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**MANCHESTER DISTRICT ASSOCIATION
OF UNITARIAN AND
FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES**



105th ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

To be presented at the Annual Meeting
on Saturday, 27 April 1996
in Monton Church, Monton Green

OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1995/6

President:
MRS. A.N. HARRISON

Vice-President:
REV. A.J. LONG MA

President-Elect:
REV. CELIA MIDGLEY BA

Hon. Treasurer:
MR. K.J. JOHNSON FCA
Fairfield, London Road,
Adlington, Macclesfield, Cheshire
Tel. 01625 828279

Hon. General Secretary:
MR. GEOFFREY HEAD BA
Roslin, 26 Rivington Road, Hale,
Cheshire WA15 9PH
Tel. 0161-928 1687



District Minister:

REV. DENISE BOYD LLCM (TD)
Cross Street Chapel, Cavendish House (2nd Floor)
30 Pall Mall, Manchester M2 1JY
Tel. 0161-833 1176
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**Asst. District Minister:**

REV. ANN LATHAM  
~~~~~

Hon. Magazine Financial Secretary:

MR. A. KAY BA (Com)
~~~~~

**Hon. Publicity Secretary:**

MR. DENNIS CROMPTON MA  
~~~~~

Preaching Plan Secretary:

MRS. ELSIE PALMER
~~~~~

**Religious Education Co-ordinator:**

MRS. SHEILA JONES  
~~~~~

Representative on the General Assembly Council:

REV. DENISE BOYD LLCM (TD)
~~~~~

**Honorary Members:**

ANTHONY E.R. GOULTY MA  
MRS. JOAN WYLIE Cert.Theol. FTC  
~~~~~

Auditors:

HANLEY & CO.
Chartered Accountants, 2 Stamford Road, Bowdon
~~~~~

**OFFICERS OF THE LAY PREACHERS' FELLOWSHIP**

**Superintendent:**

REV. A.J. LONG MA  
~~~~~

Hon. Secretary:

MRS. JUDITH CROMPTON JP
"Rossett Gill"
48 Redcar Road
BOLTON BL1 6LL
Tel. Bolton (01204) 841685

THE COUNCIL IN 1995

President:

* Mrs. A.N. Harrison

Chorlton

* Rev. Ann Latham
Mrs. G. Jones

Vice-President:

* Rev. A.J. Long

Cross Street

* Rev. Denise Boyd
* Mrs. K. Mills
Mrs. Enid Johnson

President-Elect:

* Rev. Celia Midgley

Treasurer:

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Dean Row

Rev. Penelope F. Johnson
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General Secretary:

* Mr. Geoffrey Head

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Mr. G. Timperley
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Magazine Financial Secretary:

* Mr. A.K. Kay

Flagg

Publicity Secretary:

* Mr. D. Crompton

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Rev. Penelope F. Johnson
* Mr. Geoffrey Head
* Miss J. Deacon

Altrincham

* Rev. Celia Midgley
Mr. D.W. Shaw
Dr. A.W. Jones

Knutsford

Rev. C.P. Travis
Mrs. M. Strachan
Mrs. J. Thomason

Brookfield

Rev. Dr. D.C. Doel (until Nov.)
Rev. Ann Peart (from Nov.)
* Mrs. F.M. Ellis

Macclesfield

* Mrs. E. Forrester
Mrs. E. Gunby

* Members of Executive Committee as at 31 December 1995.

Monton

* Rev. Brenda Catherall

Manchester District Women's League

Mrs. E. Gunby

Oldham

* Mrs. C.L. Nuttall

* Mrs. M. Nuttall

Rivington

* Mrs. Judith Crompton

Miss Joan Holding

Co-opted

Mr. C. Taylor

Mr. A. Curren

Mr. A. Forrester

Mr. G. Harrison

Mrs. Sheila Jones

Styal

Rev. Penelope F. Johnson

Mr. J. Rist

Lay Preachers' Fellowship

* Rev. A.J. Long

* Mrs. Judith Crompton

Urmston

* Rev. Celia Midgley

* Mrs. A.N. Harrison

Miss F. Teagle

* Members of Executive Committee as at 31 December 1995.

THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

to be presented to the Annual General Meeting
to be held at Monton Church, Monton Green
on Saturday 27 April 1996

Meetings

Both the Council and the Executive Committee met six times during the year.

Annual Meeting

The 104th Annual General Meeting was held at Dean Row Chapel, Wilmslow on 8 April 1995. The opening Devotional Service was conducted by Michael J. Tomlin, President of the General Assembly. At the opening of the business meeting, those present stood in memory of Manchester Unitarians who had died during the year, including Di Edward (Styal), for some years a member of the MDA Council.

The Minutes of the last Annual Meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts were approved and the District Minister's Report received with appreciation. The meeting then proceeded to the election of officers and committee. Laurie Lancashire (President Elect), for personal reasons, had intimated that he would be unable to proceed to the office of President. This news was received with much regret and appreciation for Laurie's devoted service over many years. The following were then elected for the ensuing year:

Mrs. A.N. (Nicky) Harrison (Urmston) - President; Rev. A.J. Long (LPF) - Vice President; Mr. Geoffrey Head (Cross Street and Hale) - General Secretary; Mr. K.J. Johnson (Dean Row) - Treasurer; Mr. A.K. Kay (Dean Row) - Magazine Financial Secretary; Mr. D. Crompton (Rivington) - Publicity Secretary; Mrs. Elsie Palmer (Dob Lane) - Preaching Plan Secretary; Members of the Executive Committee to serve for three years - Mrs. F.M. Ellis (Brookfield) and Mrs. E. Forrester (Macclesfield). The auditors, Gerald W. Hulme & Co., had merged with the firm of Hanley & Co., Chartered Accountants of Bowdon: it was agreed that Hanley & Co. be appointed auditors for the ensuing year.

The following resolution was moved from the Chair and agreed with acclamation: "That the best thanks of the meeting be given to Michael Tomlin for the conduct of the devotional service, to Jeffrey Teagle for his

address, to Rev. Penelope Johnson for the epilogue, to the organist for the music, and to the Committee and members of Dean Row Chapel concerned with the arrangements and refreshment during the meeting.

After tea, Jeffrey J. Teagle (General Secretary of the General Assembly) gave an encouraging and forward looking survey of the condition of the denomination, coupled with a resounding call to support the new Millennium Appeal.

Autumnal Meeting

The autumnal meeting on 14 October took the form of a Religious Education seminar at Chorlton church, led by Rev. Trevor Jones and Sheila Jones. This proved to be a stimulating occasion which involved all present. Thanks were due to the leaders and to the Chorlton congregation for the excellent tea which concluded a useful and enjoyable afternoon.

Religious Education

Sheila Jones was appointed Religious Education Co-ordinator at the beginning of the year. She arranged successful meetings in May, June and September on the General Assembly REYD's "Ignition" Course and other topics, as well as the October Seminar at Chorlton in October.

CCBI (Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland)

We submitted a motion to the General Assembly Meetings at Chester in the following terms:

"That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches supports further efforts to encourage communication and co-operation between Unitarians and the Council of Churches in Britain and Ireland with a view to Unitarians in due course achieving a status within the CCBI as befits a non-credal founder member of the British Council of Churches.

It further instructs the General Assembly Council to:

- (i) press the CCBI to seek to broaden its present interpretation of observer status, and
- (ii) urge Unitarians to co-operate with the Religious Society of Friends to bring about a greater spirit of inclusiveness within the CCBI."

Celia Midgley, Denise Boyd and Geoffrey Head spoke to this motion at the GA meetings and it was passed. We are monitoring the action taken by the GA secretariat. Progress has been slow so far, owing to the seeming inability of the CCBI to address the issues with any degree of urgency. Locally, the matter has been pressed in the City Centre Churches Forum, which does not accept restrictive CCBI influence and welcomes Unitarian membership and, indeed, leadership.

Finance

It was decided to balance expenditure between the General Fund and the Manchester Unitarian Congregational Fund (see Note 11 to the accounts). Income on these two main funds totalled £51208 (1994 - £46151) and expenditure £48592 (1994 - £40691). The stock market was buoyant towards the end of the year, producing a strengthened balance sheet. We divested our holdings in GEC owing to that company's substantial presence in the arms industry. There were however, problems in finding new tenants for the land in King Street/Queen Street, Salford, after the lease ran out in the summer, and this resulted in a loss of income. Negotiations with a prospective tenant at an increased rent were in train by year end, but difficulty was being experienced in bringing the former occupants to accept obligations for dilapidations in the boundary walls.

Many grants and donations to worthy causes continued on an annual basis, but major "one off" support of congregations included £1000 to Oldham and £2000 to Monton for window protection and £5645 to Urmston for dry rot remedial work (with more to come in 1996). Stipend grants were again made to Altrincham and Urmston. Monton was experiencing a temporary financial hiatus and received £2000 towards stipend. Hale's situation had improved and it was possible to scale down its previous grant. The substantial increase in the District Ministry's costs reflected a full year's payment of Manse Allowance to the Assistant District Minister.

Beyond our District area, the first instalment (£1250) was paid towards a commitment of £5000 over 4 years to the General Assembly Millennium Fund. £250 each went to John Hewerdine's photographic record of our Khasi Hills churches and to Merseyside District as a contribution to the expenses of the GA Annual Meetings held in Chester.

Our continued concern for Indian causes was also evidenced by a donation of £150 towards flood relief at Mawlat in the Khasi Hills, and a contribution of £50 towards the expenses of the Indian Council of Unitarian Churches - taken by our General Secretary (Geoffrey Head), when he visited the sub-continent in December. Support of the Unitarian College Manchester was increased to £700 and the annual donation to Manchester College Oxford was switched to the new Manchester Academy Fund in view of that College's impending incorporation into Oxford University.

The Domestic Mission Fund made substantial grants to the City Centre Night Shelter (£2000), the Threshold Housing Project (£2000), Manchester City Centre Churches Forum effort for the homeless (£5000) and holidays for under privileged Benchill families at our Hucklow Holiday Centre (£2236). It also covered the electricity expenses when Cross Street Chapel, pending its demolition and rebuilding, was used as a night shelter for the homeless during the early months of the year.

Distinguished visitors

The Prince of Wales paid a visit to Norcliffe Chapel during his tour of the Quarry Bank estate at Styal. Carley Lyngdoh (General Secretary, Indian Council of Unitarian Churches) stayed with the General Secretary after the GA meetings and attended services at Hale, Altrincham and Styal.

Happy occasions

A new venture was an enjoyable Play Reading organised by Dennis Crompton at Cavendish House in February. Granada Television ran a programme in its "God's Messengers" series in March, dramatising a notable sermon by Rev. J. Panton Ham at Cross Street Chapel in the 19th century on Sunday observance - this was particularly relevant in view of the advent of Sunday trading, and Rev. Denise Boyd, Minister of Cross Street, took part in the programme. Rev. Ann Latham, our Assistant District Minister, organised a coach outing to the Hucklow Open Day in June. Some of our members attended an enjoyable celebration of Sukkah at the invitation of the Jackson's Row Reform Synagogue in October.

Business Meetings

Some concern was expressed at the format of the business meetings of Council and its Executive Committee in relation to duplication and rubber stamping of recommendations. The discussions continued into the New Year.

The Ministry/Lay Leadership

District Ministry coverage of Oldham, Dob Lane and Chorlton congregations worked smoothly throughout the year. The Pastoral care and services undertaken by Rev. Denise Boyd and Rev. Ann Latham were well supplemented by pulpit supply arrangements through Elsie Palmer at the District Office.

For some years, Dukinfield (in the East Cheshire Union) and Brookfield have been a linked Ministry. Dr. Doel, on reaching retirement age, felt it necessary to reduce his commitments to a single ministry at Dukinfield. It is pleasing to report that Rev. Ann Peart MA (formerly Minister at Golders Green) was, in November, able to accept a part time appointment at Brookfield. She has also been designated by UCM as Thornton Research Fellow to look into the state of the Unitarian collection in the John Rylands Library of the University of Manchester. The only other ministerial change was the termination of the short-lived experiment linking Knutsford with Stalybridge in the East Cheshire Union: happily Rev. Paul Travis continues his productive ministry at Knutsford.

The services of the District Ministry are available for pastoral visitation, rites of passage, etc. in cases where congregations have no Minister or there is a temporary absence. The Preaching Plan Secretary will do her utmost to provide pulpit supply on request - maximum notice is most important and contact should preferably be made on Tuesdays or Thursdays to the District Office at Cavendish House (Tel. 0161-833 1176).

Representation on outside bodies

The MDA maintained its contacts with ecumenical and social work in the Greater Manchester area. It was represented on the Manchester Council for Christians and Jews by Jane Deacon. Rev. A.J. Long retired from "Greater Manchester Churches Together" after many years of devoted service to that body and its predecessors to enable a nominee from the

NELUM area to join Rev. Celia Midgley as Unitarian representatives - Geoffrey Waywell (Stand) has been appointed. The considerable involvement of the District Ministry (Rev. Denise Boyd and Rev. Ann Latham) in social responsibility and ecumenical work is outlined in the District Minister's Report. In the denominational sphere, Rev. Denise Boyd was our representative on the General Assembly Council and Rev. Ann Latham entered her second year of office as President of the Provincial Assembly with Clarice Nuttall and Rev. Denise Boyd as MDA representatives to its Committee.

Manchester Domestic Mission Fund

Under the guidance of its Mission Sub-committee, Council continued to make grants to specialist bodies after careful examination and research. Details of beneficiaries are to be found in the relevant accounts. The sub-committee members were Rev. Denise Boyd (convenor), Rev. Penelope Johnson, Rev. Ann Latham and Freda Ellis. They are most desirous of receiving suggestions and recommendations from congregations as to possible beneficiaries. For the terms of the Trust, please see the "Memoranda" section of this Report.

Survey of Churches

For many years this valuable service has been provided by the MDA free of cost to its member churches. Regular reports on property, together with routine maintenance, avoid the necessity for major repair which can prove to be beyond the financial ability of a congregation. By resolution of Council (31.7.87) the MDA will feel free to restrict grants in aid of building repairs where a survey has not been carried out within the last five years. Congregations may also request surveys to be carried out for special purposes, e.g. to ascertain a recommended value for insurance purposes, to confirm the development potential of land or to locate the cause of troublesome damp.

A survey of OLDHAM was undertaken during the year. Also an appraisal of HALE for insurance purposes and advice to ALTRINCHAM on rent for the new lease of part of its schoolroom.

"The Unitarian"

Details are given elsewhere in this Report. We are sorry that Alan Curren's other commitments led to his decision to retire from a greatly appreciated tenure as Editor, but we deem ourselves fortunate that Frank Hytch has agreed to take over. Despite one or two health problems, Arnold Kay has continued to give notable service as Business Manager. The Editorial Board has been reconstituted with membership as follows: Editor, Business Manager, Alan Curren and one other, to be co-opted.

Publicity

The Publicity Secretary supplied material to the "Inquirer" and the "Unitarian" on a number of occasions.

Manpower and Womanpower Needs

The great weight of MDA administration is carried by the General Secretary and the Treasurer, but it is important that the Minister and two lay representatives of each congregation regularly attend Council Meetings and play their part in the management of Unitarian interests in the District - this only involves the commitment of one evening every other month. Not all congregations are pulling their weight. Attendance at the Annual General Meeting and the Autumnal Meeting is also important for the health of Unitarianism in the area. The District RE Co-ordinator is very willing to assist congregations in the field of Religious Education (both adult and juvenile).

Financial Assistance

The MDA provides financial assistance to members of affiliated congregations in the following circumstances:

- i) Council approves from time to time certain conferences of denominational interest. Subject to certain conditions, including prior approval, expenses are defrayed as follows: One-third conference charge plus public transport costs in full.
- ii) Expenses of attending full or part-time Courses at the Unitarian College will be subsidised, subject to certain conditions, from the Congregational Fund. A similar subsidy may be available to members taking Courses in Religious Studies or Philosophy at other local institutions. Full details on request from the General Secretary.

Northern Federation for Training in Ministry

All the constituent colleges, including the Unitarian College, are now accommodated on the same site, whilst retaining their separate identities. Geoffrey Head, General Secretary of the MDA, continues as Treasurer of the Federation. MDA and other Unitarian bodies are very welcome to use the facilities of Luther King House.

Cross Street Chapel

The congregation and the MDA Office moved into Cavendish House in January and our Council and other meetings have been held in this temporary accommodation. The 1959 Chapel was put to worthy use during its last days as a night shelter for the homeless in the winter months. Completion of the complicated legal matters relating to the redevelopment produced frustrating delays, but the formalities were completed by 1 December. Target date for our occupation of the splendid new Chapel is August 1997.

Provincial Assembly

The MDA, in its capacity as Trustee of the Provincial Assembly, was required to endorse the latter's decision to seek approval from the Charity Commission for the amalgamation of its Ministers' Dinner Fund into its general funds. Council accordingly adopted the following resolution "That this Council approves the request to the Charity Commission for authority to transfer the property of the Ministers' Dinner Fund to the general fund of the Provincial Assembly in accordance with the provisions of Section 74 (2) (a) of the Charities Act 1993."

Thanks and Salutations

Under this heading, we express our sincere thanks to the Trustees and members of Cross Street Chapel for their kind permission to use their premises: the hospitality of the Cross Street Chapel congregation is deeply appreciated and never taken for granted. Now that Cross Street Chapel is in process of rebuilding, we are meeting in its temporary accommodation at Cavendish House. Our thanks are also due to Elsie Palmer, a sheet anchor at Cross Street on Tuesdays and Thursdays, for her work on the Preaching Plan and other matters.

● Above all, we gratefully acknowledge the untiring dedication of our District Minister (Rev. Denise Boyd) and Assistant District Minister (Rev. Ann Latham) in caring for those congregations without ministerial arrangements of their own and for projecting Unitarian social concern into the busy, and often turbulent, life of the inner City: we can best confirm this appreciation by giving them concrete support in their efforts.

District Minister's Report

Throughout this year, both District Ministers and **Elsie Palmer** have endeavoured to maintain, where required, pulpit supply and pastoral cover for our congregations. Our thanks go to all whose co-operation makes this possible. Regular evening services are now held, once a month on the 2nd Tuesday at **Dob Lane** for North Manchester; once a month on the 2nd Friday at **Chorlton** for South Manchester; and every Thursday evening at **Cross Street Chapel** for the City. These are informal, devotional gatherings, followed always by refreshment and a social hour. Ministerial support for congregational outreach work at **Chorlton**, and for **One World Centre** work at **Oldham** has continued to be an important focus for Ann, and one which these congregations value highly.

Included amongst Special Services conducted by the District Ministers this past year we make particular reference to:

Wesak Celebration at Cross Street conducted by Denise and Cross Street Congregation, which involved our visiting Buddha's Light Community later the same day (May).

Goodwill Celebration at Cross Street conducted by Denise, when the Buddhist Community visited us for Worship, together with representatives of City Churches (June).

Funeral Service for Rev. Lionel O. Reed which was conducted by Ann together with one of Lionel's Baptist colleagues, Ernie Wally, at Leigh. It was a memorable occasion for its uplifting spirit and the love it expressed (June 2).

Epiphany Procession at Manchester Cathedral, in which Denise was one of the officiating Ministers (Jan. 14).

Induction of Ann Peart at Gorton. A very happy occasion in which we were all pleased to share and the bells were ringing! (Jan. 1996).

● United Service Provincial Assembly which took place on February 24 1996 at Bolton Bank Street. Ann is the Assembly's President.

We are especially grateful to our Religious Education Co-ordinator, **Sheila Jones** for her work with us this year, and all who attended enjoyed the very excellent **Religious Education Day** she organised together with **Trevor Jones** (our national R.E.C!) at Chorlton in October.

At this time when our national membership of CCBI is being debated, several of our own congregations and our ministers are active and in leadership roles in inter-church groups at local level. Difficulty is still experienced in some areas, but the District as a whole is well represented on such ecumenical committees and fraternals. The District Ministry is involved in inter-church ministers meetings, Ann at Oldham, Denise in Manchester. As we go to print, Ann has the good news that Chorlton Unitarians are now accepted into the local Church group. So, at a local level, our Unitarian Ministers are valued, while in the City Centre itself, we have for some time been members of **Churches Together** and are also members of the **City Centre Churches Forum**, formed in place of the CCBI in order that it might include the Unitarians. This Forum is now extending its association to a wider inter-faith group starting with Cross Street's neighbours at Jackson's Row Synagogue. Our vision to become City Centre Fellowship of Faith.

Another recent development is that Denise is now Secretary of this Manchester City Centre Churches Forum.

The good working relationship that we share with the City Churches has also been significant in an important breakthrough with the local City Council, with regard to the provision of accommodation for homeless people. Unitarians in Manchester were active in negotiations which are now resulting in plans for new and permanent long stay premises for people who have hitherto been unaccommodated because of their inability to deal with the bureaucratic procedures of the Council. Access will be through the Churches rather than the City Council whose members are being fully co-operative in ensuring that this will happen. The Forum has launched a six month pilot scheme in the form of a Night Centre in Ancoats - **Derwent House**. Denise is also now on its management committee, and we hope its success will be a pointer towards the sort of provision we need to supply in the future.

Still on the subject of Homelessness, Ann continues as a volunteer for **Lifeshare** which provides a service to people who presently live on our streets. She is much encouraged by the wonderful support given her by you, our congregations. Ann's experiences also prompted her to bring the **Drugs Issue** more prominently to our notice, and we invited a police representative to visit us on January 23, 1996. Many of you have said how much you appreciated this. A similar evening had already taken place at Dean Row in the autumn.

The District Ministry is continuously involved, together with other committee members, in Domestic Mission Projects. Support (voluntary, financial and ministerial) is given by this District to several projects including hostels, residential care centres, playgroups, after school clubs and family centres.

By the time we reach our AGM, **Cross Street Chapel's** rebuilding programme will have begun. Completion is timed for August 1997. The Opening and Service of Dedication will be in the Autumn of 1997. We view this, as do the churches of the City, as a symbol of Universal Spiritual Outreach for a new age. We also view it as a valuable resource for our District. Denise has now begun addressing church groups and others in the City, to tell them about the new building and about the distinctive nature of the Spiritual witness within it.

OBITUARIES

Rev. Lionel Orlando Reed died in July. Originally trained for the Baptist ministry, he gave valuable service to the Unitarian cause from 1959. He was an Honorary Member of the MDA, a member of its Executive Committee and Council for many years and its President in 1969-71. He had served MDA congregations at Brookfield and Renshaw Street and in his retirement he was a devoted member of the Chorlton congregation. His other ministries were at Leigh and Astley. He was a very active member of the Unitarian Society for Psychical Studies. Our sympathy is extended to Grace and to his son, Rev. Clifford Reed of Ipswich.

Franklyn Johnson was a valued member of the MDA's Council and Executive committee for many years and was our President in 1975-7. He served our former Swinton congregation as Secretary and later as Chairman until its closure in 1987.

He then joined the Stand congregation, of which he was Treasurer, but continued as a co-opted member of the MDA Council until recently. Shortly before his death he had been offered the rarely accorded Honorary Membership of the MDA and this will be conferred posthumously at our AGM in April 1996. He was also a Trustee of Rivington, Treasurer of the Provincial Assembly and a manager of the Stipend Augmentation Fund (the "Liverpool Fund") and Secretary and former Chairman of the Memorial Hall Trustees. In younger days he was President of the Unitarian Young People's League and a very active member of the old Northern Sunday School Federation. Our sympathies go out to Margaret and to daughters, Helen and Sarah.

Lancashire and Cheshire Provincial Assembly

Secretary: Peter Sampson, 11 East Road, Lancaster LA1 3EE
Tel: 01524 66559

1995 saw a flurry of renewed activity for the Provincial Assembly. Rev. Ann Latham, current President, gave the lead for a 'revival' of interest from the constituent district associations (MDA, MDMA, ECU, NELUM) to spend more time on spiritual concerns:- planned for 1996 are a service at Bolton, Halliwell Road, 24th February and a Worship Workshop at the Annual Meeting in Dukinfield Old Chapel, 15th June. We held an extra committee meeting to put 'flesh on the bones' and there is every indication that the impetus will be sustained under the new President, Rev. Jeffrey Gould, who takes over from Ann in June 1996. Our Annual Meeting at Ullet Road, Liverpool with a panel of speakers addressing themselves to the pastoral future of the Assembly gave those present yet more stimulating ideas.

Manchester Lay Preachers' Fellowship

Correspondent: Geoffrey Head, "Roslin", 26 Rivington Road,
Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire WA15 9PH
Tel: 0161-928 1687

Despite appeals for new members there has been little response and the activities of the Fellowship are in abeyance. The MDA area is however in need of volunteers to undertake lay preaching engagements, either in their own congregation, or with wider availability.

● Anyone interested should contact Geoffrey Head - help with books and advice can be given locally and courses are available through the denominational lay training committee.

Congregations requiring pulpit supply, should apply to Elsie Palmer at the District Office. Judith Crompton, after many years' service as Fellowship Secretary, has retired owing to other commitments and grateful thanks are due to her for her notable endeavours. Judith, Geoffrey and Freda Ellis have continued to accept preaching engagements over a wide area, both within and outside the District, and we are grateful to others who are available to conduct worship in their own congregations.

"The Unitarian"

Business Manager: Arnold Kay BA (Com),
15 Hawthorn Grove, Wilmslow SK9 5DE
Tel: 01625 522096

Editor: Frank Hytch MA, 75 Oxford Road,
Mosley, Birmingham B13 9SG
Tel: 0121-449 0503

The most important event has been the change of Editor in December 1995. Alan Curren has served devotedly for 4½ years and his resignation owing to other commitments was quite a blow. He has received many appreciations for his work. Council was, however, delighted that Frank Hytch was able to take over the post. He is a key member of Unitarian New Meeting, Birmingham, and has previously had experience in editing the N.U.F. journal. During the year we have kept well afloat financially. There has been a slight decline in sales of the magazine, but with a little effort, this trend can be reversed. The Editor is always glad to receive material for publication.

Greater Manchester Churches Together

Unitarian representatives: Rev. Celia Midgley and Geoffrey Waywell.

Although Unitarians are still not welcomed into the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland, many of us continue to play an active part in ecumenical groups locally and in the wider district. Rev. Arthur Long, who had represented us loyally for many years on the Greater Manchester

Ecumenical Council (known now as the Greater Manchester Churches Together) retired during the year leaving Rev. Celia Midgley to be joined by Geoff Waywell from the North and East Lancashire Unitarian Mission.

We are glad to welcome NELUM representation alongside that of the MDA.

The 2nd Annual Meeting of the new Greater Manchester Churches Together took place once again at St. Patrick's RC Church, Collyhurst, on 10 June. Five Presidents and thirty-seven representatives of denominations and ecumenical groups were present. After worship led by the Bishop of Salford, representatives from Wakefield, Burnage and Cheadle Hulme talked about their experience of mission involving a wide spectrum of churches; noticeably missing from Wakefield's Christian Festival of April 1994 were the Unitarians. GMCT is formulating plans for special services and events round the county in the years leading up to the Millennium: it is judged to be important that the evangelical network and black majority churches be involved in the process. Christian Aid's 50th birthday was celebrated in Manchester with a successful day gathering on 7 October at St. Peter's House - "The Candle on the Cake" led by Rev. Michael Taylor.

Celia Midgley continues to be involved in leading the N.W. Ecumenical Decade Group's annual day gatherings to celebrate the World Council of Churches' Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women. Arthur Long continues to write the "Inquirer" column "Sounding the Mainstream", which comments on the ecumenical scene from a Unitarian view-point.

Manchester District Women's League

Secretary: Mrs. M. Greenwood, 50 New Street,
Shawclough, Rochdale OL12 6NS
Tel: 01706 31788

Manchester District Women's League: The year has been an active one - Services followed by Business Meetings have been held quarterly, at Bury, Rochdale, Denton and Monton, with an average attendance of 88. The change from afternoon to morning services followed by lunch, has proved to be popular.

The representatives' meetings have been held at Cavendish House with an average attendance of 15; there are 17 branches in the district.

Many members attended the W.L. A.G.M. at Chester in April and stayed for the Anniversary Service.

In September, we hosted the Triennial Conference which was held at Dalton-Ellis Hall. The theme was "The Role of Women in the 1990s". After hearing the main speakers, Mrs. Joan Wylie and Mrs. Irene Hornby, we divided into groups under a leader, to discuss and debate and then 'report' back. Three days of learning, fellowship and friendship which will long be remembered.

During the year, our branches have been saddened by the loss of well-loved loyal members and we mourn their passing, but we look ahead and carry on their work with hope and confidence in the future of the Women's League.

CHURCH REPORTS

ALTRINCHAM

Minister: Rev. Celia Midgley BA
Secretary: Miss Angela Fowler, 15 Birch Tree Close,
Bowdon, Altrincham WA14 3PP
Tel. 0161-928 6143

1995 saw the congregation united in many different ways. We met for Sunday services when the minister's varied addresses led to discussion during coffee-time. Two courses were well-supported - the second half of BYOT and the first five sessions of 'A Manual of Congregational Self-development'. Social events included quiz evenings, a pantomime, concerts and a Chapel outing to Chorley and Hoghton Tower. The Women's League continued to meet weekly and enjoyed each other's company in a range of social and fund-raising activities.

However, financial worries were uppermost in our minds and among our efforts to remain solvent, we arranged sponsored events, bought from and sold to each other, refurbished and subsequently let the Chapel-keeper's cottage, at the same time managing without a caretaker, and we raised appreciable sums of money by taking over the local Charity shop for a week and responding to our Talents' Challenge. We felt satisfied with the results of our hard work but, unfortunately, dry rot was discovered in our large schoolroom which will involve unforeseen expenditure.

In 1995, we were saddened by the deaths of several older members. At the same time, we were pleased that five new members were welcomed at the Anniversary Service and they are already making their contributions to Chapel life.

BROOKFIELD

Minister: Rev. Ann Peart MA
Secretary: Mrs. F.M. Ellis, 37 Balmoral Drive,
Denton, Manchester M34 2JT
Tel: 0161-336 3274

In November, Brookfield welcomed their new part-time minister, the Rev. Ann Peart, who is a Hyde girl by birth, but had not been in Brookfield until she came to look at us. Her Induction Service was held on a very snowy day in January 1996, but friends from Unitarian and other denominations were welcomed by the ringing of our eight bells. An inspiring service was led by the Rev. Denise Boyd with help from the Rev. Ann Latham. The Rev. Arthur Latham gave the Charge to the Congregation and Dr. Leonard Smith gave the Charge to the Minister.

Now we must go forward to strengthen the Church numbers, include new ideas and make our presence felt in the Gorton district.

We have still not sold the school, which is now vandalised past all recognition. Buyers are interested, plans are submitted, but the money is not forthcoming. Ideas and plans are there waiting to change the Church into a dual-purpose building, but this cannot be done until the school is sold.

Services are held every Sunday morning throughout the year. The usual special services, such as Mothering, Easter, All Present, Harvest, Church Anniversary and Christmas, are celebrated.

We are greatly indebted to the Preaching Plan Secretary of the MDA who so willingly helps us to fill the vacant Sundays. To our own Minister, to Dr. Doel, Ministers and Lay people who give us thoughtful and inspiring services, we give our sincere thanks.

CHORLTON

Minister: The Assistant District Minister (Rev. Ann Latham)
Secretary: Mrs. H. Boyce, 10 Edgehill Court,
Cromwell Road, Stretford, Manchester M32 8GF
Tel: 0161-865 7296

1995 was a very sad year for us at Chorlton, as our dear friend, the Reverend Lionel Reed, died in May. In April, we concentrated on finding the cause of the rapid flooding in the cellar when the pumps break down. North West Water, the Department of Environment and the Rivers Authority were all contacted. We were told that there is an underground

pond and stream in the vicinity, and that we are powerless to remedy the situation. We must be constantly vigilant.

Our vestry has been re-decorated and re-furbished, and it now houses our church library of Unitarian Literature and other suitable material. The books were bought with the proceeds of a Coffee Morning arranged for that purpose. The proceeds of another Coffee Morning were divided with Lifeshare.

Two members attended the first part of the Religious Education course. Friday Evening Services and Wednesday Socials continue. Numbers attending the socials were down.

Our largest congregation was at the Christmas Day Service when we had many visitors, as there were few, if any, other services in the area.

Our building is rented by the same groups and we have an additional fortnightly letting by PROBUS.

CROSS STREET

Minister: Rev. Denise Boyd LLCM (TD)
Secretary: Eric Armitage, Cross Street Chapel,
Cavendish House (2nd Floor),
30 Pall Mall, Manchester M2 1JY
Tel. 0161-833 1176

Having been in temporary accommodation for twelve months, work has now begun on our redevelopment after long negotiations and hard work by our Trustees.

Regular services of worship have included Thursday evening devotions in which we shared Communion of Fellowship devised by our members. Mid-week lunch time services and Sunday worship have continued as usual.

Our Women's League has, sadly, sustained the loss of Mabel Johnson, an exceptional and much loved President and Secretary, who died on the day of our Christmas Carol Service.

We observed three other great festivals - Easter, Wesak and Goodwill, when we entertained visitors from other denominations. We paid a return visit to our neighbouring Buddha's Light community where we shared food and fellowship.

● Our Chapel continues to be an active member of the City Centre Churches Forum, presently working to secure permanent, sustainable accommodation for homeless people, with full support from our City Council. The Forum is now extending membership to other Faith groups, starting with our neighbours at Jackson's Row Synagogue, Unitarians and Cross Street playing no small part in this!

DEAN ROW

Minister: Rev. Penelope F. Johnson
Secretary: Mrs. Mary Robb, 11 Vernon Road,
Poynton, SK12 1YS
Tel: 01625 260696

We continue to enjoy the leadership of our excellent Minister. In her absence, we have members who can conduct services most acceptably and in addition, we look forward to hearing Geoffrey Head, Arthur Long and Eric Wild from time to time. The Junior Church is well established in our Hall each Sunday. It is hoped to inaugurate a class of older children in the Vestry. Many successful efforts have raised useful sums for organisations such as hospices, the Rainbow Trust and a schizophrenia charity. We are grateful for so many willing helpers, generous with their time, energy and expertise, to serve our Chapel.

DOB LANE

Minister: The District Minister (Rev. Denise Boyd)
Secretary: Mrs. Elsie Palmer, 51 Assheton Crescent,
Newton Heath, Manchester M40 6NN
Tel. 0161-688 4498

A very welcome visitor in April was Mike Tomlin, the then G.A. President, who conducted our Anniversary Service.

A quick decision had to be made when our proposed visit to Scarborough church was cancelled just the day before, due to the disastrous fire. However, we were invited to transfer to Whitby instead and the change of venue proved popular.

Our main concern at the moment is trying to find an organist: the lady who has played for many years has been very poorly and is unlikely to be with us for some time. Organists seem to be in short supply, but we do have a few Ministers and speakers who will play and preach.

In the last couple of months we have lost four of our oldest members, one of whom was a past President and Treasurer. It is mainly due to his shrewd business knowledge that we have remained solvent throughout the years and we are lucky that we have always had someone to step into the 'hot seat'.

In order to help the District Ministers' preaching arrangements, we have changed the time of services to 9.45 a.m., a little early maybe, but we hope it doesn't frighten any newcomers away. Our monthly midweek meditational service has a regular attendance and is much enjoyed.

FLAGG

Correspondents: (a) The General Secretary
(b) Howard Hague, 118 Elton Avenue,
Greenford, Middlesex UB6 0PR

The MDA is Trustee of this Chapel in a small Derbyshire village - it was founded by the Manchester District Missionary Society, a forerunner of the MDA, in the 1830s.

There is now no local Unitarian congregation and fortnightly Anglican services are held there. Annual Unitarian services are held in conjunction with the meeting of the Trustees of "The Green", the former home of Annie Beard Woodhouse (MDA President 1929-1931) and now used for denominational and socially useful purposes.

HALE

Minister: Rev. Penelope Johnson
Secretary: Mrs. E.M.J. Harrison, 25 Ravenwood Drive,
Hale Barns, Altrincham WA15 0JA
Tel: 0161-980 5513

The Vestry extension is proving most successful, both as a meeting place after Sunday Services, and for the crèche at the Family Service. Enthusiastic plans to hold a Flower Festival in 1996 were postponed, to coincide with the Chapel's 275th Anniversary in 1998. The 'Care for a Grave' scheme continues to be taken up, and monumental stone masons are repairing old, neglected head-stones. A directional sign was erected in the village, guiding visitors to the Chapel. The Chapel hall has regular bookings and three of our own services will take place there while eradication of wood-worm infestation in the Chapel is carried out.

● The John Clarke room, adjacent to the Hall, has been refurbished and lettings have commenced. Eighteen children, dressed as Nativity persons, led a candlelight procession into the Chapel for the Toy Service. Toys were donated to the Family Service Unit in Manchester. Donations of non-perishable foods were assembled at the Harvest Festival and given to LIFESHARE. Nigel Blakey joined a team and successfully climbed Mount Kilimanjaro to raise money for Cancer Research at Christies Hospital, Manchester; and Geoffrey Head attended the Conference of the Indian Council of Unitarian Churches on his own mission to India. Fund raising events include concerts, jumble sales, whist drives and coffee mornings.

KNUTSFORD

Minister: Rev. C.P. Travis
Secretary: Mrs. Jean Thomason JP, 10 Hayton Street,
Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 0DR
Tel. 01565 652567

1995 started with the joint Ministry with the Stalybridge Church on trial for a year. This was terminated after 6 months and our services reverted to 11 a.m. each week.

Work on the Chapel and Hall continued and the gardens improved. The Summer fair was held on the front lawn for the first time and was very successful.

The Town Mayor for Knutsford, Cllr. Bill Davies, asked our Minister to be his Chaplain and the Civic Service was held in the Chapel.

Our Minister revised the Chapel leaflet and published two new leaflets on our Unitarian faith, for distribution locally.

The Sunday School leaders raised monies to provide new red pew covers which were in place for the Christmas service.

Interest in the Chapel is growing and Sunday attendance increasing. The Gaskell Society continue to bring visitors from home and abroad and hold their meetings in the hall occasionally. On special services, the Chapel is full to capacity. A loop system for the Deaf has been installed, donated by the local Hard of Hearing group.

MACCLESFIELD

Congregational Leader: Mrs. Eila Forrester BA

Secretary: Miss Barbara Adkinson, 208 Bond Street,
Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 6RG
Tel. 01625 420126

This year was one of increasing congregational activity with members raising funds for necessary work on the Chapel fabric. A general appeal was made to the denomination with the launch of the Restoration Fund in May. Our gratitude is expressed to all who have supported our efforts to date. We are hopeful that the work will commence by mid-1996 - we still need to raise about £20,000 for Phase 1.

We began a monthly Service for Children - four youngsters were present on the first occasion and there was an average of seven during the year. The congregation, with valued help from friends, presented the history of the Chapel from 1690 to 1940 in "Son et Lumière", gaining publicity from the local press. This has resulted in a number of visitors to the Chapel and interest is growing. We found it necessary to demolish our social hall in the autumn. It had served the Chapel well, but was no longer viable. (A World War I army accommodation building, it had been purchased and erected in Jordangate in 1922).

We were pleased to host the U.N.A. 50th Anniversary Service in October. Mindful of SECURITY and SAFETY of the building and all who attend, we have installed a monitoring system and we are to have handrails fitted to the outer staircases in the near future. In good heart we look forward to the future with optimism.

MONTON

Minister: Rev. Brenda Catherall BA

Secretary: Miss I. Hitchcock, 56 Algernon Street,
Monton, Eccles, Manchester M30 9PG
Tel. 0161-789 7776

The year began with a Membership Service, when we welcomed some new members. Each Sunday, after morning service, all present are encouraged to take refreshment in the Memorial Hall. The main Fundraising events have been the Spring Market in April, the Garden Party in June, the Harvest Supper and Gift Day in October - all were well supported.

In July, we took part in the annual procession of witness with the other two churches in the area and we were accompanied by two bands. The Lifeboat service was held in September and at the Remembrance Day service, our Minister gave a very interesting address. The Christmas services were well supported, especially one with the Borough Band and the late-night Carol Service. A new altar cloth has been donated by the Women's League, in our colours of blue and yellow (this was dedicated by the Minister at the Membership Service).

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts meet with their leaders each week and they are encouraged to take part in church activities. The Sunday School has eight members and they had a most enjoyable Christmas Party early in 1996, with games, Disco and refreshments. We are most fortunate to have Brenda Catherall as our Minister and value her pastoral care, interesting services and her representation of the congregation on the Manchester District Council.

OLDHAM

Minister: The Assistant District Minister (Rev. Ann Latham)
Secretary: Mrs. Audrey H. Kershaw, 333 Park Road,
Oldham OL4 1SF
Tel. 0161-624 0165

We have been more fortunate in 1995 in that the spate of "break-ins" experienced in 1994 has not been repeated, save for a small one which caused little damage and, more important, our newly installed loop system and microphone remained intact.

Although membership has not increased, it has been a good year in the sense of continuing fellowship and warm friendship, not only within the congregation, but in extended relationships through the various groups who use the Chapel for their gatherings.

Our weekly services led by the Reverends Ann Latham and Denise Boyd (we are also grateful to the Reverend Arthur Long and lay speakers who help us out) give us food for thought, and the special events - the Wedding Weekend in March, the Harvest Festival, the Chapel Anniversary, and the Carol Service, preceded by Christmas lunch - all proved enjoyable. The new venture of a Christmas Shoppers' Lunch in early December, instead of the usual Christmas Fair, proved equally successful.

● The Women's League regular meetings for discussions, poetry readings, etc. were interspersed by a Garden Party and a Christmas Party at the homes of members, and a visit to the Library Theatre for "A Christmas Carol", all of which were considered to be highlights of the year's programme.

One event, memorable for the wrong reasons, was the attempted take-over of the Chapel for development purposes by the nearby Sixth Form College. Unitarian grit made its expected appearance, and by dint of objections to the Planning Officer (supported by the groups using the Chapel), meetings with Councillors and the local M.P., attending the Planning Meeting, and generally creating waves, we fought off the proposed development. We are now thinking of advertising ourselves as professional lobbyists.

And so we are left with the thought; as an old boss used to say: "Just carry on carrying on!"

RIVINGTON

Layperson in charge: Mrs. Judith Crompton JP

Secretary: Mr. D.F. Crompton, 'Rossett Gill', 48 Redcar Road
Smithills, Bolton BL1 6LL
Tel. 01204 841685

The usual Chapel services (1st & 3rd Sundays) now continue through the June and July holiday periods and the lay leader conducts many rites of passage. Some notable services included VE-VJ Remembrance to which members contributed memories, amusing and moving. We also hosted an unusual concert of Christmas music by an Italian ensemble. At last negotiations are progressing with English Heritage about the much needed repairs to the Vestries. Charities supported include Lifeshare (Manchester) and the Soldiers, Sailors & Airmen Families Association. We also continue to support and attract visits from Historical Associations, Women Institutes and schools.

STYAL

● Minister: Rev. Penelope F. Johnson
Secretary: Mrs. Christine Best, 9 Meadow Road,
Cheadle Hulme, SK8 6EJ
Tel: 0161-485 5088

We can really feel quite proud when we say we haven't let the grass grow under our feet and have tried one or two new innovations.

Firstly, in the area of Family Service. With our service being at 6.00 p.m., this time isn't very conducive for families with small children, so a survey has been conducted and, as a result, a service will be held earlier, once a month, starting in May.

Our Special Services, I'm glad to report, have again been very well supported and on two or three occasions, we have been delighted to donate our offertory to a special cause, i.e. Romanian Appeal or Nigel Blakey Kilimanjaro Climb for Christies.

We have continued to open the Chapel every Sunday afternoon from Easter to Harvest, in accordance with National Trust requirements. This can be a bit of a struggle through lack of volunteers, but we do somehow manage.

URMSTON

Minister: Rev. Celia Midgley BA
Secretary: Miss F. Teagle, 213A High Street West,
Glossop, Derbyshire SK13 8EX
Tel: 01457 868119

After the excitement of our Centenary Year, 1995 brought new challenges. Attendances at services, Junior Church and congregational meetings were good. Fund Raising, efforts such as Spring and Autumn Fairs, the bedding plant sale and waste paper collections, have been a vital part of our fundraising efforts. The Worship Group has been active in preparing for special services and encouraging colour, movement and congregational participation in our worship. Unhappily it became necessary to close down the Mother and Toddler Group owing to the lack of available volunteers to help with the running, and problems with the Playgroup led to a change in management.

● The year from August was dominated by the great dry rot saga. After the discovery of a serious infestation, professional advice and considerable finance was required. Problems were tackled with energy and determination, loans and grants were applied for and promptly furnished by the MDA, and the congregation set about fundraising with energy and determination. Before the end of the year, the work was complete and we were able to celebrate with a Christmas Dinner at Great Hucklow.

We have been saddened that Robert Haslam, for so long a pillar of strength in our congregation, has been in such poor health. On happier notes, we thank our Minister for her notable leadership in all aspects of our Congregational life, congratulate Nicky Harrison on her election as possibly the youngest ever President of the MDA, and express our appreciation of those of our members continuing their dedicated involvement with ROMANIA LINK.

MEMORANDA

1. General Account

This includes all the Association's Funds other than those specified below.

The General Account Funds were derived from various sources, including legacies given by the late Mrs. E. Cooke, Miss A. Burgess, Mr. R. Royle, Mr. S.L. Robinson, Mr. F.H. Wilkinson and Mr. B. Hodgkinson, proceeds from sales of property at Strangeways, Longsight, Bradford, Moss Side and Middleton and funds formerly held for the Willert Street Endowment Fund (established by Resolution of the Council in 1953, and incorporated in the General Account by Resolution of the Council in 1959). The main entry relating to the Association in the Register under the Charities Act 1960, reference no. 234584, summarises the general purposes of the Association from the Constitution as "to aid Unitarian and Free Christian Churches within the Association, to assist in forming new ones, to promote religious services and to further other missionary effort."

2. Manchester Unitarian Congregational Fund

This Fund was approved by the Charity Commission by a scheme Ref. CS (Liv 1) 50373A/2 dated 14 June 1993. The clear income shall be applied in or towards the upkeep, repair and improvement of chapels whose congregations are members of the MDA and in or towards the maintenance of services in the said chapels and otherwise in furthering the religious, educational and charitable work of the said Association. The whole or part of the property may be applied at any time in or towards providing land or buildings in the area of the said Association to be settled upon trust for use as a chapel for a congregation of protestants dissenting from the Church of England and adhering to the principles of Unitarian Christianity. Registered number 1032203.

This Fund was created by the amalgamation of seven existing charities together with the clear proceeds and other assets of our former Pendleton Unitarian Free Church. These charities were as follows:

- (i) Upper Brook Street Free Church Fund (1922)
- (ii) Sale Unitarian Church Trust Fund (1972)
- (iii) Blackley Unitarian Chapel Trust Fund (1974)
- (iv) Platt Chapel Trust (1977)
- (v) Swinton Unitarian Free Church Fund (1987)

All the above derive from the proceeds of the sale of the respective chapels/churches.

- (vi) Unitarian and Free Christian Church School Fund (1978)

This Fund itself derived from an amalgamation of several smaller funds, viz.

- (a) The former Lower Mosley Street Schools Fund, the endowments of which were increased in 1963 by the transfer of Chief Rents from the family of the late J.M. Eaton.
- (b) The Institute Fund, which derived from the proceeds of the sale of premises in Poland Street, Oldham Road, Manchester, which were used as a non-denominational Christian Sunday School from 1892 to 1961.
- (c) The Taylor Charity Account, the endowment of which derived from the will of Richard Taylor, who died in 1737. After being administered by private trustees for over 200 years it was taken over by the MDA in 1968 under an order of the Secretary of State for Education and Science.

- (d) The Portland Grove Fund. This Fund was associated with our former Platt Chapel (see 2(iv) above), but was administered by separate trustees. The endowment derived from the sale of the former day school founded in the 19th century. When the building was no longer required for its original purpose, owing to the provision of education by the State, it was used for many years for Sunday School and other purposes by Platt Chapel.
- (vii) Salford Bible Christian Charity (1954).
This charity derived from a former non-denominational church and had been administered by independent trustees associated with our Pendleton Church since 1961.

3. Jonathan Milner Memorial Fund

This small fund was set up in 1919 by Arthur William Cowburn to assist teachers and scholars of Pendleton Sunday School attending Hucklow or other holiday homes or for other excursions. Now that the Pendleton School no longer exists it is available for members of other Sunday Schools in the Manchester District to benefit. It is still administered by independent trustees associated with the former Pendleton Church.

4. Leech Fund

This charity derived from Rev. Comberbach Leech, an eighteenth century Presbyterian Minister, under a Trust Deed dated 7 July 1730. The MDA became sole trustee under a Charity Commission scheme dated 19 June 1979 (Ref: L3 (E) / 602094). This small fund is for the benefit of Ministers in the counties of Northumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire. In practice the income has over the years for the most part been applied to the purchase of books for such Ministers, but it can be used for wider purposes.

5. Manchester Domestic Mission Society Trust

The Society was founded in 1833 to assist in the "Ministry to the Poor" of Manchester. A missionary was employed to visit the poor in their homes. Later Missions and Sunday Schools were supported in Miles Platting, Rochdale Road, Hulme and elsewhere in the inner city. The last of these premises was sold in 1977.

The society was started by Unitarians in Cross Street Chapel and, although the funds were raised almost exclusively by Unitarians, it has from the first been undenominational. Its objects remain those of the Trust Fund of March 1 1870: "the diffusion of religious and other elevating influences by ministry amongst the poor in Manchester in such wise that no denominational or sectarian name or test shall at any time be introduced into the management of the Trust." The MDA became manager and sole trustee under a Charity Commission scheme dated 4 November 1981 (Ref. L3/253, 233 A/1). The Charity Commission registration number is 253233.

6. Trusts and Trustees of Funds and Properties

By virtue of its status as a Trust Corporation the MDA acts as sole trustee for all Trusts and Funds which it administers. The MDA is also sole trustee of Oldham Unitarian Church, Chorlton Unitarian Church, Dunham Road Chapel Altrincham, Hale Chapel, Queen's Road Free Church Urmston, Flagg Chapel and Chorley Unitarian Chapel and acts as custodian trustee for Rivington Chapel. It is the sole trustee of the Provincial Assembly of Lancashire and Cheshire. With individual Trustees it is a trustee of Cross Street Chapel, Manchester, and King Edward Street Chapel, Macclesfield.

7. Archives

Manchester Central Library is the designated repository for archives of the Manchester District Association and its member congregations. All congregations are urged to deposit their records, particularly those of historical interest, in this repository. The General Secretary of the MDA is at all times ready to advise as to the appropriate steps.

The Unitarian Monthly Magazine

Income & Expenditure Account - year ended 31.12.95

<u>1994</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>1995</u>
	Magazine		2,800.00	Printing	2,980.00
4,821.52	Sales	4,557.79	1,037.98	Carriage &	
	Advertising			Postage	1,041.01
130.00	Income	307.50	350.00	Honoraria	350.00
10.00	Donations	28.25		Management	
	Interest		120.53	Expenses	96.23
<u>103.75</u>	Received	<u>180.28</u>			
5,065.27		5,073.82	<u>4,308.51</u>		<u>4,467.24</u>
756.76		Excess of Income over Expenditure			606.58

Balance Sheet at 31.12.95

6,308.89	Accumulated Funds at 1.1.95	7,065.65
	Add Excess of Income over Expenditure	
<u>756.76</u>	for the year	<u>606.58</u>
<u>7,065.65</u>		<u>7,672.23</u>

Represented by

	Investment in 620.34 income shares	
4,000.00	in C.O.I.F. at cost.	4,000.00
	Market Value (bid price) £4,499	
	(1994 £3,947)	
	Current Assets (Net)	
1,395.37	Magazine Debtors	435.91
-	Halifax Building Society balance	1,000.00
	Balance with Royal Bank of Scotland,	
<u>1,800.28</u>	Wilmslow	<u>2,236.32</u>
3,195.65		3,672.23
<u>130.00</u>		
3,065.65	Less Creditors	-
<u>3,065.65</u>		<u>3,672.23</u>
		<u>7,672.23</u>

Signed:

Arnold Kay
4/1/96

Audited and found correct

Signed: Peter Shaw
13/1/96

**Manchester District Association of
Unitarian and Free Christian Churches Inc.**

**Income and Expenditure Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 1995**

1994	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	1995
	<u>Income</u>	
18,145	Investment Income	20,672
1,314	Interest on loans to churches - Note 6	2,063
3,620	Contributions by churches for pastoral care - Note 7	3,860
830	Congregational subscriptions - Note 8	740
65	Preaching fees	60
<u>23,974</u>		<u>27,395</u>
	<u>less Expenditure</u>	
18,698	Stipend, clerical assistance and general expenses of District Ministry	22,743
3,163	Depreciation of motor vehicles	2,373
2,325	Subscriptions, affiliation fees and donations - Note 9	-
8,650	Special grants - Note 10	-
294	Church Surveys	498
1,605	Administration and Sundries	1,160
422	Delegates and other travel expenses	642
588	Audit fee	294
145	Depreciation of office equipment	-
<u>35,890</u>		<u>27,710</u>
<u>11,916</u>	<u>Income deficit - Note 5</u>	<u>£ (315)</u>

**Manchester District Association of
Unitarian and Free Christian Churches Inc.**

**Income and Expenditure Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 1995 (cont.)**

1994	<u>MANCHESTER UNITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL FUND</u>	1995
	<u>Income</u>	
17,708	Investment Income	20,566
4,421	Rents receivable	3,170
48	Sale of Books	77
<u>22,177</u>		<u>23,813</u>
	<u>less Expenditure</u>	
4,250	Stipend grants - Note 12	4,506
237	Book purchases and grants	10
124	Delegates' travel expenses	-
10	Subscriptions, affiliation fees and donations - Note 9	4,606
180	Special grants - Note 10	11,084
-	Legal expenses	676
<u>4,801</u>		<u>20,882</u>
<u>£17,376</u>	Income Surplus - Note 5	<u>£2,931</u>
1994	<u>MANCHESTER DOMESTIC MISSION SOCIETY FUND</u>	1995
	<u>Income</u>	
12,600	Investment Income	14,331
	<u>less Expenditure</u>	
<u>5,480</u>	Grants - Note 13	<u>12,170</u>
<u>£7,120</u>	Income Surplus - Note 5	<u>£2,161</u>
	<u>LEECH TRUST FUND</u>	
	<u>Income</u>	
195	Investment Income	239
	<u>less Expenditure</u>	
<u>150</u>	Book grants	<u>158</u>
<u>£ 45</u>	Income Surplus - Note 5	<u>£ 81</u>
	<u>Summary of surpluses and (deficits) on MDA Income and Expenditure Accounts</u>	
(11,916)	General Fund	(315)
17,376	Manchester Unitarian Congregational Fund	2,932
7,120	Manchester Domestic Mission Society Fund	2,161
45	Leech Trust Fund	81
<u>£12,625</u>	Net Income surplus	<u>£4,859</u>

**Manchester District Association of
Unitarian and Free Christian Churches Inc.**

1994	<u>Balance Sheet at 31.12.95</u>	1995
	Investments at cost	
524,262	(Market value £832,219 - 1994 £766,046) - Note 1	546,544
41,346	Loans to Churches - Note 2	40,846
9,490	Motor cars at cost less depreciation - Note 3	7,117
7,536	Income Tax and tax credits recoverable	8,432
49,567	Cash on deposit with bankers	54,072
3,587	Cash on deposit with stockbroker	24,408
150	Debtors	400
635,938		681,819
1,869	<u>Less creditors</u>	<u>1,728</u>
<u>£634,069</u>		<u>£680,091</u>
	<u>General Fund</u>	
144,054	Capital - Note 4	159,301
92,559	Accumulated Income - Note 5	<u>92,244</u>
<u>236,613</u>		251,545
	<u>Manchester Unitarian Congregational Fund</u>	
187,131	Capital - Note 4	202,300
62,182	Accumulated Income - Note 5	<u>65,113</u>
<u>249,313</u>		267,413
	<u>Manchester Domestic Mission Society Fund</u>	
81,892	Capital - Note 4	92,463
63,762	Accumulated Income - Note 5	<u>65,923</u>
<u>145,654</u>		158,386
	<u>Leech Trust Fund</u>	
959	Capital - Note 4	1,136
1,530	Accumulated Income - Note 5	<u>1,611</u>
2,489		2,747
<u>£634,069</u>		<u>£680,091</u>

Approved by the Board.

Secretary *Chairman* *Secretary*
Secretary and Treasurer

**Manchester District Association of
Unitarian and Free Christian Churches Inc.**

Notes to the Accounts

Note 1 Investments at cost

Balance at 1st January 1995	524,262
Purchases at cost, and special dividend	<u>79,781</u>
	604,043
<u>Less</u> cost value of disposals in the year	<u>57,499</u>
	<u>546,544</u>

The investments costing £57,499 were sold for £98,664, giving rise to a surplus of £41,165 which has been allocated to the Capital Accounts of the four funds, as per Note 4.

Note 2 Loans to Churches

	Chorlton	Urmston
Balance at 1st January 1995	34,846	6,500
Repayments in the year	<u>(500)</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>£40,846</u>	<u>£6,500</u>

Note 3 Motor Cars

	Cost	Depreciation
Balance at 1st January 1995	15,045	5,555
Depreciation provided in the year (25% of net value)	<u>-</u>	<u>2,373</u>
	<u>£7,117</u>	<u>7,928</u>

Note 4 Capital Accounts

	General Fund	MUC Fund	MDMS Fund	Leech Fund
Balances at 1st January 1995	144,054	187,131	81,892	959
Add surplus on realisation of investments	<u>15,247</u>	<u>15,169</u>	<u>10,571</u>	<u>177</u>
	<u>159,301</u>	<u>202,300</u>	<u>92,463</u>	<u>1,136</u>

Note 5 Accumulated Income Accounts

	General Fund	MUC Fund	MDMS Fund	Leech Fund
Balances at 1st January 1995	92,559	62,182	63,762	1,530
Add (deduct) surplus (deficit) in the year	<u>(315)</u>	<u>2,931</u>	<u>2,161</u>	<u>81</u>
	<u>92,244</u>	<u>65,113</u>	<u>65,923</u>	<u>1,611</u>

Note 6 Interest on loans to Churches

Interest is charged at 5% per annum and amounted to £2,063

See also Note 10 where a grant, equivalent to the interest charged, was made to Chorlton Church (£1,739).

Note 7 Contributions were made by churches for pastoral care into the General Fund as follows:-

	1994	1995
Dob Lane	1,230	1,250
Chorlton	1,250	1,250
Oldham	1,140	1,360
	<u>£3,620</u>	<u>£3,860</u>

Note 8 Congregational subscriptions were received into the General Fund as follows:-

	1994	1995
Altrincham	40	50
Chorlton	100	100
Cross Street	45	50
Dean Row	150	100
Dob Lane	20	20
Flagg	-	-
Gorton	25	25
Hale	25	25
Knutsford	100	100
Macclesfield	25	25
Monton	50	50
Oldham	25	25
Rivington (1994 covers 1993 and 1994)	50	25
Styal	85	85
Urmston	60	60
Donation by Mr. A. Goulty	30	-
	<u>£830</u>	<u>£740</u>

Note 9 Subscriptions, affiliation fees and donations

Borne by the General Fund in 1994 and Manchester Unitarian Congregational Fund in 1995 - See Note 11.

	1994	1995
Manchester Council for Voluntary Service	7	-
General Assembly	500	500
World Development Committee	50	50
Unitarian Millennium Fund (first of four pledged contributions)	-	1,250
Manchester Academy Fund (1994 M.C.O.)	70	400
I.A.R.F.	15	15
Unitarian Holiday Centre	200	200
The Inquirer	500	500
Unitarian College Manchester	600	700
Greater Manchester County Ecumenical Council	190	190
Romanian Relief Fund	250	-
Provincial Assembly	6	6
Octagon Chapel Appeal	-	20
A. Forrester testimonial	-	50
J. Hewerdine - photographic record in India	-	250
Merseyside District Association - to assist in G.A. exp.	-	250
Flood relief in India	-	150
India congress expenses	-	50
	<u>2,388</u>	

Less Contribution by N.E.L.U.M. to G.M.C.E.C.

	63	
	<u>£2,325</u>	
	<u>M.U.C.F.</u>	
Manchester Council of Christians and Jews	<u>£ 10</u>	<u>25</u>
		<u>£4,606</u>

Note 10 Special Grants

Borne by the General Fund in 1994 and Manchester Unitarian Congregational Fund in 1995 - See Note 11.

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>
	General Fund	M.U.C.F.
M.C.O. Bi-centenary Appeal	500	-
General Assembly Ministerial Student Fund	500	500
Oldham Unitarian Church	100	1,000
Interest Grant to Chorlton Church	1,550	1,739
Rivington Church - to restore Willoughby Memorial	500	-
Support for Transylvanian Student	250	100
Wider Unitarian Fellowship	250	-
Queen's Road Church, Urmston - Toilet provision 1994	5,000	
- Dry Rot work 1995		5,645
Urmston Church - Window repairs		<u>2,000</u>
	<u>£8,650</u>	<u>£10,984</u>
	M.U.C.F.	
Laypreachers Fellowship	50	50
Brookfield Sunday School	50	50
Urmston Sunday School	80	-
	<u>£180</u>	<u>£11,084</u>

Note 11 It has been decided that from 1995, Donations, Grants, Subscriptions and Fees will be borne by Manchester Unitarian Congregational Fund rather than the General Fund as in the past. This will have the effect of ensuring that both Funds spend their income, rather than that one will greatly over-spend and the other greatly under-spend.

Note 12 Stipend Grants paid by the Manchester Unitarian Congregational Fund were:-

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>
Altrincham/Urmston Churches	2,750	2,756
Hale Chapel	1,500	1,250
Monton Church	-	500
	<u>£4,250</u>	<u>£4,506</u>

Note 13 Grants paid by the Manchester Domestic Mission Fund were as follows:-

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>
Trinity House Family Centre	5,000	-
Manchester Citizens Advice Bureau	130	-
Greater Manchester Probation Service	300	-
Decade for Women	50	50
Manchester & Salford Methodist Mission -		
re City Centre Night Shelter	-	2,000
Proctor House Project	-	250
Threshold Housing Project	-	2,000
Electricity used in City Centre Night Shelter	-	634
Benchill Group - Holiday at Hucklow Holiday Centre		
(including transport throughout the stay)	-	2,236
Manchester City Churches Forum for the Homeless	-	5,000
	<u>£5,480</u>	<u>£12,170</u>

**Manchester District Association of
Unitarian and Free Christian Churches (Incorporated)**

Schedule of Investments at 31 December 1995

			At Cost
£9,100.00	10½%	Exchequer Stock 1997	8,894.07
£3,587.42	9¾%	Exchequer Stock 1998	3,553.31
£20,619.64	10½%	Treasury Stock 1999	20,435.50
£5,000.00	9%	Conversion Stock 2000	4,972.58
£79,250.00	10%	Treasury Stock 2001	93,272.80
£15,000.00	10%	Treasury Stock 2003	15,087.61
£10,700.00	8%	Treasury Stock 2002/06	9,487.01
2,166 shares		C.O.I.F. Income Shares	2,853.91
35,613 units		Equities Investment Fund for Charities	56,739.96
3,740 shares		B.T.R. plc Ordinary Shares	9,924.03
1,850 shares		Barclays Bank plc Ordinary Shares	9,469.12
4,000 shares		Barr and Wallace Arnold 'A' Ordinary Shares	2,812.37
9,150 shares		Blue Circle Industries 7 ⁵ / ₈ % Con. Cum. Red. Pref's	14,491.37
2,500 shares		Boots plc Ordinary Shares	12,141.24
3,740 shares		British Gas plc Ordinary Shares	10,985.49
5,750 shares		British Telecommunications plc Ordinary Shares	24,977.15
3,750 shares		British Vita plc Ordinary Shares	1,072.79
1,290 shares		Burmah Castrol plc Ordinary Shares	9,280.97
£7,660.17		City of Manchester 4% Consolidated Stock	2,298.05
2,025 shares		Commercial Union plc Ordinary Shares	5,443.23
13,940 shares		Commercial Union plc 8¾% Cum. Irr. Prefs.	16,600.26
6,713 shares		Fleming Income & Capital I.T. plc	9,812.69
2,300 shares		Glaxo Wellcome Holdings plc Ordinary Shares	16,647.42
1,500 shares		Granada Group plc Ordinary Shares	5,044.73
1,640 shares		Grand Metropolitan plc Ordinary Shares	5,943.99
6,750 shares		Hanson Trust plc Ordinary Shares	13,995.38
14,000 bonds		Land Securities 7% Convertible Bonds 30/9/2008	15,060.20
2,150 shares		Marks & Spencer plc Ordinary Shares	9,929.43
1,000 shares		Midland Electricity plc Ordinary Shares	7,972.49
2,500 shares		Murray International Trust Ordinary Shares	9,863.67
809 shares		National Grid Group plc Ordinary Shares	1,674.63
1,725 shares		National Westminster Bank plc Ordinary Shares	9,484.55
		National Westminster Bank plc 9% 'A' series Preference Shares	18,497.21
15,900 shares		Prudential Corporation Ordinary Shares	12,875.83
3,510 shares		Queens Moat plc Ordinary Shares	5,194.31
1,449 shares			476,749.35
		Carried forward	

		Brought forward	476,749.35
2,150 shares	J. Sainsbury plc Ordinary Shares		10,082.86
1,615 shares	Severn Trent Water plc Ordinary Shares		7,970.41
2,500 shares	Shell Transport & Trading plc Ordinary Shares		8,109.77
1,725 shares	Smith Kline Beecham 'A' Ordinary Shares		7,491.80
5,000 shares	T.R. Far Eastern Income Trust Ordinary Shares		9,889.15
1,500 shares	Tate & Lyle plc Ordinary Shares		768.71
500 shares	Thorn EMI plc Ordinary Shares		3,223.11
3,555 shares	Trafalgar House plc Ordinary Shares		6,956.89
725 shares	Unilever plc Ordinary Shares		4,952.22
1,400 shares	Welsh Water plc Ordinary Shares		8,938.80
1,512 shares	Welsh Water plc 7.875% Cum. Red. Prefs		<u>1,371.37</u>

(Market Value at 31.12.95 - £832,219.27)	<u>£546,544.44</u>
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Report of the auditors to the officers of
Manchester District Association of
Unitarian and Free Christian Churches Inc.

We have audited the financial statements on pages 34 to 41 which have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Respective Responsibilities of Officers and Auditors

Company law requires the officers to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the officers are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The officers are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those statements and to report our opinion to you.

Basis of Opinion

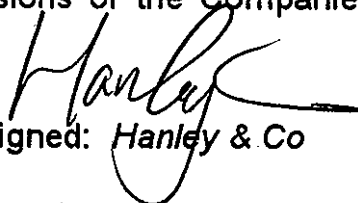
We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company'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 information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 1995 and of its surplus for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 1985 applicable to small companies.

Hanley & Co
Registered Auditors
Chartered Accountants
The Polygon, 2 Stamford Road
Bowdon, Cheshire WA14 2JU


Signed: Hanley & Co
Dated: 8th March 1996

**MANCHESTER DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF UNITARIAN
AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES (INCORPORATED)**

**Report of the Council
for the year ended 31 December 1995**

The Council present their report with the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 1995.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The principal activity of the company in the year under review was running the Association of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches in the Manchester Area.

COUNCIL

The Members of Council during the year under review are listed in full on pages three and four of the financial statements.

STATEMENT OF COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Company law requires the Council to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Council is required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

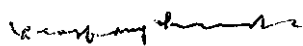
The Council is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

AUDITORS

The auditors, Hanley & Co, will be proposed for re-appointment in accordance with Section 385 of the Companies Act 1985.

In preparing this report, the directors have taken advantage of Special Exemptions applicable to small companies conferred by Part II of Schedule 8 to the Companies Act 1985.

ON BEHALF OF COUNCIL



Mr G Head
General Secretary

Dated 28 October 1996