

Unitarian



Chalice

Award

Leaders'

Pack



UNITARIAN CHALICE AWARD LEADERS' PACK

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The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Cymanfa Gyffedinol Eglwysi Undodaidd A Christnogion Rhydd

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Unitarian Chalice Award Scheme

September 2016

To: Leaders of Unitarian and Free Christian children's groups, parents and guardians

Welcome to the Unitarian Chalice Award (UCA)

This pack provides information about how to run the Chalice Award for groups. It is also possible to work for the award individually and parents and guardians are welcome to use any part of this pack with their children.

The scheme is open-ended so that new modules can be added and existing ones adapted. One of the award's aims is to make youth programme planning easier, so please make the scheme your own and make any adaptations which work for you. We want the children and young people to have fun whilst taking part in the Chalice Award and, through participating, gain greater awareness of the value of a liberal religious faith.

It would be helpful to the co-ordinator of the Chalice Award if the names of participating children were registered. Please complete the registration form and return to the co-ordinator. Please keep in touch and let us know how the scheme is working for you and also if we can help in any way.

All good wishes for your "chalice-lighting"

Margaret Robinson
Chalice Award Scheme Co-ordinator

Contact:

Margaret Robinson – 2 The Meadowings, Yarm, TS15 9QR

email – margaretrobinson81@gmail.com

Telephone: 01642 782219

Unitarian Chalice Award Scheme: Information for Leaders

These notes are to help you run the Unitarian Chalice Award (UCA) for your children's group. There is a separate page of notes for children in the Leaders' Pack, which you may wish to photocopy and give to your group.

1. A DESCRIPTION OF THE UNITARIAN CHALICE AWARD

The UCA comprises of four levels ~ Green, Bronze, Silver and Gold. These four levels are loosely aimed at the following age groups:

Green ~ under 6 or Intergenerational

Bronze ~ 6 to 9 years old

Silver ~ 9 to 11 years old

Gold ~ 11 to 14 years old

But these are not prescriptive. We particularly want to make life as easy as possible for leaders of groups with children of different ages where it might be easier for all children to do the same activity, so please feel free to choose the activities that will best suit your children or young people and your circumstances. Although the suggested activities are differentiated, you could for example take an activity from the Gold Level module and work on it at the Bronze stage or have children working on the same activity but at different levels, according to their age, abilities and levels of interest. Whilst our intention is that children will generally work through the whole Award scheme over a number of years, from Green to the Gold level, this is not essential. An older teenager, for example, may well deserve to start at the Gold level of a module if their work is of a sufficient depth. A key word has to be flexibility and we encourage you to get in touch to discuss ways that the UCA can be adapted to fit your needs.

2. COMPLETING THE AWARD

To achieve the Bronze, Silver or Gold Unitarian Chalice Award a young person will need to:

- complete at least four different modules (and have received Certificates for these)
- at least 6 tasks need to be done for each module
- receive at least two Personal Achievement Certificates

In addition we recommend that they

- take part in at least one event connected with Unitarians & Free Christians locally or nationally, although this is not essential.

To achieve the Green UCA a child will need to

- complete at least four different modules (and have received Certificates for these)

3. UCA MODULES

The UCA comprises of a number of modules, each of which is on a subject with appeal to young people. The modules are:

Bible Studies (Bronze)
Earth Education (Bronze, Silver and Gold)
Global Citizenship (Bronze, Silver and Gold)
Peace Education (Bronze, Silver and Gold)
Personal Profiles (Bronze, Silver and Gold)
Popular Culture (Bronze, Silver and Gold)
Working for Our World (Bronze, Silver and Gold)
World Religions (Gold)
Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter (Green)

All Levels

Celebrations
Diversity
Famous Unitarians
Giving & Receiving,
Holidays & Hucklow
Music
Our Congregation
Teamwork
The Chalice
The Unitarian Journey,
Unitarians Around the World
Worship Buildings.

You are welcome to write your own modules on a topic of particular interest to you and your group.

4. MODULE RECORD SHEETS

The 12 possible activities that we suggest for each module can be found on the Module Record Sheet. These are only suggestions and we encourage you and your group to follow other activities if they will suit you better. **Background Notes** have been produced for some modules giving further information about the suggested activities and a list of places to find more information about the module's subject matter. We ask that a child completes at least 6 activities for each stage of a module and that you initial and date the relevant box on the Module Record Sheet for each activity as it is completed. We suggest that you photocopy the **Module Record Sheets** for the module(s) your children are working on so that each child can have a Record Sheet in their own file. We have designed a simple record sheet for you as a leader to keep a note of which modules and levels your children are working on but do feel free to design your own record keeping system if you want.

You will notice that some modules have only one Module Record Sheet and that the level of the suggested activities is not specified. We will leave it to you as leaders to decide at which level a particular child has been working, basing your decision on the age of the child and the standard of their work.

Whilst we expect that groups will tend to work through one module at a time, it is quite acceptable to have a number on the go at the same time. For example, you may be working on the Bible Studies Module at the time of your Autumn Fair. You may then be able to credit children with taking part in a fund-raising effort or perhaps serving food,

activities which can be found in the Our Congregation Module. When children have completed a module, let us know their names and the module they have completed, as well as the level they are working at, and we will send you their certificates. These could be presented to them during a Service or other congregational event and perhaps mentioned in your newsletter. Children (and indeed adults!) yearn for affirmation and recognition. We hope that the UCA will provide many opportunities for us to praise children's efforts.

5. PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT CERTIFICATES

Children today often lead very busy lives. Few children manage to join us at Church or Chapel ever week because they are involved in other activities. Personal Achievement Certificates are one way in which we can recognise what children are achieving outside our Unitarian & Free Christian groups, letting them know that we value them and their lives and also perhaps letting our congregation know what our young people are doing.

We will leave it up to you, as leaders, to decide what is a suitable achievement to celebrate with the award of a Certificate, but here are some of the ideas we had:

- Children's participation in hobbies, sports or other groups such as Brownies, Cub Scouts, Boys' Brigade, St John Ambulance Brigade etc.
- Work done for a charity or community group
- Taking part in a public performance
- Special achievements at school
- Taking special care of a pet over a period of time
- Being particularly helpful at home over a period of time.

It might be appropriate to award a certificate to a child for completing a stage in a swimming or music course, but we would put the emphasis on the taking part rather than on necessarily achieving a particular milestone. There are many pressures on children to be competitive and we would like to encourage participation in activities for the sheer joy of taking part.

You might like to involve carers in this part of the UCA and ask them what they think their child deserves recognition for. Depending on the nature of your group, it might be better to make sure that each child is presented with a certificate if this is going to be done in chapel, so that everyone feels included.

We enclose one blank **Personal Achievement Certificate** as an example.

6. TAKING PART IN NATIONAL AND LOCAL UNITARIAN & FREE CHRISTIAN EVENTS

Events that a child might be encouraged to attend could include District Association events, Junior Weekend or other National Youth Programme activity, Annual Meetings, Hucklow Summer School, Unitarian Experience Week, Congregational events such as Flower Festivals and Autumn Fairs, and being part of a Unitarian & Free Christian present at other events such as Whit Walks.

We have produced a form to be filled in with the details of children's participation in these various events and this provides a great opportunity to recognise how actively some children are involved with our denomination. This '**Joining In**' form is to be found in this pack and again it can be photocopied or you are welcome to order multiple copies from Essex Hall.

7. UCA FILES

We suggest that each child is given their own UCA file to keep their work and Module Record Sheets in and that you buy the type of ring binder which has a plastic pocket on the front, into which a cover sheet can be slipped. A photocopyable cover sheet is included in this pack or you can order them from Essex Hall.

8. COMPLETING THE UCA

We want the achievement of the Award at any of the four levels to be regarded as a BIG thing! The child will receive a special UCA Certificate and a commemorative gift, ideally presented by someone special such as the GA President, the GA Chief Executive. The Youth Co-ordinator, District Association President or Secretary, congregational chairperson or similar. The presentation could perhaps take place at a national event such as our Annual Meetings or the Service at a National Youth Programme weekend or at a local special occasion. We would like to publicise each child's achievement, perhaps in *The Inquirer* and *Unitarian* and even in local newspapers.

The Unitarian Chalice Award has been designed to provide a useful service for children's leaders and the children they work with. We are committed to providing you with a scheme that will make working with children in Unitarian & Free Christian groups more interesting and fun for all concerned. We look forward to adapting and developing the UCA in time in the light of your experiences so please let us know how the scheme is working for you.



Unitarian Chalice Award Scheme

Registration Form

Name of Congregation/Fellowship

Contact Name of Leader

Address

e-mail address

Telephone No.

Details of Participants

Names	Level

Please return the completed form to:

Margaret Robinson – 2 The Meadowings, Yarm, TS15 9QR

email – margaretrobinson81@gmail.com

Telephone: 01642 782219

My Unitarian Chalice Award file

Name



Notes for Young People

How the Unitarian Chalice Award (UCA) works:

The UCA has lots of different modules for you and your leaders to choose from. For example, you might start on the Popular Culture Module or the Peace Education Module. Most modules have three levels ~ Bronze, Silver and Gold ~ and you will usually start work on the Bronze level. You will be given a **Module Record Sheet** to keep a record of all of the activities you do and this sheet will have a list of 12 possible things for you to do.

You will need to do at least **6 activities** in order to complete the module. You will then be presented with a certificate which shows which module you have completed and at what level.

To achieve the Unitarian Chalice Award in either Bronze, Silver or Gold, you will need to:

- ☺ complete at least **four different modules**
- ☺ receive at least **two Personal Achievement Certificates**

In addition we encourage you to take part in some local and national Unitarian & Free Christian events and keep a record of these on the '**Joining In**' sheet, but this is not essential.

What is a Personal Achievement Certificate?

We know that you and your friends' lead busy lives and that you are involved with lots of different groups, sports or hobbies. You may be especially helpful at home, or with neighbours or do work for charities. When you have achieved something special, let your leaders know about it and they will make sure that you receive your certificate which will explain why you have been given it. A Personal Achievement Certificate is one way for your family and your Unitarian & Free Christian group to let you know that they are proud of you.

When you have completed your Bronze, Silver or Gold Unitarian Chalice Award you will receive a special certificate and a prize. Your UCA Bronze, Silver or Gold Certificates will be presented to you in a special ceremony and your name will be printed in our Unitarian & Free Christian newspapers (eg The Inquirer and The Unitarian).

Green Level

To achieve the Green UCA level you need to complete 6 activities in all of the four modules.

We hope you enjoy working for the Unitarian Chalice Award. Good Luck!

Unitarian Chalice Award

Personal Achievement

Certificate

awarded to



Details of achievements:

Signed _____

Date _____

Position _____

September 16

‘JOINING IN’

This is a record of all the different Unitarian & Free Christian activities and events that I have been involved with. These might be local, district, national or international activities. There is space below for me or our leader to put the date, the name of the event and some details about what I did. The information can form part of my work for the Unitarian Chalice Award.

I can keep photographs with this form to show what I have been doing

BACKGROUND NOTES FOR LEADERS

EARTH EDUCATION MODULE

There are many excellent books available today which contain ideas of activities to encourage children's positive relationship with the earth and which deal with environmental issues. Many of the activities you will find on the Module Record Sheets have come from these publications. As always, leaders are encouraged to substitute their own chosen activities if these will suit their group or circumstances better. Some local education authorities have outdoor activity or environmental centres which can provide interesting locally based resources. A number of charities and pressure groups have lively websites and will also send out educational packs for children's groups. Some of these are listed below.

RESOURCE LIST

Faiths For A Future: A Resource For Teaching Environmental Themes in Religious Education published by RMEP for the Religious Education and Environment Programme (REEP) ISBN 1-85175-163-7

It is also possible to become a member of REEP by contacting them at 8th Floor, Rodwell House, Middlesex St, LONDON E1 7HJ phone 02007 377 0604

Values and Visions: A Handbook For Spiritual Development and Global Awareness by Burns and Lamont published by Hodder & Stoughton ISBN 0-340-64412-5

Education in Human Values prepared by June Auton for the Human Values Foundation.

Greenpeace www.greenpeace.org.uk

Friends of the Earth www.foe.co.uk
26-28 Underwood St, LONDON N1 7JQ

World Wide Fund for Nature www.wwf-uk.org/home.shtml

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) www.rspb.org.uk

International Dolphin Watch www.idw.org
10 Melton Rd, North Ferriby, HULL HU14 3ET phone 01482 645789

Most of these websites have excellent pages created especially for young people

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP MODULE

There are lots of organisations that are committed to helping create a fairer world, many of which produce professional resources for use with young people's groups. The activities that we have suggested on the module record sheets are simply suggestions. Feel free to follow ideas of your own, projects that your children feel particularly drawn to or schemes that are receiving publicity at the time you are working.

Citizenship is planned to become an important new part of the school curriculum in Britain and a number of resources are being produced for use in these lessons: You may well find these helpful in planning activities for your group. Whilst it is a good idea to avoid replicating school work, many of the topics that will be discussed in citizenship

classes are ones that young people will want to return to and that may be more easily discussed in a smaller and less formal setting.

RESOURCES

Stand Up For Your Rights: a book about human rights written, illustrated and edited by young people of the world for Peace Child International published by Two-Can Publishing ISBN 1-85434-573-7

Young Citizen Series (4 books on At Home, In The Street, At School and Growing Up for 9 to 13 year olds) by Kate Brookes published by Wayland ISBN 0-7502-2345-6

Survival for tribal peoples: produce an activity pack for 8 to 11 year olds designed to teach global citizenship through the lives and experiences of three tribal children. Contact them at 11-15 Emerald St, **LONDON** WC1N 3QL phone 02072421441 www.survival.org.uk

Development Education Association run training courses on bringing global perspectives into education. Also may know of local development education centres near to you. DEA, 3rd Floor, 29-31 Cowper St, **LONDON** EC2A 4AT phone 020 7490 8108

Christian Aid produces an extensive catalogue of educational resources, some which they publish themselves and some from other sources. **Highly recommended.** PO Box 100, LONDON SE1 7RT website www.christian-aid.org.uk They publish materials and fund-raising packs designed specifically for children's groups for Christmas, Harvest and Christian Aid Week in May and produce a wealth of worship material for other times of the year. They have games which help us to learn about situations unfamiliar to us such as child labour, water shortage, fashionable clothing made in sweatshops etc. They publish a free newsletter for children called **The Global Gang** which is backed up by a lively website at www.globalgang.org.uk

Oxfam also produce an excellent catalogue of educational resources. You can order this catalogue by ringing them on 01865 313600 or writing to 274 Banbury Road, OXFORD OX2 7DZ. They have created a website for children on www.oxfam.org.uk/coolplanet and you can also access their website for teachers from there or from the main Oxfam site: www.oxfam.org.uk

Many of these organisations would be happy to respond to children's requests for free leaflets and other information, although they would appreciate it if we enclose stamps. **The World Development Movement** runs powerful campaigns to raise awareness of issues facing the developing world. They recently have focused on the tobacco industry's cynical marketing methods used in the Third World. Contact them at 25 Beehive Place LONDON SW9 7QR freephone 0800 328 2153 website www.wdm.org.uk

OUR CONGREGATION MODULE

As with all modules, leaders are welcome to substitute other activities for those we have suggested. Here are some ideas about the tasks you will find on the module record sheet.

TASK 1

Many congregations have at least one member with a keen interest in history. Perhaps they could be invited to come and talk to your children's group, although they may need

reminding about children's attention spans and levels of understanding. If your building has a garden, you could make simple models of the buildings and grounds in shoe boxes. Line the box with plastic, put in some soil and grass seed which can then grow and looks very impressive with little effort (remembering to water it is the key to success!). Making a large group collage of the front of your building from fabric or coloured pieces cut from magazines can look very effective.

TASKS 2 and 3

Taking photographs of children whilst involved in activities (such as shows, trips, services, doing the gardening etc.) and then keeping them in their UCA files with a small piece of descriptive writing can make a file have lasting interest.

TASK 4

Flower arranging is often done by one or two people. They could perhaps have a session with the children where they teach them some basic skills, including the names of some suitable flowers, and let them have a go at making an arrangement.

TASK 5

Here are some words that many children will not know or understand: church, chapel, font, pulpit, preacher, Minister, Bible, pew, collection, offertory, organ, prayer, hymn, Introit, vespers, benediction etc. There may be others that relate particularly to your circumstances. Children may like to illustrate the words they have learnt and put their posters on display or use them to make a word-search for other children to do.

TASK 6

A child should only visit someone's house after written permission has been received from parents and when accompanied by at least one leader and preferably other leaders and children. There are other ways of getting in touch perhaps by making cards that can be delivered with some flowers. Old people's homes may welcome visits from children and their leaders to do some singing of carols or other songs, or to perform a short play or musical recital.

TASK 7

Whilst children often really enjoy serving in this way, it is important that we keep them safe from hot liquids. If you have an oven available, it is possible to bake some biscuits in time for the end of the Service if you have the mixture ready for stirring in advance.

TASK 8

Children have great ideas for fund-raising and appreciate having their own stall at autumn fairs etc. We have to remember the child protection issues involved if children want to fund-raise away from your group and your building. They need reminding to check everything first with parents and not to knock on people's doors that they don't know or without permission.

TASK 9

It is surprising sometimes how many adults do not know each others' names in a congregation. Name tags made by children can be a pleasant way to break the ice and to make newcomers feel more involved. Taking a congregational photograph at a time when as many people are present as possible can be a lot of fun. Someone with computer skills could enlarge it or you could have an enlarged colour photocopy made. Children could then put names on Post It slips or label everyone in some other way.

TASK 10

Children need to feel valued and really seem to appreciate being helpful in some way. The challenge for us as leaders is to find enough suitable tasks and make sure that all who want to have a go. Having a regular responsibility can be a very positive experience for a young person.

TASK 11

We all thrive on praise and even the most shy of children may enjoy performing as part of a group in front of the congregation. Those who don't feel able to join in could perhaps help with props or by taking a photo.

TASK 12

We would like to hear from you about different ways that your children have become more actively involved in congregational life so that we can spread good ideas around. Drop the co-ordinator a line and we will share them with other groups.

PERSONAL PROFILES MODULE

Whilst many of the ideas covered by this module could form part of a school curriculum in Personal and Social Education (PSE) we think it is well worth children engaging with such activities in our Unitarian & Free Christian groups. Schools have less time for such cross curricular topics these days and personal issues may well be better tackled in a smaller and possibly more supportive setting.

When working with children on topics such as feelings and attitudes, it is important to establish some ground rules from the start to ensure that nobody feels put down. Children may sometimes become silly and negative when personal matters are discussed so it is a good idea to create your group time first as a safe space in which to be together. Whilst encouraging everyone to join in, we need also to acknowledge a child's right to 'pass' on a particular activity.

Techniques such as 'circle time' help children to practice the valuable skills of listening and responding. Perhaps you could start and end your group with a sharing circle in which each child has a chance to speak and to be listened to by everyone else. Some simple topics might be:

- something good that happened for me this week
- something that was difficult for me this week
- something I have enjoyed doing this week
- something that annoyed me this week
- a present I would like to give the world
- one thing that could improve our neighbourhood
- something I am looking forward to in the week ahead
- something I would like us to do as a group sometime

It can be quite painful to realise how negatively some young people view themselves and as leaders we need to avoid seeming as if we are 'forcing' young people to be positive about themselves. Luckily there are now many books on the subject of self-esteem with suggested ways to help young people build a more positive view of themselves. The titles in the Resources List below are ones that we know of but there are many more.

RESOURCES LIST

Full Esteem Ahead: 100 Ways To Build Self-Esteem in Children & Adults by Diane and Julia Loomans published by H.J. Kramer inc. ISBN 0-915811-57-X

Just Because I Am: A Child's Book of Affirmation by Lauren Murphy Payne published by Free Spirit ISBN 0-915793-60-1

Just Because I Am: Leader's Guide ISBN 0-915793-61-X

Stick Up For Yourself: Every Kid's Guide to Personal Power and Positive Self-Esteem by Kaufman and Raphael published by Free Spirit ISBN 0-915793-17-2

Self-Esteem by Fitzpatrick, Clarke and Higgins, published by The Chalkface Project ISBN 1 873562 68 3

Teen Esteem: A Self-Directional Manual for Young Adults by Dr. Pat Palmer published by Impact Publishers ISBN 0-915166-66-6

Thinking, Changing, Rearranging: Improving self-esteem in young people by Jill Anderson published by Metamorphous Press ISBN 0-943920-30-2

Awakenings: First Steps in Religious Awareness for Under 7s - produced by the Religious Education & Youth Department and available from Essex Hall, price £5.00. This has a number of suggested sessions on feelings as well as other topics.

Values and Visions: a handbook for spiritual development and global awareness by Burns and Lamont published by Hodder & Stoughton ISBN 0-340-64412-5

We Believe: a programme for all ages based on the UU Principles

A number of book clubs specialise in books that support children in forming positive views of themselves and others. Two we would recommend are: Letterbox Library phone 020 7226 1633 Words of Discovery www.wordsofdiscovery.com

POPULAR CULTURE MODULE

If, like us, you believe that religion involves the whole of our lives then you may well enjoy working on this module with your group. It involves children's lives today and you may well discover how deeply most of them are immersed in the world of popular culture. Hopefully by working on this module, they and you will gain a heightened awareness of areas of life often taken for granted such as fashion, television and music.

It is perhaps worth emphasising here the value of display and performance. Children gain greatly from having their work put on display, particularly when the displays are well mounted and changed regularly. Why not create a special event and ask congregation members to come and view work when it is displayed and give lots of positive feedback? Children sometimes feel invisible in congregations and this is one way to counteract that. Another way is to arrange for your children to perform both for one another and for the rest of the congregation.

As with all the modules written for the Unitarian Chalice Award, we encourage children and leaders to follow other activities if these will suit their circumstances or interests better. The activities listed on your **Module Record Sheet** are simply suggestions. This module in particular may well enable leaders to validate children's achievements outside the group and it is fine for children to earn some of their 'ticks' for hobbies pursued elsewhere. For example, a child could bring in a special story they have written at school or something they have made at home.