

**General Assembly of Unitarian  
and Free Christian Churches**



# **Annual Reports**

**2018**

**General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches &  
Nightingale Centre**

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

The Ninetieth

# 2018 Annual Reports



General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches  
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*Registered Charity No. 242256*



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the **unitarian** and free  
**christian** churches

# Contents

President's  
Report

5

Chief  
Officer's  
Report

6

Trustees

- *Who are we?*  
- *Our Report*

8

Local  
Leadership

17

Ministry

22

Visibility

- *Lindsey Press*  
- *Penal & Social  
Affairs*

25

Welsh

27

Youth

30

Nightingale  
Centre

32

2018  
Annual  
Meetings

35

Independent  
Auditor's  
Report

39

Financial  
Summaries

- *GA*  
- *Nightingale*  
- *Sustentation*

40

Organisation

- *Governance*  
- *Staff*

48

Membership

- *Our Members*  
- *Congregational  
Contributions*

51



**Photographers:**

We would like to thank all those who provided photographs for this Annual Report.

**Cover Image:**

By Ned Prideaux

**Centre Spread Image:**

By John Pickering



# General Assembly President's Report

## General Assembly President 2018-19

### Joan Cook

Since being elected as President of our General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, I have had the privilege of representing our General Assembly at various events; at the opening of the house for Religious Freedom, with Derek McAuley our Chief Officer, in Transylvania, at the dedication of a Memorial to Victims of Terrorism Overseas, visiting the U.U. Fellowship of Paris, as well as visiting many of our congregations, and districts here in the UK. I have met with other Faith Leaders, have had the opportunity to speak to them, and to politicians, as well as several civic leaders.

I am most grateful to all those who have invited me, hosted me and given me hospitality during the year. I know that without that hospitality many congregations and districts would find it difficult to afford a visit from the President, so thank you all. It has been an honour to have been asked to be part of your services, and AGMs, I have accumulated some wonderful memories.

The major event associated with the Presidency is the attendance at the Cenotaph in London, on Remembrance Sunday. This year it was especially poignant as it fell on the centenary of that first Armistice. It was quite an experience being there as part of a group representing so many faiths, some of them being represented for the first time. I, as did many of you, wore a white poppy, alongside a red poppy, but I also wore a black poppy, which commemorates those members of the former Empire who fought and died in the Great War, and all the wars since. The black poppy is also worn to remember all those who lost their lives in war, soldiers, civilians, conscientious objectors, as well as those who have suffered, and are still suffering, from wars, and conflict around the world.

My trio of poppies was made for me by a member of our St. Mark's congregation, and was noticed by several people who asked what they represented. One group in particular was some of the Commissioners and High Commissioners from the Caribbean, one of whom was also wearing a black poppy, she said she was pleased to see she wasn't the only one, I think we were the only two.

But it was the service at Westminster Abbey that evening which made the greatest impression on me. I found the presence of the President of the German Democratic Republic laying a wreath, alongside the Queen, and then giving a reading from the lectern, in German, incredibly moving. The involvement of so many young people was symbolic of the need to continue remembering, and hopefully learning from, what has gone before.

This year has been a huge learning curve for me, and for many of our community. We are dealing with decrease in numbers and funds, but we are seeing the long-planned changes in Ministry training come into effect, bringing an upturn in numbers applying for Ministry training, and hopefully the new modular approach will mean more applicants in the future. Our professional, trained, Ministry is one of our greatest resources and one to be encouraged.

I have also been encouraged, and impressed by the work and dedication of our members, much of which goes on quietly behind the scenes. There are some Churches which broadcast their initiatives, but so many more who are just quietly looking at, and varying the types of services they offer, the connections they are making within their communities, and the care and compassion they are extending not only to their own members, but to members of their wider communities. And it is these activities, and these people, who are holding the future of Unitarianism, they are quietly getting on with what we are all about, building caring, compassionate, communities.

Perhaps they just need to shout about it a bit more!



*Joan Cook*



# Chief Officer's Report

## General Assembly Chief Officer, Derek McAuley



The year described in this Annual Report has been a strange one for me. In December 2017 I informed the Convenor of my intention to retire as Chief Officer and my decision was then reported to the Executive Committee (EC) in January 2018. I agreed to remain in post until the end of April 2019 after the

Annual Meetings to ensure a smooth handover to my successor. This report will, therefore, be more of a reflection on my nearly ten years as Chief Officer as well as an opportunity to acknowledge the work of others.

It has been a pleasure to work closely with a series of Executive Committee Convenors; Sir Peter Soulsby, Rev Martin Whitell, Robert Ince and Marion Baker; and with the many EC members who have served our Movement over these years. The Chief Officer plays an important role in ensuring continuity given the turnover of members. This partnership of staff and volunteers on the EC and on other Unitarian committees and bodies is the key to the success of the national Unitarian structures.

When I was appointed there was a clear expectation that a period of stability was required at Essex Hall. The new governance arrangements which created an Executive Committee, following the work of the Task Force, needed to be “bedded in” and changes made to long-established but unsustainable internal committee structures. My primary motivation, however, in seeking the post was to ensure that others would have the opportunity that I had been given to find and experience the life-changing welcome of a Unitarian community. Partly, this required Essex Hall to work effectively; but it also pointed to increased support for congregations and to raising our presence and profile externally.

Looking back I would highlight the following achievements as indicative of some of the changes that have been made. These are, of course, down to the combined efforts of many people but leadership needs to show the direction of travel and take people along.

- I developed close relationships with other leaders in liberal faith groups and beyond which have proved invaluable in many ways. The leaders of The Quakers and Liberal Judaism, for example, accepted my invitation to speak as keynote speakers at our Annual Meetings. We have developed close working relationships and worked together on several public policy issues.
- Through my work with the Interfaith Network for the UK, including serving as a trustee for a period, the Unitarian and Free Christian perspective has been heard and we remain key advocates of interfaith dialogue.
- The opportunity presented by the possibility of equal marriage legislation was grasped as clearly aligning with longstanding Unitarian values and practices. That religious same sex marriage is available is undoubtedly the most influential and successful public policy campaign by Unitarians for nearly one hundred years. More importantly, we are making a real difference to peoples' lives.



*Presenting on same sex marriage at the Octagon Chapel, Norwich*

- Being able to “flex” the staffing resource to meet changing needs has made it possible to increase support for Welsh Unitarianism, congregational development and, more recently, to re-shape our communications activities. The financial contributions of the Bowland Trust, Essex Hall Trust and the British and Foreign Unitarian Association, have underpinned our efforts and I have appreciated their support.

*The Chief Officer visited the Unitarian stand at the National Eisteddfod of Wales in Cardiff Bay in August 2018 and took part in a social media photo competition.*



- The desire of many to open up ministry training to more people and be more flexible in our approach has borne fruit in the Training and Education Development (TED) project. Only the General Assembly can ensure that congregations have the skilled ministerial leadership they require to serve them in a time of great change. The establishment of the new Unitarian College and the pilot ministerial training programme now underway are major steps forward in making this all happen. I am also excited by the plan to have a co-ordinated approach to lay leadership and lifelong learning for all for the future.

- I am encouraged that we finally had the courage to make major changes to longstanding and historic trusts. The British and Foreign Unitarian Association Limited updated its Articles of Association (last done in 1937), the Sustentation Fund and the Ministers' Stipend Augmentation Fund both ended their separate status as charities and gifted their assets to other bodies to pursue the same objects, and the Essex Hall Trust has begun a process of reviewing its governing documents.

- Financially the General Assembly remains "sound". Indeed looking back in the period 2008 – 2018 total assets have gone from £2.35million to £6.134million.

- The Annual Meetings remain the highlight of the Unitarian year. Without the expertise of Andrew Mason and other staff we would not be able to deliver such a high quality event. Over my ten years attendees will have seen changes to the programming and activities to enhance its attractiveness for those looking for spiritual development. In 2019 we will move to a shorter meeting; giving more people the opportunity to experience Unitarianism at a national level.



*The 2018 Annual Meetings*

- Essex Hall remains a point of contact when congregations want advice or assistance and we have developed the congregational support function.

- I have taken a particular interest in the work of the Lindsey Press and I am impressed by the professionalism of its work and the quality of its publications, of which we can be proud as a Denomination.

I would like to thank all those members of staff with whom I have worked for all there support and commitment to the Unitarian cause, particularly Andrew Mason, John Crosskey and Audrey Longhurst who will have seen me come and go. In the past year I have been pleased to recruit Gavin Howell as Youth Co-ordinator/Safeguarding Lead and Rory Castle Jones as Communications Officer. I would thank Rev John Harley for continuing to cover our safeguarding responsibilities and Rachel Skelton who was seconded for a second year to the General Assembly to work on the Training and Education Project. I would also thank Mary-Jean Hennis who left us after many years of service. Her smile and positivity are missed!

I continued as Chair of the British Chapter of the International Association of Religious Freedom (IARF) as well as of the Europe and Middle East Region and at the Council of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists (ICUU) in February 2018 was elected in Vice President. As a mature and well-funded organisation the GA has an important role to play within the global Unitarian and liberal religious movement. Indeed by being open to the wider world it can change our sometimes limiting perspectives.



In summary, it has been a privilege to serve the Unitarian community. I feel we are in a better place in so many ways to be able to respond positively to the undoubted challenges facing our nation and our local communities. There is, of course, much more to be done to build upon what has been achieved and change is the only constant.

*Derek McAuley*



# Our Trustees



## Marion Baker (Convenor)

Marion is a retired career civil servant and past President of the Unitarian denomination. She is Treasurer of the Trustees of Upper Chapel, Sheffield, Treasurer of the Sheffield District Association and Chairperson of the Nightingale Centre Management Committee. Wife of Rev Ernest Baker and mother of Tim.

## Hilda Dumbleton

Hilda is a lifelong member of the Swansea Unitarian Church and is currently the Treasurer. Her working life was in education, teaching Mathematics as well as positions of management. Although retired, she still does some work for the Welsh Examination Board. She is involved with the South East Wales District Society and also the Welsh Department.



## Rev Lynne Readett

Lynne is a third generation Chowbent Unitarian Chapel member and still lives in Atherton with husband John and son Michael. Early working life was within the textile industry as a manufacturer's agent. She decided to train for ministry later in life and until her recent retirement was District Minister serving the Merseyside District Ministry Association.



## Rev Matthew Smith

Matthew has been a Unitarian for over thirty years, having joined Cambridge Unitarian Church while at University. He was a member of the President's Commission on Unitarian Education and Training in the late 1980s and served on the Council of the London and South East District and Provincial Assembly from 2010-2012. He was employed by the General Assembly as Information Officer from 1990-2004. Following Ministry training at Harris Manchester College Oxford, he has been Minister at Framlingham and Bury St Edmunds since 2014. He holds a Postgraduate Certificate in Charity Management from South Bank University.





# Our Trustees

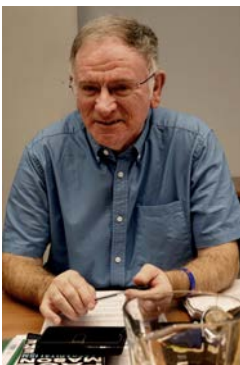
## Sir Philip Colfox

Sir Philip guided the resurgence of the Chapel in the Garden, Bridport and started several community organisations. Currently building a lifestyle destination and brand at Symondsburry Dorset, Sir Philip has spent his earlier career in the financial sector, construction and lobbying.



## Peter Hanley (Honorary Treasurer)

Peter is an independent researcher and specialist safety consultant. He spent nearly 25 years in the British Royal Navy submarine service, operating nuclear power plants and managing people. Peter's specialist ability was in deriving solutions to whole submarine problems based on the minimum amount of data and small amount of time available for successful completion. Building an intimate relationship and knowledge of acoustic and vibration energy patterns first hand provided a foundation for this high speed problem solving skill.



## Christina Smith

Christina has been active in Unitarian communities in the UK and in the United States for 18 years. Since 2012 she has been a lay worship leader with Belper Chapel and has served on the committee of various Unitarian bodies including the Unitarian Peace Fellowship, Unitarian Association for Lay Ministry, Youth Panel and Unitarian Renewal Group. She is now working as Chief Community Cultivator for Derby Unity and Worship Leader for Derby Unitarians as part of the 2020 Congregational Development Programme, supported by the General Assembly and the East Midlands District.



## Rev Dr Rob Whiteman

Rob is Minister with Dundee Unitarians, having previously served with the Cotswold Group. He came to ministry following careers in Church Administration and Teaching, as well as a brief period in Development at the University of St Andrews where he had previously read theology. He discovered Unitarianism at St Mark's, Edinburgh.



# Trustees' Report

## Executive Committee

### Members during the year:

Marion Baker (Convenor), Sir Philip Colfox, Hilda Dumpleton (from Nov 2017), Peter Hanley (Hon Treasurer), Sheena McKinnon (until Sep 2018), Rev Lynne Readett, Christina Smith, Rev Matthew Smith, Rev Dr Rob Whiteman

### Staff Support:

Derek McAuley (Chief Officer), Mary-Jean Hennis (Minutes, until Aug 2018), Andrew Mason (Minutes, from Sep 2018)

The Executive Committee (EC) acts as the trustee body of the General Assembly (GA) 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 law and other legal requirements. The Executive Committee provides strategic leadership, appoints the Chief Officer, and is responsible for ensuring the effective use of the assets of the General Assembly. Executive Committee members are not representatives of individual districts or areas of the country but must act in the best interests of the General Assembly as a charity.

### General Assembly Vision

Our vision is to seek a personal faith through rational thought and individual conscience. We are inspired to serve humanity and work with others to do so. We want to encourage spiritual inspiration and engage with all people who seek answers to life's question and who welcome new forms of religious expression. We wish to collaborate and support each other. Our organisation and membership is supported by volunteers who willingly serve each other.

### Our Challenge

Our challenge is to energise and inspire those who are prepared to serve humanity.

### Progress on "Next Step" Priorities

The focus for the Executive Committee during the year has remained the priorities identified in "From Vision to Action: Next Steps" which were presented to the 2016 Annual Meetings. Much of this work has been taken forward in partnerships with others within the wider Unitarian Movement. The Executive Committee has prioritised effort and energy across many different priorities. The General Assembly, despite limited staffing and volunteer resources, has done well to retain necessary focus on key issues. The expectation is that attention to these key priorities has secured an impetus for real change to take place.

- Find more flexible ways of training for Ministry and Develop and integrate different forms of ministerial training (including recognised lay ministry training) – The second stage of the Training and Education Development (TED) project was completed in September 2018 with the implementation of the Ministerial training non-location based pilot with three students commencing the programme. We would thank the other partners in the TED project, Unitarian College Manchester and the Memorial Hall Trust, for their support in taking forward this innovative approach to ministry training. Arrangements were put in place for the establishment of the new Unitarian College which has been awarded Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) status with Charity Commission number 1180457. The General Assembly will be working with all its educational partners to ensure a quality framework to deliver the agreed ministerial competencies.
- Develop a comprehensive response to explain our identity – through creative use of existing financial resources, a Communications Officer position was created to focus on social media, the GA website and general marketing and promotion. Further thinking on an overall Communications Strategy has taken place.



# Trustees' Report

- Support a web-based spiritual learning resource with Unitarian College Manchester (UCM) – how this project integrates with the new Unitarian College and lay training requires further exploration.

- Engage with the wider community on today's issues – this relates to how the use of engagement group processes can assist local congregations - no action taken

- Increase collaboration with other like minded organisations – we have sought to work together with other organisations to have a bigger impact. Support was given to the Findhorn Unitarian Experience Week for their leadership development programme. Following the Annual Meetings Resolution to support the Equality Trust we have explored practical ways to collaborate together.

***" Our vision is to seek a personal faith through rational thought and individual conscience. We are inspired to serve humanity .. "***

- Promote more Unitarian thought and writing – Funding was made available from the Chalice Fund to “Faith and Freedom” to publish the papers of the October 2017 Unitarian Theology II Conference.

- Formulate a plan to undertake Campus Ministry – following the outcome of the earlier pilot, it was decided that no further action would be taken to implement Campus Ministry at this time.

- Support a new congregational development – financial support for the Derby Unity 2020 project has continued enabling encouraging progress.

- Grow our volunteer pool – training and support is being provided by the Ministry and Congregational Support Officer (MCSO).

- Work with the Districts to create a new forum for national involvement – on hold as consultation revealed that a forum may not be the best means to engage people.

- Understand and reduce threats to building and financial sustainability – The MCSO is working to support congregations with issues relating to finances and buildings.

- Review the effectiveness of our organisation – the role of the Youth Coordinator/Safeguarding Lead and Communications Officer were reviewed and changed to reflect new needs.

- Update “Help is at Hand” as an on-line resource – the Local Leadership Strategy Group has been leading in updating “Help is at Hand” with the aim of having it online in April 2018.

- Reduce our carbon footprint – the environmental impact of the Annual Meetings has been highlighted and is being investigated.



At a meeting in Essex Hall Chief Officer Derek McAuley received a Certificate from Dr Wanda Wyporska, Executive Director to recognise the decision to affiliate to the Equality Trust taken at the Annual Meetings



## Finances

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 two “linked” bodies. A full copy of the Annual Accounts is available on the Charity Commission website and from Essex Hall. During the year the Sustentation Fund decided to dissolve itself as a separate registered charity. Its funds are now administered by the General Assembly in a restricted fund with the same charitable object and a similar level of grants will be made to congregations each year. The Gabor Kereki Trust, administered by the General Assembly, made its first grant to support a Hungarian Unitarian Minister who was a Sharpe Scholar at Unitarian College Manchester and Harris Manchester College Oxford.

Spending has been controlled and income maintained, although it is of continuing concern that quota payments are reducing. Grants from the British and Foreign Unitarian Association Incorporated and the Essex Hall Trust have made up some of the shortfall and we give special thanks to their Trustees for this support.

The General Assembly’s reserves policy is to hold 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 obligations are mitigated.

The Executive Committee would like to thank Peter Hanley for his particular contribution as Honorary Treasurer in addition to his role as a Trustee.

## Annual Meetings 2018

The Annual Meetings took place at the De Vere Staverton Estate in rural Northamptonshire; a quite different experience to the urban setting of Birmingham. There has been positive feedback from attendees, with a memorable Opening Ceremony by Youth Adults who challenged the Unitarian Movement to embrace its younger members. The Keynote speaker was Rev Dr Paul Rasor who spoke on “Faith Without Certainty in Uncertain Times”. Rev Danny Crosby preached the Anniversary Service Sermon, with the service led by Rev Kate Whyman. We would thank everyone who contributed to the success of the event, in particular Dot Hewerdine for chairing the business sessions. There were 50 first-timer attenders, some of whom received Financial support from the Bowland Trust through a new bursary scheme and we thank the Trust for its assistance.

Following the review of the arrangements for future meetings Resolutions for a constitutional Change and on new procedures, as amended, were approved and will be implemented at the Meetings in 2019.

*De Vere Staverton Estate - 2018 Annual Meetings Venue*



## Communication

Executive Committee members have continued to undertake “link” roles to District Associations. The GA President has attended the Executive Committee meetings as an observer, bringing grassroots views to discussions as well as improving their awareness of the work of the EC. An Executive Committee session was again held at the Annual Meetings and members contributed to a well-received plenary session by outlining their personal motivation for serving. Work was undertaken to ensure General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) compliance.



## Nightingale Centre

The Executive Committee members are also trustees of the Nightingale Centre, which is a separately registered charity. A report from the Management Committee, who act under delegation arrangements, is included later in the Report. The Executive Committee met with members of the Management Committee and the Centre Manager when they were at the Centre in September 2018. The Management Committee members and the Centre Manager and staff are to be thanked for their hard work and commitment in providing a high quality resource for Unitarians and other like-minded groups.

## Membership

It is with regret that we report the closure of the Banbury Fellowship and Dob Lane Unitarian Chapel, Manchester during the year and we place on record our recognition of the commitment of members and Ministers over the years.

## Risk Management, Safeguarding and Public Benefit

The risk register was reviewed in September 2018 resulting in a number of changes reflecting an assessment of the current risks facing the General Assembly. Most significantly the risks arising from the establishment of Unitarian College and the delivery of the pilot ministry training programme, lay leadership and lifelong learning and the retirement of the Chief Officer were added. A Complaints Policy and Procedure was agreed.

The importance of effective local arrangements for Safeguarding remains the highest risk area on the Risk Register. A further safeguarding audit was undertaken and reported to the Executive Committee in May 2018. Whilst there had been some improvement since the last audit the response rate remains disappointing and more work needs to be done at a local level to raise awareness and improve practice.

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.

## International

Support has continued to be offered to the International Council of Unitarians and Universalist (ICUU) and to the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF). Christina Smith, EC member, and the Chief Officer represented the GA at the ICUU Council in Kathmandu, Nepal and Matthew Smith, EC member, Robert Ince and Rev Richard Boeke were voting representatives at the IARF business meeting in Washington DC, USA linked to the Reimagining Interfaith Conference.



*The ICUU Conference and Council meeting in Kathmandu finished with a celebratory cake from our Nepalese partners*



## Chief Officer

In January 2018 the Chief Officer informed the Executive Committee that it was his intention to retire and subsequently agreed a date of 30 April 2019 to leave the employment of the General Assembly. The Executive Committee agreed a process to appoint a successor and appointed a recruitment committee of three members, with access to advice and support from the General Assembly's Human Resources Advisers and Paul Parker, of Quakers in Britain. They worked hard to ensure that the position was advertised in October 2018. There will be opportunities to thank Derek McAuley for his service to the General Assembly, however, we would place on record our recognition that the long notice period he has given has enabled a measured and professional approach to be taken to the recruitment of his successor.



*GA Chief Officer Derek McAuley, visiting our Brighton Church*

## Staffing, Accommodation and Volunteers

All we have achieved this year would not be possible without the dedication of our staff, volunteers and supporters. The Executive Committee would like to thank the Chief Officer and staff at Essex Hall for their work and commitment and also Rosemary Ruston, who continued to provide weekly support in a volunteer capacity at Essex Hall for the Associate Member scheme.

We said goodbye to Aniuska Dominquez, Rev John Harley and Mary-Jean Hennis as members of staff and would thank them for their commitment to the GA. We welcomed Gavin Howell, who was appointed as Youth Co-ordinator/ Safeguarding Lead on 1 August 2018 and Rory Castle Jones as Communications Officer on 1 October 2018. Rachel Skelton completed her secondment on 31 September 2018 and we would thank her for her work to support the implementation of the TED project.

The Essex Hall building is owned by an independent body, the Essex Hall Trust, and the Trustees generously provide the General Assembly with free office space, including business rates, utility bills and service charges. The General Assembly also receives a contribution towards staffing costs reflecting the management and financial services provided to the Trust and a substantial grant. Andrew Mason, as Trust Manager, and the other Trust staff, are to be thanked for their work to support the General Assembly and the other tenants in the building. The Executive Committee would like to thank the Essex Hall Trustees for their continuing support.

We would like to thank everyone who serves on the various bodies within the General Assembly or takes part in the various activities for their commitment in a voluntary capacity. We know that without their efforts much of our work to support congregations would not be possible. This report bears witness to what has been achieved.

*Marion Baker*

Marion Baker  
EC Convenor



## Investment Panel

### Members during the year:

Ministers' Pension Fund, Unitarian College Manchester, Manchester District, Cross St Chapel Manchester, Ministers' Stipend Augmentation Fund, Upper Chapel Sheffield, Sustentation Fund, various Unitarian Churches, GA Funds

The Panel, which consists of representatives of various funds held by the General Assembly, Districts, Churches and Trusts, met three times during the year to review the results of the various investments operated on our behalf by Newton Investment Management ('Newton'). Newton also reported on their view of the World economy and where they thought the general economy was going.

There had been a slight drop in the total value of the various investments made by Newton during the year caused generally by Brexit and the fall out from the negotiations in line with the FTSE All Share index for the year.

Among the areas covered by Newton was an explanation of how Newton are looking more and more at how they are investing responsibly, testing how the companies are matching up to tests of ethical and sustainable operations incorporating "Environmental, Social and Governance" areas. They have produced a booklet showing how they have attacked this problem and it would seem as though this is to form a larger and larger part of their investment planning in the future. Should any trustees wish to look further into this area they can contact Alan Goodwin at Newton for a copy.

I shall be retiring from the Chair of the panel this year and have enjoyed the various problems we have met over the years.

*Mike Tamlin*

## Sustentation Fund

As planned and reported in the last Annual Report, the Sustentation Fund was wound up at a meeting on 11 October 2017. Charity Commission approval was then obtained, and the Sustentation Fund was officially dissolved as a registered charity. The funds were then transferred to the General Assembly in March 2018.

The final balance of the Fund, when transferred, was £536,158.

### Grants

The grants for the year 2017/18 are reported on the Sustentation Fund Financial Summary page later in this Annual Report.

# £18.16m

*- amount invested by Unitarian groups with Newton through the Investment Panel as at 31/10/18.*



# 2020 Group

## Members during the year:

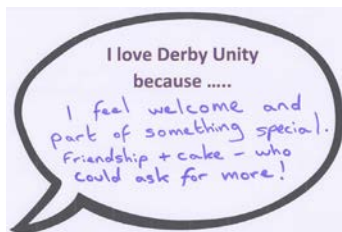
Winnie Gordon (until Sep 2018),  
Angela Maher, Andy Pakula, Martin  
Whitell, Aleks Zglinska

Winnie Gordon resigned from the group in September 2018 and we are grateful for the help Winnie has given us over the past few years.

Derby Unity celebrated its third anniversary in October 2018, and is continuing to thrive. It is made up of a group of curious, brave and compassionate thinkers, from different backgrounds and of many beliefs, who work to create community beyond boundaries by putting love, compassion and kindness at the centre of everything they do. Their mission is to create a space where people of all faiths and none are welcomed equally and supported to: Be More, Do More, Make a Difference.

Unfortunately, due to ill health, Christina Smith was unable to work full-time for a number of months during 2018. This affected every aspect of the project, but in particular the promotion of Sunday Gatherings and the promotion of events at Friargate Chapel.

However, the Sunday Morning gatherings at the Multi-Faith Centre have continued throughout and the community has been stable in numbers and attendance. They have also been very supportive to Christina and each other during this period. The children's programme has been put on hold but all gatherings are children-friendly and families do attend and are welcomed.



Derby Unity has been successfully hosting events such as sound baths (vibrational sound meditation), yoga meditation and labyrinth workshops at the Friargate Chapel in Derby City centre. All events at the Chapel are hosted by Christina with light refreshments and in some cases a shared supper. This time of fellowship as produced some productive engagement with the wider community.

In 2019, we hope to further utilise the Chapel to host a mid-week lunchtime gathering, alongside additional meditation and movement sessions on Friday evenings.

Beyond support from 2020, the project would not have been possible without the support of the Derby Unitarian Community, the Derby Unity Core Community, and the amazing support of the East Midland District.

Looking forward, the community at Derby Unity are looking to work in partnership with the Multi-Faith Centre to launch a social action project based at the Community café at Arboretum Park, in Derby. Christina is also working with both the Multi-Faith Centre and the University to strengthen links and facilitate mutually beneficial projects.

A recent comment to Christina by a regular attender: "this is an amazing group. I love that I have met such amazing people, and you brought them all together. It's magical!"

Derby Unity is the only project currently funded by 2020. As has been specified in the original operational documents of the group, further funds do need to be raised to support additional projects. Recommendations were made to the EC to provide broader support to growth in the movement including to existing congregations which without a focus on rekindling are unable to be supported by 2020.

*Aleks Zglinska*





# Local Leadership - Supporting Congregations

## Local Leadership

### Members during the year:

Louise Rogers (Chair), Margaret Robinson (Secretary & LEAP), Winnie Gordon (WSC), Ned Prideaux (HSS), Howard Wilkins (BAG)

The role of the LLSG is to ensure that every congregation is served by trained leaders, by providing training, advice and information, to encourage and support congregations through:

- Developing and implementing a modular training strategy for local leadership and governance;
- Providing advice and support to congregations and districts; and
- Providing facilitation services to congregations and districts.

The LLSG has a co-ordination as well as a strategic role. It works to a plan, reviewed every year. The year started with the LLSG reviewing its plan in the light of the newly created Vision document, identifying where the Group's work could help to meet the Vision's aims. In August the LLSG renewed its action plan.

All the work of developing and implementing activities is carried out by the working groups, which report to the LLSG. These are:

- Building Advisory Group (BAG)
- Worship Studies Committee (WSC)
- Hucklow Summer School (HSS)
- LEAP (Leading, Enabling & Affirming People) which completed its work in 2018.

### 2017/18

2017/18 has seen some developments but timescales have slipped in some instances as the full lives of our volunteers have made some targets challenging to meet.

The LLSG has not managed to meet in person this year. Communication has been continuing via email and all required communications sent to the General Assembly. THE EC link Marion Baker has also been included in LLSG communications.

Whilst setting the next year's budget all sub-groups review their plans and submit requests to the LLSG to be forwarded to the General Assembly.

### Plans for 2017/18

**Completing Help is at Hand webpages** - This was finally completed but with much fewer pages than hoped for. It is essentially Help is at Hand updated and available via the internet.



*Chalice Awards being presented at York (Left) and the Octagon Chapel, Norwich (Right)*

**The Chalice Award Scheme** for young people continues and develops. At the moment children and young people are following the Scheme at five churches - Knutsford have 14 children between 3 and 8 years following the Green stage. At Norwich six children have achieved both their Green and Bronze stages. At York three children achieved their Green stage. At Ullet Road, Liverpool one child is following the Green stage, two the Bronze stage and five the Silver stage. At Monton, Eccles one child is following the Bronze stage, another the Silver stage and three the Gold stage.



The **LEAP course (Leading, Enabling, Aspiring People)** has been completed with nine people enrolling in September 2017; six participated in the second residential; and five people passed the course. The feedback received was positive. The LEAP Course consisted of two residential weekends held at The Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow in September 2017 and June 2018. To receive a LEAP Certificate participants must have attended both residential weekends, carried out all activities and completed four assignments and reflections. The LEAP Course is to develop and deepen leadership skills in facilitating groups and creating worship for all ages in the Unitarian Community.



*LEAP Participants at the second Residential*

The **TED (Ministerial Training) Project** has progressed significantly, and the LLSG has had an active link with shared membership. However, changed personal circumstances meant that the links were not maintained at this level throughout the year. Members of the Worship Studies Course Group have maintained good, active links throughout the year with sub-groups looking at particular aspects of training.

### Plans for 2018/19

With the EC developing a new strategy document and the impending change of Chief Officer, the LLSG appreciates that priorities and structures at the General Assembly may change. The development of ministerial training will be likely to impact on LLSG plans. However, the Group is planning to review its strategic plan in 2019, and will ensure that it is flexible enough to accommodate changes at national level.

With regard to activity that the LLSG has direct responsibility for: there are now seven congregations registered with the Chalice Award and it is hoped that some Gold Awards will be given out this coming year. We welcome suggestions for potential new projects for future activity.

*Louise Rogers*

# Hucklow Summer School

## Members during the year:

**Jane Blackall (Convenor), Janet Costley (until Aug 2018), Katie McKenna, Ned Prideaux**

## Staff Support:

**Audrey Longhurst**

## Mission statement (amended extract):

The core activity of Hucklow Summer School (HSS) is Religious Education. We aim to provide a balanced programme including Small Group Activities and Morning Theme Talks.

We are committed to providing opportunities for Daily Spiritual Practice including meditation sessions each morning and worship in the chapel each evening. We provide a Programme for Children and Young People.

It is essential that HSS is a safe and caring environment. To this end, we are committed to provision of a named "Minister of the Week" for pastoral care, and to the widespread use of group covenants.

It is our hope that participants will be inspired and challenged by their experience of HSS to develop and promote religious education activities back in their own congregations and communities.

We aim to promote diversity at HSS, representing the breadth within our Movement, in terms of our demographics, theologies and varied forms of spiritual practice.



*Summer School Participants*



## Achievements:

This year's theme was 'How, then, shall we live? Living, dying, and considering our legacy.' Participants heard talks from Jane Blackall, Michael Allured, Helen Simpson, and Rob Gregson. Our fifth planned speaker, Bill Darlison, was unable to attend due to ill health. The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, although (for reasons which are outlined below) attendance at the talks was lower than the usual (and expected) 100%. These talks are available online at [www.hucklowsummerschool.co.uk](http://www.hucklowsummerschool.co.uk), and should be available in print form by the time of the GA Meetings.

This year we offered four adult engagement groups: 'Crossing and Dwelling: Marking Paths and Making Place' with Claire MacDonald and Mark Steward; 'The Soulful Road' with Kate Dean and Elizabeth Harley; 'Tell Them Stories and Everything Will Be Well' with Dot Hewerdine and Katie McKenna; and 'A Journey Through the Valley of the Shadow: Love, Loss, and Remembrance' with Danny Crosby and Jef Jones. Unfortunately Jef Jones was also unable to attend due to health problems, so one group was facilitated by one person.



This reduction in facilitation was also a problem for another group, when one of the leaders succumbed to the Norovirus which hit the community on Monday morning. Fifteen other people became unwell during the week, which led to considerable disruption, with people being quarantined and having to miss sessions. It is very clear that the outbreak was not preventable, having been unknowingly brought into the group by a participant. It should be noted that the Nightingale Centre were commended by Public Health England for their handling of the outbreak.



It is to the credit of everyone at Summer School that despite this major disruption a community was formed and the hard work of community living and spiritual development continued and brought joy to many.

Our young people's engagement group (facilitated by Claire Maddocks and Issy Rosenberg) covered a wide range of ages (from 2 to 14), and although it was again affected by the ill health of one of the facilitators, feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

Finances were again tight this year, despite generous gifts to the bursary fund: bursaries continue to be in high demand, but are a valuable source of introducing people to the strength and development which Summer School provides.

## New initiatives and future plans:

As always, the feedback forms have been read in great detail and suggestions from participants have been borne in mind. Although the overall pattern of Summer School will remain the same, we will provide new activities and several new key members of staff have been recruited. Janet Costley has left the organising panel, and we thank her for her hard work. Two new members, Louise Baumberg and Nicola Temple, have joined the panel, and work is well underway for next year's Summer School, the theme of which will be 'Theology in the Flesh: How Might our Embodied Experience Shape our Answers to Life's Ultimate Questions?'

*Jane Blackall*



# Buildings Advisory Group

## Members during the year:

Mike Barber (Convenor), Viv Aylmer, Zoe Bremer (Deceased), Adrian Isaac, Geoff Levermore, Mark Pierce, Howard Wilkins

## Staff Support:

Simon Bland, Derek McAuley

## Historic Consultants:

Graham Hague, Judy Hague

Sadly during the year we lost member Zoe Bremer to cancer. Her funeral was conducted by Howard Wilkins.

The Building Advisory Group (BAG) continued to be active, conducting most of its business by email. It met once, at Chatham.

Our mission is to informally offer practical guidance and suggestions on developing, financing, and maintaining our building stock. The main focus of the Group this year, as previous ones, has been responding to requests for advice from various Unitarian places of worship and other denominational buildings. These requests are usually submitted via Essex Hall.

The main enquiries/contacts handled during the year are listed here:

**Chatham:** the building's electrics and a number of other problems

**Chowbent:** Advice about grant awarding bodies.

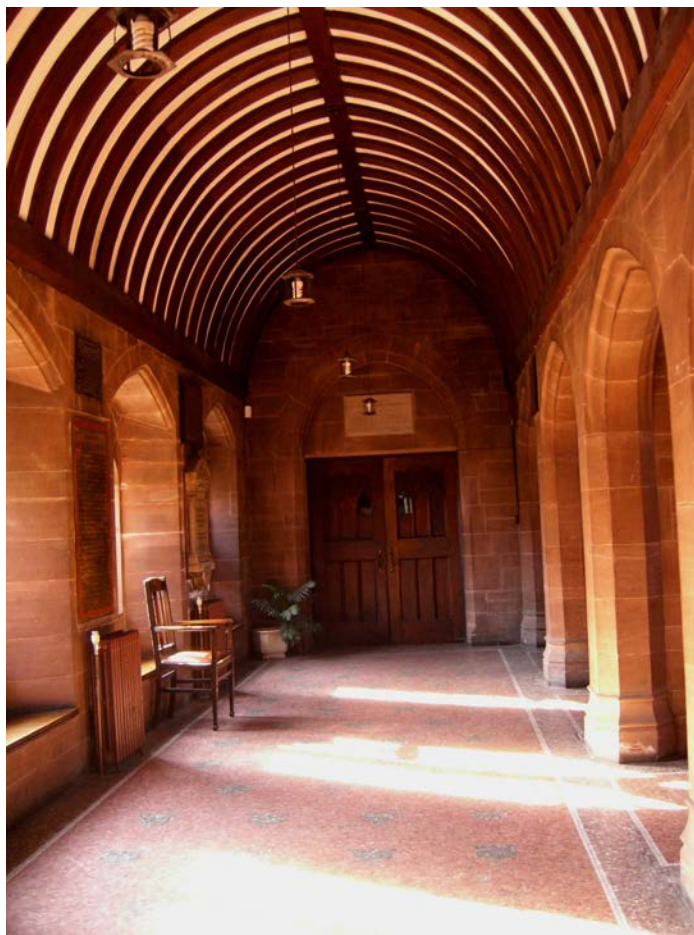
**Essex Hall, London:** the group continues to be represented, with two members on both the Board of Trustees and Management Committee.

**Golders Green, London:** Help in locating chapel deeds.

**Hale:** Appointment of a buildings advisor.

**Rochdale:** roof repairs and heating problems.

**Ullet Road, Liverpool:** Advice about planning consent.



*Ullet Road, Liverpool*

**Underbank, Sheffield:** upgrading the Sunday school building and associated grant applications.

**Presence at 2018 Annual Meetings:** The BAG had its usual stall, manned by Howard Wilkins.

The Energy consumptions of a number of chapels have been submitted and the results published. It would be useful if chapels could update their consumption details and more chapels submit.

We continue to look to augmenting the membership of the group to broaden and deepen our expertise on offer. The Convenor, Mike Barber would like to step down from the role of convenor.

*Mike Barber*



# Worship Studies Course (WSC)

## Members during the year:

Rev Winnie Gordon (Chair & Mentor),  
Rev Sue Woolley (Course Administrator  
& Tutor), Rev Ernest Baker (Tutor),  
Rev Alex Bradley (Tutor, until Aug  
2018), Rev Celia Cartwright (Tutor),  
Rev Sheena Gabriel (Tutor), Rev John  
Harley (Tutor), Rev Ant Howe (Tutor),  
Rev Dr Ann Peart (Tutor)

We are most grateful for the many contributions of Rev Alex Bradley, Tutor of the Unitarian Theology & Thought module, for his dedication and hard work over many years, and wish him every success in his new role as Ministry Tutor at Harris Manchester College Oxford.

## Foundation Step:

This report does not cover the costs of the Wroship Studies Course Foundation Step (WSCFS) courses. These are run in and by Districts, and each course is expected to be self-funding. Students are required to complete all elements of the training, and have two services assessed to receive their Foundation Step certificates.

Since our last report, the WSCFS has been run in the Midland Unitarian Association and in the North West Provincial Assembly. The total number of participants was sixteen, down from last year. But we believe that the high number of students on the course last year is one reason for this. Both courses went well.

## Intermediate and Advanced Steps:

Registration on the Worship Studies Course (WSC) presently has 33 students on the WSC Intermediate Step, and seven on the Advanced Step, with seven students enrolled on the Unitarian Studies Course (USC). This does not include two students who have completed the Advanced Step during the year. Congratulations to Jim Stearn on receiving the Certificate of Completion of the Unitarian Studies Course, and Graham Phoenix for completion of all levels of the Worship Studies Course, and all requirements to be recommended by the Local Leadership Strategy Group to be placed on the GA Roll of Lay Preachers.

The Worship Studies Course Team met twice this year, with most in attendance and all the tutors sending in their reports prior to the meeting. Much was discussed about the contribution the WSC makes to the Movement and the importance for congregations to have a good support of lay worship leaders. In addition, the team reviewed the course, making suggestions for future improvements.

The success of the WSC would not be possible without the work of the Intermediate and Advanced Tutors, and the Tutors and Facilitators on the Foundation Step who lay the ground work so well. Our denomination is very blessed to have such volunteers and the Chair expresses gratitude and thanks for all their time and efforts in training lay worship leaders.

If you would like more information about the WSC or the USC please do come and see us at the Annual Meetings.

*Rev Sue Woolley*

# 47

*- number of people  
enrolled on the WSC  
and USC courses*



# Ministry

## Ministry Strategy Group

### Members during the year:

Rev Sarah Tinker (Interim Chair),  
Jane Couper, Rev Jeff Gould (from Jan 2018, Rev Ant Howe (until Jan 2019),  
Kay Millard (until Feb 2018), Rev Lynne Readett (EC Link)

### Staff Support:

Derek McAuley (Chief Officer),  
Simon Bland (Ministry & Congregational Support Officer),  
Mary-Jean Hennis (until Aug 2018)

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

The Ministry Strategy Group (MSG) met three times during the year covered by this report, continuing with its primary tasks of overseeing training for Unitarian ministry and the on-going responsibility for the GA Roll of Ministers and for the work of ministers in congregations.

### Ministry Training

2018 was a year of change for our Movement's ministry training providers, with the committee of Unitarian College Manchester (UCM) announcing the end of location-based training within the Partnership for Theological Education, based at Luther King House. The Rev Dr Arthur Stewart retired as Tutor at Harris Manchester College Oxford (HMCO) in the Summer of 2018 and his successor was announced as Rev Alex Bradley, moving from his previous role of Principal of UCM. We warmly thank Alex and Arthur for the care and guidance they have given our ministry students and we look forward to working further with Alex and with Rev Ant Howe, who will commence as Ministry Tutor with the new Unitarian College, starting in January 2019.

The TED Project (Training & Education Development), jointly funded by the Executive Committee and by UCM, completed its work in the Autumn of 2018 and the Strategy Group thanks Rachel Skelton for her dedicated work for this project. It has been heartening to see the MSG's earlier development of competencies for ministry, now enhanced and embedded in an assessment structure, alongside the establishment of the new Unitarian College, with its commitment to lifelong learning.

Simon Bland has proved himself invaluable as our Movement's Ministry & Congregational Support Officer, taking a useful part in the TED Project and in monitoring the development of the national apprenticeship scheme for ministry by the Church of England, which may hold possibilities for some of our future students. In the last year Simon has ensured that all ministers have up to date Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance. As a Movement we must ensure that Simon's work time is not taken up entirely with problem solving and conflict resolution as there are many development projects also calling for his valuable attention.

During the year the MSG has continued to explore the possibilities of taking responsibility for all leadership within congregations, which would require a review of the responsibilities held by each of the strategy groups within our current structure. We support the idea of a more coherent, joined up approach to all the training opportunities offered by our Movement and want to underline the need of training, guidance and support for all congregational leaders.

### The Roll of Ministers

The Strategy Group is responsible for overseeing the Rolls of Ministers and Lay Pastors and ensuring that high professional standards are maintained. In the year ahead further progress must be made on the still delayed review of the 'Guidelines' document, which deals with the relationship between ministers and congregations. Conversations with the Ministerial Fellowship are on-going as they progress work on a new Code of Conduct for ministers.



Training is required for new mentors and we hope that the development of individual learning plans for ministry students will continue into the probationary years at the start of ministry. Such plans will help congregations understand their duty of care towards paid leaders, especially towards newly qualified ministers. The MSG continues its support for on-going Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for ministers, as is now standard practice in many other professions.

### Other Work

The Strategy Group appreciates greatly the time and financial commitment made by the Hibbert Trust in running the Ministry in the Making (MiM) retreat for a seventh year, bringing together newly-qualified ministers and students from our colleges. MiM has been praised for helping to develop a far deeper sense of collegiality amongst new ministers and is clearly appreciated by those attending. The Strategy Group also recognises the value of the second lay leaders' consultation, again organised by the Hibbert Trust. We are aware that the varied experiences and hopes of this important yet too often unacknowledged group of congregational leaders need to be heard. We also greatly valued the Ministerial Fellowship's work in organising a discernment retreat for those considering ministry training. This was widely praised by participants for creating a safe space for deep reflection. In these times of change, the Strategy Group remains committed to its mission: helping to provide excellent spiritual leadership with the skills and abilities to grow and develop thriving religious communities. We applaud the work of our training providers in considering how best to train ministers for 21st century circumstances and we look forward to further developments in training, mirroring the changes in higher education within our wider society.

*Sarah Tinker*

# 2

*- Ministers admitted to the roll with probationary status*

## Interview Panel

### Members during the year:

Rev Alex Bradley, Rev Maria Curtis, Rev Daniel Costley (from Jan 2018), David Dawson, Rev Ant Howe, Rev Margaret Kirk (until Jun 2018), Rev Dr Arthur Stewart (until Jun 2018), Rev Patrick Timpeley (from Jan 2019), Rev Sarah Tinker (Chair)

### Staff Support:

Simon Bland (Ministry & Congregational Support Officer, Mary-Jean Hennis (until Aug 2018)

The current structure for the Interview Panel's work has continued during the past year, with applications from potential candidates for ministerial training being received by October 8th. Those chosen for interview are invited to Oxford in early January for an overnight stay, with conversations and interviews, worship and group exercises. The Panel met in London in May to approve training proposals for those starting academic studies in the autumn and for final interviews with students about to complete their training. The Panel reports to the Ministry Strategy Group (MSG) and looks to the Strategy Group and the Executive Committee for guidance on its current and future ways of working. As always, the Panel acknowledges the essential work carried out by Essex Hall staff, and wishes to thank Mary-Jean Hennis for her administrative support of the Panel over many years.

The Interview Panel continues to review its working practices on a regular basis and we aspire to professional standards in all our work for our Movement. We aim to give helpful and clear feedback to candidates if requested and to ensure appropriate levels of transparency in our decision-making, whilst maintaining absolute confidentiality

# 6

*- Ministers admitted to the roll with full status*



about any individuals involved. We encourage all those who sense a call to ministry to engage in a process of discernment, often over a number of years. Those interested in ministry can learn much by observing and consulting with ministers at work in our Movement, by engaging with the life of their congregation and district association, ideally becoming more involved with our national Movement through Worship and Unitarian Studies courses, by attending the Hucklow Summer School and other residential events, through attendance at Annual Meetings and visiting other congregations around the country. Candidates must demonstrate their understanding of our Movement's work and governance structures and the great variety of congregations within our General Assembly.

Due to changes in our training structures, rather than holding our usual Ministry Inquiry Day in early Summer, we offered people at all stages of their journey towards ministry an opportunity to book a phone conversation in order to ask questions and consider possibilities. Professional ministry is not a path for everyone and there are many forms of leadership needed in our congregations and wider Movement.

In January 2018 the Interview Panel recommended that training places, within a transitional programme of the new Unitarian College, be offered to three students: Stephanie Bisby, Jane Blackall and Elizabeth Harley.

Studying through a blended mix of residential study retreats, congregational placements, externally



*The first session of the new Unitarian College held at Woodbrooke in September*

# 4

## - Ministerial students in training in the academic year to Summer 2018

validated academic studies and spiritual direction, these students are to be commended for trialling new structures and for providing valuable feedback on competency based training. Of particular interest will be the independent assessment procedures ensuring that all the necessary competencies for ministry are achieved and that independent learning plans will guide our future ministers during their probationary years.

During the academic year to the Summer of 2018, four students were in training:

Harris Manchester College, Oxford:  
Michael Allured, Melda Grantham and Duncan Voice

Unitarian College Manchester:  
Mark Hutchinson

Panel members were pleased to recommend that Mark Hutchinson and Duncan Voice be admitted to the Roll with probationary status on completion of agreed academic studies.

We thank everyone for support given to our training processes and especially those involved in student placements with congregations, and individuals and trusts contributing to our Ministerial Students Fund, which provides essential grants for students in training. It is a pleasure to witness the progress made by our students in training and to be part of their journey towards congregational ministry.

*Sarah Tinker*

# 2

## - New ministerial students offered training for next year





# Visibility

## Lindsey Press

### Members during the year:

David Dawson (Convenor), Rev Claire MacDonald, Kay Millard, Catherine Robinson, Rev Kate Whyman (until Jun 2018).

### Staff Support:

Audrey Longhurst,  
Derek McAuley (Chief Officer)

The panel met three times during the year plus a lot of email discussion and decision making, notably in the closing stages of preparing Unitarians: Together in Diversity. This book, compiled by Sue Woolley, was successfully launched at the GA Annual Meetings in April 2018. We were also able to offer a new edition of Cliff Reed's book Unitarian? What's That? The new edition takes account of changes in the law concerning same-sex marriages, and individual perspectives on gender and sexuality. This popular small book, in a question and answer format, and selling at only £3.00, is ideal for giving to people who are in the early stages of exploring Unitarianism. It is now also available on-line.

We have explained in the past that the process from initial idea to text to publication is infinitely variable in both complexity and time. We do our best to support authors and facilitate the process, but much is not within our direct control. Writing this report in October 2018 it seems likely that, at the GA Annual Meetings in 2019 we will launch two books: Fragments of Holiness: Reflections for Daily Living. This is largely the work of Catherine Robinson who has pursued this project with great determination.

The other book is Ann Peart's eagerly anticipated Unitarian Women – Making a Difference (title to be confirmed). There are other projects in the pipeline – in seems unlikely that any of these will reach publication by April 2019 – but prepare to be surprised!

Audrey Longhurst is the person at GA Headquarters who will meet your request for Lindsey Press books. Ring her on 020 7240 2384 – pay by debit/credit card – it's easy! We are also grateful to Audrey for providing us with detailed sales figures. To these figures we add the online sales figures to get the full picture. The good news is that online sales are booming and now represent about one-third of our total sales. These figures speak for themselves (see table).

Whilst we welcome the good news about online sales, we do need to acknowledge two worrying aspects of Lindsey Press activity. Firstly, direct sales over the past eight years average only 645 per year – they only vary exceptionally from this when there is a particularly good book(s) as in 2015/16. Why do Unitarians not buy more books?

We thank Kate Whyman and Kay Millard – now retired from the panel; also Derek McAuley who has supported the panel throughout his tenure as Chief Officer. The panel now has only three members -this is not enough to sustain the work we do. We meet three times a year, in the afternoon at Essex Hall. Members do not need specific publishing skills; they do need a firm belief that the Unitarian movement needs to publish books that support and enhance the life and work of Unitarians and their congregations. Is this something you could do?

David Dawson

	Essex Hall / Annual Mtgs	Online	Total Sales	Books launched
2014/15	679	185	864	<i>Carnival of Lamps, Life Spirit</i>
2015/16	903	196	1099	<i>Living with Integrity, On the Side of Liberty</i>
2016/17	532	148	680	<i>How to publish your work (pamphlet)</i>
2017/18	672	375	997	<i>Unitarians Together in Diversity; Unitarian? What's that?</i>



# Penal & Social Affairs

## Members during the year:

**Bruce Chilton (Chair / Secretary), Tony Cann, Jenny Jacobs (from May 2018), Bernard Omar, Jo O'Sullivan, Tony Rees, Tony Ward, David Warhurst, Paul Wheeler, Sarah Wilcox (from Aug 2018), Jane Williams**

The Penal & Social Affairs Panel (PSAP) is a social responsibility activity of the Unitarians. It was created as the Penal Affairs Panel in 1992 following the General Assembly's "great concern at the poor conditions and regime at many local prisons." The Panel was given the task "to investigate the current situation on... penal policy, to keep the denomination informed..., and to provide a liberal religious voice in response... to current legislation."

The name of the Panel expanded in 2017 because it better reflected the results of what had been happening in penal affairs since 1992. The outstanding change during the life of the Penal Affairs Panel has been the doubling of the prison population. Since 1991 all Governments have engaged in populist penal politics. The number of criminal offences in statutes has doubled and the length of prison sentences and the use in sentencing of community sentences grown inexorably. The protests of prison and probation inspectors and senior judges appear to be ignored by Government. Unitarians have even greater cause for concern about prisons and detention centres and the conditions in them than in 1991.

The more Unitarians look at these modern penal problems, the more social issues emerge. More than 60% of UK prisoners have drug misuse problems yet Government persists in the "war on drugs" and refuses to reform. Since 1991, and with the start of "care in the community", UK prisons have filled with people with treatable mental illnesses. The UK persists in the criminalisation of children at the earliest possible age. Rehabilitation of offenders in prisons appears to have been abandoned. The UK Probation Service, once the envy of similar services across the world, has been reduced to an ineffective enforcement system. A harsh immigration system adds many thousands to those imprisoned. Homelessness and poverty are at the heart of causes of crime. Compassion has slipped away from the crime, penal, immigration and many social systems.

The PSAP has continued to "investigate", "inform" and "respond" with four meetings in London during the year and has recruited a further two new members. During 2017-18 it has submitted articles to *The Inquirer*, published through the PSAP Network four issues of PSAP News and published two PSAP Issues Papers, "Housing" and "Improving Care". Again the PSAP was represented by members at the AGM of Liberty and responded to the interest in penal and social affairs by FOY, Unitarian chapels and churches and individual Unitarians.

The 2018 General Assembly Meetings saw the PSAP distributing documents to delegates and others on both penal and social issues. The PSAP Presentation was on the current social issue of "Fake News". The address by John Lloyd of the Financial Times and a co-founder of the Reuters Institute for Journalism at Oxford University was very well received by a large audience. Again, the Presentation was recorded by UKUnitarianTV and shown to many more through YouTube.



*John Lloyd of The Financial Times*

The Panel continues to prepare for a survey of Unitarian social responsibility actions to establish evidence that, like their Unitarian forebears, modern-day Unitarians believe in social action for reform both as communities and as individuals. The PSAP hope its wider remit and the results of its survey will encourage modern Unitarians in greater numbers to take interest and action in penal and social reform.

Do you or your Unitarian communities have particular penal and social concerns? Do tell the PSAP about them. Why not write about them for other Unitarians for publication in PSAP News and PSAP Issues Papers and for the PSAP webpage on the Unitarians website? Social responsibility is religion in action!

*Bruce Chilton*



# Wales

## Welsh Department

### Members during the year:

**Diana Bianchi, Elaine Davies, Nans Davies (to Jun 2018), Hilda Dumbleton, Tony Foster (Chair, from Jun 2018), Rev Eric Jones, Megan Jones Roberts, Rev Cen Llwyd, Julie Nedin, Manon Richards, Morwen Thomas (from Jun 2018), Rev Wyn Thomas (Chair)**

### Staff Support:

**Melda Grantham (Secretary)**

As always the Unitarians in Wales have been extremely busy, with individuals, congregations, both District Associations and the Welsh Department all contributing to the continued success of our Movement within Wales.



We took advantage of some great opportunities this year to promote ourselves at high profile events, and to introduce Unitarianism to those outside the Movement. The National Eisteddfod was one such example, and one which proved to be a very different experience from usual. It was held in Cardiff Bay between the 4th and the 11th August and for the first time there was no requirement for tickets to access some of the outdoor events or the stands.



This opened the Eisteddfod up to a whole new audience and ensured a busy and interesting week for us on the Unitarian stand. We are very grateful to everyone who volunteered as well as to the committee of Yr Ymofynnydd who provided a thousand copies of the magazine to give away during the event. The highlight of the week was the lecture delivered on our behalf by Professor Prys Morgan on the Election of 1868 and its effect on Wales and her people, with special reference to the Unitarians and the eviction of the congregation of Llwynrhydowen.

A fortnight later we were back in Cardiff joining in the Pride Cymru parade for the first time. Carrying our new banners and wearing our new t-shirts we received a lot of very positive attention, and had a thoroughly good time as well. We are pleased that by now 5 of our buildings are registered for same-sex marriages with another 3 having also applied.

Many individuals have also contributed greatly to highlighting our movement through national television and radio appearances, as well appearing in newspapers both here and in the United States. Our ties to the American UUs have been strengthened recently by the initiative between Brondeifi chapel, Lampeter and the UU congregation at Augusta, Maine when the respective ministers exchanged pulpits for a month.

Our chosen charity for this year is Mind and many of the congregations have held events to support either this or more local mental health charities. This is in addition to all the other charities that benefit from the generosity of the congregations and the District Associations. The tireless work that goes on locally to demonstrate our Unitarian values is astounding, and serves to ensure that the future of Unitarianism in Wales is in safe hands.

*Melda Grantham*

*Welsh Unitarians at the Pride Cymru Parade*





**The 2018 Annual Meetings**



**DeVere Staverton Estate**

# Youth - Our Future

## Youth Panel

### Members during the year:

Lorna Barry (Chair), Jim Blair, Jen Hazel, Claire Maddocks, Sara Robertson, Claire Wilton (from Jun 2018)

### Staff Support:

Rev John Harley (Youth Coordinator, until Oct 2017), Gavin Howell (Youth Coordinator, from Aug 2018), Andrew Mason (Minutes)

# 72

*- attendance at our main Youth events this financial year (excludes new UniFEST event)*

It's been a year of great change for The Unitarian Youth Programme.

From October 2017 to August 2018 the programme was without a Youth Coordinator. During this time, it was ably led in a voluntary capacity by the Chair, Lorna Barry. Thankfully, as a result of Lorna's leadership and the commitment of the Youth Panel, the Youth Programme continued with a number of events at the Nightingale Centre. Some were not without their challenges as heavy snowfall led to the postponement of one event with its rescheduled meeting falling victim to 'The Beast from The East'. This resulted in volunteers, participants and parents being snowed in for an extra day. During this time, all involved pulled together to ensure everyone was kept warm, fed and entertained.

Since August, there have had three events at the Nightingale Centre. The first focused on leadership and the other two reflected on our relationship with nature. Feedback from participants was positive however numbers were low. Unfortunately, low numbers is an ongoing trend. From 2011-2018 the number of young people attending our youth events fell by 50%.

In response to falling numbers, The Youth Panel held a planning weekend in September and reflected on the purpose, content and future implementation of The Unitarian Youth Programme. Barriers to participation, issues facing young people more generally and youth participation across our wider Movement were also identified and discussed at length.

Since that meeting we have clarified our mission and began work on a rolling curriculum. We have devised a new funding policy and have moved to an online booking system. At our January 2019 meeting we looked at governance and the future implementation of the programme. Over the next few years we would like to work in close collaboration with congregations, districts and GA affiliated bodies to create more regional events reflecting the diverse needs and interests of our participants.

In October we received the sad news that Lorna Barry had decided to resign from the post of Chair of the Youth Panel. Lorna has been actively involved in Unitarian youth activities both as a Youth Programme volunteer and Youth Panel member for many years. On behalf of the Youth Panel, I'd like to thank Lorna for her service and in particular the passion and professionalism she brought to the role of Chairperson. We wish her well for the future.

At the Executive Committee meeting in November 2018, it was agreed that there should be the creation of an EC Youth Portfolio. The portfolio will seek to provide alignment between the Executive Committee, The Youth Panel and The Youth Coordinator. It will provide a space for us to work more collaboratively and in a more focused and purposeful manner. It is an exciting development and one which I very much welcome. It was also felt that we, the wider Unitarian community, need to reflect on the roles we assign to our younger members and how we integrate them into our wider Movement.



The progress we've made in clarifying our mission, developing our programme and overhauling our governance should put us in a strong position going forward.

I'd like to thank the Chief Officer, Executive Committee, Youth Panel and wider Essex Hall staff for their support and guidance since taking office in August. But most of all I'd like to thank our fantastic volunteers for the time they give in serving both our participants and our wider Unitarian Movement.

*Gavin Howell*



*A 'baptism' at the trough at Great Hucklow is a long tradition for Newcomers and those graduating to the next stage of our Youth Programme (top left), and new Youth Coordinators. As Gavin discovered (top right).*

*Photos taken at the Five Days Away event in 2018*



# Nightingale Centre - Great Hucklow

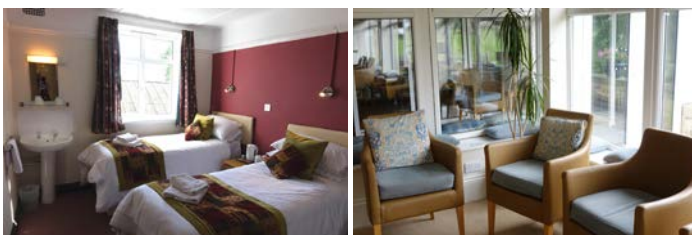


## Nightingale Centre Management Cttee

### Members during the year:

Marion Baker (Chair), Sue Catts, Dot Hewerdine, Karen Hicks, Richard Merritt, Colin Partington (Financial Secretary), John Rowland, Michael Tracey (Secretary)

This year, more people than ever have stayed at the Nightingale Centre reflecting the ongoing development of the Centre to ever more closely meet the expectations of potential guests. In part this has included physical improvements, for example the provision of more en-suite rooms and the new steps down from the terrace outside the Sun Lounge which give easier access to the garden and an excellent location for group photographs! In addition to these, the Centre's readiness to meet individual and group's specific requirements has continued to play an important part. The staff's attention to detail has been an important part of what has stimulated repeat bookings from groups using the Centre.



Maintaining high quality standards continues to be important and the Four Star Hostel rating has helped give assurance to those considering making a first time booking. This is reinforced by the Centre's Five Star Hygiene rating. These standards are not achieved (and maintained) easily, so great credit goes to the staff for their achievement of this.



Many repeat bookings have been from Unitarian groups and the opportunity has been taken to advertise the activities of such groups through UniNews as well as the brochure sent to all churches in December. This is important as the danger always exists that groups do not achieve their planned occupancy.







**The Nightingale Centre**  
Great Hucklow

**BROCHURE 2019**

**Something for everyone . . .**

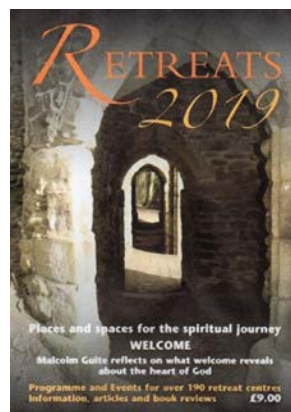


The Centre's website continues to be an important source of information about the Centre and the events planned and this also helps to attract new organisations to contact the Centre and inquire about accommodation availability.

A Unique Selling Point for the Centre is its location in quiet countryside and this has attracted a growing variety of religious/spiritual groups in recent years. Inclusion on the Retreats Association website has helped to make known the special offering of the Centre for such groups.

Another feature of the Centre's location is the use of the Centre by walking groups who have access to fine rambling opportunities in both the White and Dark Peak areas, including a range of walks from the Centre itself. To assist such groups, and other Centre users who may wish to explore the local area on foot, Management Committee member John Rowland has put together a series of easy-to-understand walk descriptions with maps for guest use.

The Centre has been able to keep its pricing competitive within the market while securing sufficient income to ensure the Centre is viable over the short-medium and long terms. 2019 prices have been simplified and incorporate particularly attractive rates for children. We believe this makes the Centre an attractive place for families to stay, important if we are looking to secure the future of the Movement.



During the year, interest in the Centre has been developed further through a Heritage Lottery Fund project to research the earliest days of the Centre which was established soon after the First World War. This includes a wealth of information about servicemen remembered through a number of plaques created at the time. The information is available in printed form and also on screen via an easy-to-use display stand situated at the Centre.

The Nightingale Centre was initially built as "The Florence Nightingale Convalescent Home for Men" with the intention that this should be "The National Memorial to the Men of the Unitarian and Free Christian Churches who fell in the War 1914 - 1918".

As a way of the Unitarian Movement commemorating the centenary of the Armistice of 1918 and its hopes for peace, we are reminding Unitarians that we have this national memorial at Great Hucklow, a living reminder of those hopes for a better world. We are inviting Congregations, District Associations and others, as an act of remembrance, to consider joining the many existing Friends of The Nightingale Centre and help to support the Centre into the future. Anyone interested should contact the Centre Manager for more details as to how one could help in this commemoration.

After what has been another successful year, we are very grateful to the Manager, Staff and all those volunteers whose assistance has been so valued. Importantly the "Friends of the Nightingale Centre" have assisted the Centre, not only by making regular financial contributions, but in other ways too, including promoting what we offer so other people can benefit.

*Michael Tracey*

"LEST WE FORGET"

THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE CONVALESCENT  
HOME FOR MEN FOUNDED 1917

THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO THE MEN OF THE  
UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN  
CHURCHES WHO FELL IN THE WAR 1914 – 1918

THESE PREMISES WERE ERECTED IN 1930 – 31  
AND OPENED ON 16TH MAY 1931 BY  
HARRY HIRSCH Esq. OF LEEDS

T.M FALCONER. CHAIRMAN HOMES COMMITTEE  
J. DAVIES. VICE CHAIRMEN  
T.FLETCHER ROBINSON W.P CRANKSHAW TREASURERS  
CHARLES PEACH. SECRETARY

*One of the Nightingale Centre Memorial Plaques*



# 2018 Annual Meetings



The 2018 Annual Meetings took place at the De Vere Staverton Park Estate, Northamptonshire from Wednesday 4 April to Saturday 7 April. Over 330 Unitarians met to decide on the business of the Assembly, learn, worship and socialise together.

Some of the highlights:

- The memorable Opening Celebrations by Youth Adults who challenged the Unitarian Movement to embrace our younger members
- The Keynote Speech, with a short question and answer session, by Rev Dr Paul Rasor on “Faith Without Certainty in Uncertain Times”
- The Anniversary Service, led by Rev Kate Whyman with the Preacher Rev Danny Crosby on the theme of “Another Place”.
- The Social Evening, featuring “Planet Abba” was enjoyed by a large crowd.
- The John Rely Beard lecture with Matt Carmichael on “Rekindling the Spirit of Community”
- The launch of a new book by The Lindsey Press - “Unitarians: Together in Diversity” by Rev Sue Woolley
- A “Newcomers’ Get Together” was arranged on the first evening for first-timers at the Meetings
- A new bursary scheme was available to ensure newer congregational members to attend, supported by the Bowland Trust

## Business

- The Annual Report and Annual Accounts were adopted
- The contributions of Rev Dr Ann Peart and Alan Ruston to the Unitarian Movement were recognised, with them being named as Honorary Members of the General Assembly
- Three new Ministers were welcomed onto the Roll of Ministers of the General Assembly
- Changes were made to By-laws to give full voting rights to what were formerly “small congregations” with only rights of attendance
- Updates were given on the previous Resolutions on the deportation of Irene Clennell, Assisted Dying and Equal Marriage
- The Stipend Review Committee report was adopted
- Constitutional amendments and changes to procedures to facilitate changes to the length and format of the Annual Meetings were approved



*Planet Abba at the Social Evening*



## **RESOLUTIONS**

The following Resolutions were agreed by the Assembly:

### **1. FROM TWELVE FULL MEMBERS AND THE UNITARIAN PEACE FELLOWSHIP**

This General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches:

1. welcomes the award of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), a global coalition of over 460 non-governmental organisations promoting adherence to and the implementation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW);
2. urges fellow Unitarians and congregations to write to the Prime Minister, MPs and, where appropriate, members of the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Assembly, to call on the UK Government to abide fully by its legal obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), of which it is a founding member, and to express their support for the TPNW and promote awareness of the TPNW in our chapels and local communities and through letters to the press;
3. resolves to send a message of goodwill and solidarity to the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to commemorate the hundreds of thousands of people who were killed as a result of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombs, all those gravely injured and all those who are still suffering and to join with them and all people of goodwill in praying that the world will heed the recent warning of Pope Francis of the 'catastrophic humanitarian and environmental effects' of massive nuclear destruction.

### **2. FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

That the By-laws be amended, as follows:

Amend title of section 2) to read

2) Conditions for Admission to Membership of the Assembly

Paragraph 2.1.2 – replace “12” by “8”

Paragraph 2.2 - replace with:

“2.2 Transitional Arrangements

Congregations admitted to membership as at 4 April 2018 under “2.2 Small Congregations” will be recognised as Members of the Assembly with Full voting rights.

### **3. FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches recognises the considerable contribution of Rev Dr Ann Peart to Unitarians in the United Kingdom by naming her as an Honorary Member.

### **4. FROM STOCKTON UNITARIAN CHURCH**

1) That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches accepts the changes to the length and format of the Annual Meetings [as set out in report AGM13/18]; and that a formal review is carried out in three years' time.

2) That the General Assembly's Constitution be amended, as follows:

“ 10. Motions at Annual Meetings

No ordinary or procedural motion shall be proposed at the Annual Meeting unless notice in writing thereof shall have been given to the Executive Committee fifty-six days at least before the first day appointed for such meeting. An emergency motion may be proposed at the Annual Meetings if two-thirds of the members present and voting at the meeting give leave for this; this vote is taken without any prior discussion. Any amendment to a motion, which the President deems in order, may be proposed and discussed without notice or leave.

Motions submitted by Congregations, Regional Associations or Affiliated Societies must be supported by a majority of the relevant governing body of the Congregation, Association or Society. Motions submitted by Full Members must be endorsed by at least twelve such individual voting members of the Assembly. The Executive Committee shall give not less than thirty days' notice of any motion to the members of the Assembly, either by circular or by advertisement, as the Executive Committee shall determine. The Executive Committee has the authority to propose motions on its own behalf.

There shall be a maximum of FOUR ordinary motions accepted for debate by the Assembly. There shall be a maximum of ONE Emergency Motion (except in exceptional circumstances) accepted for debate by the Assembly.

In the event that more than FOUR ordinary motions and/or more than ONE emergency motions are received a vote shall be taken at the beginning of the business meetings to determine which four ordinary and one emergency motions shall be accepted for debate. ”



## 5. FROM THE UNITARIAN WOMEN'S GROUP

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, deeply concerned by the way that the negative effects of the government austerity measures implemented over the last few years have fallen disproportionately on women, calls upon all Unitarians and Free Christians to respond by:

1. acquainting themselves and their congregations with the relevant information regarding this subject;
2. initiating and supporting actions at congregational level to support women in their community affected by these measures through involvement where possible in local community projects and/or raising funds for the same, seeking advice from the Unitarian's Women's Group if required;
3. asking our chief officer to lobby parliament if and when possible for an end to the current austerity measures that are causing misery and hardship for so many people;
4. taking specific collective action, in coalition with other organisations and concerned citizens, to support the above.

## 6. FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches recognises the considerable contribution of Alan Ruston to Unitarians in the United Kingdom by naming him as an Honorary Member.

## 7. FROM THE FOY SOCIETY

This General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches:

1. Commends the excellent work of the Equality Trust which has shone a light on the evidence that inequality harms everyone, not just the poor, in all communities.
2. Urges Unitarians to take cognisance of the research findings of the Trust and to support the drive towards greater equality in society wherever possible.
3. Resolves that the General Assembly signifies its support by registering as an affiliate of the Trust and instructs the Executive Committee to make the necessary arrangements to put this into effect as soon as possible after these meetings.

## FURTHER 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 Ltd be reappointed as Auditors.
3. That Peter Hanley be appointed Honorary Treasurer for the year 2018-2019.
4. That the thanks of the Assembly be given to Peter Hanley for his service as Treasurer during the year 2017-2018, and to district association and local officers for their invaluable services.
5. That greetings be sent to kindred churches and societies abroad.
6. That the thanks of the Assembly be given to Rev Danny Crosby for preaching the Assembly Sermon.
7. That the thanks of the Assembly be given to Rev Kate Whyman, worship leader for the Anniversary Service, and to all those who provided music and other content for the Anniversary Service and on other worship occasions during these Meetings.
8. That the thanks of the Assembly be given to the members of the General Assembly staff and to all volunteers for their inestimable help in organising the Meetings.
9. That Joan Cook be appointed President of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches for the year 2018-2019.
10. That Rev Celia Cartwright be appointed Vice-President of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches for the year 2018-2019.
11. That this ninetieth General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches expresses its gratitude for the services provided by Rev Charles VanDenBroeder as President during the year 2017-2018.

### Note:

A motion on membership was 'referred back' – the proposers being asked to consult further and return with the motion to the next general meeting or the one following.

The text of this motion was included with the Resolutions document circulated after the Meetings.





## Annual Meetings Staverton 2018 Accounts

Summary of Financial Results	2018 Income	2018 Expenditure	2018 Balance	2017 Balance
Accommodation & Conference Fees	91,233	82,799	8,434	4,621
Group Registration	4,265		4,265	5,072
Wood Green Trust	6,000		6,000	6,000
Other Donations to Meetings	6,154		6,154	7,900
Printing and Postage		2,335	-2,335	-2,337
Pre-AGM Expenses		1,161	-1,161	-1,009
Room Hire and Audio Visual		7,421	-7,421	-7,469
Speakers, Fees and Social event		4,442	-4,442	-4,556
Sundries		2,023	-2,023	-1,583
Travel		1,513	-1,513	-2,059
Youth Honoraria & Expenses		938	-938	-1,143
Transfer for future Meetings			0	0
Previous Year's transfer			0	0
	<b>107,652</b>	<b>102,632</b>	<b>5,020</b>	<b>3,437</b>



# Independent Auditor's Statement

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

We have examined the summarised financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2018 set out on pages 42 and 43.

### **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 Statement of Recommended Practice (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.

### **Opinion**

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report of The General Assembly of Unitarian & Free Christian Churches for the year ended 30 September 2018.

*Shaw Gibbs Limited*

SHAW GIBBS LIMITED  
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 2018 and on the consistency of the Trustees' Report with those financial statements.



# General Assembly Financial Summary - Income

By David Joseph,  
Finance Manager



**Grants from the Essex Hall Trust and management fees** charged to the Trust amounted to £214,250. The gift-in-kind of free office space has been revalued for 2017/18 at £99,250. The B&FUA grant was £36,175 (2016/17: £34,163) an increase of £2,012 (6%).

**Book Sales** generated £8,253 against £8,229 in 2016/17. Cost of book sales is £6,723 (2016/17: £3,783).

**Investment Income** was £146,293 (2016/17: £112,041). Investment income includes bank interest and rental income from the freehold property.

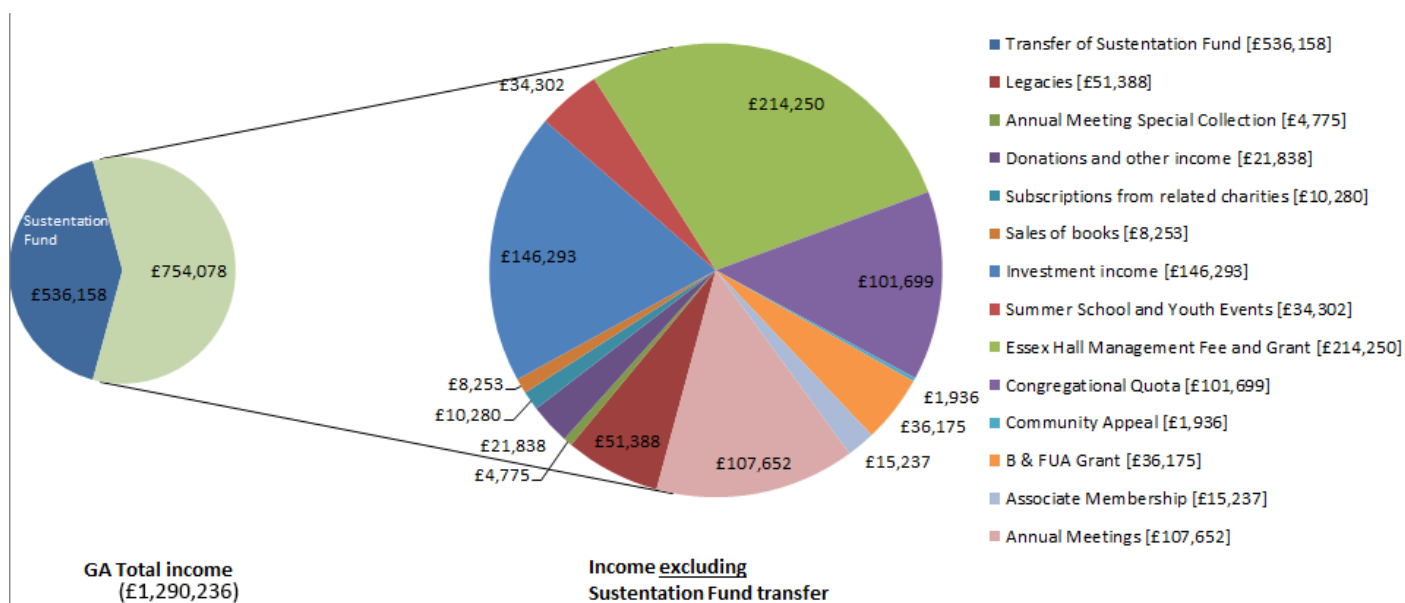
**Unrealised gains** The GA's investments appreciated significantly in market value at the year-end resulting in unrealised net gains of £475,516 since the beginning of the year. The investment property (freehold land) was revalued on an open market basis in 2016. It is not considered that the value of this land has changed materially and will be revalued at three-yearly intervals.

**Total income** for the year was £1,290,236 (2016/17: £1,297,682) and included new funds (£536,158) as a result of the transfer of the Sustentation Fund to the General Assembly on 31 March 2018.

Other operating income was £754,078 (2016/17: £649,101) and included legacy income of £51,388. Other operating income includes revenues from Live Giving, grants from the Essex Hall Trust and the B&FUA, book sales and investment income as well as receipts from the Annual Meetings and courses that we run such as Summer School.

**Live Giving** was £155,765 (including Gift Aid), down by £18,898 on 2016/17.

## Income





# General Assembly Financial Summary - Expenditure

The General Assembly expended **£778,324** (2017: £707,667) in the year ending 30th September 2018.

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

Strategy Group Programme includes the Local Leadership, Visibility and Ministry strategy groups as well as the Welsh and Youth Programmes and cost £256,748. GA staff time charged to the programmes makes up 58% of total programme costs. Strategy Group Committee costs were £7,951, down by £238 on 2016/17 (£8,189).

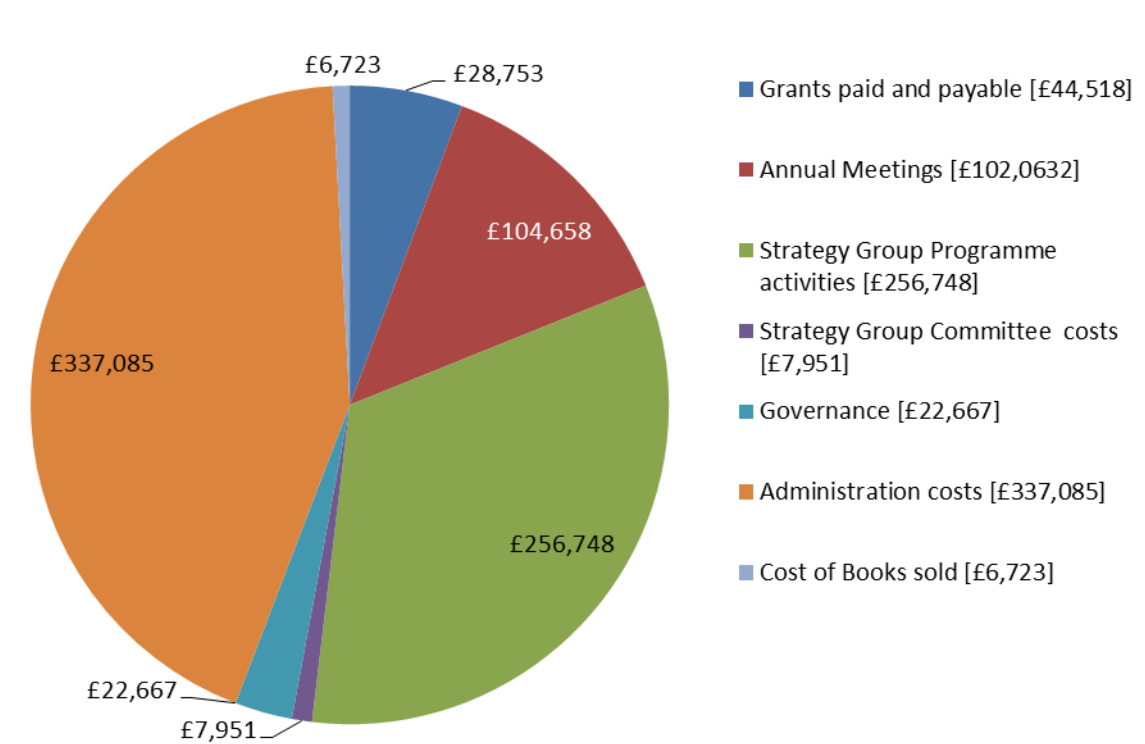
Grants paid were £44,518 (2016/17: £17,930). The increase is primarily due to outstanding amounts from the James Speed Trust to congregations being brought up to date.

Administration costs were £337,085 (2016/17: £298,147).

Governance and EC activities amounted to £22,667 (2017: £23,350). In addition, the audit charge for the year was £9,284.

The withdrawal penalty payable to The Pensions Trust in the event of there being no contributing members in the staff pension plan is accounted for as a liability in the balance sheet. The change in the liability for 2017/18 is a decrease of £33,143 and is shown in the Income and Expenditure report; the current liability is £250,700.

## Expenditure



## Balance Sheet

	2018	2018	2017	2017
	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Tangible Assets	209,464		222,347	
Investments	5,842,057		4,837,611	
		6,051,521		5,059,958
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Stocks	3,393		4,999	
Loans	265		260	
Debtors	100,276		110,541	
Short term deposits	25,789		25,694	
Cash at Bank and in hand	236,074		223,214	
	365,797		364,707	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Creditors falling due within one year	(32,598)		(27,374 )	
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		333,199		337,334
<b>Long term Liabilities</b>		(250,700)		(283,843 )
<b>Total Assets less Liabilities</b>		6,134,020		5,113,449
General Funds		2,051,866		1,847,219
Designated Funds		153,378		152,757
Restricted Funds		3,105,282		2,354,269
Endowment Funds		823,494		759,204
<b>Total Funds</b>		6,134,020		5,113,449



## Income and Expenditure Report

Where the money came from	2017-18	2016-17
<b>Voluntary Income</b>		
Legacies	51,388	648,581
Associate Membership fees received	15,237	18,940
Subscriptions from Related Charities	10,280	10,855
Congregational Quota	101,699	104,984
Community Appeal	1,936	1,439
Annual Meeting Special Collection	4,775	5,613
Sundry Donations and other Income	21,838	32,832
Essex Hall Management Fee and Grant	214,250	179,000
B&FUA Grant	36,175	34,163
Transfer of Sustentation Fund	536,158	-
	993,736	1,036,407
<b>Sales of Books</b>		
	8,253	8,229
<b>Furtherance of GA Objects</b>		
	34,302	33,761
<b>Investment Income</b>		
	146,293	112,040
<b>Annual Meetings Income</b>		
	107,652	107,245
	1,290,236	1,297,682
<b>Where we spent our money</b>		
<b>Cost of Books</b>		
	6,723	3,783
<b>Grants Paid and Payable</b>		
	44,518	17,930
<b>Annual Meetings</b>		
	102,632	104,658
<b>Strategy Group Programme activities</b>		
	256,748	251,611
<b>Strategy Group Committee costs</b>		
	7,951	8,189
<b>Governance</b>		
	22,667	23,350
<b>Administration costs</b>		
	337,085	298,146
	778,324	707,667
<b>Net Incoming Resources</b>		
	511,912	590,015
<b>Gains/ (losses) on investments</b>		
	475,516	116,029
<b>Recognition of "withdrawal penalty" on staff pension fund</b>		
	33,143	(44,733 )
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>	1,020,571	661,311



# The Nightingale Centre Financial Summary

The Nightingale Centre has had another good year with yet another record breaking income. Overall there has been a small gain in Funds despite the continuing spend on improvements carried out to make the Centre even better – responding to our customers’ wishes.

We are now a Living Wage Foundation employer.

The Nightingale Centre was erected as “The National Memorial to the men of the Unitarian and Free Christian Churches who fell in the war 1914 – 1918”. On the Centenary of the Armistice we have invited all congregations to consider joining the *Friends of the Nightingale Centre* in helping to support the Centre into the future.



Donations continue to be an important part of our income and go towards improving the centre.

*Colin Partington MBE*

## Income and Expenditure Report

Where the money comes from	2017-2018 £	2016-2017 £
Donations	12,699	13,529
Charitable Activities	274,787	268,557
Non-Charitable Activities	68,697	67,139
Investment and Rental Income	22,237	15,687
<b>Total incoming Resources</b>	<b>378,420</b>	<b>364,912</b>
Where we spent the money		
Providing the Services - Charitable	300,518	300,458
Providing the services - non-charitable	78,988	75,340
Governance Costs	840	900
<b>Total Outgoing Resources</b>	<b>380,346</b>	<b>376,698</b>
<b>Net Incoming resources</b>	<b>(1,926)</b>	<b>(11,786)</b>
Gains/losses on investment assets	4,274	3,932
<b><u>Net Movement of Funds</u></b>	<b><u>2,348</u></b>	<b><u>(7,854)</u></b>

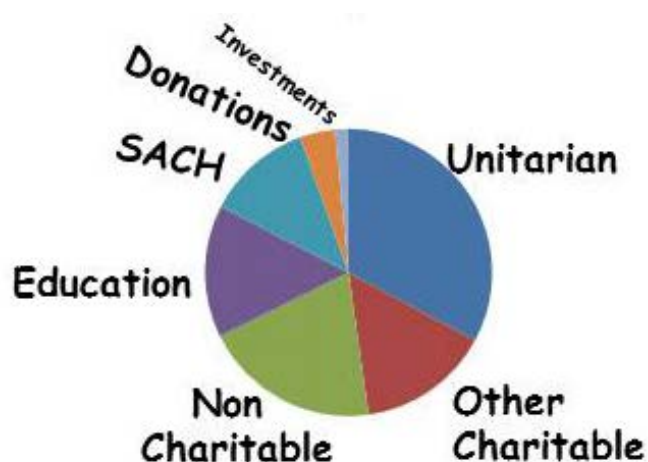


## Balance Sheet

### Total Assets of The Nightingale Centre as at 30 September 2018

	2018	2018	2017	2017
	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Tangible Assets	2,178,687		2,251,184	
Investments	69,863		65,589	
		2,248,550		2,316,773
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Stocks	1,308		1,200	
Debtors	10,323		1,120	
Cash at Bank and in hand	284,511		215,777	
		296,142		218,097
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Creditors falling due within one year	(76,665)		(69,191)	
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		219,477		148,906
<b><u>Total Assets</u></b>		2,468,027		2,465,679

### Income



### Expenditure



# The Sustentation Fund - Financial Summary

## Transfer of operations of the Sustentation Fund to the General Assembly

As reported in the last Annual Report, the trustees of the Fund voted to wind up the Sustentation Fund and transfer its operations to the care of the General Assembly. This took place with effect from 31 March 2018.

The fund was set up as two separate restricted funds within the General Assembly: a) Sustentation Fund and b) Lay Pastors and Approved Lay Persons in Charge Fund. The financial statements below were prepared for the half-year to 31 March 2018.

**Sustentation Fund:** The accounts for the period to 31st March 2018 showed an operating deficit of £15,303 (2016/17: £3,406 surplus). This was due to the timing of grant payments as against income plus the additional cost of legal advice. After losses on market revaluations at transfer date totalling £13,846 (2016/17: £4,634 gain) there was an overall deficit of £29,149 (2016/17: £8,040 surplus).

**Lay Pastors' Fund:** The accounts for the period to 31st March 2018 showed an operating surplus of £205 (2016/17: £520). After a transfer date market revaluation loss of £553 (2016/17: £1,456 gain) there was an overall deficit of £348 (2016/17: £1,976 surplus).

*Michael Tomlin*

## Balance Sheet

### Total Balance Sheet of the Assets managed by the Sustentation Fund at 31 March 2018

	Mar 2018	Mar 2018	Sep 2017	Sep 2017
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Investments		518,070		532,470
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Cash at Bank and in hand	18,088		33,186	
Income Tax recoverable	0		0	
	<u>18,088</u>		<u>33,186</u>	
<b>Current liabilities</b>				
	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>	
<b>Net Current assets</b>		18,088		33,186
<b>Total assets less liabilities</b>		<u>536,158</u>		<u>565,656</u>
The Sustentation Fund		511,431		540,580
The Lay Pastors fund		24,727		25,076
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u>536,158</u>		<u>565,656</u>



## Income and Expenditure Report

	2017-18 £	2017-18 £	2016-17 £	2016-17 £
	Sustentation	Lay Pastors	Sustentation	Lay Pastors
<b>Where the money came from</b>				
Bank Interest and Income from Investments	6,833	205	16,850	520
Donations	509		508	
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>7,392</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>17,358</b>	<b>520</b>
<b>Where we spent our money</b>				
Grants	(17,400)	0	(13,525)	0
Administration Expenses	(5,295)		(427)	
<b>Operating Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(15,303)</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>3,406</b>	<b>520</b>
Gains/(Losses) on Investments	(13,846)	(533)	4,634	1,456
<b>Total Increase/(Reduction) in Funds Value</b>	<b>(29,149)</b>	<b>(348)</b>	<b>8,040</b>	<b>1,976</b>

## The Congregations to whom we gave money

(Combined Sustentation Fund and Lay Pastors' Fund)

	2018	2017
Bolton Bank Street	0	1,500
Bolton Egerton	1,200	1,100
Bristol	2,000	750
Cardiff	4,000	2,000
Chowbent	1,600	1,500
Knutsford	800	0
Lewisham	2,000	0
Macclesfield	0	1,200
Monton	2,000	1,500
Oldham	400	300
Rochdale	0	375
South Wales Group	3,000	3,000
Urmston	400	300
	<b>17,400</b>	<b>13,525</b>



# Governance

## **General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches**

***Registered Charity No 250788***

## **The Nightingale Centre**

***Registered Charity No 242256***

## **The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches**

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.

### **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 Nightingale Centre

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.

## 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 Sustentation Fund

The operations and assets of the Sustentation Fund were transferred to the care of the General Assembly with effect from 31 March 2018.

## The objects of the Sustentation Fund:

The General Assembly as the custodians of the Sustentation Fund will continue to pursue the objects of the fund which are 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.

## 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 matters 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 prudent and reasonable manner and fulfil the obligations of the Charities Act and other legislation.

The General Assembly is subject to supervision by the Charity Commission, to whom an Annual Return, which includes our annual report 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 has concluded that at the moment the objects of the 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 the charities.



# Our Staff

**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:

Ministry & Congregational Support Officer	Simon Bland	SBland@unitarian.org.uk
Welsh Department Secretary	Melda Grantham	MGrantham@unitarian.org.uk
Youth Coordinator & Safeguarding Lead	Gavin Howell (from Aug 2018)	GHowell@unitarian.org.uk

## SUPPORT STAFF:

Operations Manager	Andrew Mason	AMason@unitarian.org.uk
Administrator (Internal)	Mary-Jean Hennis (until Aug 2018)	-
Administrator (External)	Audrey Longhurst	ALonghurst@unitarian.org.uk
Communications Officer	Rory Castle Jones (from Oct 2018)	RCastleJones@unitarian.org.uk

## FINANCE

Finance Manager	David Joseph	DJoseph@unitarian.org.uk
Finance Officer	John Crosskey	JCrosskey@unitarian.org.uk

VOLUNTEER	Rosemary Ruston	Associate@unitarian.org.uk
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**The following were members of the Essex Hall Trust Staff during the financial year:**

Lee Warren	Interim Caretaker
Hepzi Lewis	Cleaner



*New GA Staff Members:  
Gavin Howell, Youth Officer (L)  
and  
Rory Castle Jones,  
Communications Officer (R)*



# Our Members

## Honorary Members

Rev Dr Peter Godfrey  
Mr Michael Tomlin  
Rev J Eric Jones  
Rev Cliff Reed  
Rev James McClelland  
Mr David Dawson  
Mrs Dawn Buckle  
Rev Dr Ann Peart  
Mr Alan Ruston

In accordance with rule 4 of the Constitution of the General Assembly the following persons, having contributed not less than £30 each to the funds of the Assembly in the financial year 2017-18, are Associate Members of the General Assembly. Names of Honorary Members and Full Members who have subscribed not less than £30 each during the financial year are also mentioned.

Adkinson EB Miss	Calderara B Mrs	Eadington M	Hewerdine AJ Mr
Allured M Mr	Camper A Rev	Edwards J Ms	Hewerdine C Ms
Arthur D Mr	Cann HA Mr	Egloff U Dr	Hewerdine DC Mrs
Ashworth J Mrs	Carter J Rev	Elder RC Mr	Hewis H Mrs
Askerod Andersen T Mr	Cartwright CM Rev	Ellis D Mr	Hewis P Rev
Atkinson JM Mrs	Catts LS Mrs	Evans D	Heyse R Mr
Attfield R Prof	Chilton CD Mrs	Faiers ME Mrs	Higgins M Mr
Aylmer V Mrs	Chilton GEB Mr	Fieldhouse AM Miss	Hill AM Rev
Baker M Mrs	Clifford B Mrs	Fieldhouse S Miss (Dec'd)	Hill JM Mrs
Barber JM Mr	Clifford JC Rev	Foggo K Ms	Hill M Mrs
Barwick S Mrs	Cockroft BS Rev	Ford JM Ms	Hills A Rev
Beck R Mr	Cockroft L Rev	Fordham E Mr	Hills E Mrs
Bennett DE Miss	Code, R Mr	Foster K Miss	Hird JL Dr
Birtles E Rev	Coldwell AH Mr	Foster MC Miss	Hooper JK Mr
Blair J Mr	Colfox P Sir	Fowler AM Miss	Hoskins DG Mr
Boeke J Rev	Cook JMM Mrs	Gabriel S Rev	Hotrakool W Dr
Boeke R Rev	Copley DW Mr	Gaines REF Mr	Howarth J Mrs
Boyce S Mrs	Copley H Mrs	Gienke M Mr	Howarth M Mr
Boyle B Dr	Cordingley, L Mr	Gillman DE Mr	Howell GJ Mr
Bradley A Rev	Corrigan J Rev	Godfrey PB Rev	Hughes M
Bradley J Rev	Costley D Rev	Godfrey S Mrs	Hugill M Ms
Brooks B Mrs	Costley JE Mrs	Hague G Mrs	Ince R Mr
Brown AHO Mr	Cotterill K Mr	Hague HR Mr	Ingold J Dr
Brown I Mr	Cotterill S Mrs	Hague J Mrs	Inkson J Mrs (Dec'd)
Buckle D Mrs	Crompton DF Mr	Hanley KG Mrs	Inkson RHE Mr
Buckle R Mr	Crompton J Mrs	Hanley P Mr	Isaac AB Mr
Buckley D Mr	Crosskey JM Mr	Hardy SJ Dr	Isaac RB Mr
Burbage M Miss	Crosskey KSM Dr	Harris LA Ms	Janes JA Mrs
Burns C Ms	Cupper AM Mr	Harrison A Mrs	Janis-Dillon RG Rev
	Darlison JW Rev	Hartley LJ Mrs	Johnson KJ Mr
	Dawson C Mrs	Hartley R Mr	Johnson PF Rev
	Dawson D Mr	Hastie WJ Mr	Jones A Dr
	Day JM Mr	Haughton DP Ms	Jones A Mrs
	De Silva M Mr	Hennis MJ Mrs	Jones B Mrs
	Doel D Rev Dr (Dec'd)		Jones JE Rev
	Dyson-Jones E Ms		



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

Lake M Mrs  
Laycock BA Mrs  
Lingwood S Rev  
Lloyd GD Mr

Maguire M Mrs  
Mansfield J Miss  
Marks B Mr  
Martin C Ms  
Mason CB Mr  
Mason GH Mr  
Mason H Ms  
Mason JI Mr  
Maud G Mr  
McAuley D Mr  
McClelland A Rev  
McClelland J Rev  
Merritt H Mrs  
Merritt R Mr  
Midgley C Rev  
Midgley J Rev  
Mills C Mr  
Mitchell SCF Ms  
Moore TJ Mr

Newton J Mr  
Nuttall M Mrs

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

Parsons H Mrs  
Partington C Mr  
Partington J Mrs  
Passman K Miss  
Paxton MRH Mrs  
Payne B Mrs  
Peace DI Mr  
Peart A Rev Dr  
Pebody I Dr  
Pennington AC Mr  
Percy A Mrs  
Perry MP Miss  
Pilkington C Mr  
Price DD Mr

Ramage RW Mr  
Ratcliffe M Mrs  
Rathbone B Mrs  
Raymond G Mrs  
Raymond S Dr  
Redwood Mr  
Reed CM Rev  
Reed P Mrs  
Rees AM Mr  
Rees C Mrs  
Richards J Mrs  
Richards JCT Mr  
Richards W Mr  
Roberts WM Mrs  
Robinson M Ms  
Rogers J Mrs  
Rogers L Ms  
Rowland J Ms  
Rowson J Mrs  
Rowson P Mr  
Ruston AR Mr  
Ruston J Ms  
Ruston M Mr  
Ruston R Mrs  
Rycroft K Mr

Sampson PW Mr  
Sanders N Dr  
Scott A Mr  
Scott G Mrs  
Scott JA Mr  
Seal S Mrs  
Seccombe JA Mrs  
Sellman J Ms  
Short A Mrs  
Silk JF Mrs  
Silk PA Rev  
Simmons J Mrs  
Sinclair A Mrs  
Slaven S Ms  
Smith C Mrs  
Smith CF Mrs  
Smith J Mr  
Smith KJ Mr  
Smith MF Rev  
Soulsby P Sir  
Stone-Pearce D Rev  
Storey D Mr  
Sykes J Ms

Teagle JJ Mr  
Teagle SM Mrs  
Thompson C Ms  
Thompson J Miss  
Thursfield A Mrs  
Tinker SM Rev  
Tombs S Miss  
Tomlin JR Mrs  
Tomlin MJ Mr  
Tucker A Mr

Usher A Mrs  
Usher GR Rev

Van-Manen E Rev  
Varley L Mrs  
Varley RJ Mr  
Voegeli I Mrs  
Voegeli R Mr

Wagner E Mr  
Walker F Rev  
Warhurst DE Mr  
Warhurst H Mrs  
West J Mrs  
West MG Mr  
Whitell M Rev  
Whitham P Mr  
Wightman R Rev  
Wilcox A Mrs  
Wilcox G Mr (Dec'd)  
Wilkie C Mrs  
Wilkins H Mr  
Wilkinson JS Rev  
Williams DA Prof  
Williams J Dr  
Williams SR Mr  
Williams WM Mrs  
Wilson AM Mrs  
Winder JR Mrs  
Woodman J Dr  
Woolley S Rev  
Wykes DL Dr  
Wykes E Dr

Zucker D Mr



# Congregational Contributions

1 October 2017 to 30 September 2018.

England (and Isle of Man)	Quota Members	£			
Ainsworth	5	175	Derby	3	105
Altrincham	42	1470	Ditchling	17	595
Ansdell (Lytham St Annes)	0	0	Doncaster	23	805
Ashton in Makerfield	38	1330	Douglas (Isle of Man)	3	105
Atherton	41	1435	Dover	4	140
Banbury	12	420	Dudley	0	0
Bath	7	245	Dukinfield	27	945
Belper	16	560	Eccles	46	1610
Billingshurst	9	315	Evesham	21	735
Birmingham New Meeting	20	700	Framlingham	5	175
Birmingham Hollywood	60	2100	Godalming	37	1295
Blackpool	10	350	Great Hucklow	6	210
Bolton Bank Street	53	1855	Great Yarmouth	9	315
Bolton Chorley New Road	9	315	Hale Barns	13	465
Bolton Egerton	30	1050	Hastings	10	350
Boston	5	175	Hinckley	37	1295
Bradford	15	525	Hindley	9	315
Bridgwater	6	210	Horsham	29	1015
Bridport	10	350	Hull	18	630
Brighton	48	1680	Hyde Fellowship	2	70
Bristol Brunswick	12	420	Hyde Flowery Field	0	0
Bristol Frenchay	19	665	Hyde Gee Cross	0	0
Bury	48	1680	Ipswich	36	1260
Bury St Edmunds	12	420	Kendal	46	1610
Cambridge	35	1225	Kidderminster	26	910
Chatham	8	280	Knutsford	45	1575
Cheltenham and Gloucester	17	595	Leeds	34	1190
Chester	5	175	Leicester	33	1155
Chesterfield	10	350	Lewes	1	35
Chorley	15	525	Lincoln	12	420
Cirencester	10	350	Liverpool Gateacre	20	700
Coventry	4	140	Liverpool Sefton Park	24	840
Cradley	10	350	Liverpool Toxteth	5	175
Crewkerne	9	315	London Brixton	16	560
Croydon	39	1365	London Golders Green	44	1540
Cullompton	4	140	London Hampstead	84	2940
Dean Row	60	2100	London Kensington	57	1995
Denton	10	350	London Lewisham	6	210



London New Unity	96	3360
London Stratford	5	175
Macclesfield	16	560
Maidstone	6	210
Manchester Chorlton	19	665
Manchester Cross Street	32	1120
Manchester Dob Lane	12	420
Manchester Gorton	3	105
Mansfield	49	1715
New Mill	4	140
Newcastle under Lyme	20	700
Newcastle upon Tyne	16	560
Newport (Isle of Wight)	0	0
Northampton	9	315
Norwich	56	1960
Nottingham	12	420
Oldbury	3	105
Oldham	12	420
Oxford	42	1470
Padiham	41	1435
Plymouth	23	805
Portsmouth	53	1855
Rawtenstall	5	175
Richmond	25	875
Rivington	20	700
Rochdale	18	630
Scarborough	7	245
Sevenoaks	26	910
Sheffield Fulwood	34	1190
Sheffield Norfolk St	52	1820
Sheffield Stannington	25	875
Shelf	10	350
Shrewsbury	23	805
Sidmouth	4	140
Southampton	11	385
Southend	5	175
Southport	5	175
St Albans	2	70
Stalybridge	10	350
Stockton	18	630
Stourbridge	7	245
Styal	25	875
Taunton	11	385
Tenterden	10	350
Torquay	6	210

Trowbridge	7	245
Urmston	20	700
Wakefield	21	735
Warrington	15	525
Warwick	18	630
Watford	8	280
Whitby	7	245
Whitefield (Stand)	25	875
Wirral	22	770
Woodhall Spa	1	35
York	40	1400
<b>Wales</b>		
Aberdare	20	700
Alltyblaca *	2	54
Bangor	5	175
Cardiff	14	490
Cefn y Coed	18	630
Cellan *	1	32
Ciliau Aeron *	0	8
Cribyn *	3	64
Cwmsychbant *	3	120
Cwrtnewwydd *	4	128
Felinfach *	1	50
Lampeter *	9	196
Llandysul *	3	70
Llanwnnen *	5	152
Nottage	4	140
Pontsian *	3	76
Prengwyn *	4	124
Swansea	8	280
Talgarreg *	6	200
Trebanos	15	525
Wick	4	140
<b>Scotland</b>		
Aberdeen	15	525
Dundee	11	385
Edinburgh	65	2,275
Glasgow	38	1,330
<b>Total:</b>		<b>£101,384</b>
Prior year's adjustments		<b>£315</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2,904</b>	<b>£101,699</b>



## **Notes on congregational contributions:**

\* £1,274 was received from churches in South Wales for the 2017/18 return. The churches in South Wales pay collectively via the District Treasurer. The contribution for each congregation is as notified to us. Membership numbers for each congregation have not been provided and we have therefore used last year's figures as an estimate.





**Published by the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches**

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**christian** churches