Rev Bill Darlison was installed as President for 2013/14 and spoke to the Annual Meetings. He conducted a closing service of worship and the Annual Meetings closed at approximately 12.30pm.

### **Resolutions**

The following resolutions were agreed:

1. From Fulwood Old Chapel, Sheffield; Cross Street Chapel, Manchester; and 12 Full Members

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, recognising the



worth and dignity of all people and their freedom to believe as their consciences dictate, believes that:

- 1) Any individual who faces an intolerable existence because of a debilitating and/or incurable physical condition should have the right to seek support for the termination of their life in a painless and dignified manner; and
- 2) legislation should respect their choice and allow them compassionate assistance in achieving such a death without fear of the prosecution of anyone involved.

#### 2. From Golders Green Unitarians

This General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches urges fellow Unitarians and all people of goodwill to promote a greater awareness and understanding of the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part and recognising the dignity and worth of all living creatures, cultivate an ethic of compassion and mercy to the billions of sentient beings who share this planet with us and to act in ways that promote our common welfare.

#### 3. From Belper Unitarian Chapel

This General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches:

- 1) Affirms the common call of faith traditions for peace among the nations
- 2) Acknowledges those congregations which presently participate in inter-faith & inter church events contemplating and praying for World Peace
- 3) Designates the 3rd Sunday in October each year as a special Unitarian day for World Peace when Unitarian & Free Christian Churches host an 'Interfaith Service for World Peace'
- 4) Requests that the Facilitation Services Action Group together with the Unitarian Peace Fellowship produce worship material for this occasion.

#### 4. From The Foy Society

This General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches asks the UK Government to establish without delay a Royal Commission or interdepartmental public inquiry to -

- 1) examine the present UK drug-related health and crime situations and compare those in other countries
- 2) examine and review the efficacy of current UK legislation in relation to drugs both those which are illegal and those which are legal
- 3) review options for alternatives to the current criminal justice-based approach, drawing on the experience of other countries, including the appropriateness of the medicalisation and decriminalisation of drug substances and the treatment of addictions.

#### 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 Robert Ince for his services as Acting 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 Feargus O'Connor for preaching the Assembly Sermon.



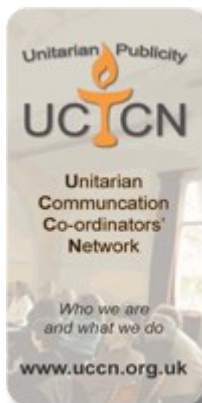
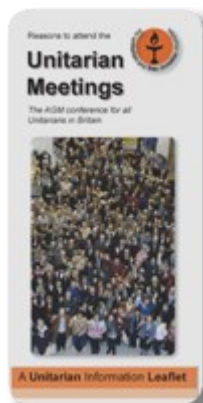
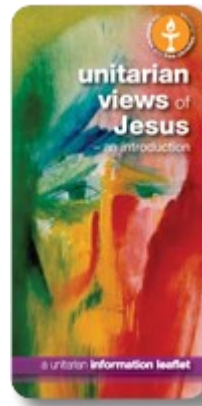
- 6) That the thanks of the Assembly be given to the Reverend Sarah Tinker, worship leader for the Anniversary Service, and to all those who provided music and other content for the Anniversary Service and on other worship occasions during these Meetings.
- 7) That the thanks of the Assembly be given to the members of the General Assembly staff and to all volunteers for their inestimable help in organising the Meetings.
- 8) That Reverend Bill Darlison be appointed President of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches for the year 2013-2014.
- 9) That Marion Baker be appointed as Vice-President for the year 2013-2014.
- 10) That this eighty-fifth General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches expresses its gratitude for the services provided by Elisabeth Dyson-Jones as President during the year 2012-2013.

## Annual Meetings Nottingham 2013 Accounts

Summary of Financial Results	2013 Income	2013 Expenditure	2013 Balance	2012 <i>Balance</i>
Accommodation and Conference Fees	93,504	86,705	<b>6,798</b>	4,519
Group Registration	3,877		<b>3,877</b>	3,931
Wood Green Trust	6,250		<b>6,250</b>	6,517
Other Donations to Meetings	1,146		<b>1,146</b>	276
Printing and Postage		2,875	<b>-2,875</b>	-3,257
Pre-AGM Expenses	0	764	<b>-764</b>	-818
Room Hire and Audio Visual	0	2,494	<b>-2,494</b>	-1,320
Speakers, Fees and Social event	0	1,780	<b>-1,780</b>	-2,188
Sundries	0	2,032	<b>-2,032</b>	-1,387
Travel	0	1,290	<b>-1,290</b>	-2,201
Youth Honoraria & Expenses	0	917	<b>-917</b>	-1,066
Transfer for future Meetings	0	0	<b>0</b>	0
Previous Year's transfer	0	0	<b>0</b>	0
	<b>104,777</b>	<b>98,857</b>	<b>5,919</b>	<b>3,077</b>



# Leaflets



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