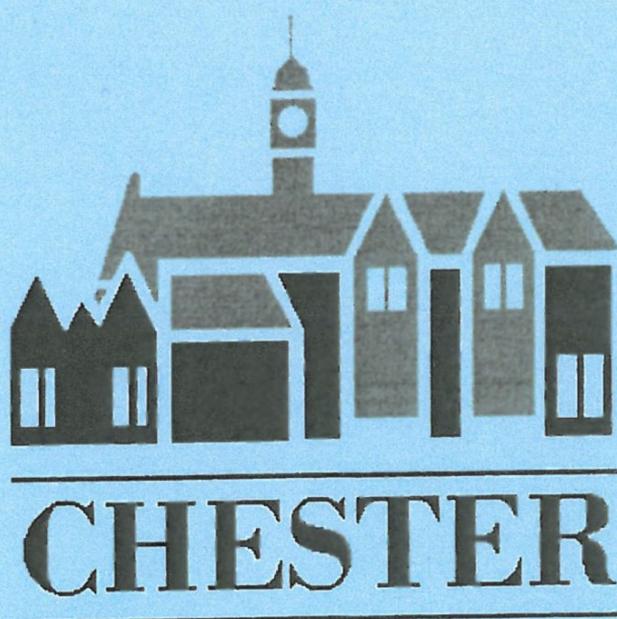


**The General Assembly
of Unitarian and Free
Christian Churches**



Annual Report 2003

The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Registered Charity, No. 250788

The seventy-fifth

Annual Report

Submitted at the Annual Meeting
of the Assembly 2004

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Reverend Austin Fitzpatrick

President of the General Assembly 2003-2004

Owing to the changeover of systems from Committees to Commissions and Panels, the work of the Assembly and its Council this year has been somewhat different. It represents some very hard work by the headquarters staff, Commissions' and Council members. In addition we have endeavoured to make financial savings at a time of stringency caused by smaller returns from our investments. I hope that you enjoy reading the report and if you do have a response to bring to the Annual Meetings, please write it down, as we shall give the Consent Agenda another good try this time.

So, being GA President this year has been a bag of mixed happenings - ministry on a wider base, often in unfamiliar quarters. It has been so good to travel a little more than usual, to renew friendships and make so many new ones. Was it not Marcel Proust who said, "the real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes". I have had to look at so much with new eyes this year that my vision has certainly been broadened and I know others have too. For Sheila and me and my splendid congregation in Southampton, it has been an unforgettable experience.

Austin Fitzpatrick

General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex Street, LONDON, WC2R 3HY
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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 2003-2006 (Appointed April 2003)

Honorary Officers

President:	The Rev Austin Fitzpatrick
Vice-President:	Dawn Buckle
Treasurer:	Michael Tomlin
Deputy Treasurer:	-

Elected Members

East Cheshire Union of U and FC Churches	Robert Fincham
East Midland Unitarians	Elizabeth Barlow
Eastern Union of U and FC Churches	Chris Wilson
London District and SE Provincial Assembly	The Rev Steve Dick
Manchester District Association	The Rev Ann Peart
Merseyside District Missionary Association	David Buckley
Midland Union of U and FC Churches	Gavin Lloyd
North and East Lancashire Unitarian Mission	The Rev Tony McNeile
Northern Unitarian Association	Freda Laverick
Scottish Unitarian Association	Janet Briggs
Sheffield and District Association	Gavin Mason
South East Wales Unitarian Society	Lis Dyson-Jones
Southern Unitarian Association	Anthony M Rees
South Wales Unitarian Association	The Rev Cen Llwyd
Western Union of U and FC Churches	Bernard Omar
Yorkshire Unitarian Union	Kate Taylor
British League of U and LC Women	Julianne Morgan
Ministerial Fellowship	The Rev Celia Midgley
National Unitarian Fellowship	The Rev Ashley Hills
Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland	The Rt Rev Norman Hutton
Unitarian Youth	Richard Whitham

Co-opted Member: Jennifer Atkinson

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 Kieilty, 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, BA, MA
2000-01 Mrs Judith Crompton, JP
2001-02 Rev John Midgley, BA, BD, MA, MEd
2002-03 Alan Ruston, BSc
2003-04 Rev Austin Fitzpatrick

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

Affiliated Societies and GA & Essex Hall Staff Members

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

GA & Essex Hall Staff

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

Peter Bixby
Rev John Clifford (until May 2003)
John Crosskey
Neil MacPherson (until October 2003)
Andrew Mason
Elizabeth Obe
Matthew Smith
Jeffrey Teagle
Ingrid Tavkar
Sarah Tinker (until September 2003)

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

Isabella Clarke (Caretaker)
Letty Bent (Cleaner, until March 2003)
Hyacinth Durrant (Cleaner, from April 2003)

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.

The seventy-fifth Annual Meetings of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches began on Sunday 13 April 2003 and ended on Wednesday 16 April 2003 and were held at the Riccarton Campus, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh.

The Opening Business Session began with the parade of banners, a welcome from the General Assembly President, Alan Ruston. Devotions were conducted by the Rev Eric Breeze.

Councillor Marion Moreton, Depute Provost of the City of Edinburgh, brought the greetings of the City of Edinburgh. Interfaith greetings were brought by Mrs Ravinder Kaur Nijjar, Chairperson of the Scottish Interfaith Council.

Overseas representatives were recognised and welcomed. Those attending for all or part of the proceedings were Mary Bennett (Canadian Unitarian Council), the Rev Harrison Kingsley (Unitarian Church of Madras), Carleywell Lyngdoh (Indian Council of Unitarian Churches), the Rev William Sinkford (Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations), and the Rev Dr Arpad Szabo (Unitarian Church of Transylvania). Other international visitors were asked to stand and be recognised.

Standing Orders for the Conduct of the Annual Business Meetings were adopted and Christine Hayhurst, Roderick Ramage and Dr David Wykes were confirmed as the members of the Steering Committee. Jane Aaronson delivered the keynote address on the theme "Unitarian address accessibility issues".

At the second business session the Annual Report was presented by the General Secretary. The Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2002 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 session by a variety of appropriate spokespersons. The Amy Howarth Rosebowl was awarded to the Congregation of York in recognition of their growth of quota-paying membership in 2002/2003.

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were carried:

1) From the General Assembly Council

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches is pleased to receive the application for membership as a Provisional

Fellowship from *The Unitarian Fellowship of Durham* and welcomes it onto the General Assembly's Roll of Congregations.

2) From Thirteen Full Members

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches instructs GA Council to appoint a task force to develop proposals to change the system of governance to have a nationally elected leadership, and to present them at the 2004 General Assembly.

3) From the East Midland Unitarians

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, whilst welcoming the generous grant from a charitable trust to continue a fortnightly edition of *The Inquirer* until August 2004, urges the *Inquirer* Board to seek ways to continue this commitment which we consider vital to the movement.

4) From the Foy Society

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, mindful of the importance of representative Annual Meetings to the vitality of our movement, instructs the General Assembly Council to set criteria for future Annual Meetings which will ensure that venues and pricing structures are selected which offer low cost options with a view to maximising attendance.

5) From the Richmond and Putney Unitarian Church

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, mindful of the danger to world peace from the stockpiling of weapons brokered through the international arms trade; noting the legislation passed by the British Government during the year 2002 with a view to government control of intended arms exports on the part of agents operating within British jurisdiction and regretting its incomplete range:

Calls on all members to support efforts by Oxfam, Amnesty International, the International Action Network on Small Arms and others to secure a new International Arms Trade Treaty to stop the flow of arms to potentially abusive regimes;

Welcomes the recent international conference convened by the British Government on arms control;

Urges Her Majesty's Government to strengthen its legislation and its implementation;

And furthermore urges it, as representing the world's second largest arms-exporting country, to press for new international controls over arms sales.

6) From the Midland Union

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, recognising the uncertainty caused by the fundamental changes in Charity Law now envisaged by the Government, the threat to the continued existence of smaller congregations due to their aging memberships and the reduced financial and staffing capacity of Essex Hall to cope with tasks which could be undertaken without charge by the Charity Commission:

Urges every Congregation which has not already done so to take immediate steps to ensure that:

1. Its bookkeeping and Annual Report & Accounts fully comply with statutory requirements.
2. Its Constitution complies with best modern practice in defining the policies and procedures required to administer its affairs and in particular that this includes a Winding Up Clause guiding future trustees about the disposal of its assets in a manner designed to continue the work of the Unitarian Movement.

7) From Twelve Full Members

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches affirms the importance of Ministry in the Unitarian Movement and the desirability of this being reflected in its structures. Accordingly, it requests the Council to ensure that the work of the Ministry Committee is continued in a unified way, either as a Ministry Commission, or, failing this, incorporated into one other Commission.

8) From Sixteen Full Members

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, mindful of the profound religious sensibilities aroused by the present war in Iraq, and conscious of the necessity of not exacerbating the situation further, expresses its deep concern at reports that some so-called "fundamentalist" and "evangelical" Christian organisations are planning to enter Iraq in the aftermath of war for the purposes of religious proselytization, and calls upon Her Majesty's Government and the Government of the United States to ensure:

1. that the religious integrity of Iraq be fully respected by any post-war administration set up under the auspices of the United States and the United Kingdom.

2. that the indigenous faith communities in Iraq, including both Muslim and Christian, be left free to practise their faith freely and without interference.

3. that any individuals or organisations intending to enter Iraq in the aftermath of war for the purposes of undertaking religious proselytization be prevented from doing so.

4. that humanitarian aid programmes not be used for the purposes of religious proselytization.

5. that the post-war administration place the utmost importance on the fostering of positive and constructive relationships with the indigenous faith communities of Iraq.

Furthermore, as Unitarians and Free Christians we dissociate ourselves unreservedly from any attempt to interpret the war in Iraq in terms of "Christian triumphalism" or the "fulfilment of biblical prophecy", believing such interpretation to be erroneous, irresponsible and dangerous.

9) From The Unitarian Peace Fellowship

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches expresses its sorrow and deep regret at the thousands of deaths and injuries, civilian and military, suffered by victims of war in Iraq; urges Her Majesty's Government to devote, as a matter of extreme urgency, massive resources to the emergency relief and succour of the Iraqi people; and calls upon our congregations, as a practical gesture of our own humanitarian concern, to respond generously to the special appeal administered by the Unitarian Peace Fellowship for the life saving work in Iraq of Save the Children.



Democratic practice is important among us

PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

- 1) That **Reverend Austin C Fitzpatrick** be appointed President of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches for the year 2003-2004.
- 2) That this seventy-fifth General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches expresses its gratitude for the services provided by **Alan Ruston** as President during the year 2002-2003.
- 3) That **Dawn Buckle** be appointed as Vice-President for the year 2003-2004.
- 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 2003-2004.
- 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 Jane Barton** for conducting the Anniversary Service, and to the **Reverend John C Clifford** for preaching the Assembly Sermon.
- 10) That the thanks of the Assembly be given to **Kerr Jamieson**, 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 **Scottish Unitarian Association**, 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 2003-2004 as recommended by the General Assembly's Stipend Review Committee.



The Banner Parade at the Annual Meetings

Report of Council

1. Meetings

Council met four times during the year. Three meetings were of which were at Unitarian Headquarters, Essex Hall. The other was held immediately following the Annual Meetings at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh to enable timely decisions to be made by the newly appointed Council members.

2. President

The Rev Austin Fitzpatrick became President at the Annual Meetings at the Heriot-Watt University on 16 April 2003.

3. Nominations

The Council is pleased to nominate Dawn Buckle as President for 2004/2005, the Rev Brian Cockroft as Vice-President and Michael Tomlin as Honorary Treasurer. The post of Deputy Honorary Treasurer will continue to remain vacant.

4. GA Resolutions

The Council, its departmental committees and officers have dealt appropriately with the resolutions passed at the GA Annual Meetings. Where appropriate, letters were sent to government bodies and others. Of particular note were the actions necessary to create the **Task Force**. Negotiations for its funding were carried out with the Bowland Charitable Trust and a working party was created to recommend the Task Force membership to Council. This was finalised at the July meeting. Another motion demanding Council attention concerned the review of the Annual Meetings. This was also the subject of a working party which reported to Council. Council heeded to the motion by twelve members and agreed to modify the Commission structure to include a fifth Commission for Ministry.

5. GA Theme

The two-year theme "Removing Barriers: Unitarians address disability issues" was adopted at the 2003 GA Annual Meetings.

6. Triennial Review Working Party (TRWP) and the creation of the Commissions and Panels

Following the revelation of the extent of the General Assembly's reduced finances, the TRWP was established at the Annual

Meetings 2002 and met three times between May and September 2002. It produced a report and recommendations for the November 2002 Council meeting. The recommendations were accepted in principle at that meeting but Council required more information before deciding the final details. The General Secretary was commissioned to produce a more detailed report. The February 2003 Council agreed to one aspect of the report, the establishment of the Administration Commission, but felt that it needed the goodwill of the Annual Meetings to agree the remaining proposals. A section of the business meetings was devoted to this at Edinburgh and, as noted under the Resolutions paragraph, an extra Commission, for Ministry, was requested. The April 2003 Council meeting appointed the members for the Administration Commission. The July 2003 Council appointed the membership for the remaining Commissions and Panels by secret ballot. This was an important departure from previous practice as it did not involve the services of a triennial selection panel. The Commissions will be transparent to Council because their minutes will be circulated to Council members. Details of the new structure appear elsewhere in this report.

7. Unitarian Future Vision

A fundamental aspect of the revised structure will be the role of Commissions in future planning. Each Commission will commence with the development of a mission statement and future objectives. The Commissions will perform a review of the Panels and identify areas where change is necessary. The Administration Commission will have a particular responsibility to consider the overall strategy of the General Assembly. Council will remain the ultimate authority to approve the policies arising out of this process.

8. 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.



Outgoing President, Alan Ruston

The General Secretary, Jeff Teagle, addresses the Annual Meetings



The Honorary Treasurer, Mike Tomlin, presents the GA's Annual Accounts



Committee Reports

BUILDINGS ADVISORY PANEL

Members: The Rev David Ayton, Graham Hague, Judy Hague, the Rev Eirion Phillips, Alison Short (from mid-2002), Jeff Teagle and Tony Waldron. (The membership of the Panel was not resolved in July 2003 and was referred to Council for decision in February 2004).

Although the Panel did not meet during the year, its members were available for advice and consultation. In particular, Graham and Judy Hague were on hand at the Annual Meetings with information on disabled access.

The downsizing of the GA Headquarters staff establishment has prevented the General Secretary from being actively involved. The Panel will be within the functional area of the Denominational Support Commission.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Acting Chair: Dorothy Hewerdine

Secretary: Margaret Robinson

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

The Unitarian Development Committee (UDC) held its final meeting in October 2003 and reviewed its current and most recent projects, namely: Small Congregations Consultancy (SCC); Fellowships Initiative Group (FIG); 21-45 age group; Engagement Group Support (EGS) and DSTP (Development Skills Training Programme). The UDC feel these projects have added value to the denomination and should, therefore, be continued.

The SCC has done valuable work in providing support for eight congregations. A questionnaire was sent to all these congregations, asking them to assess the effect of their three consultancy visits. The Congregational Consultancy Panel under the Denominational Support Commission (DSC) will be continuing this work. The DSTP network can provide facilitators for ongoing support of congregations.

FIG has produced three manuals to support the setting up of new Fellowships. Fellowships are appearing as frequently as congregations are

closing. The UDC would like to see an interactive web-site set up to support Fellowships, who are often isolated by distance from congregations. The UDC would also like FIG to continue as a Panel (Fellowships Initiative Panel?) under the DSC.

21-45 age group. The UDC have been investigating what this age group want from the denomination. We would like this work to be continued by the DSC, in linking together all those groups currently involved with this age group. It is felt that collaboration between these groups (FOY, 18+, FIG, National Unitarian Fellowship, post YUC network and Associate Members) could lead to an active network of 21-45 year olds.

Six UDC members have been actively involved in EGS. Successful Engagement Group workshops took place at Hucklow Summer School in August 2003. Another Engagement Seminar for Engagement Group Facilitators is planned for June 2004. We hope that EGS can continue as a Panel (Engagement Support Panel?) under the DSC. Any training will need to be in collaboration between the DSC and the Education and Training Commission (ETC).

The UDC have run a number of successful DSTPs and would like see future DSTP training run every three years. Funds will have to be raised and the programme marketed internally and perhaps externally at some stage. UDC believe that DSTP should be a required element of Ministerial training.

There are many people in the denomination with specialist skills and experience in many areas who are willing to offer advice and support. The UDC recommend that the DSC, ETC and Outreach and Communications Commission (OCC) work together to create and maintain a skills database for the denomination.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Until April 2003)

Chair: Alan Ruston.

Secretary: Jeffrey Teagle

Members: The Rev Steve Dick the Rev Austin Fitzpatrick, and Michael Tomlin. (All membership ceased with the formation of the Administration Commission in April 2003)

1. Meetings

The Executive Committee met twice during the year, firstly in October 2002 and then in January 2003. The Committee ceased to exist after the GA Annual Meetings in April 2003 because its role was taken over by the Administration Commission. Until that date the Committee continued to function by email networking or correspondence in accordance with its established procedures.

2. The Work of the Executive Committee

The Committee heard routine reports from the President, Vice-President, Honorary Treasurer and General Secretary. For economy reasons and because of the proposed ending of its existence, the Committee continued to operate one person below establishment. The Committee continued to monitor the progress and workings of Unitarian Headquarters in regular report and via the summaries of the annual staff job review discussions. This included the initiation of the staff downsizing process. Elizabeth Obe commenced legal studies in October 2002 and negotiated part-time working arrangements resulting in an average of two days per week. The Rev John Clifford returned to ministry, leaving the GA in May 2003. Sarah Tinker left at the end of September 2003 to commence ministry studies. Neither were replaced. Neil MacPherson was absent through illness for several periods during the year.

3. Special Attention

Matters receiving special attention were:

The Triennial Review Working Party – This was a dominant concern. The EC members were involved firstly in terms of the presentation of the recommendations to Council, then in terms of the development of the detail for the further report and finally in terms of its presentation to the Annual Meetings in Edinburgh.

Unitarian Future Vision – Bearing in mind the mandate granted by the western Union's strategic planning resolution, passed at the 2002 Annual Meetings, EC members made sure that Unitarian Future Vision was included as a fundamental part of the proposed Commission structure.

Essex Hall – The decision for the Unitarian Headquarters to migrate from the first floor to the ground floor and basement was a matter for planning and monitor.

Excepted status – The Home Office deliberations were monitored, particularly via

our representation on the Churches Main Committee.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

(Until April 2003)

Chair: Sir Peter Soulsby

Secretary: Rev John Clifford

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

Meetings:

The Committee met in November 2002 and then for the last time in January 2003. Thereafter its role was amalgamated into the Administration Commission. The members had been appraised of the Triennial Review report recommendations and were broadly in favour.

Financial:

The financial reports for the year ended 30 September 2002 were reviewed and passed to Council with a recommendation to approve. It was noted that a large donation had enabled a modest surplus instead of the budgeted deficit. The results of the first quarter were examined and a draft forecast budget for the year 2003-2004 was agreed for presentation to Council in February 2003. The Chalice Appeal was discussed and a reception was planned for Associate Members at the GA Annual Meetings 2003. The take-up of the Millennium grant for financial advice to church treasurers and committees had been minimal and this was of concern. The stipend calculation service was growing in popularity.

Investments review

The Honorary Treasurer reported on the proposals from Newton Investment Managers to make a radical alteration to our investment portfolio. This had been discussed within the Unitarian Joint Investment Panel in January 2003. This involved the sale of all of our current directly held equity shares and then reinvesting the proceeds in a) approximately six collective funds, specialising in Charity investments and b) moderately increasing the proportion of our investment in fixed income investments. This was felt to be a reasonable course.

Staff

Elizabeth Obe became a law degree student in October 2002, but she had been retained as a part-time and temporary employee. The Rev John Clifford advised of his decision to retire from his post as Deputy General Secretary from the end of May 2003. Sarah Tinker had been accepted for ministry training and would leave in September 2003. Consideration was given to the renewal of two officers' employment contracts, due for expiry on September and October 2003. It was agreed that this would be a matter for the new Administration Commission because a rationalised staff plan would be necessary to achieve the financial constraints of the 2003-2004 budget.

Closing Thanks:

Finally, the members were thanked for their involvement and contributions to the work of the Committee during a very difficult three years. Special thanks were given to the Rev John Clifford for his secretarial work.

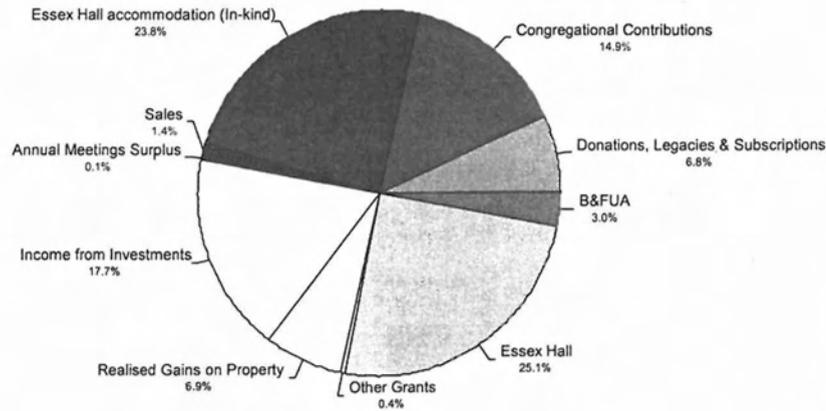


UUA President, Bill Sinkford, delivers the Essex Hall Lecture

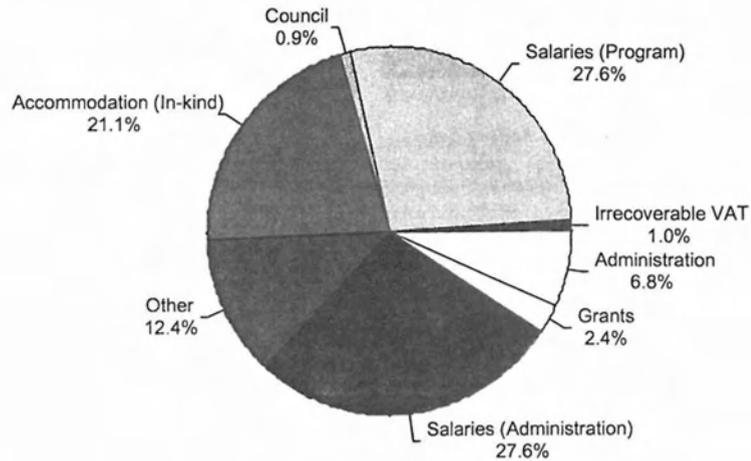
The graphs below illustrate the break-down of sources of income and major items of expenditure and can be compared to the Unrestricted Funds Note 8 in the General Assembly accounts. It is hoped that this form of presentation will make the summary accounts clearer.

Income and Expenditure of Unrestricted Funds for the year ended 30 September 2003

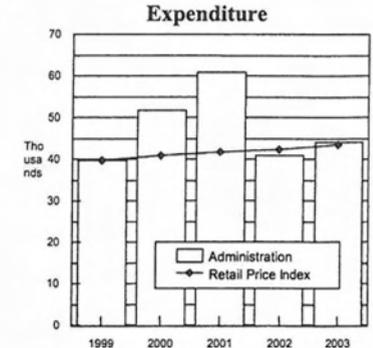
Where our income came from
(100%=£399,043)



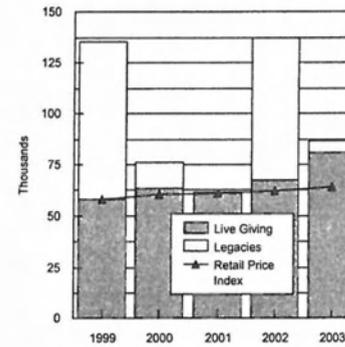
How we spent it
(100%=£449,422)



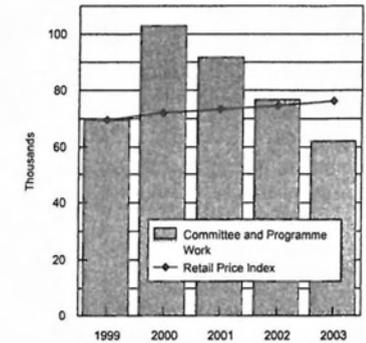
General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches Finance and Administration 5 Year Trends



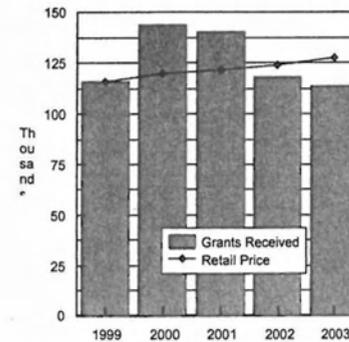
Investments and Interest



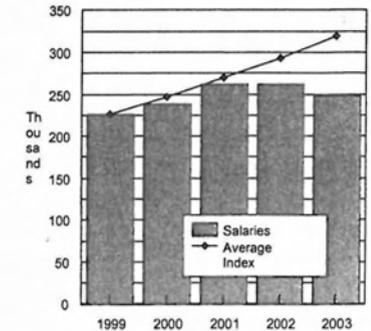
Administration Costs



Live Giving



Committee and Programme Work



Grants Received

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

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.

The General Assembly of Unitarian And Free Christian Churches

Budget 2003/04 (Unrestricted Funds only)

	Notes	2002/03 Budget	2002/03 Actual	2003/04 Budget
Income				
Legacies		—	5,550	—
Subscriptions		16,000	17,475	16,000
Congregational Contributions	1	56,000	59,261	80,000
Special Collections		5,000	3,963	5,000
Dividends		56,000	69,336	60,000
B&FUA		35,000	12,053	18,000
Essex Hall		100,000	100,000	70,000
Essex Hall (In kind)		95,000	95,000	50,000
Sundry Donations		—	146	—
Memorial Hall Trustees		1,750	1,500	1,500
Annual Meetings		—	422	—
Lawrence House Grant	2	600	—	450
Rent		800	1,298	800
Hymns for Living		1,500	365	—
Payroll Calculation Service		1,000	1,243	1,200
Sales	3	4,800	3,982	4,000
Realised Gains on Property		—	27,449	—
Total Income		373,450	399,043	306,950
Expenditure				
Programme Activity (See Over)		201,622	186,102	160,198
Administration Costs (See Over)		278,828	263,320	202,448
Total Expenditure		480,450	449,422	362,646
Net Incoming Resources/ (Resources Expended)				
		(107,000)	(50,379)	(55,696)

Notes:

1. Based on 4000 members at £20.
2. Lawrence House Fund contributed £550 directly to the Youth programme that is included in the Programme activity overleaf.
3. Sales include the Information Office, Publications Panel and Worship Panel.
4. Prior year comparisons are not feasible for the Commissions' expenditure because this is the first year of the reorganised structure.

The General Assembly of Unitarian And Free Christian Churches

Budget 2003/04 (Unrestricted Funds only) Continued

	2002/03 Budget	2002/03 Actual	2003/04 Budget
GA Council			2,400
Administration Commission			
Commission Expenses			2,150
Grants Payable			4,200
			6,350
Education and Training Commission			
Commission Expenses			1,000
Educational Programmes			2,500
Panels			—
			3,500
Denominational Services Commission			
Commission Expenses			1,000
Programmes			1,500
Worship Panel			500
Youth Panel			5,000
Buildings Advisory Panel			200
Welsh Committee			2,500
			10,700
Ministry Commission			
Commission Expenses			1,000
Programmes			1,800
ISC			1,800
			4,600
Outreach and Communications Commission			
Commission Expenses			1,000
Programmes			9,500
Ecumenical Panel			500
Penal Affairs Panel			500
Publications Panel			500
Social Responsibility Panel			3,000
			15,000
Commission Sub-Total	52,594	43,172	42,550
Non Commission Specific Programme Expenditure			
Apportionment of General Expenses	7,500	7,500	7,500
Future Vision	1,500	166	2,000
Inquirer Grant	5,000	11,000	5,000
Salaries to Programme Work	135,028	124,264	103,148
	149,028	142,930	117,648
TOTAL PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE	201,622	186,102	160,198
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION			
Salaries, Pensions, etc.	135,028	133,264	103,148
Accommodation (In kind)	95,000	95,000	50,000
Officers Travel & Expenses	5,000	2,556	5,000
Office Expenses	17,500	13,148	17,500
Staff Training	1,000	1,653	1,000
Audit	7,500	4,100	8,000
Investment Management Fees	8,000	5,403	7,500
Legal Fees	—	—	500
Insurances	1,000	2,926	1,000
Minister's House Repairs	800	875	800
Irrecoverable VAT	8,000	4,395	8,000
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENDITURE	278,828	263,320	202,448

Direct prior year comparisons are not available
See Note 4.

Report on the expenses of holding the 2003 Annual Meetings

<u>INCOME</u>		
Accommodation and Meals		
Participants	49,337	
GA staff not on conference fee	<u>1,168</u>	
		50,504
Conference Fees		12,902
For IARF SSN (Donate-One-Meal)		225
Lawrence House (general grant)		275
Grant (Scottish Unitarian Association)		3,000
RE HFairey Grants for Young Participants		1,220
Sundry Donations		661
TOTAL INCOME		<u>68,787</u>
 <u>EXPENDITURE</u> 		
Accommodation and Meals		
Participants	51,285	
Staff, Guests, Workers (overleaf)	<u>8,049</u>	
		59,334
To IARF SSN		225
From Conference fee sheet (overleaf)		
Travel	1,222	
Printing	3,117	
Fees	2,797	
Postage	1,085	
Sundry	<u>586</u>	
		8,806
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>68,365</u>
SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		<u>422</u>

Report on the expenses of holding the 2003 Annual Meetings

ACCOMODATION		
Guests	1,252	
Students	1,052	
Zette Editor	239	
Steering Committee	305	
Retired Ministers	1,940	
Staff (not dept)	1,085	
Youth Leaders	465	
President and Spouse	258	
Vice-President and Spouse	258	
Meals for above attendees	<u>1,195</u>	
		8,049
TRAVEL		
Students	246	
Retired Ministers	80	
Staff (not dept)	325	
Van Diesel	184	
President and Spouse	110	
Vice-President and Spouse	<u>278</u>	
		1,222
PRINTING		
Handbook	185	
Card / Badges	202	
Stationery	150	
Photocopying / Duplicating	1,780	
Inquirer	<u>800</u>	
		3,117
FEES		
Essex Hall Lecture	161	
Organist	50	
Audio Visual	573	
Room Hire	1,080	
Youth Honoraria + Expenses	344	
Floral	44	
Van Hire	250	
City Bus Hire	1,050	
Income from Reg Fees	<u>(755)</u>	
		2,797
POSTAGE		
		1,085
SUNDRY		
Pre-AGM Expenses	328	
Children's Bookings	160	
Crèche	78	
Contingency	<u>20</u>	
		586
TOTAL		<u>16,855</u>

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Chair: David Arthur

Secretary: Rev John Clifford

Members: Meryl Edgley, Martin Gienke, Rev John Keggen, and Rev Andrew Parker. The Honorary Treasurer and the General Secretary also attended this Committee.

Meetings:

The Committee met in November 2002 and then for the last time in January 2003. Thereafter its role was amalgamated into the Administration Commission. The members had been appraised of the Triennial Review report recommendations and were broadly in favour.

GA Annual Meetings 2003:

The Meetings were held at the Riccarton Campus of the Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh from 13-16 April 2003. The opening devotions were conducted by the Rev Eric Breeze from Aberdeen Unitarian Church. The Anniversary Service was held at St Mark's Unitarian Church, Edinburgh and was conducted by the Rev Jane Barton and the address was delivered by the Rev John Clifford. Jane Aaronson delivered the keynote address on the theme "Unitarians address accessibility issues". The UUA President, the Rev William Sinkford, delivered the Essex Hall Lecture.

The cost of the Heriot-Watt site was significantly higher than originally anticipated and this caused great anxiety to the organisers and resulted in a lower than average attendance. This resulted in a resolution, initiated by the Foy Society, calling for lower cost venues in the future.

GA Membership:

The Committee dealt with the application of Durham Fellowship to be accepted as a provisional fellowship member of the General Assembly.

Governance:

Close attention was paid to the Home Office consultation document "Private Action, Public Benefit". The Rev John Clifford actively participated in consultation meetings at the Churches Main Committee. The emergence of the Renaissance Group was noted and the constitutional implications of its proposals were noted. It was agreed that the constitutional reforms being worked on by the Rev Steve Dick and Margaret Hamer should not be put to the 2003 Annual Meetings because of the dual impact of

the Triennial Review report and the proposals from the Renaissance Group. The consent agenda concept was discussed.

International Matters:

Arrangements were made for our representation at the ICUU meetings in Prague from 28 May – 2 June 2003. The Rev Clifford Reed completed eight years of distinguished service on the ICUU Executive Committee and Christine Hayhurst was elected to this body. The General Secretary also attended.

The IARF Congress of 2002 had ended in some controversy over proposed policy reforms and the Committee heard reports of the subsequent efforts to overcome these problems. IARF Council was served by two GA members, the Rev David Steers and the Rev Johanna Boeke, but neither as direct representatives of the General Assembly.

The Committee maintained all traditional links with our overseas colleagues. The GA President led a party to Transylvania and the General Secretary also visited.

General:

Ecumenical and Inter Faith panel reports were received and noted.

Last Meeting:

The Committee held its last meeting in October 2002. The Triennial Review proposals had been received by its members and they expressed approval of the amalgamation into the Administration Commission. All present were thanked for their past contributions to the Committee.

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 New Hymn Book Working Group pays tribute to Sydney Knight (1923-2004) hymn writer and editor of two Unitarian hymns books *Songs for Living* (1972) and *Hymns for Living* (1985).
2. Having already updated our music software from Sibelius One to Sibelius Two, the group made the decision not to update to the newly issued Sibelius Three.

3. During the year we recruited John Clifford to provide us with extra IT know-how. We have also taken on three associates - Michael Dadson, Myrna Michell and Win Simister to help us with the keying in of music.
4. We are busy scanning in the words of all hymn texts in the hymns books in current use in British Unitarian churches. We also have on-file the texts of over two hundred hymns which are not in any of our current hymn books. We were able to secure zip disk files of the American Unitarian Universalist hymn book *Singing the Living Tradition* and have made ourselves known to the Unitarian Universalist Association's recently appointed new task force charged with producing a supplement to *Singing the Living Tradition*. At last year's Unitarian General Assembly meetings in Edinburgh we held a hymn singing workshop at which we introduced a selection of new hymns. Our trial CD-Rom of about 50 hymns - texts, pdf music files and midi files - is due out this spring.

INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Chair: Wilna Roberts

Secretary: Matthew Smith

Assistant: Neil Macpherson

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

1. Grants

The following publicity grants – all towards the cost of notice boards - were made during the year: Taunton £350; Lewisham £300; West Kirby £300; Richmond £200; Newcastle (Staffs) £100.

2. Publications/resources

- a) A new set of wayside pulpit posters went on sale for use on church notice boards.
- b) *The Principles That Unite Us*, an introductory leaflet about the GA Object, was published.
- c) The Information Officer worked with the Social Responsibility Officer to produce further issues of *Counterpoint*, our outreach newspaper.
- d) The following leaflets were reprinted: *Unitarian Views of Human Nature* and *Unitarian Wedding Ceremonies – A Personalised Approach*.

3. Advertising and response to enquiries

Advertisements were placed in publications such as *Positive News*, a newspaper on green issues, and *Sesame*, the Open University newspaper. Close to 270 information packs were sent out from the Information Office during the year, mostly in response to these advertisements. The Department also dealt with many other enquiries of a more specific nature, including people seeking to know the location of their nearest church plus requests for help in finding local Unitarian celebrants for personalised wedding, funeral or child naming ceremonies.

4. World Wide Web

The number of congregations with pages in the GA web scheme continued to increase thanks to our team of volunteers. Meanwhile, the GA website was attracting over 17,000 page requests per month.

5. Email Communications

The GA email announcements list was launched in February and is proving a useful and swift means of disseminating news about the General Assembly to those who have opted into the service.

6. Media

The BBC accepted the Information Officer's proposal to feature the Rev Bob Wightman on the *Pause for Thought* strand of Terry Wogan's show on Radio Two. Dennis Crompton had an article on Unitarianism published in *The Guardian's* Face to Faith column. A sample press release in the wake of the Canon Jeffrey John affair, presenting the GA stance over gay rights, was circulated by the Department via the UCCN email list. It was picked up by local Unitarians leading to a positive article in the Kendal newspaper, followed by published letters of support.

7. GA Annual Meetings

John Hewardine was GA Photographer at Sheffield, working alongside Matthew Smith, Press Officer. The Rev Daphne Roberts was in charge of the GA Bookstall, assisted by the Rev Carol Burrows and Peter Bixby.

8. Unitarian Communications Co-ordinators Network

The Information Officer helped to run a successful UCCN weekend conference at Hucklow in November 2002. UCCN is a network for church publicity officers and other interested persons.

9. 2002 Congregational Survey

The number of congregations and fellowship responding to the survey was 134 out of a possible total of 178 – a response rate of 75%. The total

number of GA quota members recorded for the congregations which responded was 3,689. This gives an average quota size per congregation of 27.53. Applying this average size across all congregations and fellowships gives a national quota membership of 4,900 persons. The total number of members recorded for the 134 congregations based on their own definitions of "full membership" was 4,012. The gives an average congregation size, based on local definitions of membership, of 29.94 persons. Applying this average across all congregations and fellowships gives a national figure for "full membership" of 5,329.

10. Structural change

The Information Committee held its final meeting in January 2003 at Essex Hall. Its responsibilities were taken up by the new Outreach and Communication Commission which met for the first time in September 2004.

MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Chair: The Rev J Eric Jones

Secretary: Jeffrey Teagle

Members: The Rev John Allerton, the Rev Peter Hewis, Julianne Morgan, the Rev Ann Peart (from January 2002) Margaret Phelan, and Dr David Wykes. GA Honorary Officers also attended. (All members ceased duties in July 2003 when the Ministry Commission was formed.)

1. Meetings

The Committee met twice, in October 2002 and January 2003. 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 Donald Phillips was admitted to the Roll in July 2003.

3. Deaths

The Rev Sydney Knight died in January 2004. A former GA President, he will be remembered with great respect and affection.

4. Retirements

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 completed her third year and undertook student pastorates in the Cotswold Group and with the Enfield and Barnet Fellowship pending the completion of an externally assessed qualification. Donald Phillips completed his studies and was accepted on the GA Roll. Christopher Wilson completed his studies at Oxford in 2003 and continued to complete his degree at Westminster College, Cambridge in the Autumn, some eighteen months in advance of his original schedule. Simon Ramsay (third year) and Linda Phillips (second year) continued their studies. Jane Barraclough commenced her ministry training in September 2003. Cathal Courtney, although registered with UCM, attended at Oxford, by arrangement. The Rev Peter Hewis continued his supervision of the studies of two probationary ministers.

Unitarian College Manchester: Tom McCready, Jean McNeile and Helen Mills, continued into the second year of their studies. Each has undertaken student pastorates as an integral part of their courses. They were joined by Sarah Tinker in the Autumn of 2003. As mentioned above, Cathal Courtney also attended Oxford.

Wales

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

6. Ministerial Fellowship

Although no goodwill meetings were convened, positive communications were maintained with the Fellowship.

7. Forum for the Co-ordination of Training in Ministry

The eighth meeting took place in May 2003. By the time of this meeting the decisions had been made to form the Ministry Commission. This implied *that the role of the Forum would be reviewed by that body*

8. Review and Support Panel

The Panel continued its role as defined in section 5 of Guidelines III "A Code of Practice for Congregations and their Leaders".

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 (until April 2003), Rev Gerald Whitaker (until

April 2003), Neville Kenyon, Richard Kirkwood, Frank Rothwell (from April 2003), Dorothy Hewerdine (from April 2003).

GA Representative: Freda Laverick.

Co-opted Members: Frank Rothwell (until April 2003), Richard Crompton (until April 2003).

GA Treasurer: (ex officio) Mike Tomlin.

Minutes Secretary: Marion Baker (non-voting).

Hon Solicitor: Andrew Cooper (non-voting).

Financial Review

The net surplus for the year is £2,786 compared with a budgeted loss of £2,659. Although the trading account shows a deficit of £8,290 donations of £10,858 (including £5,752 from Friends of Hucklow and £2,611 from Open Day) has resulted in a positive outcome for the year. The budget forecasts a surplus for the financial year ending 30th September 2003 of £2,800.

We remain committed to maintaining and improving the fabric of the building and during the year £13,500 has been spent on painting, repairs and improvements. Capital expenditure has also been a major element this year amounting to over £9,000. Items renewed include the central heating boiler, washing machine, cooker, freezer, fridge, photo-copier and fire alarm control panel. Also additional play equipment has been erected and the garden areas to rear of Barleycrofts have been fenced.

Staff wages were increased by 20% in August 2002 to bring them back into line with the going rate for the area. We have successfully managed to absorb this significant increase to our operating costs. Our manager, Liz Shaw, has worked hard to improve income and to tackle the problem of what were unprofitable weekends when one small group had sole use of the building.

Altogether it has been a very busy and expensive year but we have emerged in a strong position to face the challenges of the year ahead despite the disappointment of less Unitarians using the Centre.

Development of the Centre

A feasibility study has been undertaken to consider 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 now reached a stage where we have a clear view with regard to all aspects of the proposed development. An architect has been appointed to obtain planning

approval and to produce detailed drawings for tendering purposes.

In addition to this proposed major development the Management Committee has an on-going programme of improving the Centre. In the near future we hope to replace the remaining single glazed windows with double glazed units. Unfortunately obtaining planning approval has not been straightforward but negotiations are continuing.

Archives

The remaining archives which were stored at the Centre have now been deposited at the Records Office in Matlock. The other known body of archive material is currently held by Geoffrey Head who in the process of writing a history of the Centre. We are always pleased to receive any archive material relating to Nightingale House, Barleycrofts or the Children's Home.

Committee member Freda Laverick has embarked on a project of interviewing those with memories of the 'Homes' in days long past. It is important that we do not lose this oral history. If you have any memories of staying at Hucklow that you would like to share then Freda would be pleased to hear from you.

Unitarian Concessions

All Unitarians staying at the Centre benefit by a discounted rate. Furthermore we give additional support to Unitarian youth activities based at Hucklow. The self-catering accommodation is still charged at only £5 per person per night (winter rate £4). The Centre also offers the 'Send a Child to Hucklow' charity a special rate for their holidays.

www.great-hucklow.org.uk

The web site has received many favourable comments and is proving a useful tool in helping to promote the Centre.

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 £2,611.

The Open Day in 2004 will be Saturday 5th June.

Income from Open Day, 'Friends of Hucklow' and other donations remain essential to our financial well-being. 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 (to September 2003), Kate Taylor.

1. The Panel met twice during the year. As a way of extending the reach of its work it maintains contact with individuals within the denomination with an interest in, and experience of, some aspect of criminal justice or penal affairs.
2. At the Annual Meetings in 2003 Jean Couper and Tom Murray, respectively Chair of the Scottish Legal Aid Board and Director of Legal Services and Applications, spoke at the Panel's slot about developments in the Scottish Legal Aid system.
3. An article entitled "What's wrong with Legal Aid?", written by Bruce Chilton appeared in The Inquirer of 22.3.03. In response to a news item Kate Taylor had a letter published in The Times of 27.9.03, writing as a member of the Penal Affairs Panel. In July 2003 Jane Howarth attended a Day Conference addressed by the Prime Minister, Attorney General and Home Secretary on Community Justice.
4. The Panel continues to play an active role in the Churches' Criminal Justice Forum. It was represented at the launch of People, Punishment and Prisons, a report on vulnerable groups of prisoners to which it had contributed. It contributed comments to CCJF's response to the Government's White Paper Justice For All. The Panel has continued to take the lead role in arranging

interfaith meetings on behalf of CCJF, and has worked with members of six faiths to try to develop an Interfaith Criminal Justice Forum.

The Panel is now part of the Outreach and Communications Commission.

PUBLICATIONS PANEL

Convenor: Kate Taylor

Members: George Chryssides, Judy Hague (until July 2003), Neville Kenyon (from July 2003), Kay Millard, Catherine Robinson, Matthew Smith (ex officio).

The Panel met three times during 2002-3.

During the year we published Unitarian Perspectives on Contemporary Social Issues, edited, like the previous Perspectives volume, by George Chryssides, and Spirit of Time and Place, a collection of prayer-thoughts, praise poems and words of worship by Cliff Reed. Cliff and a number of contributors to the new Perspectives spoke at our well-attended slot at the 2003 General Assembly.

Other projects have remained rather in the test-tube than the womb during the year and with some modifications of their genes. They include a possible third volume in the Perspectives series on Contemporary Religious Practice, a companion volume to Celebrating Life with worship material for special occasions, and a book on personal spiritual practice.

We were very sorry to lose Judy Hague during the year.

It must again be stressed that members of the Panel are very active between meetings in undertaking the practical work involved in commissioning essays, reading manuscripts (a number of which were rejected but only after careful assessment and with constructive comments sent to their authors), copy-editing, book design, and dealing with printers.

And, again to repeat a point made in our report last year, it remains disappointing that - apart from the ideas for books generated amongst ourselves - we receive so little worthwhile material of Unitarian interest. We would welcome proposals from able and knowledgeable writers.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, LAY TRAINING & 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.

LAY TRAINING COMMITTEE

Chair: Hilda Dumbleton

Members: Mary Barratt, John Harley, Jess Hoskins, Richard Lovis, Sarah Tinker, Geoffrey Waywell, Howard Wilkins. GA General Secretary and Honorary Officers (ex officio).

YOUTH COMMITTEE

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

Members: Heather Foster, Lorna Hill, Freda Laverick, Joan Partington, Michael Tracey.

1. The Religious Education & Youth Department

The period of October 2002 to 2003 was a difficult one for the denomination and an uncertain one for the Religious Education & Youth Department, culminating in the decision to abolish the RE & Youth Officer's post when Sarah Tinker left to commence ministry training. Sarah had worked for the General Assembly for six years and all the committees she had worked with wished her well in this new career move. Elizabeth Obe has continued to work for a day and a half a week at Essex Hall, focussing primarily on bookings, send outs and general enquiries.

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

A number of queries about child protection issues were handled by the Officer during the year and useful support was received from the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service, an 'umbrella body' that provides expert advice on such matters. Sarah Tinker continues to act as denominational Child Protection Co-ordinator on a voluntary basis and is keen to hear that more congregations have formally adopted a child protection policy in line with Home Office recommendations for voluntary organisations. It is particularly recommended that congregations and groups seek advice from their insurers as having a current child protection policy

is often now recommended, if not insisted upon, by insurance companies. Work progresses on the revised 'Safety First' booklet and a new child protection policy statement has been agreed by GA Council.

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. The Officer ran a training session for Sunday School leaders and young people in Lampeter in order to introduce the scheme. The total number of children having received their Bronze Award has now reached thirteen with a great deal of effort on their part and their leaders'. Groups at Bradford Broadway and Urmston have made particularly impressive progress with the Chalice Award Scheme.

2. Religious Education and Lay Training Committees

Following several joint meetings it was decided to seek Council's approval for the amalgamation of the two committees into a new Education & Training Committee, which was approved at Council's February meeting. Such a development was, however, superseded by the decision to create a new structure of Commissions and Panels and the Education & Training Committee was therefore never formed.

2.1 Hucklow Summer School

This re-named Summer School brought a wide variety of participants and leaders together for a week of personal and leadership development. Margaret Hamer proved to be a most stimulating and entertaining theme speaker and the workshops and training sessions were evaluated most positively by those attending. A particular delight of the week was the presence of four babies and toddlers as well as five older children. The presence of children necessitates the provision of high quality childcare, which takes careful planning, but the week's organisers are committed to providing such childcare so that young parents are able to attend a national denominational event. Development Committee members attended the week and ran a workshop on engagement groups. It is hoped that continuing links can be made for joint work on adult education and engagement groups. We are grateful to all the leaders who gave their time freely to work at Summer School

and who waived their expenses claims in order to keep costs down.

Booking forms are now available for this year's Summer School, which is to be held at the Nightingale Centre from the 14 to 21 August. The theme is 'We The Creators' and with Tirrell and Rick Kimball as theme speakers, two highly experienced UUA religious educators, a valuable and thought-provoking week can be expected. The Education & Training Commission 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.

2.2 District Religious Education Co-ordinators

Once again, gratitude must be expressed towards 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.

2.3 Adult RE Programmes

Spiritual Parenting, a short course for parents, grandparents and all those who care for children, is now available and is recommended for use with new as well as established groups. Other courses continue to be used and are available from Essex Hall, especially Building Your Own Theology and Building Our Identity.

2.4 The Course in Lay Preaching & The Conduct of Worship (CLPCW)

The CLPCW has a number of active students working on distance learning modules and gratitude must be expressed to the tutors, Revs Baker, Long and Marshall for their continued support for this course and its students. Considerable thanks also go to Dr Don Kerr for all his tireless administrative work over the years. Cyril Haddon's completion of the CLPCW will be recognised at the Annual Meetings and congratulations go to him for this achievement.

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 always our grateful thanks go to the loyal and hardworking 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. Particular thanks go to Norman and Sylvia Elthorpe who have been leading Inter Weekends for so many years with quiet reliability and good humour.

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 convey its on-going thanks to 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 Bridging Weekend

In March the first Bridging Weekend was held for 12 to 13 year olds. With twenty young people attending, the weekend succeeded in its aim of encouraging young people to remain involved with the Youth Programme in their teenage years. It was very pleasing to note that sixteen of these youngsters then chose to attend the next Inter Weekend. Two more annual Bridging Weekends will be held and the Committee is grateful for financial support from the Millennium Fund to make this positive development possible.

3.3 YUC Week

YUC Week 2003's theme was 'You'll Never Walk Alone', which led into a wide range of activities, both spiritual and more material! The week was thoroughly enjoyed by all concerned and many of the young people continue to keep in touch with one another. YUC Week 2004 will take place from 1st to 7th August with a theme of 'What A Wonderful World'.

3.4 YUC & Seniors Re-Union Weekend

A YUC Week and Seniors Re-union Weekend was held at Hucklow in July alongside the regular Senior Weekend. It gave past participants the chance to meet up with one another and to enjoy reminiscing over old photographs. Thirty-six young people spent a highly entertaining weekend together with old friendships being renewed and new links being made.

3.5 18+ Group

The 18+ group have spent two successful weekends together at Flagg and Great Hucklow during the year, on the themes of Spirituality (led by Rev Simon John Barlow) and Leadership (led by Rev Bob Wightman), and enjoying the Derbyshire countryside. 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.

3.6 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.

3.7 Proposed Youth Officer Post

The decision not to re-appoint an RE & Youth Officer when the current Officer left has meant that the National Youth Programme is being run entirely by volunteers and without a trained contact person available out of hours. This has made the Youth Committee's project to appoint a Youth Officer entirely dedicated to this work all the more urgent.



Emma Lowe (left) and Annie Tate-Harte (right) on fundraising duty for YUC Week

OFFICE OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Chair: Rev Charles VanDenBroeder (until July 2003); Tony Rees (from October 2004)

Secretary: Ingrid Tavkar

Members: Rev Eric Jones (until July 2003); Jean Mason (until July 2003); Julianne Morgan (from July 2003); Freda Laverick (from July 2003); Rev Ann Latham (from July 2003); Anthony Rees; Rev Charles VanDenBroeder (until July 2003); Steven Williams (until July 2003).

1. **Meetings:** The Committee met only once during the financial year 2002-2003. A second meeting had been planned for May 2003, but this was cancelled due to budgetary constraints.

2. **Denominational Activities**

SR Survey: In 2003, a pilot survey on present day social responsibility action by both congregations and individual Unitarians was carried out in NELUM (North East Lancashire Unitarian Mission). Tony Rees, SR Panel member and a professional sociologist, analysed the returns (55%) and produced a report, which resulted in some amendments to the questionnaire and this will be sent out nationwide during January 2004. One aim of this survey is that it should give direction to the SR function at national level, thus helping to plan future work.

GA Theme 2003-05 "Removing Barriers: Unitarians address disability issues": Several SR activities have been linked to this new GA theme, such as the running of a workshop, specially concerned with mental health, at the 2003 Annual Meetings, and the production of a resource pack focusing on disabilities more generally.

Counterpoint: We produced two issues (Spring & Autumn 2003) of this occasional newspaper with the assistance from the Information Officer. We continue to receive positive feedback from those who receive a copy; especially first time enquirers and MPs. Thirty congregations have requested extra copies for distribution at local level. We have funding for two further issues during 2004, and are seeking support from outside Trusts to enable us to offer this publication in future years. The quarterly SR Newsletter and SR columns in *The Inquirer* also continued to appear during the year.

Social Responsibility at local level: As in previous years, many congregations and fellowships were actively involved in social

justice action through marking such occasions as *Homelessness Sunday* and *Peace Vigil weekend*; and by supporting campaigns like *Debt on our Doorstep*; *'Stop the War'* and *Water for Life*. Unitarian congregations and individuals have also been spurred on by General Assembly Resolutions to support efforts by *Oxfam*, *Amnesty International* and others, aimed at securing a new International Arms Trade Treaty to stop the flow of arms to potentially abusive regimes; and to respond generously to the special appeal for the life saving work in Iraq by *Save the Children*.

The work of the SR Officer has included involvement in denominational events at local, district, national and international levels. She has given talks, led workshops and seminars on social justice work in general and on specific contemporary issues and causes. She attended 'Unitarierstag 2003', the biennial meetings of the German Unitarian Fellowship; talked about SR work to members of the LDPA Lay leaders' Forum, and led services at congregations and fellowships around the country.

SR Network: We continue with our efforts to expand the denominational SR network by offering to facilitate 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.

3. Ecumenical Activities: We offered our support to and attended meetings of the following ecumenical agencies: Christian Aid; CTBI Church & Society Forum; CTBI Racial Justice Network; Churches World Development Network (CWDN); Church Action on Poverty (CAP); Church Action on Disability (CHAD); Network of Christian Peace Organisations (NCPO); and One World Week (OWW). Dawn Buckle (GA Vice-President), attended the June 2003 CTBI Church & Society meetings in Manchester on our behalf. Our contribution to ecumenism in offering a cost-free venue for meetings at Essex Hall has continued. We have promoted and shared in campaigns organised by *CAP*, *Christian Aid*, *CAFOD*, *Churches National Housing Coalition*, and *Trade Justice Movement*.

4. Secular Activities: The Officer of Social Responsibility has worked closely - attending meetings, being represented on committees where appropriate - with a wide range of non-religious organisations: *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*; *WaterAid*; *World Development Movement*; *Womenkind Worldwide*, and others.

5. Voluntary Work: Rosemary Ruston continues to work one day a week for the Office of Social Responsibility on a voluntary basis, and we would like to thank Rosemary for the valuable contribution she has made.

6. The Impact of the Triennial Review Working Party's (TRWP): The implementation of the radical reorganisation of the General Assembly' structures proposed by the TRWP has affected the Office of Social Responsibility considerably, together with the financial stringency which, in good measure, brought the recommendation about. The *SR Committee* has been succeeded by a smaller *SR Panel*, reporting to the new *Outreach & Communication Commission*. The title of SR Officer has been changed to SR Coordinator. She has been allocated important responsibilities in other GA activity, and the resources available for SR work have accordingly diminished. However, the firm intention is to continue to work on the basis of the SR "Mission Statement", raising awareness about contemporary social justice issues, and increasing participation in social justice work in order to strengthen our social witness in society.

Sexual Orientation Equality Group

Members: Rev Jeff Gould, Linda Phillips, Sarah Tinker, and Rev Charles VanDenBroeder.

In keeping with the remit of the Resolution passed at the Annual Meetings in 2000, the Sexual Orientation Equality Group completed its work at the Annual Meetings 2003. Group members were pleased with the positive response received at the launch of 'Celebrating Diversity', a resource pack on sexual orientation and other equality issues. These eye-catching pink folders have been bought by congregations and groups around the country and copies are still available. It is pleasing to report that a number of copies have been sold outside the denomination and that positive feedback has been received from those using it. The pack contains a wealth of worship material, as well as a wide range of workshop activities suitable for use in various settings, and is recommended to all.

A survey has been made of congregations and worship leaders to ascertain the availability of celebrants and possible venues for the celebration of same sex union blessings. It has yet to be decided how best to make this information available within the denomination.

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 the group's work will help congregations to reflect the changes now taking place in UK society.



Jane Aaronson delivers the GA keynote address on removing barriers

SUSTENTATION FUND

Chair: Michael Tomlin

Secretary: Alfred Fletcher

Treasurer: Sandy Ellis (until July 2003), Martin West (from July 2003).

Members: The General Secretary and GA Honorary Officers, Rev Steve Dick, Geoffrey Head, Alan Ruston (from April 2003), 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 (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 15 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 2003 showed an operating deficit of £954 (2002:£7,966). After a net investment gain from disposals of £21,981 (2002:£40) and a year end market revaluation gain of £2,559 (2002:£68,487 Loss), there was an overall surplus of £21,946 (2002: £78,418) for the year. The gain on the investments was due to a very welcome recovery in the stock market.

6. Investments

Newton Investment Management Ltd, 71 Queen Victoria Street, London, EC4V 4DR, continued as Investment Managers. 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. It may be necessary from time to time to supplement income by withdrawals from Capital growth. The portfolio was completely reorganised during the year into a smaller number of larger holdings. They were valued as at 30 September 2003, by Newton Investment Management Ltd.

7. Grants

Applications for grant-aid towards the payment of stipends were received for the support of 24 Ministries, of which 2 were new applications. Of these 24 applications, 2 were refused. Of the 22 awards made, 15 ceased part way through the year due to the Ministers moving elsewhere or retiring. 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. Four applications for grant aid were received and a grant was awarded to each applicant.
2. Although coming after the year end, acknowledgement must be made of the generous gift by the members of UALL of the remaining funds of the Unitarian Lay Preachers Association on merger of that association with UALL. The amount of £868.74 is a welcome addition to the capital of the Fund and members of UALL and the Lay Preachers Association are thanked for their generosity. The Secretary of the Sustentation Fund was invited to receive the cheque at the Annual Meeting of UALL at Great Hucklow in November 2003.

Such contributions to the capital of the Fund are always welcome as the income thus generated enables more or larger grants to be given.

Y GYFADRAN UNDODAIDD UNITARIAN WELSH DEPARTMENT

Chair: Rev Eirion Phillips (Until April 2003),
Mattie Evans (From April 2003)

Secretary: Rev Eric Jones

Members: Elaine Davis (until April 2003), Lis Dyson Jones, Megan Jones, Anne Jones (until April 2003), Wenna Thomas (until April 2003), Annette Marsh (from April 2003), Rev Alun Wyn Dafis (until April 2003), Rev Ceu Llwyd, Humphrey Evans (until April 2003), and Ken Morgan, together with the two District Presidents. The membership has been cut from 12 to 8 members.

Two meetings were held during the year.

1. **DAY CONFERENCE:** A meeting at Tabernacle Chapel, Carmarthen was arranged on June 21st with the aim of setting up a

network whereby groups of Congregations could come together to discuss Unitarian ethos and its significance within today's Society. This would be the beginning of a series of meetings covering a smaller geographical area. Wyn Thomas and Rev Paul Overend addressed the meeting with around 40 people present and their addresses were a challenge to the Unitarian Congregations of the future. A copy of the addresses was sent to each congregation with a request that they arrange a discussion of the papers at a local level. Some congregations did respond to the request but not all by any means.

2. **PRESIDENT'S VISITS:** Alan Ruston attended the retirement Dinner arranged for the Rev Eric Jones on 22 February 2003 when he brought the greetings and appreciation of the General Assembly for the occasion. Rev Eric Jones retired after serving the congregation at Aberdare for over 40 years before adding on the Cardiff Congregation in 1970 and the Cefncoed Congregation in 1999. He has also been the Secretary of the Welsh Department since 1964. The President made a visit to Cwmsychbant in West Wales at a later date. Rev Austin Fitzpatrick visited Swansea and West Wales in September and brought the greetings of the Assembly to members of both the Welsh Districts.
3. **UNITARIAN EISTEDDFOD TENT:** Arrangements are in hand for a Unitarian presence at the Newport National Eisteddfod in August 2004. Plans include a series of interest areas which Unitarians can provide including Inter Faith, Earth Spirit, Same Sex Blessings and other areas which we hope could give us an identity which would differ from the other Churches on the field. Tea and a rest area would also be included.
4. **PUBLICATIONS:** A New Version of the Welsh Unitarian Handbook was produced during the year and distributed among various Groups in Wales so that contact with the denomination is easily made when needed. Rev Eric Jones is also in the process of producing a Booklet which will identify some Unitarian sites in Wales which are in danger of being forgotten. It will include a picture (where this is possible), a brief background history and a map reference as to how to find the site. It will be some kind of Heritage Trail for those who are interested in making visits to such places.

5. **FUTURE OF THE DEPARTMENT:** Lengthy discussions regarding the future role of the Department have taken place. Some activities have been transferred to the District Associations and other activities, we felt, needed to be taken closer to the Congregations whilst both Districts are encouraged to arrange joint social events which would bring the people together whilst not adding to the cost of the Department. The cost of the National Eisteddfod tent is very high and digs deep into a small and reduced budget but it was felt that it was of benefit and some way of helping with the cost is being sought.
6. **STUDENT:** Wyn Thomas, a student training for the Unitarian Ministry, has been successful in his college examination to end his second year of study at Lampeter. He takes services very acceptably and should complete his degree in June 2004. The following year will be taken up with training in Pastoral work with some residential visits to both UCM and HMCO as well as some internal short courses in Wales.
7. **REPORTS:** We are now receiving substantial reports from both Districts and from Council at every meeting and consider whether the Department is able to do anything to strengthen some of the activities in both areas and to help with difficult or weak situations.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair: Rev Celia Midgley

Secretary: Rev Andrew Brown

Members: Rosemary Arthur (to July 2003), Rev Joy Croft, David Dawson (From July 2003), Martin Gienke (to July 2003), Richard Lovis (From July 2003), Rev Celia Midgley and the GA President, Vice-President and Treasurer.

1. Small numbers, great distances and a small budget have made meeting arrangements difficult for this committee/panel. The occasional telephone conference still leaves us working within tight constraints.
2. Notwithstanding this difficulty, the group has worked hard to stimulate growth in the quality of worship in our movement through example, ideas and materials.
3. Following A Fair Field Full of Folk and Green and Dying, the meditation manual Waiting to

be Discovered was launched at the 2003 Annual Meetings in Edinburgh. Compiled by Joy Croft and Jopie Boeke, with prayers, prose and poetry mainly by previously unpublished writers, it comprises seven sections: Discovering Nature, Discovering God, Discovering Self, Discovering Choice, Discovering Hope, Discovering Meaning and Discovering Community. At eight pounds, it is an excellent resource for public and private worship. Earlier Worship publications, including Shores of Darkness by Rosemary Arthur, the only worship material specifically for evening worship, have been advertised in many Unitarian newsletters and magazines.

4. The Worship Committee was responsible for almost all the worship at the Edinburgh Annual Meetings. Margaret Hill's Quiet Room on the theme of trees was both stunning and restful. The morning worship services led by Lorna Hill and David Monk were uplifting and challenging. Alex Bradley with Alan Kennedy provided stillness and hope in the Communion Service. The pre-Business meditations, led by Lindy Latham, Rosemary Ruston and Peter Godfrey, all helped us to focus on the theme of inclusion. In the Worship Workshop, well attended as ever, Brian Anderson and Dawn Buckle led us in an exploration of the theme of Quiet Works.
5. Members of the Committee/Panel have contributed regular columns to The Inquirer, exploring the nature of worship and its possibilities and including from time to time prayers and poems which might be used in public or private worship. The current panel is seeking to elicit, through The Inquirer, ideas for new ways of worshipping, which might be gathered in a future publication.



Jen Atkinson presents the Administration Commission Report

ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION

Chair: Jennifer Atkinson

Minutes Secretary: Andrew Mason

Members: Dawn Buckle, Rev Steve Dick, Robert Fincham, the GA President, Immediate Past-President, General Secretary and Honorary Treasurer.

The establishment of the Administration Commission was approved by Council in February 2003 as a result of the Triennial Review report. It replaced the Executive, Finance & Administration and General Purpose committees. Two minor exceptions were the transfer of accountability of the Ecumenical and Inter Faith Panels to the Outreach and Communication Commission. The members were appointed at the Triennial Council meeting held in Edinburgh at the close of the Annual Meetings.

The first meeting took place on 1 May and the second on 23 June. Both meetings were faced with busy agendas that combined long-term considerations with current decision-making necessities. Preliminary consideration was given to the terms of reference and mission statement. The tasks to be done were prioritised.

Immediate priorities included: a) the completion of arrangements for the establishment of the Commission structure and the election, by Council, of members of the Commissions and Panels; b) the finalisation of the budget proposals for 2003-2004; c) the arrangements to create the Task Force; and d) the establishment of the Annual Meetings review working party, as required by a resolution from the Annual Meetings.

A critical aspect of the budget exercise was the review and approval of the staff plan. This involved a 30% reduction in the staff establishment and two Commission members were detailed to consult staff and report back to the June meeting.

The preparations for the establishment of the remaining Commissions and the establishment of the Task Force came to fruition at the July Council meeting. The Annual Meetings working party was quickly established with Andrew Mason as its co-ordinator and it was able to report to the November Council meeting.

The Commission was budgeted to meet four times per annum to coincide with quarterly financial results. In between meetings urgent matters of decision were progressed by email networking.

As the financial year closed, the Commission was planning a residential meeting to finalise its mission statement and commence the task of developing its objectives and strategic thinking

Risk Management

The Trustees (Council) have continued to review and monitor the major risks facing the charity. The Trustees have then undertaken appropriate measures to counter the identified risks. The reorganisation flowing from the Triennial Review is an example of such action. This has incorporated a greater focus upon strategic planning. Risk analysis is an integral part of strategic planning. It is anticipated that this will result in more highly developed risk management.

The New Commission Structure

The Triennial Review Working Party of 2002 recommended a considerable rationalisation of the General Assembly's committees, not only for the sake of economy, but also because it needed more effective structures and a more strategic approach to its activities. The Triennial Review report was first received by Council in November 2002 and then in more detailed form in February 2003.

The core of the recommendations was the creation of four Commissions to enable the specialist planning, operation and control of the General Assembly's functions. With certain exceptions, the committees would either be absorbed into the Commissions, or would become panels, responsible to them.

The **Administration Commission**, which was an amalgamation of the Executive, Finance & Administration and General Purposes committees, was approved by Council in February 2003 and its membership was appointed in April 2003. Its activities are reported elsewhere within this report.

The report had originally recommended the creation of three other Commissions:

Denominational Support Education & Training Outreach & Communication

A debate arose about the absence of a separate Commission for Ministry. The February Council decided not to make a final decision and, instead, refer the matter for discussion at the 2003 Annual Meetings. These meetings duly debated the whole issue and passed a resolution to include a **Ministry Commission**, as well as giving a clear mandate to Council to go ahead with the remaining proposals.

The final arrangements, including the appointment of personnel to the Commissions and panels, was dealt with by Council in July 2003. The four new Commissions commenced their activities during the Autumn of 2003 and their activities will be reported in the 2004 Annual Report ready for

the 2005 Annual Meetings. In each case the Commissions are commencing their roles with the development of mission statements and objectives within agreed terms of reference.

The chief functions of the Commissions are as follows:

Administration

Strategic planning.
Control of the Unitarian Headquarters.
Financial planning and control, including forecasting, budgeting, investment, fund raising, accountancy and statutory compliance.
Legal and governance matters.
Organising the Annual Meetings.
International relationships.
Liaison with the Nightingale Centre.

Denominational Support

Development and support services to congregations, fellowships and district associations.

Associated panels and working parties:
Buildings Advisory, Congregational Consultancy, Engagement Groups, Worship and Youth.

Education & Training

Adult religious education.
Training courses and resources for lay persons and ministers
Operation of the Course for Lay Preaching and the Conduct of Worship.

Ministry

Maintenance of the GA Roll of Ministers and Lay Pastors.
Maintenance of the GA Roll of Lay Leaders.
The recruitment, selection and training of ministers, lay pastors and lay leaders.

Associated panels and working parties:
Interview, Review & Support, Forum for the Co-ordination of Training for Ministry.

Outreach & Communication

The communication of information and our message to external individuals and the media.

The publication, sales and distribution of contemporary Unitarian writings.

The development of our relationships with other faiths and religions.

The development of our social witness.

Associated panels and working parties:

Ecumenical, Interfaith, Penal Affairs, Publications and Social Responsibility.

THE TASK FORCE

Following a campaign by the Renaissance Group, the following Resolution was passed at the 2003 Annual Meetings:

"That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches instructs GA Council to appoint a task force to develop proposals to change the system of governance to have a nationally elected leadership, and to present them at the 2004 General Assembly."

GA Officers met with the Bowland Charitable Trust who kindly agreed to fund the Task Force. The Administration Commission then appointed an independent team of three experienced Unitarians to interview and select a well-qualified consultant to organise and facilitate the Task Force. The team also sifted through the application forms from volunteers. Their recommendations were accepted by the GA Council in July 2003.

Colin Fisher of the Christopher Street Organisation was appointed as the Consultant.

The Task Force members are:

Marion Baker, Dawn Buckle, Tony Cann, the Rev John Clifford, the Rev Michael Dadson, Jeffrey Davies, the Rev Steve Dick, Dorothy Hewerdine, John Lawrence, Andrew Phillips, Louise Rogers, the Rev David Usher.

During August 2003 Colin Fisher visited all of the Task Force members prior to their first meeting. Since September 2003 the Task Force members have met many times as a full

team and in smaller groups and have maintained a busy email contact with each other. The report is due to be presented at the Annual Meetings 2004.

Associate Members

In accordance with rule 4 of the Constitution of the General Assembly the following persons, having contributed not less than £25 each to the funds of the Assembly in the financial year 2002, are Associate Members of the General Assembly. Names of Honorary Members and Full Members who have subscribed not less than £25 during the financial year each are also listed.

*Indicates that subscriptions are paid by gift aid or other tax efficient means enabling the General Assembly to recover income tax in addition. Further details on such schemes are available from the GA Finance Department.

*Adams Mrs WJ	*Buick Mrs G	*Dick Rev S (Full Member)
*Adkinson Miss EB	Burbage Miss M	*Dixon Mrs E
*Anderson Mrs EC	*Burgess Mr AN	*Doel Rev DC (Full Member)
*Archer Mrs D	*Burgess Mr B	*Dumpleton Mrs H
*Atkinson Mrs JM (Full Member)	*Burns Mrs M	*Edmonds Mrs H
*Attfield Prof R	*Burns Mr JM	*Bushrod Miss E
*Aylmer Mrs V	*Bushrod Miss E	*Cann Mr HA
*Bailey Mr AD	*Cann Mr HA	*Cartwright Rev CM (Full Member)
*Baker Mrs M	*Cartwright Rev CM (Full Member)	*Chadwick Mrs J
Barber Mr H	*Chadwick Mrs J	*Chryssides Dr GD
*Barber Mr JM	*Chryssides Dr GD	*Clabburn Mrs S
Barlow Mrs EJ (Full Member)	*Clabburn Mrs S	*Clarke Mrs HM
*Barlow Mrs F	*Clarke Mrs HM	*Clifford Mrs B
*Barton Mr JL	*Clifford Mrs B	*Clifford Rev JC (Full Member)
*Barwick Mrs S	*Clifford Rev JC (Full Member)	*Cockcroft Rev BS (Full Member)
*Batchelor Rev BJ (Full Member)	*Cockcroft Rev BS (Full Member)	*Cockcroft Mrs BW
*Bell Dr J (Hon Member)	*Cockcroft Mrs BW	*Coldwell Mr AH
*Bethune Mr AJ	*Coldwell Mr AH	*Coldwell Mrs DE
*Birtles Rev AH (Full Member)	*Coldwell Mrs DE	Collins Dr M
*Birtles Rev E (Full Member)	Collins Dr M	Cooper Mrs M
*Blake Mrs C	Cooper Mrs M	*Copley Mr DW
Boeke Rev Dr R (Full Member)	*Copley Mr DW	*Crilly Mr S
*Boeke Rev J (Full Member)	*Crilly Mr S	*Crompton Mrs J
*Brooks Mr GE	*Crompton Mrs J	*Crompton Mr D
*Broom Miss EC	*Crompton Mr D	*Crosskey Mr JM
*Brown Mr AHO	*Crosskey Mr JM	*Crosskey Dr KSM
*Brown Mr I	*Crosskey Dr KSM	*Cupper Mr AM
*Buckle Mrs D (Full Member)	*Cupper Mr AM	*Cusack Miss KO
*Buckle Mr R	*Cusack Miss KO	*Davies Mr GG
*Buckley Mr D (Full Member)	*Davies Mr GG	*Dawson Mrs CA
	*Dawson Mrs CA	*Dawson Mr D
	*Dawson Mr D	*De Wit Mr S
	*De Wit Mr S	*Deas Mrs E
	*Deas Mrs E	*Denbv Mr RN
	*Denbv Mr RN	*Denby Mrs K
	*Denby Mrs K	

*Greenhalgh Mr F
 *Greenhough Mr J
 Griffith Mr DL
 *Grinsted Mr F
 *Hague Mr H
 *Hague Mrs G
 *Hamer Ms MC
 *Hankinson Mrs AS
 *Hardy Dr SJ
 *Harrison Mr GR
 *Harrison Mr IW
 Harris Ms LA
 *Haughton Mr B
 *Haughton Ms DP
 *Hayhurst Ms CA
 *Head Mr G (Hon Member)
 *Heale Mr P
 *Healey Miss R
 *Hewerdine Mrs DC
 *Hewerdine Mr AJ
 *Hewis Rev P
 (Full Member)
 *Hewis Mrs H
 *Hill Rev AM
 (Full Member)
 *Hill Mrs M
 Hill Ms L
 *Hird Dr JL
 *Hoskins Mrs AJ
 *Howarth Mr M
 *Howarth Mrs J
 *Hughes Ms A
 *Hughes Ms M
 Hulin Mrs VI (dec'd)
 *Hytech Mr FJ
 *Inkson Mr RHE
 *Inkson Mrs J
 *Isaac Mr AW
 *Isaac Mr RB
 *Jackson Mr D (dec'd)
 *Janes Mrs JA
 *Johnson Mr K
 *Johnson Rev P
 (Full Member)
 *Johnson Mr PB
 *Jones Dr AW
 *Jones Mrs B
 *Jones Mrs E
 *Jones Rev JE
 (Full Member)
 *Jones Mrs A
 *Kay Mrs K

*Kemp Mrs B
 *Kenyon Mr NA
 *Kenyon Mrs B
 *Kern Mrs MP
 *Kerr Dr DG
 *Kern Mrs C
 *King Ms L
 *Knopf Ms B
 *Langridge Mrs MY
 *Latham Rev AY
 (Full Member)
 *Latham Rev A
 (Full Member)
 *Latta Miss J
 *Latta Mrs S
 *Lawlor Mr P
 *Laycock Mrs BA
 *Lee Dr K
 *Leytham Mr G
 *Leytham Mrs D
 *Littlepage Dr B
 *Littlepage Mrs M
 *Long Rev AJ
 (Hon Member)
 *Lovis Mr R
 Maguire Mr LJ
 Mason Ms H
 *Mason Mr JI
 Maud Mr G
 *McClelland Rev J
 (Full Member)
 *McClelland Rev A
 (Full Member)
 *McCormick Rev AM
 (Full Member)
 *McCrohan Mr EM
 *McLachlan Rev HJ
 (Hon Member)
 *Merritt Ms C
 *Midgley Rev CA
 (Full Member)
 *Midgley Rev J
 (Full Member)
 *Millard Mrs KA
 *Monk Rev DK
 (Full Member)
 *Needham Mrs A
 *Norman Mr JAH
 *O'Brien Mrs E
 *Oates Mr ADG
 *Omar Mr B (Full Member)
 *Packer Mr GWC

*Packer Mrs V
 *Parsons Mrs H
 *Partington Mrs J
 *Partington Mr C
 *Paxton Mrs MRH
 *Paxton Mr G
 *Payne Mrs B
 *Pearson Mrs S
 *Peart Rev A
 (Full Member)
 *Percy Mrs A
 *Phelan Mrs MH
 *Phillips Dr A
 *Phillips Mr DS
 *Phillips Mrs LH
 Pilkington Mr C
 *Posselt Mrs AP
 *Potts Mr AE
 *Pugh Mrs S
 Raettig Mrs S
 *Ramage Mr RW
 *Reed Rev CM
 (Full Member)
 *Reed Mrs P (Full Member)
 *Reynolds Mrs HM
 *Richards Mr JCT
 *Richards Ms R
 *Richards Mr W
 Rigby Mrs V
 *Roberts Rev DM
 (Full Member)
 *Roberts Rev J
 (Full Member)
 *Roberts Dr J
 *Roberts Mrs WM
 *Robinson Ms M
 *Rogers Mrs J
 *Rogers Mrs L
 *Ruston Mr AR
 (Full Member)
 *Ruston Mrs R
 *Ruston Mr M
 Ruston Ms J
 *Ryder Mrs K
 *Sampson Mr PW
 *Sanders Dr N
 *Saville Dr S
 *Scott Mr JA
 *Scott Mrs M
 *Scragg Mr TW
 *Sellman Mrs JR
 *Shaw Mr D

*Shaw Mrs E
 *Short Mrs A
 Silk Rev PA
 (Full Member)
 Silk Mrs J
 *Simmons Mr G
 *Simmons Mrs J
 Sinclair Mrs A
 *Sinclair Mr M
 *Slaven Ms S
 *Smith Mrs B
 *Smith Mr G
 *Smith Sir Cyril
 Smith Mrs DM
 *Smith Rev D
 (Full Member)
 *Smith Mr MF
 *Smith Dr RW
 *Smith Mrs C
 *Soulsby Sir P
 *Speed Mr AMM
 *Tavkar Ms II
 Taylor Mr GC
 *Taylor Mrs AB

*Taylor Mrs CMP
 (Full Member)
 *Taylor Mrs TM
 *Teagle Ms F
 *Teagle Mr JJ
 *Teagle Mrs S
 *Thompson Ms C
 *Thompson Ms J
 *Tinker Ms SM
 *Tomlin Mrs J
 *Tomlin Mr MJ
 (Full Member)
 *Tracey Mr M
 *Uprichard Mrs EM
 *Usher Rev D
 (Full Member)
 *Usher Rev GR
 (Full Member)
 *Voegeli Mrs I
 *Walker Rev F
 (Full Member)
 *Walker-Hesson Ms P
 *Ward Mr WH
 *Ward Mrs M

*Wardle Miss J
 *Warhurst Mr DE
 *Warhurst Mrs H
 *Watson Mr KW
 *West Mr MG
 *Whitell Rev MN
 *Whitham Mr P
 *Wightman Mrs M
 *Wightman Rev R
 (Full Member)
 *Wilkins Mr H
 *Williams Dr DJ
 *Williams Prof DA
 *Williams Mr S
 *Williams Mrs WM
 *Wilson Mrs AM
 *Winder Ms JR
 *Woodhouse Mr J
 *Woodhouse Mrs K
 *Wykes Dr DL
 *Wykes Dr E
 *Wylie Mr HS
 *Wylie Mrs J



Honorary Member, the Rev Peter Godfrey addresses the Assembly

Congregational Contributions

1 October 2002 to 30 September 2003

All collections and donations received are included in the one total against each church. Amounts are shown as at 30 September 2003 and contributions received after that date will be shown in the next annual report.

England

Ainsworth	308.00	Dean Row	1,148.00
Altrincham	714.00	Denton	183.00
Ashton-in-Makerfield	700.00	Derby	0.00
Astley	70.00	Ditchling	224.00
Atherton	882.00	Doncaster	294.00
Banbury	168.00	Douglas	84.00
Bath	168.00	Dover	70.00
Bedfield	42.00	Dudley	84.00
Belper	224.00	Dukinfield	728.00
Billingshurst	140.00	Eccles	1,008.00
Birmingham Edgbaston		Enfield	196.00
(Five Ways)	854.00	Evesham	490.00
Birmingham Hollywood	448.00	Framlingham	84.00
Blackpool	392.00	Gloucester	126.00
Bolton Bank Street	840.00	Godalming	546.00
Bolton Chorley New Road	308.00	Great Hucklow	182.00
Bolton Egerton	420.00	Great Yarmouth	112.00
Bolton Halliwell Road	392.00	Hale Barns	560.00
Boston	144.00	Harrogate	168.00
Bournemouth	350.00	Hastings	182.00
Bradford Broadway Avenue	210.00	Hinckley	490.00
Bradford Russell Street	140.00	Hindley	168.00
Bridgwater	70.00	Horsham	462.00
Bridport	196.00	Horwich	112.00
Brighton	574.00	Hull	518.00
Bristol Brunswick Square	448.00	Hyde Fellowship	28.00
Bristol Frenchay	294.00	Hyde Flowery Field	400.00
Bury	1,358.00	Hyde Gee Cross	350.00
Bury St Edmunds	210.00	Ipswich	588.00
Cambridge	1,008.00	Kendal	616.00
Chatham	98.00	Kidderminster	378.00
Chelmsford	168.00	Knutsford	1,022.00
Cheltenham	140.00	Lancaster	196.00
Chester	140.00	Leeds	402.50
Chesterfield	0.00	Leicester	364.00
Chorley	392.00	Lewes	154.00
Cirencester	70.00	Lincoln	196.00
Coseley	112.00	Liverpool Toxteth	112.00
Coventry	98.00	Liverpool Gateacre	280.00
Cradley	350.00	Liverpool Sefton Park	560.00
Crewkerne	238.00	London Bethnal Green	42.00
Croydon	532.00	London Brixton	294.00
Cullompton	168.00	London Golders Green	462.00

London Hampstead	1,000.00	Styal	560.00
London Islington	350.00	Taunton	336.00
London Kensington	1,120.00	Tenterden	126.00
London Lewisham	196.00	Torquay	112.00
London Newington Green	84.00	Trowbridge	336.00
London Stratford	154.00	Urmston	336.00
Loughborough	84.00	Wakefield	196.00
Lytham St Annes	210.00	Walsall	84.00
Macclesfield	588.00	Warrington	210.00
Maidstone	112.00	Warwick	308.00
Manchester Dob Lane	280.00	Watford	126.00
Manchester Chorlton-cum-Hardy	224.00	West Kirby	308.00
Manchester Cross Street	700.00	Whitby	98.00
Manchester Gorton	364.00	Whitefield	980.01
Mansfield	728.00	Wick	70.00
Mossley	154.00	Wolverhampton	70.00
New Mill	154.00	Woodhall Spa	28.00
Newcastle	364.00	Worthing	252.00
Newcastle upon Tyne	686.00	York	532.00
Newchurch	112.00		
Newport	210.00	Scotland	
Northampton	140.00	Aberdeen	728.00
Norwich	686.00	Dundee	944.00
Nottingham	336.00	Edinburgh	1,190.00
Oldbury	112.00	Glasgow	504.00
Oldham	266.00		
Oxford	630.00	Wales	
Padiham	658.00	Aberdare	420.00
Plymouth	336.00	Aberystwyth	0.00
Portsmouth	700.00	Alltyblaca	24.00
Pudsey	224.00	Capel Ifan	0.00
Rawtenstall	112.00	Cardiff West Grove	490.00
Richmond	756.00	Carmarthen	0.00
Rivington	364.00	Cefn Coed y Cymer	434.00
Rochdale	840.00	Cellan	5.00
Scarborough	168.00	Ciliau Aeron	50.00
Sevenoaks	378.00	Cribyn	25.00
Sheffield Fulwood	798.00	Cwmsychbant	10.00
Sheffield Norfolk Street	812.00	Cwrtnewydd	50.00
Sheffield Stannington	350.00	Felinfach	25.00
Shelf	140.00	Lampeter	25.00
Shrewsbury	168.00	Llandysul	50.00
Sidmouth	112.00	Llanwnnen	25.00
Southampton	350.00	Nottage	252.00
Southend-on-Sea	56.00	Pontsian	25.00
Southport	196.00	Prengwyn	25.00
Salybridge	160.00	Swansea	266.00
Stockport	112.00	Talgarreg	10.00
Stockton-on-Tees	476.00	Trebanos	364.00
Stourbridge	112.00		

Contributions from District Associations and Other Societies

Districts	
Adelaide Unitarian Church	200.00
Auckland Unitarian Church	117.00
British League of Unitarian Women	100.00
Church of Divine Unity Women's League	25.00
East Midland Unitarian Association	75.00
FOY Society	100.00
Liverpool Women's League	10.00
London District Provincial Assembly	250.00
Manchester District Association	500.00
Memorial Hall Trustees	1500.00
Merseyside District Missionary Association	500.00
Midland Unitarian Union	500.00
National Unitarian Fellowship	104.00
North East Lancashire Unitarian Mission	250.00
Oxford Women's League	5.00
Psychical Society	25.00
Scottish Unitarian Association	140.00
Sheffield District Unitarian Association	100.00
Sheffield District Women's League	10.00
Sheffield Upper Chapel Women's League	10.00
	£4,521.00
Trusts	
Bury St Edmunds Trustees	500.00
Diss Chapel Trust	50.00
Hapton Chapel trust	50.00
Sir CC Grundy Deceased	136.50
	£ 736.50



Julianne Morgan (right), outgoing President of the Women's League, presents a cheque to the Representative of the Sargent Cancer Fund for Children

Accounts of The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

for the year ended 30 September 2003

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 2003, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, 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.

This report is made solely to the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches members, as a body. Our audit has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

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 Audit 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 2003 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.

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

EDMUND GIBBS
Chartered Certified Accountants
Registered Auditors

The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 30 September 2003

	Unrestricted Funds (See note 8)	Designated Funds (See note 9)	Restricted Funds (See note 10)	Endowment Funds (See note 11)	Total Funds 2003	Total Funds 2002
Incoming Resources						
Donations, Legacies and Gifts	301,967	1,748	37,227	—	340,942	413,325
Activities in Furtherance of GA Objects	33,859	14,306	150	—	48,315	33,000
Activities for Generating Funds	3,462	—	28	—	3,490	1,632
Investment Income	68,296	420	24,516	—	93,232	98,492
Other Incoming Resources	90,607	—	—	—	90,607	80,403
Realised Gains on Sale of Property	27,449	—	—	—	27,449	—
Total Incoming Resources	525,640	16,474	61,921	—	604,035	626,852
Resources Expended						
Cost of Generating Funds						
Activities for Generating Funds	1,070	—	558	—	1,628	1,536
Investment Management Fees	5,403	41	125	1,986	7,555	10,763
Charitable Expenditure						
Grants	16,200	640	41,611	—	58,451	90,178
Programme Activity	82,549	16,115	37,173	—	135,837	114,523
Programme Support Costs	134,227	—	—	—	134,227	147,422
Management and Administration	266,232	—	—	—	266,232	263,804
Other	76,067	—	—	—	76,067	60,286
Total Resources Expended	581,748	16,796	79,467	1,986	679,997	688,512
Net Incoming Resources /(Resources Expended) Before Transfers	(56,108)	(322)	(17,546)	(1,986)	(75,962)	(61,660)
Transfers Between Funds	5,729	(3,943)	(1,786)	—	—	—
Net Incoming Resources /(Resources Expended)	(50,379)	(4,265)	(19,332)	(1,986)	(75,962)	(61,660)
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)						
Realised Gains/(Losses) on Investments	67,705	215	650	23,831	92,401	(4,091)
Unrealised Gains/(Losses) on Investments	3,277	903	9,638	5,365	19,183	(314,780)
Net Movement in Funds	20,603	(3,147)	(9,044)	27,210	35,622	(380,531)
Funds Balances Brought Forward 1 October 2002	1,268,855	62,107	297,060	455,938	2,083,960	2,464,491
Funds Balances Carried Forward 30 September 2003	£1,289,458	£58,960	£288,016	£483,148	£2,119,582	£2,083,960

The notes on pages 50 to 57 form part of these accounts.

The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2003

Note	2003	2002
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets	6 77,092	88,377
Investments	7 1,752,758	1,663,828
	1,829,850	1,752,205
Current Assets		
Stocks	17,070	16,524
Loans	13 35,208	35,708
Debtors	29,685	44,344
Short Term Deposits	209,421	237,167
Cash at Bank and In Hand	25,081	25,119
	316,465	358,862
Current Liabilities		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	26,258	27,107
Net Current Assets	290,207	331,755
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	2,120,057	2,083,960
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year - deferred income	475	—
Total Assets Less Liabilities	£2,119,582	£2,083,960
FUNDS		
General Funds	12 1,289,458	1,268,855
Designated Funds	9,12 58,960	62,107
Restricted Funds	10,12 288,016	297,060
Endowment Funds	11,12 483,148	455,938
Total Funds	£2,119,582	£2,083,960

Approved by the General Assembly Council meeting on 14th February 2004, and signed on its behalf by:

Michael Tomlin, Honorary Treasurer

Jeffrey J Teagle, General Secretary

The notes on pages 50 to 57 form part of these accounts.

The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 30 September 2003

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.

The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 30 September 2003 (continued)

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 2003, 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	24,418
Grants to Overseas Institutions	12,993
Benevolent/Welfare Grants	840
Educational Grants	20,200
Total	£58,451

	No. of Grants	Total Value
Grants to Individuals		
Benevolent/Welfare Grants	3	840
Educational Grants	12	20,200
Total Grants to Individuals		£21,040

UK Unitarian Churches and Institutions

Blackpool	1	3,750
Bridport	1	500
GA Retreat for Prospective Ministers	1	1,233
Harrogate	1	250
Inquirer Publishing Ltd	1	11,000
Lewisham	1	300
Lincolnshire Group	1	1,500
Newcastle Under Lyne	1	100
Newport	1	750
One World Week	1	700
Richmond Free Church	1	200
Small Congregations Consultancy	1	2,435
Stockport	1	375
Taunton	2	850
Web Wizard Project	1	175
West Kirby	1	300
Total Grants to UK Unitarian Churches and Institutions		£24,418

Overseas Institutions

Indian Council of Unitarian Churches	1	500
International Association for Religious Freedom	1	2,000
International Council of Unitarian Universalists	1	1,800
Madras Unitarian Church	1	300
Nabozenska Spolecnost	1	5,077
Unitarian Union of North East India	4	3,316
Total Grants to Overseas Institutions		£12,993

The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 30 September 2003 (continued)

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.

4 Transfers Between Funds

The following transfers have been made between fund types in the year to 30 September 2003.

Description	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds
Arnold Graves Trust Subscription	134	—	(134)
India Fund Sponsoring C Lyngdoh to attend AGM	887	—	(887)
Central Postal Mission grant to Information Department	161	(161)	—
GP Annual Theme Fund to SR Resource Pack	138	(138)	—
Provision for Administration Commission Residential	(1,000)	1,000	—
GP Grant to India Fund	(400)	—	400
James Speed Trust Management Fee	1,040	—	(1,040)
Lewis Edwards Memorial Fund donation to GP committee	38	—	(38)
Publications Panel accumulated sales profit	841	(841)	—
Worship Committee Publications accumulated sales profit	831	(831)	—
RE H Fairey grants for young people attending AGM	1,220	(1,220)	—
SR Grant to One World Week	(200)	—	200
SOEG Designated Fund to Unrestricted Fund Expenditure	1,000	(1,000)	—
Sunday School Fund Grant to RE Department	336	—	(336)
Reversing overpayment of UMF grant to Buildings Advisory Panel	—	(1,000)	1,000
Closing Growth and Development Fund	—	(55)	55
UMF grant to RE Adult RE project	—	500	(500)
UMF grant to YD Bridging w/e	682	—	(682)
Union for Social Service Fund donation to SR	21	(21)	—
India Fund Income a/c moved to Restricted Fund	—	(176)	176
Total Transfers Between Funds	£5,729	(£3,943)	(£1,786)

5. Intangible Income

The General Assembly receives accommodation and services free of charge from Essex Hall Trustees to an estimated value of £95,000 per annum, which would have to be paid for if not provided free. (See also note 8)

6. Fixed Tangible Assets

	Leasehold Properties held jointly	Freehold Land and Ground Rent	Equipment	Totals
Cost				
At 1 October 2002	65,552	21,350	42,931	129,833
Additions	—	—	681	681
Disposals	(10,250)	—	—	(10,250)
At 30 September 2003	55,302	21,350	43,612	120,264
Depreciation				
At 1 October 2002	—	—	41,456	41,456
Charge for year	—	—	1,716	1,716
At 30 September 2003	—	—	43,172	43,172
Net Book Value				
30 September 2003	£55,302	£21,350	£440	£77,092
30 September 2002	£65,552	£21,350	£1,475	£88,377

The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 30 September 2003 (continued)

7. Fixed Asset Investments

	2003	2002
Quoted Investments		
Market Value at 1 October 2002	1,663,828	2,012,664
Less: Disposals at Opening Book Value	(1,387,246)	(77,149)
Add: Acquisitions at Cost	1,456,993	43,093
Net Gains/(Losses) on Revaluation at 30 September 2003	19,183	(314,780)
Market Value at 30 September 2003	£1,752,758	£1,663,828
Historical Cost as at 30 September 2003	£1,682,026	£1,579,503

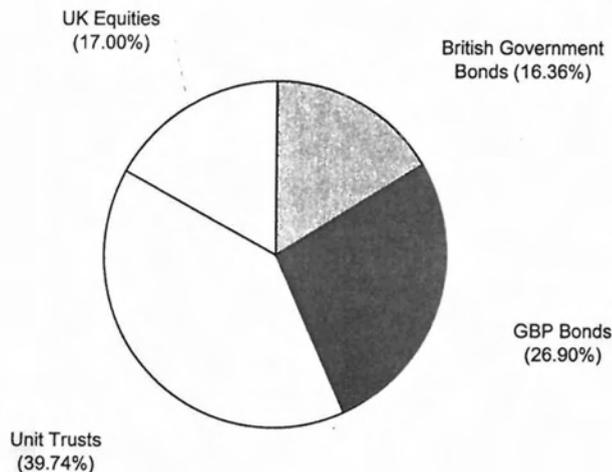
Consolidated Investment Portfolio

	Qty	Book Cost	Market Value at 1 Oct 2002 &/or cost of Additions	Unrealised Gain/(Loss)	Market Value at 30 Sept 2003
5% Treasury Stock 2012	110,150	118,858	118,858	(4,648)	114,210
5% Treasury Stock 2014	117,000	128,847	128,847	(6,795)	122,052
5% Treasury Stock 2025	18,000	18,537	18,537	339	18,876
6.25% Treasury Stock 2010	6,800	7,957	7,832	(139)	7,693
8% Treasury Stock 2009	20,075.41	20,035	24,534	(682)	23,852
Bradford & Bingley 11 5/8% Perp Subord Bonds	10,000	16,994	17,076	(399)	16,677
Bradford & Bingley 13% Perp Subord Bonds	50,000	85,385	94,626	(2,750)	91,876
Bristol & West 13.375% Unscrd Pep Sub Bds	70,000	115,618	138,649	(5,351)	133,298
Halifax 8.75% Perp Subord Bds	100,000	115,321	122,637	248	122,885
Newton Fund Managers (CI) Ltd Offshore Stgy Fund Sterling Fxd Int	108,000	108,495	108,495	(1,613)	106,882
Newton Fund Managers Higher Income Fund (Sterling)	612,333.61	278,887	278,887	18,033	296,920
Charinco/Charishare Inc	90,147.78	274,500	274,500	4,598	279,098
Inquirer Publishing Co Ltd £2 Ordinary Shares	500	1,000	1,000	—	1,000
M&G Charifund Units	29,857	293,552	301,057	6,904	307,961
Newton Fund Managers Global Growth & Income Charity	120,008.67	98,040	98,040	11,438	109,478
TOTAL INVESTMENTS		£1,682,026	£1,733,575	£19,183	£1,752,758

Other Investment Information

The following graph shows the consolidated General Assembly Investments analysed by fixed interest/equities/unit trust ratio and the equities by sector.

Fixed Interest/Equities/Unit Trust Ratio
Total Value £1,752,758



8 Unrestricted Funds

	Incoming Resources	Charitable Expenditure	Transfers Between Funds	Total 2003	Total 2002
Non-Departmental Income					
Legacies	5,550	—	—	5,550	—
Subscriptions / Associate Membership	17,637	296	134	17,475	13,132
Congregational Contributions (Quota)	59,261	—	—	59,261	48,735
Anniversary Service Collection	3,963	—	—	3,963	4,825
Dividends and Interest	68,296	—	1,040	69,336	71,374
British & Foreign Unitarian Association	12,053	—	—	12,053	18,088
Essex Hall Trustees	100,000	—	—	100,000	100,000
Essex Hall Trustees (in kind)	95,000	—	—	95,000	95,000
Memorial Hall Manchester	1,500	—	—	1,500	1,750
Other Donations	146	—	—	146	70,807
Annual Meetings	69,082	70,767	2,107	422	735
Rental Income	1,298	—	—	1,298	660
Hymns for Living	3,840	3,475	—	365	209
Information Office & Publications Sales	11,683	9,373	1,672	3,982	7,519
Payroll Calculation Service	1,475	232	—	1,243	1,088
Realised Gains on Sale of Property	27,449	—	—	27,449	—
Total Non-Departmental Income	478,233	84,143	4,953	399,043	433,922
Departmental Expenditure					
General Assembly Council	1,397	5,346	—	3,949	1,844
Building Advisory Panel	—	—	—	—	57
Triennial Review Working Party	—	—	—	—	1,071
Development Committee	—	2,866	—	2,866	1,772
Executive Committee	—	470	—	470	710
Finance & Administration Committee	—	154	—	154	844
General Purposes Committee	75	5,262	(1,362)	6,549	6,138
Information Committee	1,901	7,973	161	5,911	11,387
Inquirer Publishing	—	11,000	—	11,000	10,350
Lay Persons' Summer School	—	—	—	—	67
Lay Training Committee	197	786	—	589	560
Ministry Committee	—	3,896	—	3,896	4,735
Interview Subcommittee	—	1,798	—	1,798	1,686
Ministerial Students Fund Grant	—	—	—	—	10,000
Penal Affairs Panel	—	704	—	704	678
Publications Panel	218	511	—	293	621
Religious Education Committee	8,558	12,868	336	3,974	2,487
Youth Committee	11,466	16,486	682	4,338	4,656
Social Responsibility Committee	624	3,073	(41)	2,490	3,659
Sexual Orientation Equality Working Group	25	2,390	1,000	1,365	707
Unitarian Forward Planning	—	166	—	166	1,081
Welsh Committee	—	3,036	—	3,036	3,338
Worship Committee	—	790	—	790	780
General Expenses due to Programme Work	—	7,500	—	7,500	7,500
Staff Salaries due to programme work	9,250	133,514	—	124,264	131,077
Total Departmental Expenditure	33,711	220,589	776	186,102	207,805
General Administration					
Salaries, Pensions, etc	9,250	133,514	—	124,264	131,077
Ex-Gratia Payments	—	9,000	—	9,000	—
Officer's Travel and Expenses	571	3,127	—	2,556	4,107
Office Expenses	2,740	15,888	—	13,148	20,020
Staff Training	—	1,653	—	1,653	1,055
Audit and Accountancy Fees	—	4,100	—	4,100	7,350
Accommodation (in kind)	—	95,000	—	95,000	95,000
Investment Management Fees	—	5,403	—	5,403	7,418
Legal Fees	—	—	—	—	450
Insurance (Including Third Party Risks)	1,135	4,061	—	2,926	2,277
Ministers Houses – repairs	—	875	—	875	—
Irrecoverable VAT	—	4,395	—	4,395	(1,663)
Total General Administration	13,696	277,016	—	263,320	267,091
Unrestricted Funds Totals	£525,640	£581,748	£5,729	£(50,379)	£(40,974)

The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 30 September 2003 (continued)

9 Designated Funds

	Balance 1 Oct 2002	Incoming Resources	Charitable Expenditure	Transfers Between Funds	Investment Gains /(Losses)	Balance 30 Sept 2003
Animal Welfare (Capital)	2,925	—	6	—	165	3,084
Animal Welfare (Income)	1,094	62	—	—	—	1,156
Annual Theme	937	—	—	(138)	—	799
Benevolent Fund	1,960	1,000	640	—	—	2,320
Buildings Advisory Panel	19,674	—	—	(1,000)	—	18,674
Central Postal Mission	7,583	161	16	(1,061)	429	7,996
De Wolfe Fund	333	—	333	—	—	—
GP Provision	—	—	—	1,000	—	1,000
Growth and Development Fund	55	—	—	(55)	—	—
Hymn Book Provision	540	—	—	—	—	540
ID Advertising Provision	4,162	—	2,860	—	—	1,302
India Fund	8,303	176	17	(176)	469	8,755
LL Summer School Provision	437	333	237	—	—	533
LT Publications	78	4	—	—	—	82
Publications Panel Titles	(90)	7,082	6,151	(841)	—	—
RE Adult RE Project	—	—	500	500	—	—
RE Chalice Award	—	10	—	—	—	10
RE HW Fairey Specific Bequest	793	738	—	(1,220)	—	311
Small Congregations	—	—	654	—	—	(654)
Consultancy	—	—	—	(1,000)	—	4,000
SOEG Designated Fund	5,000	—	—	—	—	4,000
SR Counterpoint Fund	1,800	2,326	1,092	—	—	3,034
SR Designated Fund	5,000	—	9	—	—	4,991
Union for Social Service Fund	974	21	2	(21)	55	1,027
Worship Committee	—	—	—	—	—	—
Publications	549	4,561	4,279	(831)	—	—
	£62,107	£16,474	£16,796	£(3,943)	£1,118	£58,960

10 Restricted Funds

	Balance 1 Oct 2002	Incoming Resources	Charitable Expenditure	Transfers Between Funds	Investment Gains /(Losses)	Balance 30 Sept 2003
Chalice Appeal	20,455	15,158	1,794	—	—	33,819
Development Fund	5,384	693	2,571	55	—	3,561
Lewis Edwards Memorial Fund	1,803	38	3	(38)	102	1,902
Arnold Graves Trust	6,324	134	13	(134)	357	6,668
India Fund	3,186	2,985	4,468	(311)	—	1,392
Kharang Rural Centre	3,290	—	—	—	—	3,290
James Speed Trust Income	21,400	20,127	21,907	(1,040)	—	18,580
Lay Pastors Capital	20,600	—	—	—	—	20,600
Lay Pastors Income	3,555	150	2,000	—	—	1,705
Millennium Fund	127,272	3,358	9,368	(182)	6,905	127,985
Ministerial Students Fund	22,625	13,095	20,260	—	—	15,460
OMHB	35,922	—	75	—	2,030	37,877
OMHB Income	1,053	762	1,053	—	—	762
One World Week	10	455	700	200	—	(35)
Prague Flood Relief	862	4,304	5,077	—	—	89
Presidents Chain	1,731	126	968	—	—	889
EU Romania Fund	884	200	—	—	—	1,084
M Humphreys Winder	4,000	—	—	—	—	4,000
M Humphreys Winder Income	886	—	200	—	—	686
Sunday School Fund	15,818	336	33	(336)	894	16,679
Task Force	—	—	8,977	—	—	(8,977)
	£297,060	£61,921	£79,467	£(1,786)	£10,288	£288,016

The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 30 September 2003 (continued)

11 Endowment Funds

	Balance 1 Oct 2002	Incoming Resources	Charitable Expenditure	Transfers Between Funds	Investment Gains /(Losses)	Balance 30 Sept 2003
James Speed Trust	445,819	—	1,764	—	27,683	471,738
Millennium Endowment Fund	10,119	—	222	—	1,513	11,410
	£455,938	—	£1,986	—	£29,196	£483,148

12 Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets	Investments	Net Other Assets	Total
Endowment Funds	—	431,596	51,552	483,148
Restricted Funds	—	91,622	196,394	288,016
Designated Funds	—	14,140	44,820	58,960
Other Charitable Funds	77,092	1,215,400	(3,034)	1,289,458
	£77,092	£1,752,758	£289,732	£2,119,582

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 (2002: £35,000).

A balance of £208 remains of a travel loan made in the year to one member of staff (2002: £708).

14. Staff Costs and Trustees Remuneration

	2003	2002
Wages and Salaries	228,347	237,194
Social Security Costs	22,416	22,660
Pension Costs	16,265	16,626
Ex-gratia payments	9,000	—
	£276,028	£276,480

No employee earned more than £50,000 per annum (2002: £nil).

The average number of employees, (FTE), was 8.7 (2002: 10).

The trustees neither received nor waived any emoluments during the year (2002: £nil).

Travel and subsistence expenses totaling £4,041 were reimbursed to 19 trustees (2002: 25 trustees totaling £8,947).

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 £16,265 (2002 £16,626). The amount due for payment at the year-end was £2,188 (2002: £2,457).

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

Financial Statements

**For The Year ended
30th September 2003**

The Unitarian Convalescent and Holiday Centre at Great Hucklow

Notes to the Financial Statements - 30th September 2003

- 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.
- 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>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Market Value 1st October 2002	1,657	1,709
Net unrealised investment gains	248	(52)
Market Value 30th September 2003	<u>1,905</u>	<u>1,657</u>
Historical Cost as at 30th September 2003	<u>684</u>	<u>684</u>
<u>COIF Charities Investment Fund Units</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Market Value at 30th June 2002	640	743
Net unrealised investment (losses)/gains	(30)	(103)
Market Value 30th June 2003	<u>610</u>	<u>640</u>
Historical Cost as at 30th September 2003	<u>740</u>	<u>740</u>

The Unitarian Convalescent and Holiday Centre at Great Hucklow

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended
30th September 2003 (Continued)

<u>2002</u>		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
(1,924)	Trading Loss brought forward		(8,290)
	Donations		
4,881	Friends of Hucklow	5,752	
3,000	Mrs E B Malcolm	0	
2,435	Money raised at the Open day	2,611	
1,500	Memorial Hall Trustees	800	
1,000	North Lancs Group	0	
0	National Womens League	250	
270	Other Donations	845	
200	East Cheshire Union	200	
160	Manchester District Association	200	
100	Midland Union	100	
50	L.D.P.A.	50	
0	Provincial Assembly	50	
13,596			10,858
(155)	Unrealised (Losses)/Profits on Investments		218
<u>11,517</u>	Net Surplus for the Year carried to the Balance Sheet		<u>2,786</u>

The Unitarian Convalescent and Holiday Centre at Great Hucklow

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended
30th September 2003

<u>2002</u>		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
140,732	Charges to Residents (Including self-catering)	143,578	
3,657	Charges to Day Visitors	5,043	
144,389			148,621
630	Shop Profit	309	
1,306	Rents	728	
130	Other Income	90	
2,066			1,127
415	Grants for Countryside Stewardship		415
10,236	Rents Receivable - Barleycrofts Property		12,237
<u>157,106</u>	Trading Income		<u>162,400</u>
79,969	Salaries, Wages, Pension and NIC		94,623
1,364	Staff Travelling		852
17,314	Repairs and Maintenance		13,337
7,680	Heat, Light, Power and Water Rates		7,828
26,804	Food Consumption		26,784
5,373	Non Food Supplies		3,665
4,764	Laundry		5,306
3,830	Insurance		4,543
908	Telephones		971
1,853	Printing and Stationery		2,720
204	Advertising		442
185	Postages		276
2,235	Committee Expenses		2,018
700	Audit Fee		865
302	Sundries		135
1,525	Interest payable	1,225	
(7,045)	Less Interest Receivable	(6,748)	(5,523)
11,065	Depreciation		11,848
<u>159,030</u>	Trading Expenditure		<u>170,690</u>
(1,924)	Trading Loss carried forward		(8,290)

The Unitarian Convalescent and Holiday Centre at Great Hucklow

Balance Sheet at 30th September 2003 (Continued)

<u>2002</u>		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
	Represented by:-				
	Fixed Assets (Notes 3 & 4)	Balance b/f	Additions	Depre/n	Balance c/f
1,411,647	Buildings	1,411,647			1,411,647
228,240	Building Improvements	228,240	0	7,132	221,108
1,639,887		1,639,887	0	7,132	1,632,755
22,008	Furniture and Equipment	22,008	9,016	4,716	26,308
1,661,895		1,661,895	9,016	11,848	1,659,063
2,297	Investment (Note 5)				2,515
5,783	Stock				5,556
11,697	Debtors and Prepaid Expenditure				20,201
108	Bank Deposit Account			109	
193,034	Bank Current Account (Interest Bearing)			182,101	
129	Cash in Hand			137	
193,271					182,347
<u>1,874,943</u>					<u>1,869,682</u>
31,989	Less:- Creditors				23,942
<u>1,842,954</u>					<u>1,845,740</u>
35,000	Less:- Loan - General Assembly				35,000
<u>1,807,954</u>					<u>1,810,740</u>

W. J. J. J.
W. J. J. J.

Approved by the Council of The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches on 9th February 2004.

The Unitarian Convalescent and Holiday Centre at Great Hucklow

Balance Sheet at 30th September 2003

<u>2002</u>		<u>£</u>	<u>£</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	
1,644,313		1,644,313	
	General Account - Unrestricted Funds		
152,124	Balance at 1st October 2002	163,641	
11,517	Surplus for the Year	2,786	
163,641		166,427	
<u>1,807,954</u>		<u>1,810,740</u>	

The Unitarian Convalescent and Holiday Centre at Great Hucklow

**Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended
30th September 2003**

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Total Funds 2002	Total Funds 2001
<u>Income and expenditure</u>				
<u>Incoming Resources</u>				
Charges	148,621		148,621	144,389
Rents Receivable	12,965		12,965	11,542
Donations	10,858		10,858	13,596
Investment Income	6,748		6,748	7,045
Grants	415		415	415
Other Income	399		399	760
<u>Total Incoming Resources</u>	<u>180,006</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>180,006</u>	<u>177,747</u>
<u>Resources expended</u>				
Direct Charitable Expenditure	146,386		146,386	136,722
Management and Administration of the charity	30,610		30,610	29,149
Fundraising and Publicity	442		442	204
<u>Total Resources Expended</u>	<u>177,438</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>177,438</u>	<u>166,075</u>
<u>Net Incoming Resources</u>				
<u>For The Year</u>	2,568	0	2,568	11,672
Other Recognised Gains and Losses	0	0	0	0
Unrealised (Losses)/Gains on Investments	218	0	218	(155)
<u>Net Movement in Funds</u>	<u>2,786</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,786</u>	<u>11,517</u>
Fund Balances brought forward at 1st October 2002	163,641	1,644,313	1,807,954	1,796,437
Fund Balances carried forward at 30th September 2003	<u>166,427</u>	<u>1,644,313</u>	<u>1,810,740</u>	<u>1,807,954</u>

**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 2003 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

DATE 9th February 2004

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

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.

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

Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

30th SEPTEMBER, 2003

Committee of Trustees

Officers of the General Assembly (Ex Officio)

Austin Fitzpatrick, President

Dawn Buckle, 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

Geoffrey Head

Alan Ruston

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

Sandy Ellis, Honorary Treasurer - until 15th July, 2003

Martin West, Honorary Treasurer - from 15th July, 2003

The Chaplain's House, West Lane, High Legh, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 6LR

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

Bank of Scotland, 55, Temple Row, Birmingham B2 5LS

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 15th 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, 2003, showed an operating deficit of £954 (2002:£7,966). After a net investment gain from disposals of £21,981 (2002:£40) and a year end market revaluation gain of £2,559 (2002:£68,487 Loss), there was an overall surplus of £21,946 (2002:£78,418) for the year. The gain on the investments was due a very welcome recovery in the stock market.

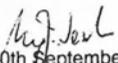
6. Investments

Newton Investment Management Ltd, 71, Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4DR, continued as Investment Managers. 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. It may be necessary from time to time, to supplement income by withdrawals from Capital growth. The portfolio was completely reorganised during the year into a smaller number of larger holdings. The investments were valued as at 30th September, 2003, by Newton Investment Management Ltd.,

7. Grants

Applications for grant-aid towards the payment of stipends were received for the support of 24 Ministries, of which 2 were new applications. Of these 24 applications, 2 were refused. Of the 22 awards made, 5 ceased part way through the year due to the Ministers moving elsewhere or retiring.

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.


30th September, 2003

Michael Tomlin
Chair

SUSTENTATION FUND Registered Charity No.235449

BALANCE SHEET

30th September 2003

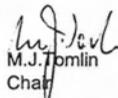
2002 £	ASSETS	£	2003 £
277,545	Investments at Market Valuation Cost as at 30th Sept.2003:£300,941 (30th Sept.2002:£362,986)		303,500
4,810	Cash at Bank	5,076	
21,523	Investment Managers Client A/c	16,319	
26,333			21,395
101	Income Tax Recoverable	17	
858	Dividends Received after Year End	2,221	
959			2,238
304,837			327,133
	Less LIABILITIES		
320	Sundry Creditors		670
304,517			326,463
	REPRESENTED BY:		
	Sustentation Fund		
382,935	Balance as at Start of Year	304,517	
(78,418)	Increase/(Decrease) in the Value of the Fund	21,946	
304,517	Balance as at End of Year		326,463

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
10th October, 2003


M. West
Hon. Treasurer

SUSTENTATION FUND Registered Charity No.235449

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 30th September 2003

2002 £	TOTAL RESOURCES ARISING IN THE YEAR	2003 £
14,544	Bank Interest & Income from Investments (Gross)	15,408
2,542	Donations	1,517
<u>17,086</u>		<u>16,925</u>
	Less EXPENDITURE	
22,950	Grants	15,906
	Administration Expenses	
500	Secretarial Honorarium	500
500	Treasurer's Honorarium	500
535	Travelling Expenses	532
83	Printing & Stationery	41
61	Telephone & Postage	80
104	Bank Charges	
320	Audit Fee	320
<u>2,102</u>		<u>1,973</u>
<u>25,052</u>		<u>17,879</u>
(7,966)	REVENUE (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS	(954)
	INVESTMENT DISPOSALS & REVALUATION	
(40)	Net Gain/(Loss) on Sale of Investments	21,981
(68,487)	Unrealised Gain/(Loss) on Revaluation of Investments	2,559
(1,926)	Investment Management Fees	(1,639)
<u>(70,452)</u>		<u>22,901</u>
<u>(78,418)</u>	TOTAL INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN THE VALUE OF THE FUND	<u>21,946</u>

SUSTENTATION FUND Registered Charity No.235449

INVESTMENTS 30th September 2003

2002 Market Valn £		Original Cost £	Revaln Gain B/F £	Revaln Gain This Yr £	Market Valn £
277,545	Investments sold during the Year	-	(21,981)	21,981	-
-	21,400 Treasury 5% 2012	23,034	-	(845)	22,189
-	21,400 Treasury 5% 2014	23,032	-	(821)	22,211
-	19,550 Treasury 5% 2025	20,328	-	174	20,502
-	16,830.87 Charishare Units	51,250	-	858	52,108
-	76,300 Newton Offshore Fund Fixed Interest	76,530	-	(1,020)	75,510
-	5,393.00 M&G Charifund Units	54,500	-	1,126	55,626
-	114,155.91 Newton Higher Income Fund	52,267	-	3,087	55,354
<u>277,545</u>		<u>300,941</u>	<u>(21,981)</u>	<u>24,540</u>	<u>303,500</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,2003 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
10th October,2003

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 _____

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 _____

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

Signed _____ Date _____

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



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: _____

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: _____

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:
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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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