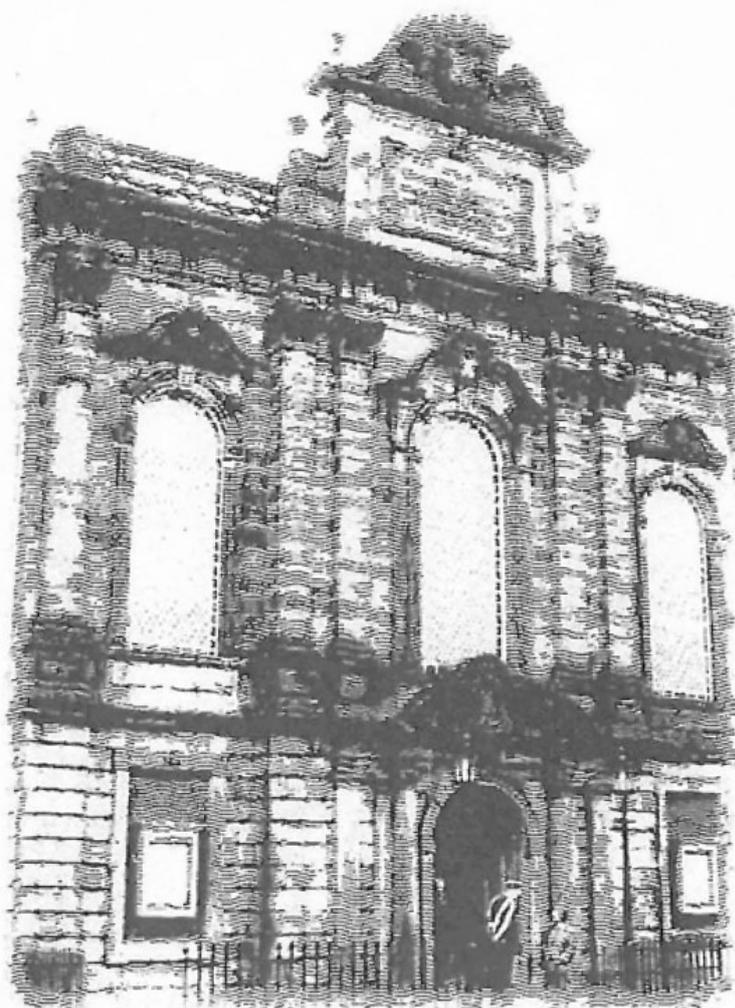


The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

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Annual Report 2002

The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Registered Charity, No. 250788

The seventy-fourth

Annual Report

Submitted at the Annual Meeting
of the Assembly 2003

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Cover: St Mark's Unitarian Church

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Report of Council

1 Meetings

Council met three times during the year, each of which were at Unitarian Headquarters, Essex Hall.

2 President

Alan Ruston became President at the Annual Meetings at the Ranmoor Campus of the University of Sheffield on 8 April 2003.

3 Nominations

The Council is pleased to nominate the Reverend Austin C Fitzpatrick as President for 2003/2004, Dawn Buckle as Vice-President and Michael Tomlin as Honorary Treasurer. The post of Deputy Honorary Treasurer will remain vacant in view of the creation of the Fund-raising Team.

4 GA Resolutions

The Council, its departmental committees and officers have dealt appropriately with the resolutions passed at the GA Annual Meetings. In four cases the action involved letters to the bodies designated in the resolutions. The Western Union's strategic resolution has been incorporated into the role of the future Administration Commission. The issues connected with the location of the Headquarters were taken up with the Essex Hall Trust. The ministry training resolution has resulted in a report on the progress of the President's Commission Report and a questionnaire to all district associations. This will result in a report to the Annual Meetings.

5 GA Theme

The two-year theme "Keeping our Chalice Alight" was adopted at the 2001 GA Annual Meetings. This theme has the intention of encouraging the younger members of our denomination. The Chalice Appeal has commenced raising funds for an officer with exclusive duties to youth.

6 Triennial Review Working Party

At the direction of the GA Council of 9 February 2002 a special financial review meeting was held a few days later. This meeting initiated an immediate budget review for the current year 2001-2002 and, bearing in mind the need to take meaningful steps that would involve a significant reduction in the staff establishment, laid plans for the creation of a working party to review the GA staff and committee structure for the triennial period 2003-2006. The final arrangements for the TRWP were made at the close of the Annual Meetings in Sheffield. The TRWP met three times between May and September 2002 and produced a report and

recommendations for the November 2002 Council meeting. The report and recommendations were accepted in principle at that meeting. Council commissioned the General Secretary to produce a more detailed report in February 2003.

7 Unitarian Future Vision

The special financial review and the Triennial Review Working Party took over the time-slot allocated to our planned future visioning process. This was but a temporary setback because the review party ensured that future planning was integrated into its proposals and given much greater emphasis than before. As part of this commitment the first future vision meeting was set for 13 February 2003 to prepare for an introductory session at the July 2003 Council meetings.

8 Pensions for Ministers

The worsening financial situation has caused both the General Assembly and the MPIF to postpone the signing of the agreement to provide a GA guarantee to the MPIF's minimum funding level.

9 Relationship with the NSPCI

The NSPCI Moderator, the Rt Rev Samuel Peden and the Clerk of Synod visited Unitarian Headquarters in October 2002 at the invitation of the President. This was a most cordial visit.

10 General

District associations, affiliated societies, panels and committees provided detailed reports of their work. The GA committees kept members fully informed of their activities and current issues. The manner in which committees serve the movement is reported in the ensuing pages of this Annual Report. Council thanks all of those who served on its committees and panels during the year.



Alan Ruston

President of the General Assembly 2002-2003

The Report for 2002, which I am pleased to present, is set out in a slightly different way to that of previous years. It is shorter but that does not mean it represents any less work or effort by the officers, staff and committees of our General Assembly. We are in difficult times requiring difficult decisions to be made if we are to ensure that the Unitarian vision burns more brightly in the future. As we enter the 75th anniversary year of the General Assembly let us work with renewed commitment and open a new and positive era in our history.

It has been a notable experience to be your President. As Rosemary and I have travelled about the country we have met many old friends and made new ones. My thanks for your support and encouragement and in the words of a 13th century greeting - 'may your wellbeing wax continually.'

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan Ruston". The ink is dark and the signature is written in a fluid, personal style.

Alan Ruston



The Object of the Assembly

From the Constitution of the General Assembly as amended 19 April 2001 and approved by the Charity Commission:

"2.Object

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

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

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

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

General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

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

General Secretary: Jeffrey J Teagle

The Trustees of the General Assembly are the Members of Council, which comprises the Honorary Officers, the Elected Members, and the Co-opted Members as listed below.

COUNCIL 2000-2003 (During 2002)

Honorary Officers

President: Alan Ruston
Vice-President: The Rev Austin Fitzpatrick
Treasurer: Michael Tomlin
Deputy Treasurer: -

Elected Members

East Cheshire Union of U and FC Churches	Robert Fincham
East Midland Association	Sir Peter Soulsby
Eastern Union of U and FC Churches	The Rev Charles VanDenBroeder
London District and SE Provincial Assembly	The Rev Steve Dick
Manchester District Association	The Rev Ann Peart
Merseyside District Missionary Association	The Rev John Keggen
Midland Union of U and FC Churches	Margaret Phelan
North and East Lancashire Unitarian Mission	The Rev John Allerton
Northern Unitarian Association	Freda Laverick
Scottish Unitarian Association	Margaret Paxton
Sheffield and District Association	Gavin Mason
South East Wales	The Rev Eirion Phillips
Southern Unitarian Association	Anthony M Rees
South Wales	The Rev Alun-Wyn Dafis
Western Union of U and FC Churches	Bernard Omar
Yorkshire Unitarian Union	David Arthur
British League of U and LC Women	Meryl Edgley
Ministerial Fellowship	The Rev Celia Midgley
National Unitarian Fellowship	Howard Hague
Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland	The Rt Rev Samuel Peden
Unitarian Youth	Lorna Hill

Co-opted Members: Linda Phillips

Other Appointments:

Solicitor: Mr Godwin Swift (Shaen, Roscoe & Swift)
Auditors: Messrs Edmund Gibbs & Co
Custodian Trustee: The British and Foreign Unitarian Association

General Assembly Officers and Honorary Members

Secretaries

1928 Rev S H Mellone, MA, DSc
1928 Rev R Travers Herford, BA, DD
1929-49 Rev Mortimer Rowe, BA, DD
1949-69 Rev John Kielty, LD, DD
1969-79 Rev Brian L Golland, MA
1979-94 Roy W Smith, DHL
1994- Jeffrey J Teagle

Treasurers

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

Deputy Treasurers

1996-98 Mr Michael Tomlin

Past Presidents

1929 Rev C J Street, MA, LLB (B&FUA)
1929 Rev Henry Gow, BA, BD (Nat Conf)
1929-31 Mrs Sydney Martineau
1931-32 Mr J Harrop White, JP
1932-34 Rev Alfred Hall, MA, DD
1934-35 Mr Ronald P Jones, MA, FRIBA
1935-36 Mr George G Armstrong
1936-37 Rev H McLachlan, MA, DD, LittD
1937-38 Mr N Bishop Harman, MA, LLD
1938-39 Rev R F Rattray, MA, PhD
1939-40 Mr J T Bibby
1940-41 Rev E Rosalind Lee, MA
1941-42 Mr P M Oliver, CBE, BA
1942-43 Rev H J Rossington, MA, BD
1943-44 Mr R H Mottram, JP, FRSL
1944-45 Mr Alfred Pilling, OBE, JP
1945-46 Rev Raymond V Holt, MA, BLitt
1946-47 Mr Harold Baily, MBE
1947-48 Rev Lawrence Redfern, MA, BD
1948-49 Prof FJM Stratton, LLD, FRS
1949-50 Rev Fred Cottier
1950-51 Mr Harold B Moore
1951-52 Rev G Randall Jones, MA, BSc, BD
1952-53 Miss Dorothy Tarrant, MA, PhD
1953-54 Rev Herbert Crabtree
1954-55 Mr Stanley R Butler, ACA
1955-56 Rev Frank A Bullock
1956-57 Mr C Herbert Pollard, CBE, FSAA
1957-58 Rev James Percival Chalk
1958-59 Rt Hon J Chuter Ede, CH, JP, DL, MP

1959-60 Rev Arthur W Vallance, BA
1960-61 Mr Arthur L Blake, OBE
1961-62 Rev J Harry Smith
1962-63 Mr Kenneth M Street, MM
1963-64 Rev Walter M Long
1964-65 Mr Stanley J Kennett, BSc, PhD
1965-66 Rev E Shirvell Price, MA
1966-67 Mr T H Hollingsworth
1967-68 Rev Fred Kenworthy, MA, BD
1968-69 Mrs Amy Howarth, MA
1969-70 Rev C Gordon Bolam, MA, BD
1970-71 Mr Arnold Graves, FCA, FCIS
1971-72 Rev H John McLachlan, MA, BD, DPhil
1972-73 Mr M Humphreys Winder, BA
1973-74 Rev D Jacob Davies, BA
1974-75 Mrs Gwyneth J M Thomas, BSc
1975-76 Rev Evan David Davies
1976-77 Mr George Morrison, MA
1977-78 Rev Dr Peter B Godfrey, BA, DD
1978-79 Mr Geoffrey Head, BA
1979-80 Rev A Hilton Birtles, JP, BA
1980-81 Dr June Bell, MA, MB, BS, PhD
1981-82 Rev Eric Wild, BA
1982-83 Mrs Eleanor Dixon
1983-84 Rev Arthur J Long, MA
1984-85 Mrs Helen M Nicholson, MBE
1985-86 Rev Sydney H Knight
1986-87 Mrs Sheila Crosskey, MB, ChB
1987-88 Rev Derek Smith
1988-89 Mr Robert HE Inkson, BSc, FSS, FIS
1989-90 Rev J Eric Jones, BA
1990-91 Mrs Eila Forrester, BA
1991-92 Rev Peter Hewis, BA
1992-93 Mrs Celia Kerr
1993-94 Rev James McClelland, MA
1994-95 Mr Michael Tomlin
1995-96 Rev Anne McClelland, BA
1996-97 Dr Jane Williams, MB, BCh, BAO
1997-98 Rev Clifford Reed, BA
1998-99 Dr Beverley Littlepage, MSc, MRCOG, FFPHM
1999-00 Rev Keith Gilley
2000-01 Mrs Judith Crompton, JP
2001-02 Rev John Midgley, BA, BD, MA, MED
2002-03 Alan Ruston

Honorary Members

Rev H John McLachlan, MA, BD, DPhil
Dr June Bell, MA, MB, BS, PhD
Mr Geoffrey Head, BA
Rev Dr Peter Godfrey, BA, DD
Rev Arthur J Long, MA

Anniversary Service Preachers

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

General Assembly and Essex Hall Staff

General Assembly Staff, 2001-2002

Jeffrey J Teagle, General Secretary

Peter Bixby, Finance Officer:

Rev John Clifford, Deputy General Secretary

John Crosskey, Technical Officer and Finance Assistant

Neil MacPherson, Information Assistant

Andrew Mason, Personal Assistant to General & Deputy General Secretaries

Elizabeth Obe, Administrative Assistant

Matthew Smith, Information Officer

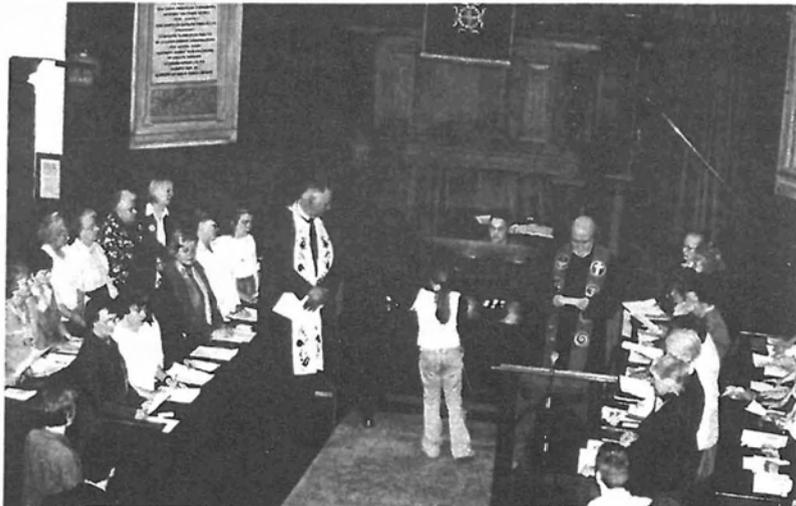
Ingrid Tavkar, Social Responsibility Officer

Sarah Tinker, Religious Education and Youth Officer

Essex Hall Staff, 2001-2002

Izzie Clarke, Caretaker

Letty Bent, Cleaner



Anniversary Service at Upper Chapel, Sheffield

Affiliated Societies

The following societies are affiliated to the General Assembly:

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

Theresa Taylor, out-going President of the Women's League, presents a cheque to the representative of "Dogs for the Disabled". →

At the annual meeting of the Psychical Society ↓



Annual Meetings 2002

The seventy-fourth Annual Meetings of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches began on Friday 4 April 2002 and ended on Monday 8 April 2002 and were held in the Ranmoor House at the University of Sheffield.

The Opening Business Session began with the parade of banners, a welcome from the General Assembly President, the Rev John Midgley. Devotions were conducted by the Rev Ernest W S Baker.

Councillor Mrs Marjorie Barker, the Deputy Lord Mayor, brought the greetings of the City of Sheffield.

Overseas greetings were delivered by the Rev Olivia Holmes (Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations), the Rev Dr Arpad Szabo (Unitarian Church of Romania), the Rev Mark Allstrom (Australia and New Zealand Unitarian Association) and the Rev Gordon Oliver (Cape Town Unitarian Church). Other international visitors were asked to stand and be recognised.

Richard Allen, MP for Sheffield Hallam, also brought greetings.

Standing Orders for the Conduct of the Annual Business Meetings were adopted and Christine Hayhurst, Miles Howarth and Dr David Wykes were confirmed as the members of the Steering Committee. For the final session on Monday 8 April the Rev James McClelland was co-opted in substitution for Dr Wykes, who was unable to attend. Sarah Tinker delivered the keynote address on the theme "Keeping Our Chalice Alight".

At the second business session the Annual Report was presented by the General Secretary. The Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2001 were presented by the Honorary Treasurer, Michael Tomlin and Finance and Administration Chairperson, Sir Peter Soulsby. Other committee reports were presented at the remaining business sessions by a variety of appropriate spokespersons. The Amy Howarth Rosebowl was awarded to the Congregation of Brighton in recognition of their growth of quota-paying membership in 2001/2002.

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were carried:

1) From the General Assembly Council

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches welcomes the Unitarian Christian Association into Membership as an Affiliated Society.

Abstract of Proceedings

2) From the Western Union

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, recognising the need for effective co-operative use of denominational resources of finances, ministry, people and buildings, resolves that Council, with full co-operation with District Associations, urgently take the necessary steps to develop a coherent long term strategy to utilise these resources effectively for the survival of the Movement.

3) From the Unitarian Peace Fellowship

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, noting the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of an annual Global Cease-fire Day to be observed on the 21st of September each year,

- Supports the initiative;
- Asks the General Secretary to write to Her Majesty's Government urging national observance of the Day;
- Suggests that all constituent congregations, affiliated societies and individual members write to their local Members of Parliament urging Her Majesty's Government to support the Global Cease-fire Day at the international level;
- Urges all constituent congregations, affiliated societies and individual members to find appropriate ways in which they can mark the day in their local communities.

4) From Hull Unitarian Church

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, short of money and mindful of the need to communicate effectively that the best use is made of the resources we have, should enter into a dialogue with the Essex Hall trustees to investigate whether there would be a net financial benefit to the denomination if the full commercial potential of Essex Hall were not compromised by Unitarian use.

5) From the Yorkshire Unitarian Union

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches instructs GA Council:

- (a) to initiate a review of the progress that has been made in implementing the recommendations of the President's Commission (1994) in regard to ministerial training; and
- (b) to undertake wide consultation with congregations, fellowships, district associations and other bodies, to establish what further changes and innovations are held to be

desirable to render ministerial training both sufficiently flexible and responsive to the demands of the 21st century; and

(c) to provide a report on these matters to the Assembly Meeting 2003.

6) From Dunham Road Unitarian Chapel, Altrincham

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

- mindful of the increasing pressures on ministers to keep pace with the modern world,
- and valuing the spiritual leadership provided by those who minister to our Unitarian and Free Christian communities:

1 reaffirms its commitment to *Cherishing our Unitarian Ministry*

2 urges both ministers and congregations to respect the need for rest and refreshment, as recommended in *General Assembly Guidelines "Ministers and Congregations"*

3 in particular urges our congregations to ensure that

a) they make provision for *at least* one rest day a week for the minister, and

b) arrange for someone other than the minister to deal with all inquiries except emergencies.

7) From 19 ministers and one member of Council

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and free Christian Churches expresses its deep sympathy to all victims of terrorism and war.

In view of the peace call of the United Nations and the Peace Offer of the Arab Summit,

1 we support the many members of the British Jewish community who signed the March 2002 Pesach Message, which affirms:

"At the heart of our religion and national identity is the message of freedom... we condemn the use of terror by extremist Palestinian groups. Nevertheless, this terror should not blind us to the deeper issues posed by Israel's occupation of and current behaviour in the Palestinian territories."

2 we further support their call to the Israeli government:

"a to announce its intention to end the occupation

b to declare its willingness to conduct negotiations with the Palestinians

c to take certain unilateral steps immediately including dismantling the settlements in Gaza and in the heart of the Palestinian population in the West Bank."

3 we urge the congregations of the General Assembly to co-operate with local and international faith groups in programmes to reduce world terror, to build local and international trust.

8 From Westgate Unitarian Chapel, Wakefield

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches deplores the threat to bring charges against Joan Bakewell for blasphemy for quoting from "The Love that Dares not Speak its Name" by James Kirkup, and calls upon Her Majesty's Government, the Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly to repeal the Blasphemy Laws.

PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

1) That **Alan Ruston** be appointed President of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches for the year 2002-2003.

2) That this seventy-fourth General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches expresses its gratitude for the services provided by the **Reverend John A Midgley** as President during the year 2001-2002.

3) That the **Reverend Austin C Fitzpatrick** be appointed as Vice-President for the year 2002-2003.

4) That the Thanks of the Assembly be given to **Michael J Tomlin** for his services as Honorary Treasurer, to district association and local treasurers and collectors for their help.

5) That **Michael J Tomlin** be appointed Honorary Treasurer for the year 2002-2003.

6) That **Messrs Edmund Gibbs & Co** be re-appointed as Auditors.

7) That the Report of the General Assembly Council and the Accounts of the General Assembly be received and adopted.

8) That greetings be sent to kindred churches and societies abroad.

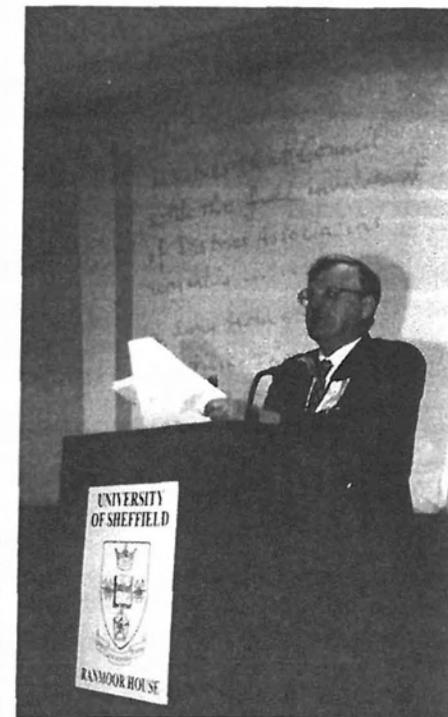
9) That the thanks of the Assembly be given to the **Rev Margaret Kirk** for conducting the Anniversary Service, and to the **Rev William Darlison** for preaching the Assembly Sermon.

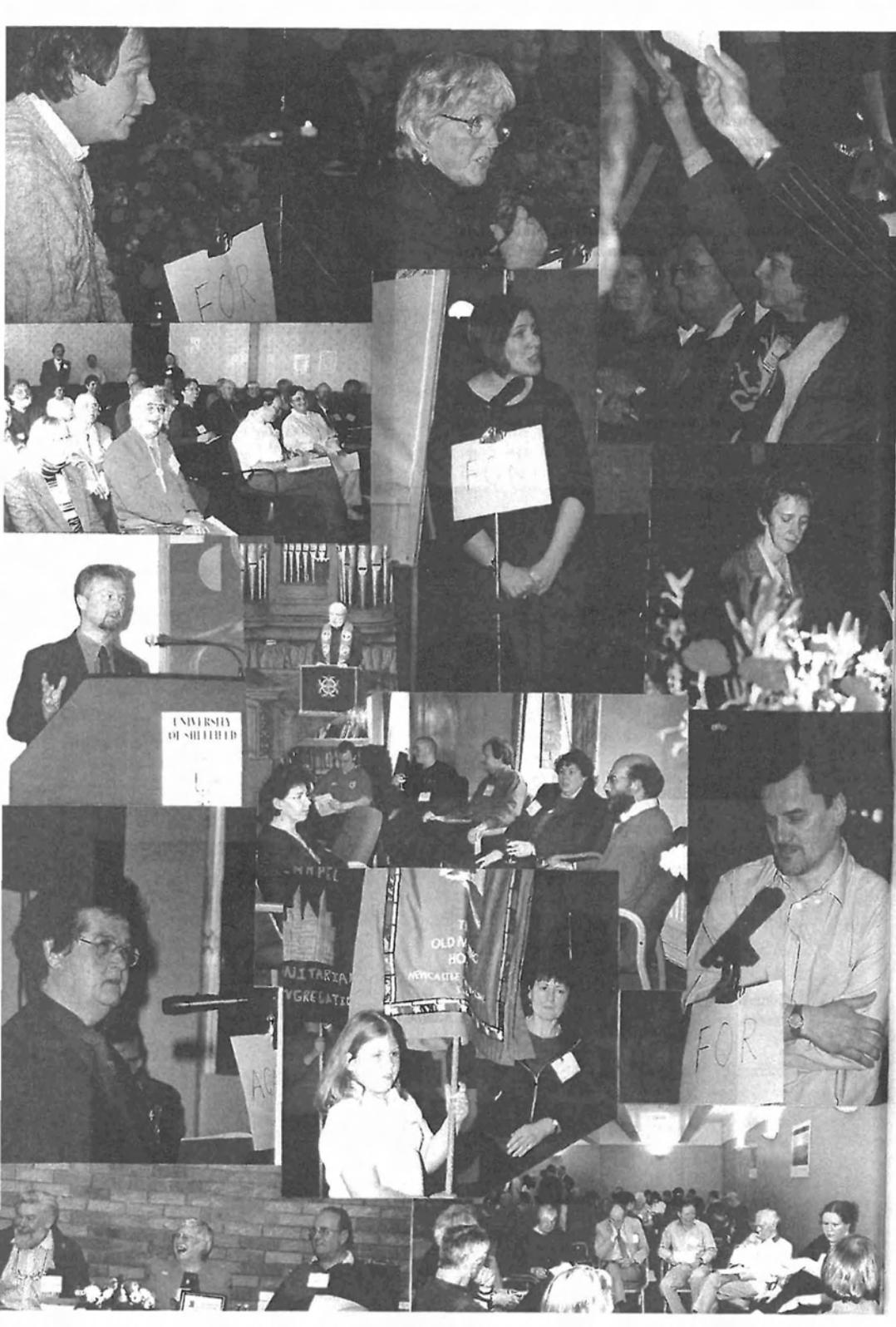
10) That the thanks of the Assembly be given to **Andrew Marples**, organist for the Anniversary Service, and to local Unitarians who arranged other music for the Meetings.

11) That the thanks of the Assembly be given to all the local Unitarians, especially from the sponsoring district, the **Sheffield and District Association of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches**, for their inestimable help in organising the Meetings.

STIPEND SCALES

The Assembly approved formally the adoption of the minimum Stipend Scales for Ministers and Lay Pastors for 2002-2003 as recommended by the General Assembly's Stipend Review Committee.





Committee Reports

BUILDING ADVISORY PANEL

Members: The Rev David Ayton, Graham Hague, Judy Hague, Bob Millard (until March 2002), the Rev Eirion Phillips, Alison Short (from mid-2002), Jeff Teagle and Tony Waldron.

The Panel did not meet during the year partly because of cost reasons and partly because of its policy to deal with ad hoc enquiries on a networking basis. Graham and Judy Hague provided a buildings advisory information stand at the GA Annual Meetings and were able to conduct interested people to Fulwood Chapel where they have been involved in creating disabled access.

Very sadly Bob Millard died early in 2002. He will long be remembered as a valued and well-informed member of the Panel.

Alison Short joined the panel during 2002 to assist with practical advice about disabled access.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Acting Chair: Dorothy Hewerdine
Secretary: Margaret Robinson (from September 2002)

Members: Joyce Ashworth, Rev Michael Dadson, Rev Lindy Latham, Tony Rees.

Committee membership

Sarah Atkinson, Cathal Courtney, Judith Crompton, Joan Hill, Rev. Margaret Kirk, and Rev. Charles Van Den Broeder retired during the year. We would like to thank them all for their contributions to the work of the committee during their term of office.

Margaret Robinson accepted an invitation to join the committee as Secretary in September. We welcome Margaret and deeply appreciate the work she has already undertaken on our behalf.

Work in Progress includes:

- Support for Unitarian communities requiring external facilitation and support
- Representation on the Small Congregations Consultancy
- Fellowships Initiative Group - this continues as a small working group convened by Matthew Smith and supported by the Development Committee. Lesley McKeown, Kay Millard,

- Kathy Packer and Howard Wilkins form the group with Matthew.
- Collaboration with the Triennial Review Working Party to facilitate an open discussion of the role, structure and processes of the proposed Denominational Support Commission during the Annual meetings in Edinburgh 2003.
- Consultation has continued with the 21-45 age group through an article in *The Inquirer* inviting needs, comments and questions from people in this age group. The responses are now being followed up by Michael Dadson.
- RE Summer School: the DC has agreed to fund and supply two workshop leaders for the Summer School in 2003. The focus of the workshops will be Engagement groups and facilitation.
- Engagement Groups: Following the inspirational Essex Hall Lecture in 2002 by Thandeka, and the subsequent Development Committee workshop, the DC has made great progress with developing a support network for people wishing to set up an Engagement Group within their Unitarian communities. An exploratory workshop was held at Luther King House in July 2002 and we now have news of several pilot groups starting up in different areas of the country. A draft manual has been produced to support facilitators, and a workshop for facilitators of the groups is being planned to take place in March 2003. Following this, it is envisaged that further regional workshops can be held in addition to the ongoing local support for facilitators of Engagement Groups. Joyce Ashworth, Michael Dadson, and Lindy Latham lead Engagement Support - a planning and resource group which includes Rev. Elizabeth Birtles, Cathal Courtney, Dot Hewerdine, and Rev. Margaret Kirk.
- GA Council: Tony Rees continues to represent the Development Committee on Council. This enables the DC to understand the wider denominational picture and how the work of the DC integrates with the work of other committees and working groups.
- At the September Retreat, the committee explored the options for further Development Skills Training Programmes. This exploration is continuing with a small group considering different formats and collaboration with other Unitarian development and training programmes. The Development Network is continuing to provide a resource of experienced

facilitators for projects and initiatives throughout the country.

Finally

The committee has worked hard throughout the year with a number of major projects in progress. The Retreat in September was attended by Jeff Teagle when collaboration on a number of these was discussed. We are grateful to those people who contribute to these projects and whose names do not appear at the top of this report as members of the committee. The work of the Development Committee could not continue as effectively without the enthusiasm and energy of its supportive network.

We are grateful also to Unitarians who continue to support our work by contributing to the Development Fund which enables the committee to sponsor developmental initiatives such as Engagement Groups.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair: Alan Ruston (From April 2002), the Rev John Midgley (until April 2002).

Secretary: Jeffrey Teagle

Members: The Rev Steve Dick (from January 2002), the Rev Austin Fitzpatrick (from April 2002), Dorothy Omar (until January 2002) and Michael Tomlin.

1 Meetings

The Executive Committee met three times, approximately two weeks before each Council Meeting.

2 The Work of the Executive Committee

The Committee heard routine reports from the President, Vice-President, Honorary Treasurer and General Secretary. Two members elected by Council provided further depth to the decision-making. Very sadly, Dorothy Omar died in February 2002. In view of the serious financial situation and the consequent need to economise, it was decided not to seek a new member to replace Dorothy. The Committee monitored the progress of Unitarian Headquarters, including the summaries of the annual staff job review discussions. Considerable attention was paid to international affairs.

3 Special Attention

Matters receiving special attention were:

The Financial Situation and the Triennial Review Working Party – At all stages of the review of the serious financial situation and the work of the TRWP, EC members were directly involved. These matters were constantly on the EC agenda.

Unitarian Future Vision – Although a special financial review meeting took over the planned meeting day and then the TRWP process followed through with short/medium term planning concerns, EC maintained its strong commitment towards working with the executive officers in the realm of future visioning and planning. The strategic planning resolution, introduced from the Western Union and passed at the 2002 Annual Meetings, provided a stronger mandate for this activity.

Consent agendas – The favourable experience of the London District was evaluated and then this was recommended to Council.

Data Protection Act 1998 – The implications of this were considered and communicated to Council.

Essex Hall – The future of Essex Hall was brought into focus by the Hull resolution and occupied a significant amount of EC time. EC maintained a close liaison with the Essex Hall Trust during the period of its consultation with professional advisors. The need for the Unitarian Headquarters to migrate from the first floor to the ground floor and basement was recognized.

Excepted status – The Home Office decisions and their implications were discussed and noted.

Trustees for Congregations – Recommendations were made concerning the appointment of corporate and custodian trustees for congregations.

4 The Future of this Committee

EC will cease to exist with the formation of the Administration Commission. EC has been a very useful committee that has enabled a significant improvement in the communication between Council and Unitarian Headquarters. The Honorary Officers have been much better informed about the work and performance of GA staff. They have also benefited from the extra preparation for Council meetings. These proven and successful practices will be carried on within the Administration Commission.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Chair: Sir Peter Soulsby

Secretary: Rev John Clifford

Members: Mike Tomlin (GA Hon Treas), David Arthur, Gavin Mason, Margaret Paxton, Linda Phillips, Sandra Wilson. The GA Finance Officer and General Secretary also attend.

1. Meetings of the Committee

During the 2001-2002 financial year the Committee met four times. The special October 2001

meeting to consider the staffing and budgeting implications of the "Web Wizard" and "Youth Officer" resolutions of the 2001 Annual Meetings was reported in last year's Annual Report. Another special meeting was called by the President and held following the last Business Session of the 2002 Annual Meetings; this was a joint meeting with the General Purposes and Executive Committees and resulted in the formation of the Triennial Review Working Party to consult and make recommendations to Council on (1) adjustments to the GA budget and (2) changes in Council's Committee structure and procedures. Its recommendations and Council's decisions are too lengthy to report in the Annual Report but a Report is scheduled for distribution to all Meetings' participants. One recommendation accepted by Council is that for the next Council triennial an Administration Commission combining most of the functions of the Executive, Finance & Administration, and General Purposes Committees should be established. Therefore this Committee will cease to meet following its January 2003 meeting.

2. Staff Matters

Rev John Clifford, the Deputy General Secretary, announced that he would be leaving the GA staff at the end of May 2003 to enable him and his wife to lead a life not dominated by weekly separations and lengthy travelling between London and Scotland. John will take up an Interim Ministry with the congregations of Aberdare, Cardiff, and Cefn Coed from 1 June.

Elizabeth Obe, administrative assistant, moved from full-time to part-time work in October 2002 following her commencement of a degree course in Law.

Sarah Tinker, RE and Youth Officer, has been accepted for ministerial training, due to start in October 2003; she may continue to work for the GA on a part-time basis.

Peter Suters served 30 weeks from February to September 2002 as Web Wizard on a consultancy basis funded by a Unitarian Millennium Fund grant.

Due to the above decisions of staff, the necessary decrease in the staff side of the 2002-2003 budget was achieved without compulsory redundancies. The full-year effect of this will be seen in the 2003-2004 budget.

3. Office space

The Essex Hall Trustees, faced with the loss of two of its three tenants over an 18 month period in 2003-2004, have decided, following professional advice, to modify the first floor premises with a view to offering an enclosable facility.

This will involve converting the Martineau Hall to offices, to which the General Assembly will shift during 2003. The inability of the Trustees to continue their current contribution to the GA budget beyond 2002-2003 will add to the financial pressure to reduce the gap between income and expenditure caused by the continuing decline in the stock market.

4. Information Technology

The GA has notified the Data Protection Commissioner that we hold and process data that requires such notification. Congregational officers are reminded that, unless specifically requested otherwise, our general assumption is that Ministers, Secretaries, and Treasurers of our groups are contact points with the public and therefore that they consent to their name and contact information being in the Directory and being given to inquirers.

There were no substantial changes to the office network during the year but the consultant used for the set-up and the working-in period has now been replaced by a service contract based on pre-paid hourly rates.

5. Fundraising

As reported last year, a Fundraising Team has been established. During the year work progressed on the Chalice Appeal and on developing Associate Memberships. Developing legacy giving for our congregations and for the General Assembly is also receiving renewed attention. The Chalice Appeal has benefited from a couple large donations and promises but is also starting to receive donations from congregational and individual responses. In July 2002 Council decided that the Chalice Appeal should be for specified projects rather than general income for the Assembly and the first three projects to be specified are youth work, web development, and ministerial training. The Accounts show a net income to the fund during the year of £20,455; this is allocated by donor wishes as follows: Ministry training, £10,000; Web Wizard, £5,000; Youth: £5,111; with £344 unspecified. The first project of the Team was to increase the offertory of the Anniversary Service and maximise tax reclaims by using envelopes with Gift Aid forms printed on them. The results were very encouraging. The 2001 Anniversary Service Offertory raised £1,423 and the 2002 Offertory raised £4,825 after collection of tax and deduction of costs [£5,797 less £972].

6. Financial Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2002 (report from the Treasurer)

6a. Accounts: As is apparent from the accounts this has been a very difficult year for the General Assembly finances, due mainly to the continuing drop in share prices and the continuing deficit on our general account.

As was stated in the report for 2001, a revised budget was drawn up to reduce substantially the previously agreed deficit for the year 2001-2002. In the event due to a most generous donation of £100,000 (£30,000 of which was directed to donor-designated funds), with investment income coming in over budget and a further reduction in staff salaries the projected deficit of £150,000 was reduced to an actual figure of £41,000.

With the continuing fall in worldwide stock markets, the value of the General Assembly investments fell by some 21% (compared with a fall in the FTSE 100 of some 25%) and so we are not alone.

This is not an acceptable situation and the Finance and Administration committee has made decisions to bring the Assembly's finances more into balance. Staff salaries are the largest single item and this has necessitated an action plan to decrease the staff establishment by 17% by June 2003, resulting in a saving of £36,000 p.a. from that date.

6b. Live giving: In addition to the launch of the Chalice Appeal, it is pleasing to report that live giving through the quota scheme increased and it is hoped that this will be maintained in the current year. Subscription income also went up and with a new initiative having been launched further improvement is also expected here. There is no doubt that if we want to keep our Movement's organisation we are going to have to increase our live giving since we know that in the future we cannot rely on the B&FUA to increase their donation and the Essex Hall Trustees have indicated that with the loss of their major tenant from mid 2004 they will be unable to continue to maintain their grant at the same high level [see paragraph 3].

6c. Investment Managers: During the year the Charities Division of Henderson Global Investors was sold to Newton Investment Management Ltd and it was decided to transfer our funds to Newtons but review their performance in the New Year. Following a review in February 2003 it was decided to stay with Newtons but to alter the manner of our investments. This means that instead of holding a portfolio of stocks and

shares we shall invest in a small number of pooled funds again managed by Newtons.

6d. Reserves Policy: It is the policy of the General Assembly to use reserves to fund deficits arising on general income and expenditures.

6e. Services to the Denomination:
Stipend Calculation 25 congregations are now being serviced.

CAF Banking More congregations have joined and are enjoying the benefits of the higher interest rates offered by CAF.

Investments Discussions are taking place with Newton - the GA Investment Managers - as to the most appropriate way in which trustees can be helped to review their investments

6f. Finally I would like to thank the members of the Finance and Administration Committee for their work over the past three stressful years.
(Mike Tomlin)

7. UMF decisions

The decisions about grants from this fund are still made by Council but the body that reviews applications and makes recommendations is now the F&A Committee. During the year 2001-2002 the following grants were approved by Council:

- (1) £10,000 for a Web Wizard consultant for 30 weeks;
- (2) £500 to Dunham Rd Chapel, Altrincham, towards installing an induction loop system;
- (3) £2,550 to Social Responsibility for three pilot issues of Counterpoint;
- (4) Confirmation that the Building Advisory Panel had £20,000 for advisory purposes;
- (5) £1,765 to the Ministerial Fellowship for a residential conference for those considering applying for ministerial training;
- (6) £3,000 to the REYD for initiating a "Bridging Weekend";
- (7) £20,000 for a Youth Development Officer (part-cost over two years);

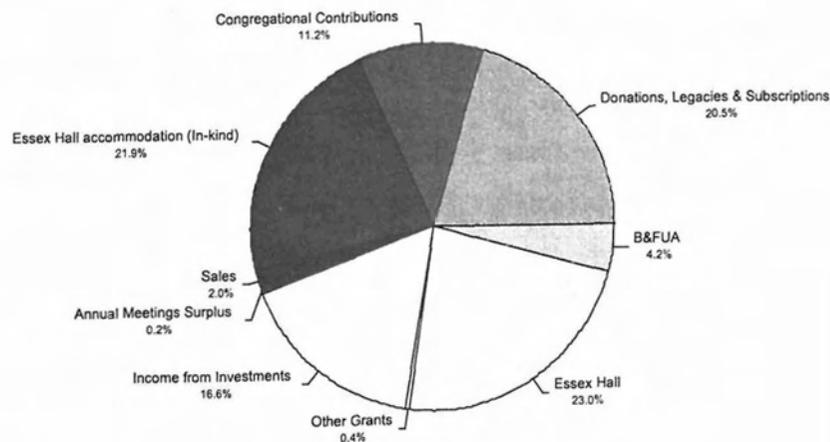
8. Ministers Pension & Insurance Fund

The GA has decided in principle to become the guarantor of last resort for the Fund, i.e. to be accountable when all other avenues of funding any shortfalls in the Fund (including charges on member churches) are exhausted. The professional accounting bodies have now agreed FRS17, the method of accounting for pension liabilities, and Council concurred with the Committee's recommendation that GA officers not be authorised to sign such an agreement with the Fund until advice was received about the implementation of FRS17.

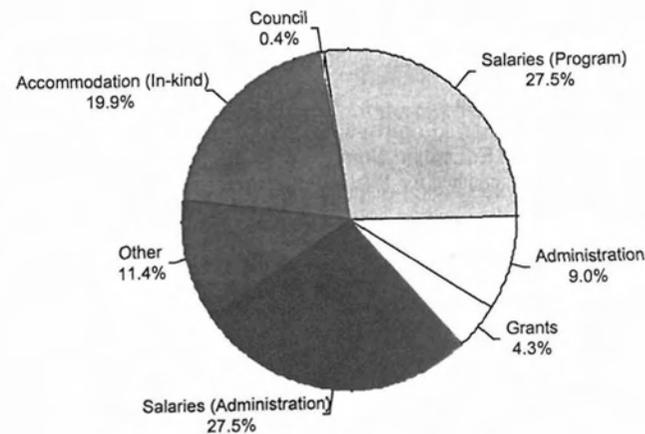
The graphs below illustrate the break-down of sources of income and major items of expenditure and can be compared to the Unrestricted Funds Note 8 in the General Assembly accounts. It is hoped that this form of presentation will make the summary accounts clearer.

Income and Expenditure of Unrestricted Funds for the year ended 30 September 2002

Where our income came from
(100%=£433,922)



How we spent it
(100%=£474,896)



The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Budget for 2002/2003 (Unrestricted Funds only)

	2001/02 Budget	2001/02 Actual	2002/03 Budget	Revised 2002/03 Budget
Non-Departmental Income				
Legacies	1,000	—	—	—
Subscriptions / Assoc Membership	15,000	13,132	16,000	16,000
Congregational Contributions	1 46,750	48,735	56,000	56,000
Anniversary Service Collection	3,000	4,825	5,000	5,000
Dividends and Interest	56,000	71,374	56,000	56,000
British & Foreign Unitarian Assoc.	35,000	18,088	35,000	35,000
Essex Hall Trustees	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Essex Hall Trustees (in kind)	95,000	95,000	95,000	95,000
Memorial Hall Manchester	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750
Lawrence House Fund	600	—	600	600
Other Donations	2 —	70,807	30,000	—
Annual Meetings	—	735	—	—
Rental Income	800	660	800	800
Hymns for Living	1,500	209	1,500	1,500
Information Office & Publications Sales	3 4,800	7,519	4,800	4,800
Payroll Calculation Service	900	1,088	1,000	1,000
Total Non-Departmental Income	362,100	433,922	403,450	373,450
Excess of Expenditure over Income	150,821	40,974	126,000	107,000
Total	512,921	474,896	529,450	480,450

Notes:

- 1 Based on 4000 members at £14
- 2 £30k budget arrived in 2001/02
- 3 Including Publications Panel sales
- 4 Executive, Finance and General Purposes Committees are being amalgamated
- 5 Lay Training and Religious Education Committees have been amalgamated
- 6 Fund raising drive has been launched for specific purposes and therefore comes under restricted funds status

The General Assembly Council passed the original budget for 2002/03 on the 6th July 2002 but also authorized the Triennial Review Working Party to reduce the budgeted deficit. The TRWP review resulted in the revised budget that was accepted by Council in November 2002.

The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Budget for 2002/2003 (Unrestricted Funds Continued)

	2001/02 Budget	2001/02 Actual	2002/03 Budget	Revised 2002/03 Budget
Departmental Expenditure & Grants				
General Assembly Council	2,000	1,844	2,000	1,800
Building Advisory Panel	250	57	250	250
Triennial Review Working Party	—	1,071	—	—
Development Committee	3,300	1,772	3,350	3,350
Executive Committee	4 900	710	1,000	500
Finance & Administration Committee	4 800	844	850	350
General Purposes Committee	4 7,750	6,138	8,350	6,350
Information Committee	13,750	11,387	15,950	11,950
Inquirer Publishing	10,350	10,350	11,000	5,000
Lay Persons' Summer School	400	67	—	—
Lay Training Committee	5 1,500	560	1,000	800
Ministry Committee	5,100	4,735	4,800	4,300
Interview Subcommittee	1,600	1,686	1,650	1,650
Ministerial Students Fund Grant	10,000	10,000	10,000	—
Penal Affairs Panel	850	678	874	874
Publications Panel	750	621	1,000	1,000
Religious Education Committee	5 4,950	2,487	5,050	4,750
Youth Committee	4,650	4,656	4,700	4,700
Social Responsibility Committee	4,470	3,659	4,920	3,920
Sexual Orientation Equality Working Group	950	707	1,600	1,600
Unitarian Forward Planning	1,500	1,081	2,000	1,500
Welsh Committee	3,335	3,338	3,550	3,250
Worship Committee	1,400	780	1,200	1,200
Fund Raising	6 —	—	3,000	—
General Expenses to programme work	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Staff Salaries due to programme work	138,983	131,077	142,528	135,028
Total Departmental Expenditure & Grants	227,038	207,805	238,122	201,622
General Administration				
Salaries, Pensions, etc	138,983	131,077	142,528	135,028
Officer's Travel and Expenses	4,000	4,107	5,000	5,000
Office Expenses	22,500	20,020	22,500	17,500
Staff Training	1,000	1,055	1,000	1,000
Audit and Accountancy Fees	7,700	7,350	7,500	7,500
Accommodation	95,000	95,000	95,000	95,000
Investment Management Fees	8,000	7,418	8,000	8,000
Legal Fees	—	450	—	—
Insurance (Including Third Party Risks)	900	2,277	1,000	1,000
Ministers Houses repairs	800	—	800	800
Irrecoverable VAT	7,000	(1,663)	8,000	8,000
Total General Administration	285,883	267,091	291,328	278,828
Total Unrestricted Funds Expenditure	512,921	474,896	529,450	480,450

Report on expenses of holding the 2002 Annual Meetings

	INCOME	
Accommodation and Meals		
Participants	34,337	
GA staff not on conference fee	<u>1,178</u>	
		35,514
Conference Fees		14,466
For IARF (Donate-One-Meal)		468
Lawrence House (general grant)		450
Grant (Sheffield District)	1,250	
Grant (Sheffield Upper Chapel Trustees)	434	
Lawrence House Grants for Young Participants	450	
RE HFairey Grants for Young Participants	1,230	
Sundry Donations		107
Sales of Essex Hall Lecture		<u>202</u>
Total Income		54,572
EXPENDITURE		
Accommodation and Meals		
Participants	37,783	
Staff, Guests, Workers (overleaf)	<u>6,557</u>	
		44,340
To IARF SSN		468
Essex Hall Lecture printing		164
From Conference fee sheet (overleaf)		
Travel	1,779	
Printing	2,603	
Fees	2,740	
Postage	1,108	
Sundry	<u>635</u>	
		8,864
Total Expenditure		53,836
Surplus of income over expenditure transferred to GP budget		<u><u>735</u></u>

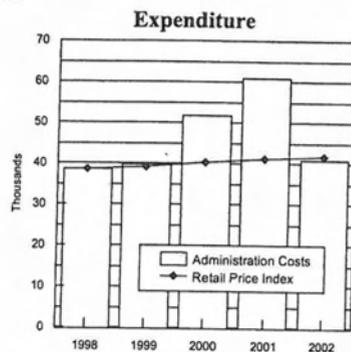
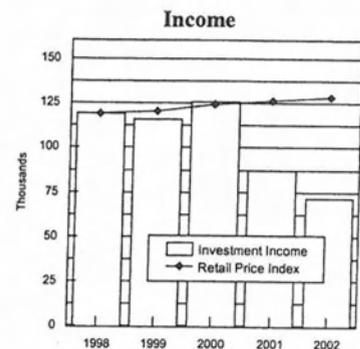
Report on expenses of holding the 2002 Annual Meetings

ACCOMMODATION		
Guests (6)	1236	
Students MCO	338	
Students UCM	464	
Steering Committee	379	
Retired Ministers	2160	
Youth Programme	305	
Staff (not dept)	834	
Essex Hall Lecturer	306	
President and Spouse	408	
Vice-President and Spouse	<u>127</u>	
		6557
TRAVEL		
Guests	1025	
Staff (not dept)	131	
Essex Hall Lecturer	542	
Van Diesel	<u>81</u>	
		1779
PRINTING		
Handbook	181	
Stationery	200	
Inquirer	900	
Photocopying / Duplicating	<u>1322</u>	
		2603
FEES		
Essex Hall Lecture	150	
Organist	50	
Audio Visual	1155	
Income from Reg Fees	(288)	
Youth Honoraria + Expenses	527	
Floral	99	
Minibus Hire	231	
City Bus Hire	546	
RAC Signs	<u>270</u>	
		2740
POSTAGE		1108
SUNDRY		
Pre-AGM Expenses		635
Total		<u><u>15421</u></u>

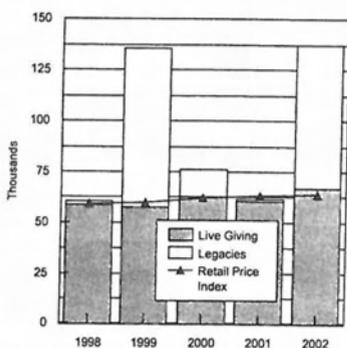
General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Finance and Administration

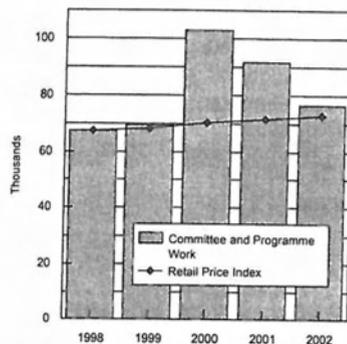
5 Year Trends



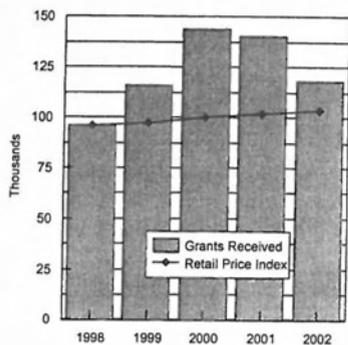
Investments and Interest



Administration Costs



Live Giving



Committee and Programme Work



Grants Received

Salaries for Administration and Program Staff
(incl. Pensions, Employers NI, etc.)

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Chair: David Arthur
Secretary: Rev John Clifford

Members: Meryl Edgley, Martin Gienke, Rev John Keggen, Rev Andrew Parker. The General Secretary also attends this Committee.

1. Annual Meetings 2002

The Meetings were held at the University of Sheffield's Ranmoor campus from 5 to 8 April 2002.

Rev Ernest Baker, minister at Sheffield Stanington, conducted the Opening Devotions. The Anniversary Service was held in Upper Chapel, Sheffield, conducted by Rev Margaret Kirk with Rev Bill Darlison preaching the Anniversary Sermon. The new President, Alan Ruston, conducted the closing Devotions. The theme of the Meetings was "Keeping Our Chalice Alight" and had a particular emphasis on the importance of multi-generational participation in our activities and leadership. Sarah Tinker gave the Keynote Address. Dr Thandeka, Associate Professor of Theology and Culture at Meadville Lombard Theological School gave the Essex Hall Lecture. For the second year of the theme a system of age-related subsidies for young adult participants and representatives was implemented.

The Donate-One-Meal programme raised £468.18 for the social service work of the International Association for Religious Freedom.

2. International Association for Religious Freedom and other inter-faith contacts

The IARF held its Congress in August 2002 in Budapest and several British Unitarians were active participants. The new IARF Council will have two members who are ministers on the GA Roll, Rev David Steers and Rev Jopie Boeke. The GA Interfaith Sub-Committee has concentrated on national and international networking: joint programmes with the World Congress of Faiths were held; several members attended the IARF Congress as well as the British IARF Chapter day meeting at the Croydon Church; and interfaith gatherings at the Golders Green and Brighton Churches were supported.

Sub-Committee members believe that interfaith understanding and friendship are among the best cures for the rising fear of terrorism. The GA President, Alan Ruston, attended the national Remembrance Sunday Ceremony at the Cenotaph, making valuable contacts with other religious representatives. The GA continues to be represented on the board of the International

Interfaith Centre by Matthew Smith. The IIC provides a forum for the International Interfaith Network as it attempts to provide opportunity for cooperation and cohesion in the activities of various international interfaith organisations represented in Britain.

3. International Council of Unitarians and Universalists and other international Unitarian contacts.

During the year 2001-2002 the ICUU appointed Ivanka Fiserova as full-time Administrator, operating from space in the Czech Unitarian headquarters. The horrendous floods in Central Europe in September seriously affected the lower floors of the headquarters in Prague and both British and American Unitarians raised funds to assist with repair work.

Rev John Clifford and his wife, Barbara, attended the Annual Conference of the Unitarian Union of North East India in February 2002 along with Rev Richard Boeke. They were graciously hosted by the Khasi Unitarians and met several congregations, schools, and projects during their brief visit.

The GA Vice President, Rev Austin Fitzpatrick, and his wife, Sheila, attended the UUA General Assembly in Quebec City, Canada in June 2002. This was the last UUA GA before the implementation of an agreement with the Canadian Unitarian Council, which effectively makes the CUC responsible for almost all services provided to and for Canadian Unitarian congregations.

Revs John and Celia Midgley participated in the Induction of Rev Gordon Oliver at Cape Town, South Africa in October 2002.

Overseas representation at our Annual Meetings in 2002 included Bishop Szábo of the Transylvanian Unitarians, Rev Gordon Oliver of Cape Town, Rev Mark Allstrom of Adelaide, Antje Paul of the German Unitarians, Olivia Holmes and Dr Thandeka of the UUA, Lene Lund Shoemaker of Copenhagen and Dr Hans Le Grande of the European Unitarian Universalists as well as individual overseas visitors from the USA, Netherlands, South Africa, and Australia.

4. Contacts with Christian bodies

The Ecumenical Relations Subcommittee considered the completed questionnaires, which had been sent out to congregations and ministers, and a preliminary evaluation of the results showed that a national seminar to discuss the issues raised would be the best next step. This seminar was held at Essex Hall on 5 October 2002 with the title of 'Building Bridges, Building Commu-

This graph shows monetary grants received. Additionally, the General Assembly receives rent free accommodation from Essex Hall. This year, the value of this accommodation was £95,000.

ities' and it proved a lively event. Arising out of the discussion came a decision to issue guidance to congregations on how they might develop contact with mainstream churches. It is hoped to publish this guidance at an early date as a leaflet. Independent evaluation of the questionnaires is being sought, and a new approach will be made to Churches Together in England to see if some form of association with them can be created on similar terms to that which already exists in Scotland and parts of Wales.

5. Charities Acts

The Cabinet Office review of Charity Law revision, being conducted latterly by the Strategy Unit, resulted in the publication of a consultative paper, "Private Action, Public Benefit", towards the end of our financial year. This review recommended, *inter alia*, abolishing excepted status. Comments during the period of consultation have resulted in the Cabinet Office rethinking this issue. **The temporary regulations setting up excepted status have been extended until 1 October 2007**, although this period may be shortened if proposals to abolish the status go forward. Briefing papers on the proposals have been provided to Council members.

A separate government review, which could affect the employment status of ministers of religion, is currently being considered and a decision on whether and how to bring ministers within the protection of Employment Law provisions could be made before the end of 2003.

The GA is a member of the Churches Main Committee, an ecumenical body that acts as a forum for denominations on legal matters. John Clifford has represented the GA on this body since 1990. With his departure in June 2003, the GA will be represented by the General Secretary, Jeff Teagle.

6. Vice-Presidential nomination

As in previous years, suggestions were invited from congregations (to be submitted via Districts). Council accepted the Committee's recommendation that **Dawn Buckle** be nominated for Vice President at the 2003 Annual Meetings.

7. President's Badge

During the year Council agreed to replace the President's Badge of Office and to retire the existing Badge and Chain, provided that this could be accomplished without increasing general expenditure. Alan Ruston organised a successful fundraising effort among former GA Presidents and Rev Austin Fitzpatrick co-ordinated with him in the design and production of the new Badge.

8. Proposals for changes in Council's committee structure

At the 2002 Annual Meetings the Triennial Review Working Party was set up by a special meeting convened by the President with the dual remit to make budget adjustments as required by our financial situation and to suggest changes in Council's structures and procedures. One of the suggestions Council accepted was that this Committee should be merged with the Finance & Administration and Executive Committees to form an Administration Commission. Members strongly support this decision.

HYMN BOOK WORKING GROUP

Secretary: Rev Andrew Hill

Members: Rev Andrew Brown, Rev John Clifford, David Dawson, Rev Arthur Long, Alan Myerscough, Peter Sampson, Kate Taylor.

1. The group has met on a number of occasions at Mill Hill Chapel, Leeds and at Cross Street Chapel, Manchester. We eventually settled on meeting in Manchester where the group's own computer is in the care of Cross Street's music director, Alan Myerscough. We record our special thanks to Frances Teagle for her help in acquiring the best computer hardware.
2. All but one members of the group have computers equipped with Sibelius music software. Not long after we were equipped with Sibelius 1, Sibelius 2 was issued which caused us some temporary difficulties while we were updated. to the newer version. Learning to use the software and other technical matters have taken us somewhat longer than we originally anticipated but we are confident that we now have a good grounding in how it all works. Our technical know-how will be enhanced when John Clifford rejoins the group after he has left Essex Hall.
3. Our aim to issue a trial CD-Rom disk this year was unrealistic and we are now aiming for the GA meetings 2004. However all the 50 hymns for this disk - a mixture of familiar, unfamiliar and new material, have been chosen and set.
4. We will be holding our first workshop at the Edinburgh GA meetings when we will be introducing some new hymns all set 'in house' using the Sibelius music software.
5. We have been working out protocols and layouts and gradually acquiring new material. Please keep sending in such material. So far we have made no irreversible decisions about either content or format, preferring to keep our options open so as to take advantage of technical developments and new hymn writing.

INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Chair: Wilna Roberts

Secretary: Matthew Smith

Assistant: Neil Macpherson

Members: Dennis Crompton, Howard Hague, Malcolm Sadler, Frances Teagle, Rev Robert Wightman.

1. Committee

The Committee held two meetings, in January and September, both at Essex Hall.

2. Grants

The following publicity grants were made during the year: £120 to Stand Chapel, Whitefield, for a notice board; £60 to Old Meeting, Great Yarmouth, for an internal notice board; £350 to Dundee for lettering on the exterior of the church; £150 to Blackpool for new notice boards.

3. Publications

- a) The Information Officer handled publication of the 2002 Essex Hall Lecture booklet, *Engagement Groups: Bringing Forth the Future from the Past* by Thandeka. Following last minute revisions by the lecturer, the final version of the text was placed on the GA website.
- b) *The Principles That Unite Us*, an introductory leaflet about the GA Object is planned to be available in time for this year's GA Meetings.
- c) The following leaflets were reprinted: *A Personal A-Z of Unitarianism* and *Your First Time at a Unitarian Service?*

4. Advertising and response to enquiries

Paid advertising was mainly focused on publications such as *Amnesty* magazine and *Sesame* (the Open University newspaper). These advertisements generated 250 general enquiries to the Information Office. The Department also dealt with many other enquiries of a more specific nature, including requests for information concerning rites of passage ceremonies.



Coleen Skelton greets visitors to Unitarian stall at Respect festival

5. Officer's visits

The Information Officer gave talks to the MDA and the Eastern Union on the subject of spirituality weekends, and led a session on church publicity work for UCM students. He met with the Scarborough and Whitby congregations as a follow up to the work of Small Congregations Consultancy Project, and ran a publicity stall at the Mayor of London's *Respect* festival.

6. Video project

The Unitarian video, *Unitarians - Four Personal Stories*, was launched by poet and TV critic Tom Paulin at a special event at Essex Hall. Directed by Martin Gienke, the tape has been widely distributed. Every congregation was sent a free copy plus guidance on usage and a flyer for internal display to indicate where the tape is kept. Many congregations have organised showings, and it has been used at public events organised by churches. Copies were sent to religious studies departments at universities across the UK and to Unitarian bodies abroad. Stills from the video have been used on the GA website and in other contexts. The tape is regularly requested by those seeking general information from the Information Department.

7. World Wide Web

Funded by the Unitarian Millennium Fund, Peter Suters took up the thirty week part-time contract as GA Web Wizard in February. Peter's work focused on: a) the creation of a new-look GA website at www.unitarian.org.uk; b) the provision of online advice for Unitarian web designers at www.unitarian.org.uk/tips; c) an improved template for new and existing pages in the GA's free congregational webpage scheme; d) the launch of a similar scheme for affiliated societies.

More congregations have joined the scheme during the year. Thanks are due to our volunteer team who launch new pages and maintain existing ones. Many people are now making initial contact with the GA and with congregations via the internet.

8. Email Communications

The Committee, meeting in September, decided to seek Council support for the creation of a GA email announcements list. This followed a report to Council by the Electronic Communications Working Group, a temporary body comprising Frances Teagle, Kate Taylor and Howard Wilkins, which had been established by the Committee to assess the value of email lists and web-based bulletin boards.

9. Travelling Display

The travelling display boards were used by the Bradford, Derby, Leicester and Torquay congregations. These boards have now come to the end of their usable life and the Committee has begun planning a new resource, with the idea of creating a smaller, lighter set for ease of transport.

10. Media

The Information Officer and the Rev. John Midgley had a valuable meeting with Alan Bookbinder, new BBC Head of Religion and Ethics programming. This was followed by communications as to the possibility of a Unitarian radio contributor to *Thought for the Day* or *Pause for Thought*.

The Rev. Bob Wightman visited the religious broadcasting department at Granada Television. The Rev. Paul Travis has since made a number of successful television broadcasts for Granada as part of the *My Favourite Hymns* series on ITV.

11. Social Responsibility Media Consultancy

The Information Officer teamed up with Ingrid Tavkar and Wayne Brittenden on production of a new outreach newspaper, *Counterpoint*, aimed primarily at newcomers and the general public. A letter appeared in *The Guardian* on the subject of gay rights and the clergy. Wayne also arranged for Jane Howarth to give a Unitarian perspective on sentencing policy on BBC One's *Kilroy* programme.

12. GA Annual Meetings

Colin Fairall was GA Photographer at Sheffield, working in tandem with Alan Curren, Press Officer. The Rev. Daphne Roberts was in charge of the GA Bookstall, assisted by husband, John.

13. GA Mail Order Service

Sales of books and other items remains a significant part of the Information Department's work, much of it being handled by Information Assistant, Neil MacPherson.



Essex Hall Lecturer, Thandeka,
of Meadville/Lombard Theological School

LAY TRAINING COMMITTEE

Chair: Hilda Dumbleton

Secretary: Dr Don Kerr

Members: Mary Barratt, John Harley, Jess Hoskins, Richard Lovis, Dorothy Omar (until February 2002), Sarah Tinker, Geoffrey Waywell, Howard Wilkins.

The Committee held 2 meetings, 2 'phone conferences and one joint meeting with the RE Committee.

A 2nd course of "Taking the Service" set for Autumn 2002 had to be cancelled due to insufficient applicants. The Committee is grateful to Kendal Chapel for offering to make funds available, but the cost was still too high for many.

The "Course in Lay Preaching and the Conduct of Worship" continues to be active, although no students completed their studies during the year. The Committee are grateful to Revs Long, Baker and Marshall, on whose work and commitment the

This Committee has agreed, with the consent of Council, to amalgamate with the Religious Education Committee. The Committee started as a sub-committee of the Ministry Committee and became a full Committee in 1987 with Eleanor Dixon in the Chair; since then many people have worked very hard to good effect in service to the denomination. It would not be practical to name them all but I would like to make particular mention of those who staffed the very successful Lay Training Schools of the late 1980s through the 1990s and the Tutors of the CLPCW.



Matthew Smith, Information Officer, at the Meetings lecturn

MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Chair: The Rev J Eric Jones

Secretary: Jeffrey Teagle

Members: The Rev John Allerton, the Rev Peter Hewis, Celia Kerr (until January 2002), Julianne Morgan, the Rev Ann Peart (from January 2002) Margaret Phelan, the Rev Dr Leonard Smith (until January 2002), and Dr David Wykes. GA Honorary Officers also attended.

1 Meetings

The Committee met three times during the year. The Interview Subcommittee also met twice. The Forum for the Co-ordination of Theological Education met once at Luther King House, Manchester.

2 Roll of Ministers and Lay Pastors

The Rev June Pettitt was admitted to the Roll in July 2002. Lesley McKeown completed her studies ready for admission as a Lay Pastor in February 2003.

3 Deaths

The following ministers have died since the last Annual Report: The Rev Alec Finbow (31 May 2002), the Rev Basil Short (11 June 2002), and the Rev Eric Phillips (9 September 2002).

We received the news of their passing with deep regret. Each will be remembered with appreciation and affection.

4 Retirement

Since the last Annual Meetings the Reverends Johanna Boeke, Robin Boyes and Eric Jones and Lay Pastors Vina Curren and Eleanor Dixon have retired. The Committee and Council thank them for their long and dedicated service

5 Training for Ministry

Manchester College and Harris Academy, Oxford: Anne Braithwaite commenced her third year and Donald Phillips, Simon Ramsay and Christopher Wilson commenced their second year of ministry training. At the close of the year arrangements were in hand to receive Sharpe Scholar, the Rev Béla Fekete. The Chaplain/Tutor, the Rev Peter Hewis, continued his supervision of the studies of two probationary ministers.

Unitarian College Manchester: June Pettitt and Leslie McKeown completed their studies qualifying respectively as Minister and Lay Pastor (in 2003). Five ministry students, Alistair Bate, Cathal Courtney, Tom McCready, Jean McNeile and Helen Mills, commenced studies at UCM during Autumn 2002. Alistair Bate resigned in

December 2002. Sharpe Scholar, the Rev Béla Fekete, spent time from September – December 2002 at the College.

Wales

Wyn Thomas continued his studies at Lampeter under the supervision of the Welsh Department.

6 Ministerial Fellowship

One routine goodwill meeting was held with Fellowship representatives.

7 Forum for the Co-ordination of Training in Ministry

The seventh meeting took place at Unitarian College Manchester in May 2002. The agenda included an in-depth review of the Interview Subcommittee's procedures and consideration of the YUU resolution on ministry training. The results of the questionnaire will be a major focus of the next meeting in May 2003.

8 Review and Support Panel

The Panel was called upon on two occasions. In both instances it would have preferred to be involved at an earlier stage. An important observation arising from the Panel's word is the need to prepare congregations for new ministries.

9 Ministers' Rest and Refreshment

The committee welcomed the resolution proposed by Altrincham and took steps to ensure that it was publicised.



Rev Eric Jones presents the Ministry Committee report

THE NIGHTINGALE CENTRE

Chair: Jen Atkinson

Secretary: Michael Tracey

Financial Secretary: Martin West

Members:

GA Appointed Members: David Dawson, David Copley, Freda Laverick, Linda Phillips, Rev Gerald Whitaker, Neville Kenyon, Richard Kirkwood.

GA Representative: Freda Laverick.

Co-opted Members: Frank Rothwell, Richard Crompton.

GA Treasurer: (ex officio) Mike Tomlin.

Minutes Secretary: Marion Baker (non-voting).

Hon Solicitor: Andrew Cooper (non-voting).

Financial Review

Although the trading account shows a loss of £12,160 the rent from the letting of Barleycrofts of £10,236 and donations of £13,596 have resulted in a net surplus of £11,517.

The outcome for the year is only £4,100 lower than last year in spite of the cancellation of Family Activity Week which resulted in loss of income of over £8,000. We are committed to maintaining and improving the fabric of the building and £17,314 has been spent during the year on painting, repairs and improvements. In addition we have also spent £15,000 on refurbishing the Dining Room to a high standard.

Our manager, Liz Shaw, has worked hard at making better use of the accommodation available by encouraging smaller groups to share the building. The Centre is not profitable on weekends when there is one small group that has sole use of the building.

Staff wages were increased significantly during August to bring them back into line with the going rate for the area. We will therefore need to significantly improve booking income in the coming year. The budget forecasts a net deficit for the financial year ending 30th September 2003 of £2,700.

Income from Open Day, 'Friends of Hucklow' and other donations remain essential to the financial well-being of the Centre.

Development of the Centre

We have undertaken a feasibility study as to how we can achieve better access for disabled and less mobile elderly guests, more *en suite* twin bed rooms and an upgraded modern Social Hall facility. The process has been funded by a grant from the Unitarian Millennium Fund. We are currently in negotiations with an architect as to

how we can most cost effectively move this project forward.

In addition to this proposed major development the Management Committee has an on-going programme of enhancing the facilities of the Centre. The refurbishment of the Dining Room was completed in June 2002.

Staffing

Staffing remains a problem particularly during the very busy summer months. The manager and staff work hard and in a flexible cooperative manner to overcome any difficulties. It is to their credit to note the many comments of appreciation for the warmth of welcome and on the quality of the catering.

Support for Unitarian Youth

The Centre continues to support Unitarian youth activities based at Hucklow. The self-catering accommodation is charged at only £5 per person per night (winter rate £4) and the leaders' rooms at £7.50 per person per night (winter rate £6). There is also constructive dialogue between the manager and the REYD officer with regard to other accommodation requirements in connection with the national youth programme.

Send a Child to Hucklow

The Centre also offers the Send a Child to Hucklow charity a special rate for their holidays. We were pleased to welcome eleven groups of children to the Centre this year.

Open Day

In June we held our annual Open Day and we are grateful to everyone who contributed to the fun, fellowship and financial success of the day. The amount raised was £2,435.

The Open Day in 2003 will be Saturday 7th June.

If distance prevents you being with us on the day maybe your congregation would consider a local fund raising event in aid of the Centre.

Friends of Hucklow

We again thank the 'Friends of Hucklow' for their continued support and financial commitment. For many Unitarians 'Hucklow' has a special place in their affections and they appreciate the improvements to the Centre that their donations have helped to fund. If you would like to know more about supporting the Centre by becoming a 'Friend of Hucklow' or should you wish to consider a legacy then please contact: Martin West, The Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 8RH.

PENAL AFFAIRS PANEL

Convenor: Geoffrey Head

Secretary: Jane Howarth

Members: Bruce Chilton, Rev Ann Latham, Roderick Macpherson (from July 2002), Liz Marshall (to June 2002), Kate Taylor.

1. The panel met three times during the year. At last year's Annual Meetings it launched the fourth Issues Paper, The Scottish Legal System with particular reference to Human Rights Legislation and also arranged a presentation on the work of Sheffield Youth Offending team. In May the panel joined with the London District and the Social Responsibility Department in arranging a Restorative Justice Day at Essex Hall led by Stuart Dew, Education Officer from Churches' Criminal Justice Forum, CCJF. Reports of this day appeared in Social Responsibility News, Counterpoint, and the CCJF newsletter, mentioned at 5 below.

2. Following the panel's contribution to, and endorsement of, the Catholic Agency for Social Concern's report 'Prisons Punishment and People', a member of the panel was invited to the launch of the report, addressed by Baroness Vivien Stern. Other meetings attended by a panel member included a meeting arranged by the Prison Service on suicides in prison, and Faith Matters, a day conference in Birmingham on prison chaplaincy jointly arranged by the Prison Service and Clinks, a voluntary organisation linking community-based groups working with prisoners and their families.

3. The panel has played an active role in the ecumenical Churches' Criminal Justice Forum, being represented at a CCJF national day conference on Restorative Justice at Church House, and continuing to take the lead role in helping CCJF to meet its objective of developing dialogue with other faiths on criminal justice issues. The third CCJF interfaith meeting, on the subject of chaplaincy in prison in an interfaith context, was held at the London Central Mosque and addressed by Superintendent Free Church Chaplain General to the Prison Service, Rev Alan Ogier.

4. That meeting led to the setting up of a small multi-faith working party to consider whether to continue to develop dialogue between different faiths on penal issues through CCJF or whether to seek to form an independent inter faith criminal justice forum. The unanimous decision was to take the second course. The panel has a lead role in taking this forward. It has liaised with the

Unitarian Interfaith Sub-Committee on these developments, one member of the panel attending a meeting of the Sub-Committee.

5. The panel continues to derive considerable benefits from playing an active part in CCJF, both in terms of contacts and exchange of information, but also through the opportunity to give a Unitarian perspective. An example of this is the reference to the panel and its remit in the Catholic Agency for Social Concern's report mentioned at 2 above. Also, since April 2002 CCJF has issued a newsletter to member organisations and interested individuals, which gives information about the activities of member organisations, events of interest, and topics of importance. Lastly, had it not been for the interfaith work begun through membership of CCJF we should not now be able to play a role in developing good working relations between people of different faiths, something that as Unitarians we are well placed to do.

PUBLICATIONS PANEL

Convenor: Kate Taylor

Members: George Chrystides, Judy Hague, Kay Millard, Catherine Robinson, Matthew Smith (ex officio).

The Panel met four times during 2001-2002.

During the year we published *Prospects for the Unitarian Movement*, a collection of essays commissioned by Matthew Smith: we had a splendid session at the 2002 General Assembly when contributors spoke briefly about their work. We also had a further 1,000 copies of Hymns for Living printed, and a further 100 copies of Celebrating Life. We had the satisfaction of seeing all the recent Lindsey Press publications in profit.

Other projected books have been in progress during the year. These include *Spirit of Time and Place*: prayer-thoughts, praise-poems and words of worship, by Cliff Reed, for which we commissioned illustrations from Lyanne Mitchell and which was with the printer by the end of the year; *Unitarian Perspectives on Contemporary Social Issues*, edited by George Chrystides, which reached the copy-editing stage; and a collection of short essays on personal spiritual practice.

At an embryonic stage is a volume of services for special occasions, *Marking the Days*, which will be something of a companion volume to *Celebrating Life*.

All members of the Panel give a good deal of time to its work between meetings, whether in dialogue with authors or referees, or in copy-editing, book design, or dealing with printers. Our meetings themselves often have an element of brain-storming.

During the year we have received a number of unsolicited proposals and manuscripts, none of which we felt it appropriate to publish. Whilst we are very grateful to those who have contributed to the essay collections, it is disappointing that little else comes our way that is both essentially Unitarian and of a level of marked innovation and quality that would justify investment.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & YOUTH DEPARTMENT

Coordinator: Sarah Tinker
Assistant: Elizabeth Obe

RE COMMITTEE

Chair: Sheila Jones

Members: Margaret Hamer, Rev Jo Lane, Michael Tracey, Michaela von Britzke, Roy Wain.

YOUTH COMMITTEE

Chair: Rebecca Richards (until October 2002), Richard Whitham (from October 2002)

Members: Heather Foster, Lorna Hill, Freda Laverick, Joan Partington, Michael Tracey, Andrew Mason (Minutes)

1. The Religious Education & Youth Department

has had a busy and productive year with considerable efforts being put into maintaining our programme of activities whilst responding positively to the need to reduce expenditure in response to the downturn in the General Assembly's income. Sarah Tinker continues to work mainly from home in Sheffield with regular visits to Essex Hall and to congregations, District Associations and groups around the country. Elizabeth Obe now works for a day and a half a week, focussing primarily on bookings, send outs and general enquiries.

1.1 'Safety First' – Code of Practice on Child Protection

Our Code of Practice on Child Protection, entitled, 'Safety First' is now well established within the denomination and a number of congregations have formally adopted their own child protection policy statement and appointed Child Protection Co-ordinators, as recommended by The Home

Office. The long awaited launch of the Criminal Records Bureau allows voluntary organisations to access police records for people working with children but the system has experienced many teething problems. The second edition of 'Safety First' explains the new recommended procedures for recruiting paid and voluntary workers and advises all congregations to follow these recommendations. It is vital that we remember that police checks are only one way in which we can protect the children in our care and that proper supervision of staff and introducing good child-care practices are still essential.

Training sessions on child protection were run for ministerial students in Manchester and Oxford, both days being open to ministers and lay people. It is advisable for anyone involved with children in our groups and congregations to receive child protection training and the department will give information on the most suitable training in your area.

1.2 Unitarian Chalice Award Scheme

The Unitarian Chalice Award Scheme is now being used by a number of our children's leaders to provide structure and a sense of progression in the activities they run for young people within congregations. Several leaders have taken the opportunity to write modules of their own and the scheme has now been translated into Welsh. Two young people have already been presented with their Bronze Awards, a considerable achievement in one year. A Family Fun Day, held at Bradford Broadway, attracted participants from three Districts and allowed young people to complete their Global Citizenship Module in one day. Such a day could be copied by other Districts, as a way of encouraging inter-generational activities and helping young people to make progress with their Chalice Award tasks.

2. Religious Education Committee

The RE Committee met three times during the year, including a joint meeting with the Lay Training Committee to consider future plans. The two committees have now formed an Education & Training Committee and members are excited by the opportunity to co-ordinate denominational training in a coherent and progressive way.

RE Summer School 2002

With 40 participants and eight staff, Summer School was considered a successful week of training and fellowship by all concerned. Our inspiring theme speaker, the Rev. Dr. Nancy Crumbine, a UUA Minister and Professor at Dartmouth College in Vermont, encouraged us to 'find the voice of our liberal faith and shout it

to the world'. Topics covered in morning workshops included Celtic Spirituality, 'doing nothing', celebrating diversity and rites and rituals. We are grateful to the leaders who gave their time freely to work at Summer School and who waived their expenses claims in order to keep costs down.

Hucklow Summer School 2002

Booking forms are now available for this year's Summer School, which is to be held at the Nightingale Centre from 16 - 23 August. The theme is 'Telling Our Stories' and with Margaret Hamer as theme speaker, it promises to be a stimulating and inspiring week. Morning workshops will reflect the renamed week's broader training brief and will include sessions offered by the Development Committee on skills needed to facilitate engagement groups as well as courses on story telling in various religious traditions, creative writing and the story of the landscape surrounding Hucklow. The new Education & Training Committee would like to encourage all congregations and District Associations to consider sponsoring one of their members to attend Summer School so that they can bring back new ideas for future educational and training possibilities.

2.1 District Religious Education Co-ordinators

Once again, gratitude must be expressed to our hard-working Religious Education Co-ordinators who in so many different ways encourage the development of activities for children and adults in their areas.

2.2 Adult RE Programmes

Building Our Identity, an adult education course introducing the new GA Object, has been well received and well used in a variety of settings. Several other courses have been tried out in congregations and will soon be available.

3. Youth Committee

The Youth Committee met twice during the year for the continuation and development of the NYP, to further the cause of the Youth Officer position, actively lobby GA Council on all issues relating to youth and contribute to the discussion on the future structure of GA Committees.

3.1 National Youth Programme

The Youth Committee is responsible for a programme of events which are organised for young people, at present mostly at Great Hucklow, for three different age groups: Juniors (7-11), Inters (11-14) and Seniors (14-18). These have all been well subscribed with a pleasing increase in the numbers attending Senior Weekends. As al-

ways we gratefully thank the loyal and hard-working leaders of all these events, who generously give their time and energy to ensure that young Unitarians & Free Christians have a unique experience of being together. Our dedicated leaders make our National Youth Programme (NYP) possible.

A new development in 2003 is the Bridging Weekend, for 11 and 12 year olds, kindly funded by the Millennium Fund, which has been designed to encourage this age group to continue to be involved with NYP events.

It is noticeable that congregations which regularly send young people to NYP events often put considerable effort in to this, perhaps by offering subsidies, by making sure that young families get information about NYP events or by providing help with transport. We would like to convey special thanks to the individuals and congregations who do support the youth programme in this way and who are committed to sharing their liberal faith with the next generations.

The Youth Committee would also like to thank the Management Committee and staff of the Nightingale Centre for continuing to be so supportive of our youth programme and for giving such positive and practical assistance.

3.2 YUC Week

YUC Week 2002 was considered a great success by all concerned, with a number of new faces in attendance, and it is pleasing to note how many of the young people have since kept in touch with each other. YUC Week 2003 will take place from 2nd to 9th August.

3.3 YUC & Seniors Re-Union Weekend

So many young people have attended YUC Week or Senior Weekends over the 19 years that they have been running that it has been decided to hold a re-union weekend from 4th to 6th July 2003 to give past participants chance to meet up with one another and to enjoy reminiscing over some old and possibly incriminating photographs. Help in passing information about this event to young adults who may no longer be closely in touch with the denomination would be gratefully received.

3.4 18+ Group

The 18+ group have spent two successful weekends together at Flagg during the year, enjoying activities such as go-karting and canoeing as well as visiting local chapels and enjoying the Derbyshire countryside and other attractions. It is pleasing to report that every 18+ Weekend has had at least one new person attending, often people who are new to national events of this kind.

3.5 18-35 Weekend

A residential weekend for 18 to 35 year olds was once again held at Hucklow in the spring and brought together an interesting mixture of old and new faces, including a UUA Youth Advisor.

3.6 Proposed Youth Officer Post

The appointment of a Youth Officer has continued to be an important issue for the Committee. Such a step would be a valuable if not necessary investment in the future of the denomination. Whilst recognising that the current economic situation cannot support an increase in central expenditure a commitment to the formation of such a position remains high on the Committee's agenda. The level of support from the denomination, to date, has meant that whilst the appointment of a Youth Officer is by no means secured it is not an unrealistic target. The Committee asks that everyone consider ways to support this initiative.

Denominational Involvement

During the last year the Officer has attended a number of retreats and training sessions run by the Development Committee on engagement groups and has been fully involved with work for the Lay Training Committee and the Sexual Orientation Equality Group. She has run workshops and training sessions for the Unitarian Experience Week, the Women's League, Mansfield's meditation group and the Cotswold Group and led worship at Bradford Broadway, Evesham, Fulwood, Gloucester Underbank and Wakefield. The Officer is always happy to discuss possible activities to support congregations, District Associations and other denominational groups with youth, education and training activities.

OFFICE OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Chair: Rev Charles VanDenBroeder
Secretary: Ingrid Tavkar

Members: Rev Eric Jones; Jean Mason; Anthony Rees; Steven Williams. *Rev Ann Peart*

1 Meetings

The Committee met twice during the financial year 2001-2002. Both meetings took place at Essex Hall.

2 Mission Statement

"The Office of Social Responsibility aims to: **PROMOTE** social action and concern within the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches. **INVOLVE** individuals and groups of members throughout the denomination

by the process of education and awareness-raising to take up the challenge of direct social action. **EQUIP** local churches and district associations by whatever means available to become actively involved in matters of social concern. **SHARE** with other denominations and charities our concern with social issues and our own experience and knowledge in various fields."

3 Denominational Activities

Media Consultancy Project –

The project started in July 2000 and ended in July 2002. The Committee thanks the UMF Appeal Committee and GA Council for funding this exciting project. The project enabled us to raise our Unitarian profile through a sharper focus on social justice issues and Unitarian values as expressed in the GA Object. One tangible product is the occasional SR newspaper, *Counterpoint*.

Counterpoint was launched in December 2001 and positive feedback has been received from new enquirers, NGOs, MPs, and people at the fringe of Unitarianism, as well as many Unitarian activists. Twenty-two congregations receive extra copies for distribution at local level. We received funding from the Unitarian Millennium Fund (UMF) for three issues - spring, summer and autumn 2002. We are pleased to report that we have secured further funding from two Trust Funds, which will enable us to continue with the publication of *Counterpoint* in 2003 and 2004. The Committee thank the UMF Appeal Committee, GA Council and the two Trust Funds for their continued support and generosity.

What Is A Just Response to Crime? was the theme of a Day Seminar sponsored the SR Department, the Penal Affairs Panel and the LDPA, held at Essex Hall in May. Restorative Justice is a response to crime that focuses on restoring the losses suffered by victims, holding offenders accountable for the harm they have caused and building peace within communities.

Debt on our Doorstep! was the theme of the SR workshop at the Annual Meetings 2002 and Niall Cooper, national co-ordinator of Church Action on Poverty (CAP), was the speaker. The workshop was well attended and deemed a success. We facilitated a SR Day Seminar on the same topic at Bayshill Unitarian Church, Cheltenham, with speakers from the local Citizens Advice Bureau and Cheltenham Communities Projects. Members of the Stockton congregation facilitated an event focusing on the same topic. The Officer participated in the *Debt on our Doorstep* Lobby and Action Day in December 2002.

Adopt-A-Minefield: The Officer was involved in organising an evening event at Rosslyn Hill Chapel, with Martin Bell as the Keynote speaker, focusing on the issues of land mines and how we can get involved in mine clearances.

Social Responsibility at local level: Many congregations and fellowships are actively involved in social justice action by marking *Homelessness Sunday; Peace Vigil weekend; Unemployment Sunday; Racial Justice Sunday; United Nations Day; Human Rights Day; World AIDS Day; and One World Week*, by supporting campaigns such as *Debt on our Doorstep; Trade Justice Campaign; Fair Trade Fortnight; Adopt-A-Minefield; Peace campaigns*; and by offering practical and monetary support to local social justice causes. Individual Unitarians put their 'faith into action' by supporting voluntary agencies and various campaigns; by giving time and energy to good causes; and by working to create a more just and peaceful society.

The Officer was involved in several denominational events at local, district and national levels, giving talks and leading workshops and seminars on social justice work in general and on specific contemporary social justice issue. She talked about SR work to ministerial students at Manchester Academy & Harris College, Oxford; she also led services at several congregations and fellowships around the country. We continue to network and liaise with the Information Department, REYD, the Unitarian Peace Fellowship, the Penal Affairs Panel, the Ecumenical Relations Sub-Committee, the Women's League and the Unitarian Women's Group.

We have promoted a great deal of social action within our movement. Many individuals, congregations and fellowships have become involved in various contemporary social justice issues and have acted on the GA Resolution focusing on the peace issues by marking *Global Ceasefire Day*. The quarterly SR News letter, SR columns in *The Inquirer*, and *Counterpoint* are regular features of our work.

4 Ecumenical Activities

Churches Together in Britain & Ireland (CTBI): We continue to attend *Church and Society Forum* meetings and to present a Unitarian perspective. In June 2002, Chris Hudson, a member of the Dublin congregation, attended the meetings in Belfast and Dublin on our behalf.

One World Week (OWW): We continue to be actively involved with OWW. We thank all individuals, congregations and districts who gave time and money to promote One World Week 2002 – *Into Action!*

Churches World Development Network (CWDN): The Officer acts as Secretary to this network and continues to attend annual meetings. CWDN organised the *Ecumenical Consultation on World Development 2002*. This year's theme was *Being Positive: HIV/AIDS*. Rosemary Ruston and Ingrid Tavkar attended, two Unitarians amongst many Anglicans, Methodists, URCs and Catholics.

CTBI Racial Justice Network: This network organises the annual *Racial Justice Sunday* and several of our congregations mark the event with a special service and/or a retiring collection.

Church Action on Poverty (CAP): We support CAP by affiliation and participate in their campaigns, which focus on poverty in the UK.

Network of Christian Peace Organisations (NCPO): We are affiliated to this network. Jess Hoskins represents Unitarians at meetings.

We continue to raise the Unitarian profile in ecumenical circles; we have offered our moral and financial support to various ecumenical bodies; one of our contributions to ecumenism is to offer a cost-free venue for meetings at Essex Hall, and this is very much appreciated. We have promoted and shared in campaigns organised by CAP, Christian Aid, CAFOD, and Trade Justice Movement.

Unitarians setting off from Essex Hall to join the 15 February 2003 Anti-War Rally



5 Secular Activities

We aim to provide high profile representation on and involvement with all secular organisations to which the GA and the Office of Social Responsibility are affiliated. We continue to forge and develop links with a wide range of voluntary and campaigning agencies: *Amnesty International; Campaign Against the Arms Trade; Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament; Development Education Association; Friends of the Earth; Greenpeace; Liberty; National Assembly Against Racism; New Economic Foundation; United Nations Association UK; UNICEF; World Development Movement; Womankind Worldwide;* and others.

We have raised the Unitarian profile in secular circles and have promoted and shared in campaigns organised by Fairtrade Foundation, WDM, UNA-UK and UNICEF.

6 Voluntary Work

We are delighted to report that Rosemary Ruston continues to work one day a week for the Office of Social Responsibility on a voluntary basis. We would like to thank Rosemary, Chris Hudson and Jess Hoskins for their valuable contribution to our work.

7 Future Work

SR slot at Annual Meetings 2003 – facilitate a workshop focusing on "Mental Health".

GA Motions 2003 - offer help where and when needed in formulating GA motions on social justice issues by providing relevant information, background papers and resource packs.

GA Resolutions 2003 - promote follow-up action of any GA Resolutions on social justice concerns.

SR Day Seminars 2003 - help organise and/or facilitate events at district and/or congregational level.

One World Week 2003 - we plan to promote this event by offering to run workshops and/or seminars, give talks and/or lead services on this year's theme "*Moving Stories*".

Ecumenical World Development Consultation 2003 "Peace in our Time" - encourage those Unitarians who have an interest in world development issue to attend this event, since we truly believe that working on social justice issues is one way we can work together ecumenically.

SR Network - We continue with our efforts to expand the denominational SR network by offering to facilitate discussions, workshops and seminars on contemporary social justice; by offering our support to existing SR committees and working groups as and when necessary, and by trying to identify those individuals who have time and

energy to support our work.

We continue to work on the basis of our "**Mission Statement**" by raising awareness about contemporary social justice issues, and by trying to increase participation in social justice work to strengthen our social witness in society.

Sexual Orientation Equality Group

Members: Rev Jeff Gould; Linda Phillips; Sarah Tinker; Rev Charles VanDenBroeder

According to the remit of the Resolution passed at the Annual Meetings in 2000, the Sexual Orientation Equality Group completes its work at the 2003 Meetings. The Group is pleased to be launching a resource pack at these meetings which will enable Ministers and Lay Leaders within congregations to provide informed and challenging perspectives on issues relating to knowledge and attitudes within the denomination about sexual orientation.

It is with some regret that we have to report that the original spirit of the 2000 Resolution has not been totally achieved. The Resolution asked that we 'consider the most effective ways in which the denomination might question and examine its own attitudes, policies and activities on issues of sexual orientation'. SOEG was not able to survey the denomination systematically but relied instead on indirect and anecdotal data. In its work over the last three years, the group has received much positive support. It has also encountered concerning levels of resistance and fear coupled with a disparity between our denomination's democratically agreed policies, as reflected in our publicly stated position, and practices and attitudes at grassroots level. Although the group's original intention to survey denominational attitudes about sexual orientation was never fulfilled, we remain hopeful that a future group may take on this vital task.

During SOEG's three years of existence the pace of legislative reform in the sphere of sexual orientation has accelerated and our hope is that our work will help congregations to reflect the changes now taking place in UK society.



SUSTENTATION FUND

Chair: Michael Tomlin

Secretary: Alfred Fletcher

Treasurer: Sandy Ellis

Members: The General Secretary and GA Honorary Officers, Rev Steve Dick, Theresa Taylor, Geoffrey Head, Rev John Allerton (co-opted), Patricia Birtles (co-opted).

1. Objects of the Fund

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

2. The Committee

The Trustees are appointed by the Council of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches on a triennial basis, to manage the trust as a Departmental Committee of the General Assembly. The Custodian Trustee is the British and Foreign Unitarian Association (Inc).

3. Administration of Grants

Application forms for grants are available from the Secretary for each District Association. The Trustees meet in June or July each year to consider applications for grants for the year commencing the first of October following. The grants are then paid in quarterly instalments.

4. Meetings

The Trustees met once during the year on 16 July. The Officers administering the grants maintained a close liaison amongst themselves throughout the year.

5. Annual Accounts

The Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2002 showed an operating deficit of £7,966 (2001:£6,873). After a net investment loss from disposals of £40 (2001:£3,328) and a year end market revaluation loss of £68,487 (2001:£77,612), there was an overall loss of £78,452 (2001:£89,837) for the year. The large loss on the investments was due to the continued weakness of the stock market.

6. Investments

On 1 September, Newton Investment Management Ltd, 71 Queen Victoria Street, London, EC4V 4DR, were appointed as Investment Managers in place of Henderson Global Investors Ltd, following the sale of Henderson's business to Newton. The investments are held in the name of the Custodian Company of the Bank of New York, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5AL, on behalf of the Trustees, and may be held out-

side the United Kingdom. The investment policy is to maximise the total return from a portfolio managed to produce a balance between income and growth, measured in performance terms against the WM2000 (excluding property) benchmark. It may be necessary from time to time to supplement income by withdrawals from Capital growth. They were valued as at 30 September 2002, by Newton Investment Management Ltd.

7. Grants

Applications for grant aid towards the payment of stipends were received for the support of 26 Ministries, of which 6 were new applications. Of these 26 applications, 1 was withdrawn and 2 were refused. Of the 23 awards made, 1 ceased partway through the year due to the retirement of the Minister.

It has always been a condition of the payment of the grants, that the recipient should have paid the General Assembly Quota in respect both of the previous year and of the year during which the Grant is paid. Following the decision of the General Assembly Council that each congregation should pay its Quota by no later than 31 December each year, it has been further decided that the Grants shall be withheld from any congregation whose Quota is still unpaid by the following 31 March, and not reinstated until it had paid its share of the quota.

FUND FOR LAY PASTORS AND APPROVED LAY LEADERS

Secretary: Alfred Fletcher

1. Only one application for grant aid was received and a grant was awarded.

2. Contributions to the capital of the Fund are welcome.



*Janes Mrs JA
 *Johnson Mr K
 *Johnson Rev PF (Full Member)
 *Johnson Mr PB
 *Jones Dr AW
 *Jones Mrs B
 *Jones Mrs A
 *Jones Rev JE (Full Member)
 *Kay Mrs H
 *Kemp Mrs B
 *Kenrick Mr JB (dec'd)
 *Kenyon Mrs B
 *Kenyon Mr NA
 *Kern Mrs MP
 *Kerr Dr DG
 *Kerr Mrs C
 *King Mrs L
 *Knopf Mrs B
 *Latham Rev A (Full M)
 *Latham Rev AY (Full M)
 *Laycock Mrs BA
 *Long Rev AJ (Honorary Member & Full Mem)
 *Long Mrs MC
 *Lovis Mr R (Full Mem)
 *Maguire Mr LJ
 *Mason Mrs J
 *Mason Mr JI
 *Maud Mr G
 *McClelland Rev J (Full Member)
 *McClelland Rev A (Full Member)
 *McCormick Rt Rev AM (Full Member)
 *McCrohan Mr EM
 *McLachlan Rev HJ (Hon Member & Full Mem)
 *Midgley Rev C (Full M)
 *Midgley Rev J (Full M)
 *Millard Mrs KA
 *Milne Mrs S
 *Monk Rev DK (Full Member)
 *Needham Mrs A
 *Norman Mr JAH

*O'Brien Mrs E
 *Omar Mr B (Full Mem)
 *Packer Mr GW
 *Packer Mrs V
 *Parsons Mrs H
 *Partington Mr C
 *Partington Mrs J
 *Paxton Mrs MRH (Full Member)
 *Paxton Mr G
 *Payne Mrs B
 *Peart Rev A (Full Member)
 *Percy Mrs A
 *Phelan Mrs MH (Full M)
 *Phillips Mr A
 *Phillips Ms LH (Full M)
 *Phillips Mr D
 *Posselt Mrs AP
 *Potts Mr AE
 *Reed Rev CM (Full Member)
 *Reed Mrs P
 *Reynolds Mrs HM
 *Richards Mr JCT
 *Richards Mr W
 *Richards Mrs R
 *Roberts Dr J
 *Roberts Mrs WM
 *Robinson Mrs M
 *Ruston Mr AR (Full Member)
 *Ruston Mr M
 *Sampson Mr PW
 *Sanders Dr N
 *Aylmer Mrs V
 *Scott Mr JA
 *Scott Mrs M
 *Scragg Mr TW
 *Shaw Mr D
 *Shaw Mrs E
 *Short Mrs A
 *Silk Rev P (Full Mem)
 *Silk Mrs J
 *Simmons Mr G
 *Simmons Mrs J
 *Sinclair Mr M
 *Smith Mrs B

*Smith Mr G
 *Smith Sir Cyril
 *Smith Mrs DM
 *Smith Mr MF
 *Smith Mrs C
 *Smith Dr RW
 *Soulsby Sir Peter (Full Member)
 *Speed Mr AMM
 *Taylor Mrs CMP
 *Taylor Mrs TM
 *Teagle Mr JJ
 *Teagle Mrs S
 *Thompson Miss C
 *Thompson Miss J
 *Tinker Ms S
 *Tomlin Mrs J
 *Tomlin Mr MJ (Full Member)
 *Tracey Mr M
 *Uprichard Mrs EM
 *Usher Rev G (Full M)
 *Usher Mrs A
 *Walker Rev F (Full Member)
 *Walker-Hesson Mrs P
 *Ward Mr WH
 *Ward Mrs M
 *Warhurst Mr DE
 *Warhurst Mrs H
 *Warhurst Ms S
 *Watkins Mrs KJ (dec'd)
 *Watkins Mr TL (dec'd)
 *West Mr MG
 *Whitham Mr P
 *Wightman Rev R (Full Member)
 *Wilkins Mr H
 *Williams Dr DJ
 *Williams Prof D
 *Wilson Mrs AM
 *Winder Ms JR
 *Woodhouse Mr J
 *Woodhouse Mrs K
 *Wykes Dr DL
 *Wykes Dr E
 *Wylie Mr HS
 *Wylie Mrs J

Between 30 September 2002 and 28 February 2003 we are delighted to welcome the following, who have become Associate Members for the first time or renewed their memberships.

*Atkinson Mrs JM
 *Bethune AJ Mr
 *Burbage Miss M
 *Burns Mr JM
 *Cartwright Rev CM (Full Member)
 *Clarke Mrs HM
 *Cockroft Rev BS (Full Member)
 *Cockroft Rev L (Full Member)
 *De Wit Mr S
 *Goacher Rev C (Full Member)
 *Goodchild Mr J
 *Greenhalgh Mr F
 *Hardy Dr SJ
 *Harris Ms LA
 *Hill Ms L (Full Member)
 *Hird Dr JL
 *Hughes Miss A
 *Isaac Mr AW
 *Isherwood Mr R
 *Jackson Mr D
 *Jones Mrs E
 *Latta Ms J
 *Latta Mrs S

*Lee Dr K
 *Leytham Mr G
 *Leytham Mrs D
 *Littlepage Dr B (Full Member)
 *Littlepage Mrs M
 *Mason Ms H
 *Merrit Ms C
 *Oates Mr ADG
 *Raettig Mrs S
 *Rogers Ms J
 *Ruston Mrs R
 *Saville Dr S
 *Sellman Ms JR
 *Smith Rev D (Full Member)
 *Tavkar Ms II
 *Taylor Mr GC
 *Teagle Mrs F
 *Usher Rev D (Full Member)
 *Voegeli Mrs I
 *Wardle Miss J
 *Williams Mr S
 *Williams Mrs WM



Congregational Contributions

1 October 2001 to 30 September 2002

All collections and donations received are included in the one total against each church. Amounts are shown as at 30/09/2002 and contributions received after that date will be shown in the next annual report.

England		Denton	
Ainsworth	299.00	Derby	92.00
Altrincham	655.50	Ditchling	207.00
Ashton-in-Makerfield	575.00	Doncaster	264.50
Astley	23.00	Douglas	69.00
Atherton	1,023.50	Dover	80.50
Banbury	138.00	Dudley	69.00
Bath	138.00	Dukinfield	650.00
Bedfield	34.50	Eccles	862.50
Belper	184.00	Enfield	138.00
Billingshurst	138.00	Evesham	391.00
Birmingham Edgbaston (Five Ways)	644.00	Framlingham	69.00
Birmingham Hollywood	356.50	Gloucester	103.50
Blackpool	46.00	Godalming	379.50
Bolton Bank Street	690.00	Great Hucklow	138.00
Bolton Chorley New Road	207.00	Great Yarmouth	92.00
Bolton Egerton	345.00	Hale Barns	483.00
Bolton Halliwell Road	322.00	Hastings	172.50
Boston	121.50	Hinckley	461.25
Bournemouth	299.25	Hindley	138.00
Bradford Broadway Avenue	138.00	Horsham	310.50
Bradford Russell Street	138.00	Horwich	92.00
Bridgwater	46.00	Hull	529.00
Bridport	115.00	Hyde	30.00
Brighton	471.50	Hyde Flowery Field	400.00
Bristol Brunswick Square	379.50	Hyde Gee Cross	150.00
Bristol Frenchay	276.00	Ipswich	494.50
Bury	1,184.50	Kendal	506.00
Bury St Edmunds	172.50	Kidderminster	299.00
Cambridge	828.00	Knutsford	747.50
Chatham	78.75	Lancaster	184.00
Chelmsford	138.00	Leeds	402.50
Cheltenham	115.00	Leicester	345.00
Chester	103.50	Lewes	126.50
Chesterfield	-	Lincoln	161.00
Chorley	299.00	Liverpool Toxteth	92.00
Coseley	92.00	Liverpool Gateacre	264.50
Coventry	80.50	Liverpool Sefton Park	460.00
Cradley	287.50	London Bethnal Green	34.50
Crewkerne	195.50	London Brixton	241.50
Croydon	425.50	London Golders Green	379.50
Cullompton	103.50	London Hampstead	966.00
Dean Row	943.00	London Islington	287.50

London Kensington	920.00	Taunton	161.00
London Lewisham	161.00	Tenterden	103.50
London Newington Green	57.50	Torquay	115.00
London Stratford	115.00	Trowbridge	-
Loughborough	34.50	Urmston	276.00
Lytham St Annes	230.00	Wakefield	149.50
Macclesfield	460.00	Walsall	92.00
Maidstone	92.00	Warrington	172.50
Manchester Dob Lane	230.00	Warwick	241.50
Manchester Chorlton-cum-Hardy	207.00	Watford	103.50
Manchester Cross Street	575.00	West Kirby	253.00
Manchester Gorton	299.00	Whitby	80.50
Mansfield	621.00	Whitefield	805.00
Mossley	126.50	Wolverhampton	46.00
New Mill	126.50	Woodhall Spa	23.00
Newcastle	299.00	Worthing	207.00
Newcastle upon Tyne	552.00	York	402.50
Newchurch	92.00		
Newport	172.50	Wales	
Northampton	126.50	Aberdare	414.00
Norwich	563.50	Aberystwyth	-
Nottage - Wales	207.00	Alltbylaca	28.00
Nottingham	276.00	Capel Ifan	-
Oldbury	102.00	Cardiff West Grove	402.50
Oldham	218.50	Carmarthen	-
Oxford	540.50	Cefn Coed y Cymer	356.50
Padiham	575.00	Cellan	5.00
Plymouth	253.00	Ciliau Aeron	50.00
Portsmouth	575.00	Cribyn	25.00
Pudsey	207.00	Cwmsychbant	-
Rawtenstall	92.00	Cwrtnewydd	50.00
Richmond	621.00	Felinfach	25.00
Rivington	299.00	Lampeter	25.00
Rochdale	667.00	Llandysul	50.00
Scarborough	138.00	Llanwnnen	25.00
Sevenoaks	310.50	Pontsian <i>Notlage</i>	25.00
Sheffield Fulwood	655.50	Prengwyn <i>Swansea</i>	25.00
Sheffield Norfolk Street	667.00	Talgarreg	10.00
Sheffield Stannington	287.50	Trebanos	322.00
Shelf	115.00	Trecynon	-
Shrewsbury	149.50	Wick	57.50
Sidmouth	115.00		
Southampton	287.50	Scotland	
Southend-on-Sea	46.00	Aberdeen	598.00
Southport	195.50	Dundee	655.50
Stalybridge	160.00	Edinburgh	1,035.00
Stockport	50.50	Glasgow	494.50
Stockton-on-Tees	391.00		
Stourbridge	92.00	Overseas	
Styal	460.00	Adelaide	200.00
Swansea - Wales	253.00		

Contributions from District Associations and Other Societies

British League of Unitarian Women	100.00
East Cheshire Union	300.00
East Midlands Unitarian Association	75.00
Foy Society	50.00
London District Provincial Assembly	250.00
Manchester District Association	480.00
Merseyside District Missionary Association	500.00
Midland Union	500.00
Moretonhampstead Unitarian Church	100.00
National Unitarian Fellowship	96.00
North East Lancashire Unitarian Mission	225.00
Scottish Unitarian Association	140.00
Sheffield & District Unitarian Association	100.00
Unitarian Psychological Society	30.00
Unitarian Women's Group	20.00
Women's League Liverpool District	10.00
Women's League Oxford	5.00
Women's League Sheffield District	20.00
Women's League Newcastle upon Tyne	25.00
	3026.00

Trusts

Diss Unitarian Chapel Trust	50.00
Hapton Chapel Trust	25.00
Sir CC Grundy Deceased	136.50
Memorial Hall Trustees	1750.00
	1961.50



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Tony Rees shares a quiet moment with Sheila and Austin Fitzpatrick

Accounts of The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

for the year ended 30 September 2002

Registered Charity No: 250788

The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Trustees' Responsibilities In Relation To The Financial Statements

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

We have audited the financial statements of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches for the year ended 30 September 2002 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA), the Balance Sheet and related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets and the accounting policies set out therein.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Auditors

The trustees' responsibilities for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards are set out in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities.

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

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

We read other information contained in the Trustees' Annual Report, and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. We consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements. Our responsibilities do not extend to any other information.

Basis of Opinion

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

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

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches as at 30 September 2002 and of its incoming resources and application of resources in the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993.

EDMUND GIBBS

Chartered Certified Accountants

Registered Auditors
Kingsgate
4610 Cascade Way
Oxford Business Park South
OXFORD
OX4 2SU

The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 30 September 2002

	Unrestricted Funds (See note 8)	Designated Funds (See note 9)	Restricted Funds (See note 10)	Endowment Funds (See note 11)	Total Funds 2002	Total Funds 2001
Incoming Resources						
Donations, Legacies and Gifts	355,420	13,811	44,094	—	413,325	322,349
Activities in Furtherance of GA Objects	32,992	5	3	—	33,000	28,243
Activities for Generating Funds	1,360	—	272	—	1,632	63
Investment Income	71,111	553	26,828	—	98,492	117,550
Other Incoming Resources	70,251	10,152	—	—	80,403	119,248
Realised Gains on Sale of Property	—	—	—	—	—	10,863
Total Incoming Resources	531,134	24,521	71,197	—	626,852	598,316
Resources Expended						
Cost of Generating Funds						
Activities for Generating Funds	1,028	—	508	—	1,536	—
Investment Management Fees	7,418	74	224	3,047	10,763	12,537
Charitable Expenditure						
Grants (see note 2)	15,644	1,921	72,613	—	90,178	131,085
Programme Activity	82,457	7,611	24,455	—	114,523	96,758
Programme Support Costs	147,287	—	135	—	147,422	140,809
Management and Administration	263,804	—	—	—	263,804	282,014
Other	60,272	—	—	14	60,286	65,584
Total Resources Expended	577,910	9,606	97,935	3,061	688,512	728,787
Net Incoming Resources /(Resources Expended) Before Transfers	(46,776)	14,915	(26,738)	(3,061)	(61,660)	(131,471)
Transfers Between Funds (see note 4)	5,802	(207,638)	201,836	—	—	—
Net Incoming Resources /(Resources Expended)	(40,974)	(192,723)	175,098	(3,061)	(61,660)	(130,471)
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)						
Realised Gains/(Losses) on Investments	(3,939)	—	—	(152)	(4,091)	(7,037)
Unrealised Gains/(Losses) on Investments	(214,569)	(1,655)	(15,687)	(82,869)	(314,780)	(438,740)
Net Movement in Funds	(259,482)	(194,378)	159,411	(86,082)	(380,531)	(576,248)
Funds Balances Brought Forward 1 October 2001	1,528,337	256,485	137,649	542,020	2,464,491	3,040,739
Funds Balances Carried Forward 30 September 2002	£1,268,855	£62,107	£297,060	£455,938	£2,083,960	£2,464,491

The notes on pages 52 to 59 form part of these accounts.

The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2002

	Note	2002	2001
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	6	88,377	96,262
Investments	7	1,663,828	2,012,664
		1,752,205	2,108,926
Current Assets			
Stocks		16,524	14,941
Loans	13	35,708	45,000
Debtors		44,344	85,627
Short Term Deposits		237,167	229,405
Cash at Bank and In Hand		25,119	32,269
		358,862	407,242
Current Liabilities			
Hymn Book Provision		—	540
Amounts Reserved for Specific Purposes		—	9,612
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		27,107	41,525
		27,107	51,677
Net Current Assets		331,755	355,565
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		£2,083,960	£2,464,491
FUNDS			
General Funds	12	1,268,855	1,528,337
Designated Funds	9, 12	62,107	256,485
Restricted Funds	10, 12	297,060	137,649
Endowment Funds	11, 12	455,938	542,020
Total Funds		£2,083,960	£2,464,491

Approved by the General Assembly Council meeting on 8 February 2003, and signed on its behalf by:

Michael Tomlin, Honorary Treasurer

Jeffrey J Teagle, General Secretary

The notes on pages 52 to 59 form part of these accounts.

The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 30 September 2002

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the inclusion of investments at market value and in accordance with applicable accounting standards. In preparing the financial statements the General Assembly follows best practice as set out in the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP) issued in October 2000 and the Charities Act 1993. The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a. Donations, legacies and gifts

Donations, legacies and gifts are included in the year in which they are receivable, which is when the General Assembly becomes entitled to the resource.

b. Investment income

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

c. Resources expended

All expenditure is included on an accruals basis. A detailed analysis of expenditure and allocation between funds is detailed in notes 8 to 11 to the financial statements. Grant expenditure is detailed in note 2 to the financial statements.

d. Staff salary costs

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

e. Funds accounting

Funds held by the General Assembly are:

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

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

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

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

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

f. Fixed asset investments

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

g. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

Furniture	5 years
Computer Equipment	3 years

h. Stock

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

i. Pensions

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

2 Direct Charitable Expenditure – Grants

During the year to 30 September 2002, the General Assembly has made grants to enable the promotion of a free and inquiring religion in the UK and abroad, and for the education of ministers of religion and the relief of poverty. See also note 4 for details of grants made between unrestricted, designated and restricted funds of the General Assembly.

Grants by Category

Grants to UK Institutions	55,470
Grants to Overseas Institutions	15,497
Benevolent/Welfare Grants	1,421
Educational Grants	17,790
Total	£90,178

	No. of Grants	Total Value
Grants to Individuals		
Benevolent/Welfare Grants	4	1,421
Educational Grants	9	17,790
Total grants to Individuals		£19,211

UK Unitarian Churches and Institutions

Blackpool	2	4,900
Bradford	1	2,000
Chowbent	1	1,000
Inquirer Publishing Ltd	2	10,350
Nightingale Centre	1	1,000
Small Congregations Consultancy	1	10,180
South Wales Association	1	2,000
SR Media Project	1	6,146
Stockport	1	2,375
Web Wizard Project	1	9,750
Other grants less than £1,000 each	16	5,769
Total grants to UK Unitarian Churches and Institutions		£55,470

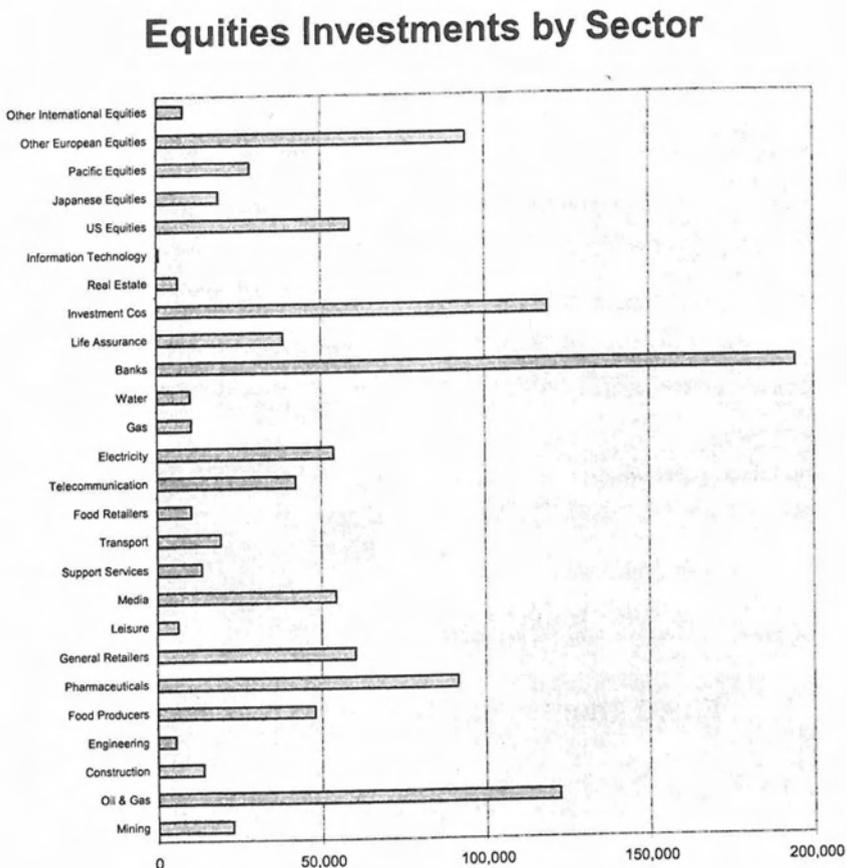
Overseas Institutions

International Association for Religious Freedom	1	2,000
International Council of Unitarian Universalists	1	1,500
Unitarian Union of North East India	8	9,397
Unitarian Projects Partnership	1	1,500
Other grants less than £1,000 each	3	1,100
Total grants to Overseas Institutions		£15,497

3 Direct Charitable Expenditure

Analysis of expenditure on activities which further the objects of the General Assembly, support costs and the cost of administration are shown in notes 8 to 11, 14 and 15.

The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches
Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 30 September 2002 (continued)



The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 30 September 2002 (continued)

8

Unrestricted Funds

	Incoming Resources	Charitable Expenditure	Transfers Between Funds	Total 2002	Total 2001
Non-Departmental Income					
Legacies	—	—	—	—	983
Subscriptions / Assoc Membership	12,947	—	185	13,132	13,743
Congregational Contributions	48,735	—	—	48,735	45,602
Anniversary Service Collection	5,797	972	—	4,825	1,423
Dividends and Interest	70,451	—	923	71,374	87,492
British & Foreign Unitarian Assoc.	18,088	—	—	18,088	36,866
Essex Hall Trustees	100,000	—	—	100,000	100,000
Essex Hall Trustees (in kind) (see note 5)	95,000	—	—	95,000	90,000
Memorial Hall Manchester	1,750	—	—	1,750	1,750
Lawrence House Fund	—	—	—	—	1,500
Other Donations	70,807	—	—	70,807	5
Annual Meetings	52,230	52,725	1,230	735	(3,720)
Rental Income	660	—	—	660	660
Hymns for Living	1,867	1,658	—	209	—
Information Office & Publications Sales	10,200	3,771	1,090	7,519	2,517
Payroll Calculation Service	1,310	222	—	1,088	957
Total Non-Departmental Income	489,842	59,348	3,428	433,922	379,778
Departmental Expenditure					
General Assembly Council	1,977	5,148	1,327	1,844	1,731
Building Advisory Panel	—	57	—	57	225
Triennial Review Working Party	—	1,071	—	1,071	—
Development Committee	—	1,772	—	1,772	2,043
Executive Committee	—	710	—	710	936
Finance & Administration Committee	—	844	—	844	1,010
General Purposes Committee	60	5,851	(347)	6,138	9,205
Information Committee	1,159	17,788	5,242	11,387	21,876
Inquirer Publishing	—	10,350	—	10,350	11,000
Lay Persons' Summer School	—	67	—	67	919
Lay Training Committee	579	1,139	—	560	1,850
Ministry Committee	—	4,685	(50)	4,735	4,106
Interview Subcommittee	—	1,686	—	1,686	2,624
Ministerial Students Fund Grant	—	—	(10,000)	10,000	10,000
Penal Affairs Panel	—	678	—	678	251
Publications Panel	—	621	—	621	871
Religious Education Committee	9,411	13,036	1,138	2,487	4,878
Youth Committee	9,153	13,235	(574)	4,656	4,879
Social Responsibility Committee	2,137	6,525	729	3,659	7,036
Sexual Orientation Equality Working Group	—	707	—	707	729
Unitarian Forward Planning	—	1,081	—	1,081	138
Welsh Committee	—	3,338	—	3,338	4,219
Worship Committee	—	780	—	780	1,138
General Expenses to programme work	—	7,500	—	7,500	—
Staff Salaries due to programme work	7,163	138,240	—	131,077	130,560
Total Departmental Expenditure	31,639	236,909	(2,535)	207,805	222,224
General Administration					
Salaries, Pensions, etc	7,163	138,240	—	131,077	133,833
Officer's Travel and Expenses	151	4,644	386	4,107	6,534
Office Expenses	1,097	21,203	86	20,020	22,278
Staff Training	—	1,055	—	1,055	1,981
Audit and Accountancy Fees	—	7,350	—	7,350	9,560
Accommodation (see note 5)	—	95,000	—	95,000	90,000
Investment Management Fees	—	7,418	—	7,418	8,845
Legal Fees	—	450	—	450	—
Insurance (Including Third Party Risks)	1,242	3,519	—	2,277	2,362
Ministers Houses – repairs	—	—	—	—	23
Irrecoverable VAT	—	2,774	4,437	(1,663)	6,495
Total General Administration	9,653	281,653	4,909	267,091	281,911
Unrestricted Funds Totals	£531,134	£577,910	£5,802	£(40,974)	£(124,357)

The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 30 September 2002 (continued)

9 Designated Funds

	Balance 1 Oct 2001	Incoming Resources	Charitable Expenditure	Transfers Between Funds	Investment Gains /(Losses)	Balance 30 Sept 2002
Animal Welfare (Capital)	3,181	—	11	—	(245)	2,925
Animal Welfare (Income)	1,035	59	—	—	—	1,094
Annual Theme	—	937	—	—	—	937
Benevolent Fund	—	3,381	1,421	—	—	1,960
Buildings Advisory Panel	174	—	500	20,000	—	19,674
Central Postal Mission	8,246	222	29	(222)	(634)	7,583
Development Fund	5,711	—	—	(5,711)	—	—
De Wolfe Fund for Lay Training	—	333	—	—	—	333
Growth and Development Fund	55	—	—	—	—	55
Hymn Book Provision	—	540	—	—	—	540
ID Advertising Provision	—	5,261	3,099	2,000	—	4,162
India Fund	9,029	243	31	(243)	(695)	8,303
India Fund Income a/c	9,052	—	—	(9,052)	—	—
Lay Leadership	—	—	—	—	—	—
Summer School Provision	—	500	63	—	—	437
Lay Training Publications	78	—	—	—	—	78
Millennium Fund	213,672	—	—	(213,672)	—	—
Publications Panel Titles	3,880	—	2,629	(1,341)	—	(90)
RE Adult RE Project	—	—	500	500	—	—
RE Chalice Award	—	5	63	58	—	—
RE HW Fairey Specific Bequest	(288)	2,562	251	(1,230)	—	793
RE Sunday School Network	—	—	200	200	—	—
RE Youth Leadership Training	—	—	65	65	—	—
EU Romania Fund	1,601	—	—	(1,601)	—	—
Small Congregations Consultancy	—	—	596	596	—	—
SOEG Designated Fund	—	5,000	—	—	—	5,000
SR Counterpoint Fund	—	—	—	1,800	—	1,800
SR Designated Fund	—	5,000	—	—	—	5,000
Union for Social Service Fund	1,059	29	4	(29)	(81)	974
Worship Committee Publications	—	449	144	244	—	549
	£256,485	£24,521	£9,606	£(207,638)	£(1,655)	£62,107

10 Restricted Funds

	Balance 1 Oct 2001	Incoming Resources	Charitable Expenditure	Transfers Between Funds	Investment Gains /(Losses)	Balance 30 Sept 2002
Chalice Appeal	—	20,883	428	—	—	20,455
Development Fund	—	851	1,178	5,711	—	5,384
Lewis Edwards Memorial Fund	1,961	53	7	(53)	(151)	1,803
Arnold Graves Trust	6,877	185	24	(185)	(529)	6,324
India Fund Income a/c	—	4,396	10,505	9,295	—	3,186
Kharang Rural Centre	3,295	122	127	—	—	3,290
James Speed Trust Income	21,826	19,008	18,511	(923)	—	21,400
Lay Pastors Capital	20,600	—	—	—	—	20,600
Lay Pastors Income	2,643	1,162	250	—	—	3,555
Millennium Fund	—	4,378	43,212	176,785	(10,679)	127,272
Ministerial Students Fund	15,763	14,627	17,815	10,050	—	22,625
OMHB Capital	39,061	—	134	—	(3,005)	35,922
OMHB Income	3,685	1,053	3,685	—	—	1,053
One World Week	—	510	500	—	—	10
Prague Flood Relief	—	862	—	—	—	862
Presidents Chain	—	1,731	—	—	—	1,731
Romania Fund	—	764	1,500	1,620	—	884
Humphries Winder	4,000	—	—	—	—	4,000
Humphries Winder Income	738	148	—	—	—	886
Sunday School Fund	17,200	464	59	(464)	(1,323)	15,818
	£137,649	£71,197	£97,935	£201,836	£(15,687)	£297,060

The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 30 September 2002 (continued)

11 Endowment Funds

	Balance 1 Oct 2001	Incoming Resources	Charitable Expenditure	Transfers Between Funds	Investment Gains /(Losses)	Balance 30 Sept 2002
James Speed Trust	529,100	—	2,604	—	(80,677)	445,819
Millennium Endowment Fund	12,920	—	457	—	(2,344)	10,119
	£542,020	—	£3,061	—	£(83,021)	£456,938

12 Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Investments £	Net Current Assets £	Total £
Endowment Funds	—	400,861	55,077	455,938
Restricted Funds	—	30,024	267,036	297,060
Designated Funds	—	61,471	636	62,107
Other Charitable Funds	88,377	1,171,472	9,006	1,268,855
	£88,377	£1,663,828	£331,755	£2,083,960

13. Loans

The loan of £35,000 to the Management Committee of the Unitarian Holiday and Conference Centre was made to enable development of the Centre and annual interest is paid, based on current money market rates. (2001: £45,000. £10,000 was repaid in year).

A balance of £708 remains of a travel loan made in the year to one member of staff. (2001: £nil)

14. Staff Costs and Trustees Remuneration

	2002 £	2001 £
Wages and Salaries	237,194	232,176
Social Security Costs	22,660	22,063
Pension Costs	16,626	16,527
Ex-gratia payments	—	2,910
	£276,480	£273,676

No employee earned more than £50,000 per annum (2001: £nil).

The average number of employees, (FTE), was 10 (2001: 10)

The trustees neither received nor waived any emoluments during the year (2001: £nil).

Travel and subsistence expenses totaling £3,947 were reimbursed to 25 trustees (2001: 20 trustees totaling £6,052).

15. Pensions

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

The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the funds and amounted to £16,626 (2001 - £16,527). The amount due for payment at the year-end was £2,457 (2001: £2,385).

**The Unitarian convalescent and
Holiday Centre at Great Hucklow
Trading As
The Nightingale Centre**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**For The Year Ended
30 September 2002**

The Annual Report for the year ending 30th September 2002 of the Trustees' of The Unitarian Convalescent and Holiday Centre trading as the Nightingale Centre.

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

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

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

The Managing Trustees are the persons who are the members for the time being of the Council of The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches. The term of office for GA Council members is three years. One member is elected by each of sixteen District Associations and one by the Non-Subscribing Presbyterians of Northern Island. The Women's League, Unitarian Youth, National Unitarian Fellowship and the Ministerial Fellowship each appoint one member. The names of GA Council members are listed on page 8 of this Annual Report.

Under the terms of the Scheme the Managing Trustees' may delegate the administrative function of management to a Committee of the said Council. The ultimate responsibility for management remains with Council. Every three years the General Assembly Council appoints a Committee known as the Nightingale Centre Management Committee to which it delegates the administrative function of management. Members of this Committee are listed in the Committee section of this Annual Report.

The Centre Manager is Liz Shaw.

The Unitarian Convalescent and Holiday Centre at Great Hucklow

Trustees Responsibilities for Preparing the Financial Statements

The Trustees are obliged to prepare financial statements for each financial year.

The financial statements must give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Centre at the end of the financial year and of the excess of receipts over payments for the year. The Trustees are responsible for the adoption of suitable accounting policies, and their consistent use in the financial statements, supported where necessary by reasonable and prudent judgement.

The Trustees confirm that the above requirements have been complied with in the financial statements.

In addition, the Trustees are responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records and sufficient internal controls to safeguard the assets of the Centre and to prevent and detect fraud or any other irregularities. It is also responsible for a programme of risk assessment. This is a continuous exercise.

The Trustees have examined the major strategies, business and operational risks which the Charity faces and confirm that the systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

It is the policy of the charity to maintain unrestricted funds, which are the free reserves of the charity, at a level which equates to approximately one year's unrestricted expenditure. This provides sufficient funds to cover management and administration and support costs and to respond to emergency maintenance costs which arise from time to time. Unrestricted funds were maintained at this level throughout the year.

**Auditor's Report to the Trustees of
The Unitarian Convalescent and Holiday Centre at Great Hucklow**

We have audited the Accounts on Pages 3 to 8 which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page 8.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Auditors

As described on page 1 the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those statements and to report our opinion to you. We have been appointed as auditors under Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 and report in accordance with regulations made under Section 44 of that Act.

Basis of Opinion

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

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

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Centre as at 30th September 2002 and its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993.

Edmund Gibbs
EDMUND GIBBS
Chartered Certified Accountants

Registered Auditors
Kingsgate
4610 Cascade Way
Oxford Business Park South
OXFORD
OX4 2SU

The Unitarian Convalescent and Holiday Centre at Great Hucklow

**Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended
30th September 2002**

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Designated Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds 2002</u>	<u>Total Funds 2001</u>
<u>Income and expenditure</u>				
<u>Incoming Resources</u>				
Charges	144,389		144,389	130,392
Rents Receivable	11,542		11,542	11,263
Donations	13,596		13,596	9,196
Investment Income	7,045		7,045	9,058
Grants	415		415	415
Other Income	403		403	570
<u>Total Incoming Resources</u>	<u>177,390</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>177,390</u>	<u>160,894</u>
<u>Resources expended</u>				
Direct Charitable Expenditure	137,391		137,391	116,046
Management and Administration of the charity	29,099		29,099	28,968
Fundraising and Publicity	204		204	225
<u>Total Resources Expended</u>	<u>166,694</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>166,694</u>	<u>145,239</u>
<u>Net Incoming Resources</u>				
<u>For The Year</u>	10,696	0	10,696	15,655
Other Recognised Gains and Losses	0	0	0	0
Unrealised (Losses)/Gains on Investments	(155)	0	(155)	(16)
<u>Net Movement in Funds</u>	<u>10,541</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10,541</u>	<u>15,639</u>
Fund Balances brought forward at 1st October 2001	152,124	1,644,313	1,796,437	1,780,798
Fund Balances carried forward at 30th September 2002	<u>162,665</u>	<u>1,644,313</u>	<u>1,806,978</u>	<u>1,796,437</u>

The Unitarian Convalescent and Holiday Centre at Great Hucklow

Balance Sheet at 30th September 2002

<u>2001</u> £		£	£
	Capital Account - Designated Funds		
1,411,647	Buildings at Valuation	1,411,647	
11,007	Greta Broadhead Bequest	11,007	
2,714	Special Appeal	2,714	
1,819	Barleycrofts Appeal	1,819	
7,535	Bedding Appeal	7,535	
3,528	Barleycrofts Roof Appeal	3,528	
740	Recoupment Order	740	
205,323	Hibbert Houses Building Grant	205,323	
<u>1,644,313</u>			<u>1,644,313</u>
	General Account - Unrestricted Funds		
136,485	Balance at 1st October 2001	152,124	
15,639	Surplus for the Year	11,517	
<u>152,124</u>			<u>163,641</u>
<u><u>1,796,437</u></u>			<u><u>1,807,954</u></u>

The Unitarian Convalescent and Holiday Centre at Great Hucklow

Balance Sheet at 30th September 2002 (Continued)

<u>2001</u> £		£	£	£	£
	Represented by:-				
	Fixed Assets (Notes 3 & 4)	Balance b/f	Addition: Depre/n	Balance c/f	
1,411,647	Buildings	1,411,647		1,411,647	
235,924	Building Improvements	235,924	0	7,684	228,240
1,647,571		1,647,571	0	7,684	1,639,887
15,390	Furniture and Equipment	15,390	10,000	3,382	22,008
<u>1,662,961</u>		<u>1,662,961</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>11,066</u>	<u>1,661,895</u>
2,452	Investment (Note 5)				2,297
4,665	Stock				5,783
8,377	Debtors and Prepaid Expenditure				11,697
103	Bank Deposit Account				108
184,045	Bank Current Account (Interest Bearing)				193,034
200	Cash in Hand				<u>129</u>
<u>184,348</u>					<u>193,271</u>
<u>1,862,803</u>					<u>1,874,943</u>
21,366	Less:- Creditors				32,247
<u>1,841,437</u>					<u>1,842,696</u>
45,000	Less:- Loan - General Assembly				35,000
<u><u>1,796,437</u></u>					<u><u>1,807,696</u></u>

M. J. Tomlin
M. J. TOMLIN

Approved by the Council of The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches on 8th February 2003.

The Unitarian Convalescent and Holiday Centre at Great Hucklow

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended
30th September 2002

<u>2001</u>		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
126,163	Charges to Residents (Including self-catering)	140,732		
3,607	Charges to Day Visitors	3,657		
<u>129,770</u>			144,389	
276	Shop Profit	630		
988	Rents	1,306		
518	Other Income	130		
1,782			2,066	
415	Grants for Countryside Stewardship		415	
<u>131,967</u>	Trading Income		<u>146,870</u>	
72,807	Salaries, Wages, Pension and NIC		79,969	
942	Staff Travelling		1,364	
11,754	Repairs and Maintenance		17,314	
6,388	Heat, Light, Power and Water Rates		7,680	
22,759	Food Consumption		26,804	
3,828	Non Food Supplies		5,373	
3,630	Laundry		4,764	
3,260	Insurance		3,830	
1,067	Telephones		908	
1,111	Printing and Stationery		1,853	
225	Advertising		204	
192	Postages		185	
2,484	Committee Expenses		2,235	
650	Audit Fee		700	
355	Sundries		302	
2,000	Interest payable	1,525		
(9,058)	Less Interest Receivable	<u>(7,045)</u>	(5,520)	
12,011	Depreciation		11,065	
<u>136,405</u>	Trading Expenditure		<u>159,030</u>	
<u>(4,438)</u>	Trading Loss carried forward		<u>(12,160)</u>	

The Unitarian Convalescent and Holiday Centre at Great Hucklow

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended
30th September 2002 (Continued)

<u>2001</u>		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
(4,438)	Trading Loss brought forward		(12,160)
10,275	Rents Receivable - Barleycrofts Property		10,236
<u>5,837</u>			<u>(1,924)</u>
	Donations		
3,987	Friends of Hucklow	4,881	
0	Mrs E B Malcolm	3,000	
2,161	Money raised at the Open day	2,435	
1,750	Memorial Hall Trustees	1,500	
1,000	North Lancs Group	1,000	
159	Other Donations	270	
200	East Cheshire Union	200	
200	Manchester District Association	160	
100	Midland Union	100	
200	L.D.P.A.	50	
61	Torr House Trustees	0	
9,818			13,596
(16)	Unrealised (Losses)/Profits on Investments		(155)
<u>15,639</u>	Net Surplus for the Year carried to the Balance Sheet		<u>11,517</u>

The Unitarian Convalescent and Holiday Centre at Great Hucklow

Notes to the Financial Statements - 30th September 2002

1 The Land and Buildings comprised in the Charities called The Unitarian Convalescent and Holiday Centre are vested in the British and Foreign Unitarian Association (Incorporated) as Custodian Trustee. The Convalescent and Holiday Centre was valued at 30th September 1999 for insurance purposes at £1,265,000 and the Barleycroft Building was valued at 30th September 1999 for insurance purposes at £400,000. For the purpose of capitalising the Land and Buildings the value of the Net Building Improvements amounting to £253,353 at 30th September 1999 has been deducted from the valuation to arrive at a net valuation of the Land and Buildings of £1,411,647.

2 Income received from Appeal funds is not reflected within the Income and Expenditure Account but taken directly to the Fund to which it relates .
When Appeal Funds are closed they are transferred to the Capital Account

3 **Accounting Policy**

Building improvement works are capitalised. £6,000 was received from the congregation of Leigh Church. This was used towards the refurbishment of the Dining Room, which cost £15,000. The net cost of £9,000 was capitalised .

4 **Depreciation Policy**

Maximum forty years for building improvements and twenty five years for furniture and equipment.
Freehold Property is not depreciated as, in the opinion of the Committee, the property is not worth less than its book value and, therefore, any depreciation would be immaterial.

5 **Investments**

The investments consist of 25 Charifund Accumulation Units and 13.16 COIF Charities Investment Fund Units.

<u>Charifund Accumulation Units</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Market Value 1st October 2001	1,709	1,677
Net unrealised investment gains	(52)	32
Market Value 30th September 2002	<u>1,657</u>	<u>1,709</u>
Historical Cost as at 30th September 2002	<u>684</u>	<u>684</u>

<u>COIF Charities Investment Fund Units</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Market Value at 30th June 2001	743	791
Net unrealised investment (losses)/gains+C22	(103)	(48)
Market Value 30th June 2002	<u>640</u>	<u>743</u>
Historical Cost as at 30th September 2002	<u>740</u>	<u>740</u>

The Sustentation Fund
for the Augmentation of Ministers' Stipends
Registered Charity No.235449
Founded 1883

Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30th SEPTEMBER, 2002

Committee of Trustees

Officers of the General Assembly (Ex Officio)

Alan Ruston, President

Austin Fitzpatrick, Vice-President

Michael Tomlin, Honorary Treasurer, Chair of the Committee

Jeffrey Teagle, General Secretary

Members of Council appointed by the Council of the General Assembly:

Stephen Dick

Theresa Taylor

Geoffrey Head

Non-Members of Council co-opted by the Council of the General Assembly:

John Allerton

Patricia Birtles

Officers of the Fund appointed by the Committee

Alfred Fletcher, Honorary Secretary

16, Millfield Lane, Nether Poppleton, York YO2 6HR

Alexander Ellis, Honorary Treasurer

The Hermitage, Sale Green, Nr, Droitwich, Worcs WR9 7LN

Custodian Trustee

The British & Foreign Unitarian Association (Incorporated)

Essex Hall, 1-6, Essex Street, London WC2R 3HY

Auditor

Kenneth Strange B.Sc., F.C.C.A.

10, Ravenscroft Drive Droitwich, Worcs WR9 7AP

Bankers

National Westminster Bank plc, 5, Victoria Square, Droitwich, Worcs WR9 8DF

Investment Managers

Newton Investment Management Ltd., 71, Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4DR

Essex Hall, 1-6, Essex Street, London WC2R 3HY

Report of the Trustees

1. Objects of the Fund

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

2. The Committee

The Trustees are appointed by the Council of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches on a triennial basis, to manage the trust as a Departmental Committee of the General Assembly. The Custodian Trustee is the British & Foreign Unitarian Association (Incorporated).

3. Administration of Grants

Application forms for grants are available from the Secretary via the District Associations. The Trustees meet in June or July each year to consider applications for grants for the year commencing the first of October following. The grants are then paid in quarterly instalments.

4. Meetings

The Trustees met once during the year on 16th July. The Officers administering the grants maintained a close liaison amongst themselves throughout the year.

5. Annual Accounts

The Accounts for the year ended 30th September, 2002, showed an operating deficit of £7,966 (2001:£6,873). After a net investment loss from disposals of £40 (2001:£3,328) and a year end market revaluation loss of £68,487 (2001:£77,612), there was an overall loss of £78,452 (2001:£89,837) for the year. The large loss on the investments was due to the continued weakness of the stock market.

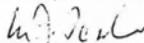
6. Investments

On 1st September, Newton Investment Management Ltd, 71, Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4DR, were appointed as Investment Managers in place of Henderson Global Investors Ltd, following the sale of Henderson's business to Newton. The investments are held in the name of the Custodian Company of the Bank of New York, 1, Canada Square, London E14 5AL, on behalf of the Trustees, and may be held outside the United Kingdom. The investment policy is to maximise the total return from a portfolio managed to produce a balance between income and growth, measured in performance terms against the WM2000 (excluding property) benchmark. It may be necessary from time to time, to supplement income by withdrawals from Capital growth. They were valued as at 30th September, 2002, by Newton Investment Management Ltd.,

7. Grants

Applications for grant-aid towards the payment of stipends were received for the support of 26 Ministries, of which 6 were new applications. Of these 26 applications, 1 was withdrawn and 2 were refused. Of the 23 awards made, 1 ceased part way through the year due to the retirement of the Minister.

It has always been a condition of the payment of the grants, that the recipient should have paid the General Assembly Quota in respect both of the previous year and of the year during which the Grant is paid. Following the decision of the General Assembly Council that each Congregation should pay its Quota by no later than 31st December each year, it has been further decided that the Grants shall be withheld from any Congregation whose Quota is still unpaid by the following 31st March, and not reinstated until it had paid its share of the Quota.


Michael Tomlin
Chair

30th September, 2002

SUSTENTATION FUND Registered Charity No.235449

BALANCE SHEET

30th September 2002

2001 £	ASSETS	£	2002 £
350,781	Investments at Market Valuation		277,545
	Cost as at 30th Sept.2002:£362,986		
	(30th Sept.2001:£383,729)		
	Cash at Bank		
1,293	Current Account	147	
8,248	Deposit Account	4,663	
21,739	Investment Managers Client A/c	21,523	
31,280			26,333
262	Income Tax Recoverable	101	
982	Dividends Received after Year End	858	
1,244			959
383,305			304,837
	Less LIABILITIES		
370	Sundry Creditors		320
382,935			304,517
	REPRESENTED BY:		
	Sustentation Fund		
472,771	Balance as at Start of Year	382,935	
(89,837)	Increase/(Decrease) in the Value of the Fund	(78,418)	
382,935	Balance as at End of Year		304,517

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

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

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, for safeguarding the assets of the Trust, for taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities, and for preparing annual financial statements which both accord with the accounting records, and which comply with both the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting by Charities and the relevant governing document, and which give a true and fair view of the affairs of the Trust. To the best of our knowledge and belief, these obligations have been met, and accordingly these Accounts are hereby approved on behalf of the Trustees by the following Officers of the Sustentation Fund Committee.


M.J. Tomlin
Chair 2nd November, 2002


A.H. Ellis
Hon. Treasurer

SUSTENTATION FUND Registered Charity No.235449

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 30th September 2002

2001 £	TOTAL RESOURCES ARISING IN THE YEAR	2002 £
19,854	Bank Interest & Income from Investments (Gross)	14,544
2,834	Donations	2,542
<u>22,688</u>		<u>17,086</u>
	Less EXPENDITURE	
27,750	Grants	22,950
	Administration Expenses	
500	Secretarial Honorarium	500
500	Treasurer's Honorarium	500
381	Travelling Expenses	535
0	Printing & Stationery	83
50	Telephone & Postage	61
61	Bank Charges	104
320	Audit Fee	320
<u>1,811</u>		<u>2,102</u>
29,561		25,052
<u>(6,873)</u>	REVENUE (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS	<u>(7,966)</u>
	INVESTMENT DISPOSALS & REVALUATION	
(3,328)	Net Gain/(Loss) on Sale of Investments	(40)
(77,612)	Unrealised Gain/(Loss) on Revaluation of Investments	(68,487)
(2,023)	Investment Management Fees	(1,926)
<u>(82,963)</u>		<u>(70,452)</u>
<u>(89,837)</u>	TOTAL INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN THE VALUE OF THE FUND	<u>(78,418)</u>

SUSTENTATION FUND Registered Charity No.235449

INVESTMENTS

30th September 2002

2001 Market Valn £		Original Cost £	Revaln Gain B/F £	Revaln Gain This Yr £	Market Valn £
15,389			40	(40)	-
17,786	Investments sold during the Year				
12,675	10,000 Britannia 13% PIBS	14,660	3,126	1,323	19,109
25,883	10,000 NatWest.Bk 9.00% Non.Cum.PrefA£1	10,247	2,428	825	13,500
16,768	15,000 Northern Rock 12.5/8% PSNTS	26,342	(459)	2,663	28,546
9,654	15,000 Treasury 6.25% 2010	17,402	(634)	508	17,276
3,780	1,150 Aviva Ord.25p	2,157	7,497	(5,543)	4,111
9,355	700 BAA Ord £1	4,141	(361)	(77)	3,703
2,925	2,000 Barclays Bank plc Ord.25p	3,056	6,299	(1,925)	7,430
8,430	500 Berkeley Group Ord 25p	4,020	(1,095)	33	2,958
5,382	1,500 BP Ord US\$0.25	9,390	(960)	(2,055)	6,375
4,260	1,950 British Telecom Ord 25p	11,942	(6,560)	(2,174)	3,208
4,745	2,000 Centrica Ord 5.5/9p	4,860	(600)	(945)	3,315
4,843	1,000 Compass Group Ord 10p	3,753	992	(2,095)	2,650
3,515	1,125 Edinburgh US Tracker Ord 25p	8,288	(1,534)	(2,271)	4,483
14,745	1,000 JP Morgan Fleming American Ord 25p	7,772	(609)	(2,903)	4,260
19,949	3,000 Fleming Mercantile IT Ord 25p	19,260	(4,515)	(2,295)	12,450
4,758	1,039 GlaxoSmithKline Ord 25p	12,684	7,265	(7,169)	12,780
6,239	1,000 Hanson Ord £2	4,385	373	(1,598)	3,160
9,246	850 HBOS Group Ord 25p	5,908	332	(1,245)	4,994
2,112	830 Henderson Euro Cap Gth Fd'I'	12,186	(2,940)	(1,691)	7,555
5,218	620 Henderson Global Tech Fd'I'	9,079	(6,967)	(635)	1,477
10,038	2,600 Henderson Pacific Gth Fd'A'	7,429	(2,211)	57	5,275
2,229	1,400 HSBC Ord \$0.50	9,403	635	(1,022)	9,016
9,450	1,100 JP Morgan Fleming Japan Fd	3,685	(1,456)	(397)	1,832
7,800	4,500 Law Debenture Corpn Ord.5p	8,487	963	(1,147)	8,303
6,760	1,200 Lloyds TSB Ord.25p	10,159	(2,359)	(2,166)	5,634
2,964	4,000 Martin Currie European Ord 5p	12,920	(6,160)	(2,640)	4,120
2,916	3,900 Martin Currie Japan Ord 25p	4,953	(1,989)	(838)	2,126
15,050	400 Pearson Ord 10p	6,996	(4,080)	(878)	2,038
2,995	2,150 Prudential Corpn 5p	7,661	7,389	(7,751)	7,299
5,350	500 Reuters Ord 25p	6,835	(3,840)	(1,865)	1,130
10,486	500 Rio Tinto Ord 10p	5,465	(115)	(240)	5,110
3,603	700 Royal Bank of Scotland Ord 25p	11,295	(809)	(2,086)	8,400
22,338	900 Scottish Power Ord.50p	4,859	(1,256)	(500)	3,103
15,206	4,380 Shell Tpt.& Trading Ord.25p	8,698	13,640	(5,738)	16,600
4,361	5,940 Tesco Ord.5p	10,453	4,753	(2,984)	12,222
7,280	2,700 TR European Growth Ord 12.5p	11,502	(7,141)	(1,938)	2,423
7,500	1,150 United Utilities Ord.£1	9,754	(2,474)	(524)	6,756
2,838	7,750 Vodaphone Ord US\$0.10	19,531	(6,950)	(6,265)	6,316
3,960	600 Whitbread Hldgs Ord 25p	3,530	(692)	252	3,090
	800 WPP Group Ord 10p	7,840	(3,880)	(548)	3,412
<u>350,781</u>		<u>362,986</u>	<u>(16,914)</u>	<u>(68,527)</u>	<u>277,545</u>

AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

I have audited the attached accounts of the Sustentation Fund.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Auditor

As described above, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. It is my responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on my audit, on those accounts and to report my opinion to you.

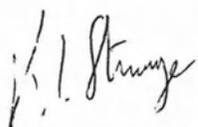
Basis of Opinion

I have conducted my audit according to the Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures made by the Trustees in the accounts. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the Trustees in the preparation of the accounts, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the circumstances of the Sustentation Fund, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

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

Opinion

In my opinion the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Sustentation Fund as at 30th September, 2002 and of the Statement of Financial Activities for the year then ended.



Kenneth Strange, B.Sc., F.C.C.A.
Chartered Certified Accountant and Registered Auditor
10, Ravenscroft Road,
Droitwich, Worcs WR9 7AP
2nd November, 2002

General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches
Essex Hall, 1/6 Essex Street, Strand, LONDON WC2R 3HY Tel: (020) 7240 2384

I wish to apply for Associate Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Post Code _____

I enclose a cheque/have filled out the standing order for

£25.00 £50.00 £75 £.....

I am under 25 years of age and enclose £10.00

The Chalice Appeal exists to raise funds for current denominational programme activities. If you wish to give additionally to any of the funds shown below please specify.

Chalice Appeal	£
Ministerial Students Fund	_____
Youth Officer Provision	_____
Web Wizard Provision	_____
India Fund	_____

Please return this form to: The Finance Assistant, Essex Hall, 1/6 Essex St, Strand, LONDON WC2R 3HY

Signed _____ Date _____



Thank you for your generous support. If you pay basic rate income tax we can reclaim the tax on your donation. Please fill in the Gift Aid Declaration below if you are able and then any charitable donation made to the General Assembly in future will be tax efficient

Name:	Address:
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I want the General Assembly of Unitarian & Free Christian Churches (Charity #250788) to treat:

All donations I have made since 06 April 2002 and / or all donations I make from the date of this declaration ****** until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid Donations (****** delete as appropriate)

Signed:	Date:
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Please notify us if your name or address changes whilst this declaration is still in force. You must pay an amount of income tax and or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that we reclaim on your donations in the tax year. If in the future your circumstances change please notify us and we will suspend tax reclaims on your Gift Aid Declaration.

It would greatly assist our administration if you would complete a standing order mandate for your bank.

Bank Name And Address	Sort Code Account No:	Date
--------------------------	--------------------------	------

Please pay to the current account (# 30375284) of the General Assembly of Unitarian & Free Christian Churches at HSBC, 123 Chancery Lane (Sort 40/02/07) the sum of £ _____

On the _____ Day of _____ 20____ and thereafter make ****** monthly / quarterly / annual payments for a total of _____ instalments and debit my account with each payment made. (****** delete as appropriate)

Customer Name	Address	Signed
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