



MANCHESTER DISTRICT ASSOCIATION
OF UNITARIAN AND
FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES



108th ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

To be presented at the Annual Meeting
on Saturday, 24 April 1999
in Cross Street Chapel, Manchester

OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1998/9

President:

Revd CELIA MIDGLEY BA

Vice-President:

Mrs A.N. HARRISON BSc

President-Elect:

Miss JANE DEACON MA

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



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COMPANIES HOUSE 12/10/99

A13 *AYTHWJUN* 132
COMPANIES HOUSE 11/09/99

District Minister:
Revd ANN LATHAM
6 Saxon Avenue, Crumpsall, Manchester M8 6QH Tel. 0161-740 0778
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**Hon. Magazine Manager:**  
Miss FRANCES TEAGLE MSc  
~~~~~

Hon. Publicity Co-ordinator:
Mr DENNIS CROMPTON MA
~~~~~

**Preaching Plan Co-ordinator:**  
Mrs ELSIE DEAS  
~~~~~

Religious Education Co-ordinator:
Mrs SHEILA JONES BA
~~~~~

**Representative on the General Assembly Council:**  
Miss FRANCES TEAGLE MSc  
~~~~~

Honorary Members:
ANTHONY E.R. GOULTY MA
ARNOLD K. KAY BA (Com) (deceased)
Mrs JOAN WYLIE Cert.Theol. FTC
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**Auditors:**  
HANLEY & CO., Chartered Accountants, Spring Road, Hale  
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OFFICERS OF THE LAY PREACHERS' FELLOWSHIP

Superintendent:
Revd Dr A.J. LONG MA
~~~~~

**Correspondent:**  
GEOFFREY HEAD BA  
"Roslin", 26 Rivington Road, Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire WA15 9PH  
Tel. 0161-928 1687  
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MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Retire 1999	Mrs E. Deas (Dob Lane) and Mrs E. Johnson (Cross Street)
Retire 2000	Miss F. Teagle (Urmston) and Mrs K. Mills (Cross Street)
Retire 2001	Revd Ann Peart (Brookfield)

THE COUNCIL IN 1998

President:

* Revd Celia Midgley

Chorlton

Revd Ann Latham

Mrs G. Jones

Mrs A.J. Birchenough

Vice-President:

* Mrs A.N. Harrison

Cross Street

Revd J.A. Midgley

* Mrs K. Mills

* Mrs Enid Johnson

President-Elect:

* Miss J. Deacon

Dean Row

Revd Penelope F. Johnson

Mr J. Mallinson

Mr N. Smeaton

Treasurer:

* Mr K.J. Johnson

General Secretary:

* Mr Geoffrey Head

Dob Lane

* Mrs E. Deas

Magazine Manager

* Miss F. Teagle

Flagg

Publicity Co-ordinator:

Mr D. Crompton

Hale

Revd Penelope F. Johnson

* Mr Geoffrey Head

* Miss J. Deacon

Altrincham

* Revd Celia Midgley

Miss A. Fowler

Dr. A.W. Jones

Knutsford

Revd A. Bradley (from November)

Revd C.P. Travis (until May)

Mrs M. Strachan

Mrs J. Thomason

Brookfield

* Revd Ann Peart

Mrs F.M. Ellis

Mr C. Wyatt (from September)

Macclesfield

Mrs E. Forrester

Mrs E. Gunby

* Members of Executive Committee as at 31 December 1998.

Monton

Revd Brenda Catherall
Mr J. Hamerslag

Manchester District Women's League

Mrs E. Gunby

Oldham

Mrs C.L. Nuttall
Mrs M. Nuttall

Rivington

Mrs Judith Crompton
Miss Joan Holding
Mr D. Crompton

Co-opted

Mr A. Forrester
Mr G. Harrison
Mrs Sheila Jones
Mr F. Hytch

Styal

Revd Penelope F. Johnson
Mr J. Rist

Lay Preachers' Fellowship

* Revd Dr. A.J. Long

Urmston

* Revd Celia Midgley
* Mrs A.N. Harrison
* Miss F. Teagle

* Members of Executive Committee as at 31 December 1998.

ANNUAL MEETING

The 107th Annual Meeting was held in the newly rebuilt Cross Street Chapel on 25 April 1998. Proceedings began with devotional words led by the President, Revd Celia Midgley. The President welcomed those present and paid tribute to Manchester Unitarians who had died during the year, including Alan Chorlton and Bert Hazelhurst, whose Obituaries were recorded in our previous Report.

The Minutes of the last Annual Meeting were approved. The Council Report and the Treasurer's Report and Accounts were also approved and the District Minister's Report received with appreciation.

The following Council resolution was moved from the Chair: "That in accordance with Clause 2 of the Constitution, Arnold Kirkham Kay be appointed an Honorary Member of the MDA in recognition of his distinguished service to the MDA and otherwise in the cause of Unitarian Christianity and Liberal Religion". This was supported by the General Secretary, who referred to Arnold's services to the Movement over many years, including his Managership of "The Unitarian" magazine and his Secretaryship of Dean Row Chapel. The motion was carried by acclamation.

Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:

Revd Celia Midgley (Altrincham & Urmston), President; Mrs. A.N. Harrison (Urmston), Vice President; Miss Jane Deacon (Hale), President Elect; Mr K.J. Johnson (Dean Row), Treasurer; Mr Geoffrey Head (Cross Street and Hale), General Secretary. Member of the Executive Committee to serve for three years: Revd Ann Peart (Brookfield), one place being unfilled in the absence of a further nomination. Hanley & Co., Chartered Accountants, were re-appointed auditors.

The following motion was carried with acclamation: "That the best thanks of the meeting be given to Revd Keith Gilley for his illustrated talk, to Alan Myerscough for his services as organist and to the members and Committee of Cross Street Chapel for their hospitality and the arrangements for the meeting".

Under "Any other business", the need for congregations to register as separate charities with the Charity Commission was stressed and details were given of coach travel to the Jubilee 2000, a fun day for children and a Social Responsibility Day at Cross Street Chapel.

After a short break, Revd Keith Gilley (Vice-President of the General Assembly and Editor of "The Inquirer") gave an illustrated talk on his many visits to Unitarian congregations, using the latest technology now available. An excellent tea followed and the proceedings drew to a close with an Epilogue conducted by Revd J.A. Midgley, Minister of the host chapel.

The attendance was disappointing and this resulted in consideration of proposals for putting together a more attractive format for future meetings - set out elsewhere in this Report.

Finance

Declining rates of interest led to a reduction in investment income on all accounts, but these were more than counterbalanced by realised and unrealised capital gains in our portfolio. The surplus on General Account was substantially reduced from the previous year owing to increased staffing and administrative costs in the District Office. The Congregational account surplus, although less than in the previous year, was mainly attributable to an absence of applications from congregations for major building repairs in the year. A major item of expenditure related to the cost of rebuilding the retaining wall to our land in King Street/Queen Street, Salford (£8,163). Subscriptions from member churches were reduced by a non-payment from one congregation. Doubtless this was due to oversight and will be picked up in the current year.

Many grants and donations to worthy causes continued on an annual basis. Stipend grants continued to Altrincham/Urmston whilst the Monton grant was being phased out. A grant of £350 was made towards the training of a Hungarian minister at UCM. Support of the GA India Fund continued with particular reference to the General Secretary's visit to the Khasi Hills in October - £200 to the cost of the Indian Council's Biennial Conference and £200 towards the Margaret Barr Memorial Bust and Meditation Room on the 25th Anniversary of her death. £150 was granted to the Manchester Committee of the Jubilee 2000 campaign for the reduction of Third World debt. The last of four annual instalments to the Unitarian Millennium Fund (£1,250) was paid.

The Domestic Mission Fund's grants exceeded income in the year. The major beneficiary was the Family Advice Centre in Moss Side (£6,000) and other major disbursements were to the Woodhouse Park Family Advice Centre (£2,500), the Oldham Children's Home (£2,000), Trinity House (£2,250), the Shepley House Amenities Fund (£1,000) and the Gorton "Out of School" Club (£1,000).

The Ministry/Lay Leadership

Revd Paul Travis (Knutsford) accepted a call to the Ministry of Mill Hill Chapel, Leeds, in May. His successor, Revd Alex Bradley, who had served Newington Green and other congregations in London since 1991, took up appointment on 1 November. Revd Penelope Johnson's highly successful 18 years' ministry at Hale, Dean Row and Styal terminated with her retirement on 31 December. Her successor, Revd Jeffrey Gould (a Past President of the Provincial Assembly) from Ullet Road, Liverpool, took up his new appointment the following day, 1 January 1999. We were concerned at the news in December that our District Minister (Revd Ann Latham) and her husband (Revd A.Y. Latham) had been involved in a major multiple accident on the M6 motorway and relieved to learn that their injuries were responding well to treatment. Another of our Ministers, Revd Brenda Catherall (Monton), required hospital treatment during the year and our good wishes go to her for a speedy return to full mobility. Our President (Revd Celia Midgley) was accorded a sabbatical by her congregations, part of which she spent on research at St Deniol's Library, North Wales, partly at the

Canadian Unitarian Meetings and partly as short term Minister to the Prague congregation in the Czech Republic.

Representation on outside bodies

The MDA maintained its contacts with ecumenical and social work in the Greater Manchester area. Jane Deacon represented it on the Manchester Council of Christians and Jews. Revd Celia Midgley was a Unitarian representative on "Greater Manchester Churches Together" with Geoffrey Waywell of Stand Chapel. The District Ministry was very much involved in social responsibility work such as "Lifeshare". The Minister and members of Cross Street Chapel were prominent in the "City Centre Churches Forum" and Revd Ann Latham had a particular involvement with ecumenical work in the Oldham and Chorlton areas. Clarice Nuttall and the Oldham congregation continued their work with "Traidcraft" and Third World concerns. Clarice, together with Elsie Deas, served as MDA representatives on the Provincial Assembly Committee and Frances Teagle was our representative on the General Assembly Council.

Manchester Domestic Mission Fund

Under the guidance of its Mission Sub-Committee (Revd Ann Latham, Revd Penelope Johnson, Freda Ellis and Marion Nuttall), Council continued to make grants to specialist bodies after careful examination and research including visits "on site". The Sub-Committee is most desirous of receiving suggestions and recommendations from congregations as to worthy causes. Details of beneficiaries are to be found in the relevant accounts and the terms of the Trust are set out in the "Memoranda" section of this Report.

District Office

The arrangements for the District Office in the new Cross Street Chapel were substantially on an experimental basis and had some teething problems. By and large they worked reasonably well. Numerous visitors were received. Some were from Unitarian congregations in the North West, some were from farther afield, others were non-Unitarian enquirers. The office was serviced on a regular basis. Stephen Haslam for the most part worked three days a week with the computer as his principal concern. Elsie Deas attended on Tuesdays to deal with secretarial and preaching plan matters. On Wednesdays, the Minister and members of the congregation were available and Frances Teagle's occasional visits were substantially devoted to World Wide Web and Internet use of the computer. Since the end of the year, Elsie Deas has retired after some years greatly appreciated service, although she has kindly indicated that she will be occasionally available if particular requirements emerge. Stephen Haslam has resigned owing to increasing lecturing commitments at Bolton College. Future staffing is currently under review. It is apparent that our DTP potential has yet to be realised and increased commitment is required from congregations so that they may all be put on our Internet site. Revd Ann Latham has taken on District Preaching Plan responsibilities.

District Meetings

These have been poorly attended during the last year or two. Members of congregations seem reluctant to travel a very few miles to meet fellow Unitarians and join to discuss matters of concern to our movement and to mix socially. A side issue is the difficulty of catering for an unknown number of attenders. A sub-committee, consisting of Dennis Crompton, Jane Deacon and Sheila Jones, was appointed to consider possibilities for future meetings, to make them more attractive and encourage higher attendances. Council discussed their recommendations at several meetings. The first fruits will be seen in the revised format for the 1999 Annual General Meeting.

Northern Federation for Training in Ministry

All the constituent colleges, including the Unitarian College, have, since 1984, been accommodated on the same site at Luther King House in Rusholme, whilst retaining their separate identities. The necessity to provide capital for development and enhance activity in the field of lay education has involved arrangements for a new Trust, underpinning a "Partnership for Theological Education Manchester". In September 1998 there was hence radical change. It seems likely that UCM, for various reasons, will be unable to be a stakeholder in the Trust, but will play a full part in the Partnership. Geoffrey Head (General Secretary of the MDA) played a full part in setting up the Federation in the early 1980s and has been its Treasurer since its inception. Although the Federation will retain a nominal existence until Charity recognition has been approved for the new bodies, Geoffrey has deemed it an appropriate time to step down from his office. The Federation Council warmly thanked him and presented him with book tokens for his services through the years.

General Assembly Meetings - Chester 1998

Local organisation of these meetings was under the wing of the Provincial Assembly with a lead role being taken by the MDA and the East Cheshire Union. The activities of the Ad Hoc Committee, chaired by Revd Celia Midgley (MDA President), bore fruit and the meetings were generally regarded as both successful and enjoyable. A number of members of MDA congregations worked hard in various capacities to ensure the smooth running of the arrangements. At the meetings, Geoffrey Head (General Secretary of the MDA) retired as Hon. Treasurer of the General Assembly after 18 years' service, received a presentation and was made an Honorary Member of the Assembly.

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:

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.

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 (31st July 1987) 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.

Out and About

Clarice and Marion Nuttall, Oldham representatives on Council, maintained their untiring work for the One World Centre in their Church and their Traidcraft Stall. They initiated a successful MDA motion for the GA Meetings in support of the Jubilee 2000 campaign for the reduction of Third World debt by the West. In August, they were accompanied by members of Cross Street Chapel, and other MDA congregations, at a rally involving a symbolic human chain in Lincoln Square.

Geoffrey Head (MDA General Secretary) visited the Khasi Hills in October. He attended the Biennial Conference of the Indian Council of Unitarian Churches and a meeting of its Executive Committee at Shillong. He visited many of the more remote village churches and schools, opening a new church in the village of Wahmawlein (this has replaced part of the village of Mawlat, washed into a gorge during floods in 1995 - the MDA, with other British Unitarians, provided finance for the rebuilding).

Geoffrey also dedicated a Bust and Meditation Room in memory of Revd Margaret Barr on the 25th Anniversary of her death. During his visit, he was presented with the Annie Margaret Barr Award for his services to education in the Khasi Hills and his concern for promoting the work of the Indian Council.

Trust and Administrative Matters

The transfer of a small slice of land at our **OLDHAM** church to the Borough Council was completed and the consideration of £267.42 transferred to the congregation.

Some work in connection with the **Pay Roll** was transferred to the Community Accountancy Service and the new arrangements are working satisfactorily. Guidance was given to the Northern Unitarian Association on constitutional matters. The Treasurer was active in advising congregations of the necessity for urgent action on **Charity registration**.

Urgent action was required to make good the retaining walls of our land at **KING STREET/QUEEN STREET, SALFORD**. This is the site of a former church and graveyard belonging to the Salford Bible Christians and subsidence had exposed human remains. Details of the cost are contained in the "Finance" paragraph.

Office Equipment and Information Technology

A good specification computer with associated copier and scanner is now available in the District Office. An application to the Unitarian Millennium Fund has been successful in obtaining a grant towards the cost of a commercial capacity photocopier, an overhead projector, video recorder, tripod projection screen, LCD projector and trolley. It is hoped that these facilities will shortly be in place.

Congregations are urged to take advantage of these facilities, compatible with 21st century requirements. The office can provide mock-ups to show congregations how their newsletters and calendars can be more attractive and make greater impact. The District Office urgently wants to establish **ALL** of our congregations on the World Wide Web, but input is required in order to achieve this. Contact Frances Teagle (Tel. 01457 868119).

DISTRICT OFFICE TELEPHONE NUMBER 0161 833 1176

FAX NUMBER 0161 834 0019

e-mail: mda@airtime.co.uk

Publicity

Our Publicity Co-ordinator, Dennis Crompton, assisted with Publicity for the GA meetings at Chester and attended an Information Conference at Ludlow in May. He made various contacts with GM Radio and newspapers and submitted reports as necessary to the denominational press. The MDA Treasurer prepared a booklet for congregational Treasurers for national distribution. This was processed through the MDA computer. Council agreed to host a District Co-ordinators Meeting during 1999.

Religious Education

Sheila Jones (District RE Co-ordinator) was most active. A full account of her activities is given in her report. Co-operation of congregations is variable and requires development if full advantage is to be taken of Sheila's expertise and enthusiasm.

Sarah Tinker (GA REYD Officer) attended the September Council Meeting and gave a wide-ranging talk on the work of her Department, together with ideas for revamping the President's Award scheme. Afterwards, she answered questions and was warmly thanked for her address.

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 excellent new premises. We are grateful for these premises being freely available for District use: its importance as a District Headquarters is now enhanced by the MDA funding of weekday attendance and computer facilities.

Our thanks are also due to Elsie Deas for her work at Cross Street office on Tuesdays during the year. She has now retired after many years of devoted service, but she has indicated that she will help out on occasion in the future. During the year, Stephen Haslam was also an anchorman in the office and Frances Teagle gave advice and exploited the potential of the computer installation - our gratitude to both. The team was completed by Alan Myerscough, an ever helpful and resourceful Chapel-keeper.

We also gratefully acknowledge the leadership and dedication of Revd Ann Latham, the District Minister, and Revd John Midgley whose responsibilities inevitably involve District concerns.

Anthony Smith

Secretary and Director

DISTRICT MINISTRY REPORT - 1998/99

A busy and eventful year, both within the church fellowships and the wider community. A year not without its problems and challenges. A year also with its heartening fellowship and goodwill.

My gratitude to all who have supported and encouraged me in the District Ministry, particularly so during the latter part of the year when I was incapacitated due to accident and ill-health.

My thanks to Elsie Deas, the Preaching Plan Secretary, who retired at the end of the year, for her organising skills, understanding and willingness to undertake all the "incidentals" of which there were many. Also Ministers and Preachers who have made it possible for requests for pulpit supply to be fulfilled.

A report on the year's work and witness of the three District Churches to whom I minister, are to be found in the Church Reports of this Annual Report.

In addition, concerning District Affiliations:-

I continue to liaise and meet with the Christian Faith Clergy in Oldham and Chorlton, co-ordinating meetings with Oldham Town Centre Clergy on many issues.

In Chorlton, the Unitarian Church is very much involved with Chorlton Churches Together, particularly so on community and social justice issues and inter-church activities.

As in past years, I have participated in the Pulpit Exchange during Christian Unity Week and am warmly welcomed in other denominational churches. During the year, I became a member of the Greater Manchester Churches Together Other Faiths Committee which hopes to establish an Inter-faith Group where members of different faiths can meet, discuss and share matters of mutual concern and interest. The Revd Ann Peart has now replaced me on the Committee and will continue as our Unitarian Presence within this C.T. Group. My thanks to her.

In May, following a request from a Secular Child Naming Association and a meeting with the parents, I agreed to "officiate" at their children's naming ceremony outside of a church community. The parents, according to conscience, did not wish for church community involvement as they were not attenders.

In June, I travelled to Birmingham with members of the Oldham Chapel and One World Centre to join nationally in the Christian Aid Jubilee 2000 Coalition - forming a 6 mile human chain around Birmingham city where the G8 Summit was expected to meet.

This was an inspiring experience and I will continue through this crucial year to campaign for more petitions and letters to be presented to Her Majesty's Government, urging it to make every effort to encourage World Leadership in the cancellation of unpayable debt in impoverished countries.

The District Student Ministerial Placement of Belinda (Lindy) Latham was completed in June. Valuable ministerial experience she gained within the District will be of assistance to her in her ministry at Lincoln and Boston. A full report of the placement has been submitted to the District Officers.

Other meetings and activities within the Unitarian Faith include the Domestic Mission of the Manchester District Unitarian Church and the Provincial Assembly of the four North West Districts. A detailed report of the activities of these Associations is to be found in the relevant pages of this Annual Report.

I continue to serve on the Management Committee of Shepley House Threshold Housing Project for Homeless Women in Failsworth, with Marian Nuttall. Also continuing are my affiliation and commitment to Lifeshare, the Manchester Charity which befriends and supports the Homeless and Roofless in the city.

I take this opportunity of thanking members of our Unitarian Chapels and Churches who have become "Friends of Lifeshare" and who continue to give so generously and supply food and blankets in this need.

Finally, in conclusion, I record my appreciation of the inter-relatedness of churches and chapels in the District - their forbearance, understanding and encouragement in shared ministry.

The goodwill and sense of humour sustains each one of us.

I look forward to the coming months in faith and hope.

Ann Latham

District Religious Education Co-ordinator's Report

1. I attended, together with five other R.E.C.s and Sarah Tinker, R.E.C.s training days at Barlaston (7 - 8 May 1998). The theme for training sessions was based on loss and grieving. We mourned the death of Pat Rees, R.E.C. from Southampton.
2. R.E. Summer School at Great Hucklow (8 - 15 August 1998). I was joint co-ordinator for the week.
3. R.E.Y.D. Meeting at Essex Hall (19 September 1998). I represented R.E.C.s on the committee. The agenda included planning for R.E. Summer School 1999, R.E. programmes for young people at Great Hucklow and the beginning of the re-drafting of the President's Award Scheme.
4. R.E. Autumn Training Weekend at Great Hucklow (23 - 25 October 1998) "Our children, ourselves". I was part of the planning group for this weekend and led one of the courses. There were two leaders from Macclesfield and one from Dunham Road congregations. The feed-back from this weekend was very positive.
5. Four of us from this weekend stayed on an extra day to work on the President's Award re-draft. Much progress was made and we are now waiting for millennium funding to publish the next stage.

6. Attended R.E.C. training days at Barlaston (3 - 4 December 1998).
7. R.E.Y.D. meeting at Essex Hall (14 January 1999). Included on the agenda was preparation for the R.E. 'slot' at the G.A.; a proposal for the G.A. Council re: health & safety issues connected with young people in our care. Confirming that Revd Dr David Doel was to be theme speaker at the R.E. Summer School 1999 and the workshop leaders, Sarah Tinker, Jean Mason and myself, had a working 'train journey' back to Sheffield, drafting the R.E. Summer School application form, which has now been finalised. All congregations, associations and past participants will be receiving them shortly.

Sheila Jones

Greater Manchester Churches Together

Unitarian representatives: Revd Celia Midgley and Geoffrey Waywell

Continuing to play our part in this large ecumenical body, we were represented at the 1998 Annual Assembly in Westhoughton by Revd Ann Latham, our District Minister. Guests came from the USA, South Korea and Sierra Leone to hear reports, see presentations and join in worship and workshops. Two of the workshops, on The Holy Spirit and Churches in Solidarity with Women, were led by women from the North West Ecumenical Decade Group, which is chaired by Celia Midgley. This group's book, *Out of the Shadows*, was launched in December at Manchester Cathedral.

County Ecumenical Officer, Maureen Farrell, has worked diligently to include the Unitarians. In November she invited Geoffrey Head, Ken Johnson and Revd Arthur Long to discuss with her and Revd Roger Tomes, the new GMCT Constitution and Unitarian membership of GMCT. In April we had been fortunate in having sister Maureen as an invited speaker at the opening of our General Assembly Annual Meetings.

One of the newer groups of GMCT is the Other Faiths Group, on which Revd Ann Peart is our current representative. Arthur Long continues to write *Sounding the Mainstream* for *The Inquirer*

We look forward to Cross Street Chapel hosting GMCT's Unity Luncheon in January, to celebrate the Week for Prayer for Christian Unity. May we be gracious hosts!

Celia Midgley

THE UNITARIAN - A magazine for Free Christians

Management Report for 1998

This has proved to be a busy year. The remainder of the 1997 subscriptions were successfully collected, as were the summer half-yearly subscriptions. A special offer of four months free samples of the Unitarian was sent round to several congregations who did not already subscribe to the magazine, resulting in some new orders. It is planned to extend this offer in the coming year.

Magazine sales amounted to £6,134.83, donations £535.00, interest £257.81, totalling £6,927.64. Printing costs came to £3,936.00, carriage £1,318.65, honoraria £1,250.00, and management expenses £81.95. Of subscriptions owing, only £149.02 had not been collected by 31 December 1998. The closing balance at the bank for that date amounted to £3,616.99.

Monthly distribution currently amounts to 1,591 paying customers and 52 complimentary copies, 40 of which go to the editor and the manager for extra orders or replacements for copies lost in the post. Cancellations (17) have exactly matched the new orders (17) brought in by a sales drive during the summer. Further efforts will have to be made in this direction.

Of our investment accounts, The Halifax Building Society stands at £1,104.51 after the payment of £41.93 interest in February 1998, the 620.34 income shares with the COIF Charity Funds are currently valued at 1,023.93 pence each, having a total value of £6,351.85 and a yield of £215.88 interest during 1998.

As pointed out in last year's report, we were in danger of running out of funds to pay the printer by the autumn, since almost all of our customers paid their subscriptions six or twelve months in arrears. Therefore, letters were circulated in July and September, appealing for an extra interim payment that would bring the customer's account up to the normal 'payment in advance' system. Happily, there was a great response and very few subscribers now pay in arrears, resulting in a marked improvement in our cash flow position. (The 1999 statements of account were sent out in the new year and so will not figure in the 1998 accounts, but most subscriptions have already been collected at the time of writing.)

Frances Teagle
Manager

Lancashire and Cheshire Provincial Assembly

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

At last year's A.G.M. in Cross Street Chapel (February 1998) Jeff Gould handed over Chairmanship to Betty Smith. John Midgley was preacher at the Service. Ingrid Tavkar conducted a workshop on 'Money, Morals and Meddling'. The P.A. input to the NELECUMDA Family Fun Day in July involved Betty Smith and Peter Sampson conducting the epilogue.

This year's A.G.M. and Meeting were planned to take place at Cross Street on 20 February 1999. A Summer event in Chester is also mooted.

Peter Sampson
Hon. Sec.

Manchester District Women's League

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

The Annual General Meeting was held in February at the New Cross Street Chapel. Prior to the service, a Buffet lunch was served to 112 members in celebration of the 90th anniversary of the National Women's League. The cake was cut by Mrs Judy Hague who conducted the service. There followed a pianoforte recital of light classical music by Mr Alan Williams of Chetham's School of Music.

During the year, the quarterly meetings were held at Stand, Oldham and Monton. The average attendance was 76.

A large number of members travelled to the G.A. meetings at Chester in April and enjoyed the Anniversary Pageant, the Anniversary Service and the Installation of Mrs Meryl Edgley as the President.

There are 16 branches in the District and as we remember with deep affection past members who gave of their time and talents to the League, we look ahead with enthusiasm and confidence to the future.

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 Revd Ann Latham (District Minister) Tel: 0161-740 0778.

Members have continued to accept preaching engagements over a wide area, both within and outside the District, and as far afield as India, and we are grateful to others who are available to conduct worship in their own congregations.

OBITUARY

ARNOLD KAY died on 11 January 1999 at the age of 80.

A few months earlier he had been acclaimed as an Honorary Member of the MDA at its Annual General Meeting, for services to the District and to the wider causes of Unitarian Christianity and liberal religion. For sixteen years, he gave devoted service as Business Manager of "The Unitarian" and for an even longer period he had been a highly regarded member of the MDA Executive Committee and Council. His career was in education, particularly amongst the disadvantaged, and his later years in his profession were spent as the caring Headmaster of the Royal School for the Deaf in Birmingham. In that city, he was an effective Secretary of the Unitarian New Meeting. On retirement he returned, with his wife Hazel, to the Wilmslow area and became Secretary of Dean Row Chapel. His impish sense of humour and thorough decency endeared him to all. Truly, he had malice towards no one.

GRACE REED died on 21 January 1999 aged 88.

She was, for a number of years, a Member of the MDA Council, representing the Chorlton congregation. Born in Salford, she was left, on the death of her husband after four years of marriage, to bring up two small children. This she achieved through her excellent business ability. After a brief unsuccessful second marriage, she met Revd Lionel Reed, retired from the Unitarian Ministry, whom she married in 1975 - a happy union only closed by Lionel's death in 1995. Grace had leanings towards the Society of Friends, but she was a valued member at Wilbraham Road and was a founder member of the Unitarian Society for Psychical Studies, to which she gave unfailing support.

COLIN NUTTALL died on 28 May 1998 aged 67.

He was the son of Revd Tom Nuttall, Minister of our Oldham Church and President of the MDA 1958-60, and was a life-long member and long-serving organist of the congregation. By profession, he was a Probation Officer and later Director SELCARE. With Lord Rhodes of Saddleworth, he was the founder of the first Visitors' Centre at Strangeways Prison. Although never a member of the MDA Council, he was closely associated with the District Ministry in work for the Prison Visitors' Centre and in establishing Unitarian participation in the Annual SELCARE carol service at the Cathedral. He was also the much-respected Secretary of the Cross Street Chapel Trustees and gave valued assistance in connection with the organ in the new Chapel.

CHURCH REPORTS

ALTRINCHAM

Minister: Revd Celia Midgley BA
Secretary: Miss Angela Fowler,
1 Easingwold, Regent Road, Altrincham WA14 1RT
Tel: 0161-928 6143

The past year was a significant one for both our minister, Revd Celia Midgley, and for the congregation. For five months, our minister took sabbatical leave and holiday, when, apart from visits abroad, she worked in St Deniol's Library, Hawarden, writing for a Unitarian publication, among other work.

Members of the congregation shared in many tasks during the minister's absence, including pastoral care, editing and producing the calendar and sometimes leading Sunday worship. We welcomed several visiting preachers to whom we were very grateful.

Regular activities continued as usual. The Women's League enjoyed weekly meetings, ranging from fund-raising events and illustrated talks to outings into Cheshire and Shropshire. The discussion group met monthly and aired views on a variety of subjects.

For our main fund-raising activities, we sold home-made produce and bric-a-brac on Altrincham market on three Fridays and took the Trafford Charity shop in Sale for half a week, which brought in a total of £666.

We enjoyed a February weekend at Great Hucklow and in June, we arranged our congregational outing to Kedleston Hall, near Derby, for one of the few sunny days! In the evening, we were pleased to join the Derby congregation for their service.

All in all, we had a busy year and were very glad to welcome back our minister in October.

BROOKFIELD

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

The transformation of Brookfield Sunday School is complete and looking very beautiful. Norman and Freda Ellis were asked to perform the official opening with members of the Church and the new owners.

Unfortunately, it has not made life any easier in the Church. We have been refused a Heritage Lottery Grant and because of an outbreak of dry rot in the vestry and toilet, our resources are being stretched to the limit.

Brookfield congregation is small in number, but continues to hold regular Sunday

morning services conducted by the Minister, Ann Peart, and other ministers and lay preachers. A very sincere thanks is given to these people, and to the M.D.A. Preaching Plan Secretary for her invaluable help.

Special services are held throughout the year, celebrating occasions in the Church Calendar and denominational suggestions.

The Women's League meets regularly once a month in members' homes. They also serve tea and cakes after service on the first Sunday of the month.

We have started a social evening once a month, a visit to the theatre, a Bring & Buy, a slide show and talk, and other 'happenings'.

Our thanks are given to our Minister for her guidance, to the organist for his music week by week, the Trustees for their unstinting efforts in looking after the money and trying to achieve the almost impossible, to the Council, congregation and friends for their loyalty and hard work.

CHORLTON

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

We received a gift of two new notice boards, so it is easier to find us. We have concentrated on our Constitution, and with help we have a suitable draft which can be put on the Internet and sent to the Commissioners.

The Reverend Lindy Latham, as student-minister, conducted services regularly and with Reverend Ann Latham, organised a series of "Getting to know you" meetings. Regular monthly Friday Evening Meetings continue.

Speakers were invited to share services. One was a member of the Ba'hai faith, another was a representative of U.N.I.C.E.F. The Reverend Maria Papp spoke on Romania at the Women's League and conducted our Toy Service.

We have one new member.

The back entrance of the church has been renovated and we have installed a de-humidifier there.

Fairs have been discontinued. Coffee mornings are more valuable as we have time to talk to people. One Coffee Morning was for U.N.I.C.E.F.

We held a Music and Poetry afternoon which was supported by other churches.

Then the sad part of the year. At the end of November, Ann and Arthur Latham were injured in a serious accident. Fortunately their injuries are not very severe. We wish them a steady recovery to full health.

CROSS STREET

Minister: Revd J.A. Midgley MA, M.Ed., BD
Secretary: Eric Armitage, Cross Street Chapel,
Cross Street, Manchester M2 1NL
Tel: 0161-833 1176 Fax: 0161-834 0019

During the past year, the congregation has been occupied in assessing the potential of its new building and the level of its overheads. Happily, the planning of our new Chapel has proved successful. In March, the Re-dedication Service was an uplifting occasion - a full Chapel with many representatives of the Unitarian movement and of other denominations, including the Bishop of Manchester. The facilities are attracting a wide range of denominational bodies and of socially responsible and cultural organisations ranging from Amnesty International to the Literary and Philosophical Society. Our Minister has revealed an ability to attract talented performers to our monthly music recitals, from within our own movement and from the Royal Northern College of Music, Chetham's School and elsewhere. These are well attended and most enjoyable.

Regular attendance at an inner city place of worship demands much commitment. During our years in temporary accommodation, deaths and inability to recruit took their toll. We are now starting to rebuild and have welcomed several new members in recent months. The Chapel, on most days, is a hive of activity and a stimulating place with which to be associated.

DEAN ROW

Minister: Revd J.L. Gould MA (from January 1999)
Secretary: Mrs Sylvia Thomson,
45 Thorngrove Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 1DE
Tel: 01625 527282

The Chapel life continued to prosper throughout the year in all sections of its activities.

Our Minister the Revd Penny Johnson announced her intention to retire at the end of the year as did her husband, Ken Johnson the Chapel Treasurer. Working closely with our sister Chapels of Hale Barns and Styal, the appointment of the Revd Jeffrey L. Gould, to take effect in the New Year, was finally approved.

The Chapel Membership grew to 123 in the year and each Sunday saw a healthy congregation of an average in the 70s.

Under the leadership of the Senior Warden Philip Heale, Ian Harrison and Edward Sampson have continued a programme of improvement in both the Chapel Buildings and the Chapel Yard. The programme includes the restoration of the unique Sundial in the Chapel Yard to mark the Millennium.

Mrs Margaret Scott's team has continued to widen the activities of the Chapel's Family Group which culminated in two splendid performances of "Sheik Rattle & Roll" by the children at Christmas.

The social events provided by the Women's League and the Family Group provided a number of well supported events, both in visits and at the Chapel Hall, including the Harvest Supper shared with our sister Chapels of Styal and Hale.

DOB LANE

Minister: The District Minister (Revd Ann Latham)
Secretary: Mrs Elsie Deas, 51 Assheton Crescent,
Newton Heath, Manchester M40 6NN
Tel: 0161-688 4498

January 1998 saw the start of our Tercentenary celebrations, 300 years since the building of our first Chapel. The original congregation was founded in 1662 and the land on which the Chapel was built was leased to us in 1698.

A series of events was arranged, monthly, throughout the year - social gatherings celebrating such things as St Valentine's Day, St George's Day and Harvest. The Anniversary Service was arranged for May 24th, the actual day on which the lease had been signed. Dr Beverley Littlepage agreed to conduct the service and invitations were prepared and sent to past members and ministers, members of the MDA, and friends from our neighbouring congregations. In the week prior to the event, much work was carried out in decorating rooms and passageways, gathering items of historical interest for an exhibition and arranging a Sunday lunch for the congregation at a nearby hotel.

The service itself was a great success - a packed chapel, beautiful music by our dear friend from Oldham, the late Colin Nuttall; and a memorable address given by Dr Littlepage. Everyone present received a commemorative bookmark and we ended our day with a splendid buffet prepared by our ladies.

Our other annual events - the BBQ, Midweek services and the annual trip, took place as usual. The trip this year, to Scarborough on a drizzly day unfortunately, was enhanced by the very warm welcome and grand lunch provided by their small but enthusiastic congregation.

A busy and tiring year, but well enjoyed and we look forward to continuing for many more years to come.

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. The usual Annual Service, in May, was well attended and was preceded by refreshments at "The Green".

HALE

Minister: Revd J.L. Gould MA
Secretary: Mrs E.M.J. Harrison, 25 Ravenwood Drive,
Hale Barns, Altrincham WA15 0JA
Tel: 0161-980 5513

This has been a celebratory year - the Chapel's 275th Anniversary, but also tinged with sadness as we learnt of our dear Minister, the Revd Penny Johnson's intention to retire at the end of the year. So while we were planning celebratory events, Officers of the Chapel were involved as part of the Hastyde (Dean Row & Styal) Committee in seeking a new Minister. The vacancy is going to be filled by the Revd Jeff Gould who was the recommended choice of all three Chapels. Earlier in the year, the Chapel was visited by members of the I.C.U.U. led by the Revd Gould and this was our first introduction to someone who is to become a central figure in our Chapel life. The events to mark our special year included a Cheese & Wine Evening, the Laurence Singers in Concert, Children's Family Fun Time, the Anniversary Service, a Celebration Evening Dinner at the Bowdon Hotel and the Heritage Open Weekend in September. This was a very successful event with almost 200 visitors to the Chapel. They were treated to beautiful floral displays, an exhibition of the Chapel Archives and free refreshments. The visitors were very generous with their donations which helped to cover our expenses. Local people were delighted to have an opportunity to see round our lovely Chapel and learn of its history from the leaflets we handed out.

On the practical side, our main fabric repair has been the painting of the Chapel exterior. Altogether, a very busy year.

KNUTSFORD

Minister: Revd A. Bradley MA
Secretary: Mrs M.J. Dyson, 38 Meadow Drive,
Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 0DT
Tel: 01565 654596

Our Minister accepted a call to the pulpit of Leeds Mill Hill during the year. The congregation at Brook Street had gathered strength since his appointment and his departure was much regretted. We were happy to welcome his successor, the Revd Alex Bradley, who commenced his ministry on 1 November. After much hard work and careful preparation, our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund was successful. Work on the restoration of the organ is scheduled to begin in March 1999 and it is hoped that external work on the Chapel and schoolroom, and much internal work on the schoolroom, will follow with a target for completion by the end of 1999. An address at the Chapel by local independent M.P., Martin Bell, on "the Uses of Adversity and Steadiness under Fire" was an important occasion and received much press publicity.

MACCLESFIELD

Congregational Leader: Mrs Eila Forrester BA

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

The year began with the 'Future, Leadership and Organisation' being discussed. A paid Children's Programme Co-ordinator and a Building/Fabric Manager were appointed, the latter in readiness for Phase 2 of the restoration.

The children's group has grown in number and physical size which means that a larger meeting place will be required or the group will divide according to age. The 'highlights' of the year were:-

- 1) Children's Group float in Macclesfield Carnival won 1st Place for 'Under Sea World';
- 2) Visit of children from a local school to do a history workshop (2 groups);
- 3) New carpet was laid;
- 4) Enactment of 'Adam Rushton' - local hero (Unitarian - Spiritualist) - Farmer's lad, mill-worker, and preacher/Minister at 'Heritage Weekend';
- 5) New P.A. system was installed (grant from G.A. Millennium Fund);
- 6) New Falls for pulpit and desk embroidered by older women of our Sister congregation in Romania.

We have had a number of visits from various organisations and congregations and our members joined the 'Society of Friends' for a Sunday Meeting. The Chapel's funds were increased by many friends at our stall at the Family Fun Day. We continue to support a number of charities in addition to denominational appeals.

We look forward to a year of change when our Lay Leader, Chairman and Secretary will retire, but we are all optimistic for a healthy future for the Chapel.

MONTON

Minister: Revd Brenda Catherall BA

Secretary: Mr Gordon Knight, 1 Brackley Road,
Monton, Manchester M30 9LG
Tel: 0161-707 4833

The highlight of Monton's year was undoubtedly the Tercentenary celebrations held during the weekend of July 3-5. It was a splendid occasion which gave everyone a sense of achievement and pride.

Visitors from far and near attended the open days and saw the church looking at its best, with breathtaking floral displays and a fascinating display relating to the church history. The Tercentenary service on the Sunday was attended by the Mayor of Salford and other guests. After the service, which featured music by the Telemann Baroque Ensemble, a celebratory meal was held at the Wendover

Hotel. The events of the weekend have been captured on photograph and other documents have been combined to create a special book to be kept in the church archives.

Church life continued as usual during the rest of the year, including the Women's League meetings, social events and the welcome attendance of the 15th Eccles Scout Group at our Family Service each month.

OLDHAM

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

The year, in the main, has been one of quiet endeavour by a small core of active members, supported on special occasions by a fringe of willing helpers, producing happy, bustling and successful events such as the Christmas Shoppers' Lunch, the One World Service and the United Nations 50th Anniversary Service. The One World Centre and the Traidcraft Shop, and weekly lunches, continue to thrive and the Chapel buildings are well-used by associated groups and societies.

The Women's League branch meets regularly and this year we were the hosts for the M.D.A. Summer Meeting. Oldham was also the venue for the Annual Meeting of the British Branch of the I.A.R.F.

In May, we suffered a huge loss on the sad death of our organist, Mr Colin Nuttall, who had been such a stalwart for so long. Late in the year, in common with our sister-churches, we have missed our Minister, first through illness and then as the result of the car accident in which she and her husband were involved, and from which, happily, they seem to be recovering.

But life goes on; with everyone's help, the pulpit has been filled and music has been supplied, and we are truly grateful. As a small bonus, we have had the pleasure some months ago of welcoming two new friends, interested enough individually to seek us out and, we hope, to stay with us in the future.

RIVINGTON

Layperson in charge: Mrs Judith Crompton JP
Secretary: Mr A.J. Beard, 108 Starcliffe Street,
Great Lever, Bolton BL3 2PU
Tel: 01204 701147

What a good year at Rivington Chapel! On Sunday, 31st May at Rivington Chapel, we held a service of Thanksgiving and Dedication in commemoration of the American poet Walt Whitman. The Chapel was decorated with Whitman's favourite flower, lilac. After the service, the Mayor of Chorley unveiled a plaque at the foot of a Yew tree in the Chapel yard.

Later on in the year we had fund raising events:- A Gift Day, Autumn Fair, Strawberries and Cream Teas, Harvest Weekends plus a Winter Warmer.

Services were held on 1st and 3rd Sundays throughout the year. Attendances are maintained reasonably well.

Marriages and Christenings continue. We have two Chapel walks a year. This year we have supported "Lifeshare" and were also involved in educational visits to the Chapel by schools.

In the very near future, the Chapel will be on the Internet. Many congratulations from the members of the congregation at Rivington Chapel to Judith, our Lay Leader, on her nomination as Vice-President at the G.A. Meeting in Southampton in 1999.

STYAL

Minister:	Revd J.L. Gould MA
Secretary:	Mrs Christine Best, 9 Meadow Road, Cheadle Hulme, SK8 6EJ Tel: 0161-485 5088

1998 began with a bombshell!!! In February, our Minister Revd Penny Johnson, informed us of her wish to retire by the end of the year. Together with our other two Hastyde Churches, Dean Row and Hale, we set about finding a replacement and in September we were delighted to offer our "soon to become vacant" pulpit to Revd Jeff Gould, his ministry to begin with us on 1st January 1999.

Heating of Norcliffe has once more become a problem. The gas central heating has caused excess humidity, affecting the organ and damaging wall decorations. This has been disconnected and the National Trust has temporarily installed eight free-standing convector heaters whilst a more permanent method, heated pipes under each pew, is planned.

We purchased a number of "Elements of Unitarianism" and so far have had four accepted by local Secondary Schools and three by local libraries.

We held several successful events this year - a barbecue in July, then in November, a Pot-Luck supper followed by a slide show of the British Unitarian Choir's visit to Hungary and Romania last Easter. On 4 December we had a party at Quarry Bank Mill to celebrate Norcliffe Chapel's 175th Anniversary and Penny's 17 years of Ministry with us - a most joyous occasion.

URMSTON

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

An eventful year kicked off in January with the pantomime "*Oh no it isn't*" which played to a packed house and had to be repeated three weeks later. Much thought went towards planning for the Minister's five-month sabbatical in the spring and summer. In the event, it proved to be an interesting and stimulating experience, thanks to guest preachers and several members of the congregation, who all produced a very varied range of services. (The children are not likely to forget Beryl Allerton's climbing gear and giant kite in a hurry.) Celia was given a great welcome back in the Autumn, after a very eventful absence.

Much hard work went into collecting money for the Robert Haslam Memorial Organ Fund, with the result that Stage One, removal and cleaning of the pipes and the installation of a powerful new blower, was carried out this summer by the Lancaster Organ Company. A service of rededication was held in November. Fund-raising is now going ahead for Stage Two.

Romania Link also continued its fund-raising, culminating in the recent order of a consignment of pharmaceuticals for the Sighisoara clinic from the International Dispensary Association of Amsterdam (IDA). Import permits and other paperwork are still being sorted out.

Unhappily, a gang of teenagers has established its headquarters in our porch and the building has suffered some petty vandalism. A public meeting with the local police and neighbours was held in November to tackle the problem. We are taking what measures we can to discourage them, but they are persistent and always return after being escorted off the premises.

Meanwhile, church attendance has continued to be steady. The Junior Church programme has also been well-attended and the children produced an outstanding Christmas play in December. Spring and Autumn Fairs, waste paper collections, congregational outings, and the now traditional Christmas lunch at Great Hucklow, continue to unite us as a very active group of friends and worshippers.

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 properties 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.

The charity was augmented by the sum of £286.37, being the capital of the **REVD JAMES CLARKE MEMORIAL FUND** transferred by the Trustees of the former Pendleton Unitarian Church under section 74 of the Charities Act 1993 (Charity Commission reference JAL - 75111 - CS(Liv3) dated 14 August 1997. This charity also derived from the Salford Bible Christian Church.

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 Revd 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.

Manchester District Association of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches Inc.

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 1998

General Fund - Charity Commission ref. 234584

		<u>1998</u>		<u>1997</u>
<u>Income and Expenditure</u>	£	£	£	£
<u>Incoming resources</u>				
Investment income	Note 8	23,644		25,920
Subscriptions from member churches	Note 9	855		863
Contributions for pastoral care	Note 10	<u>4,182</u>		<u>4,205</u>
<u>Total incoming resources</u>		<u>28,681</u>		<u>30,988</u>
<u>Resources expended</u>				
<u>Direct charitable expenditure:</u>				
Stipend, clerical assistance and general expenses of the District Ministry	23,230		21,928	
Depreciation of motor vehicles	1,936		1,068	
Excess of insurance proceeds over book value of a vehicle damaged beyond repair	(1,075)		-	
Structural surveys of churches	470		294	
Delegates and RECs expenses	<u>766</u>	25,327	<u>717</u>	24,007
<u>Other expenditure</u>				
Administration	2,156		1,041	
Audit fee	353		411	
Depreciation of office and computing equipment	<u>634</u>	<u>3,143</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>1,554</u>
<u>Total resources expended</u>		<u>28,470</u>		<u>25,561</u>
<u>Net incoming resources</u>		211		5,427
<u>Gains on investment assets:</u>				
Realised	10,969		3,658	
Unrealised	<u>20,827</u>	<u>31,796</u>	<u>54,000</u>	<u>57,658</u>
<u>Net movement in the fund</u>		32,007		63,085
Balance brought forward at 1 January 1998		<u>439,052</u>		<u>375,967</u>
Balance at 31 December 1998	Note 7	<u>£471,059</u>		<u>£439,052</u>

Manchester District Association of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches Inc.

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 1998

Manchester Unitarian Congregational Fund - Charity Commission ref. 1032203

		<u>1998</u>		<u>1997</u>
<u>Income and Expenditure</u>		£	£	£
<u>Incoming resources</u>				
Investment income	Note 8	<u>34,513</u>		<u>37,330</u>
<u>Resources expended</u>				
<u>Direct charitable expenditure:</u>				
Grants	Note 11	6,960	18,282	
Subscriptions, affiliation fees, donations	Note 12	4,375	4,125	
District representation at Cross Street Chapel		5,000		451
Book purchases		<u>181</u>	<u>16,516</u>	<u>22,936</u>
<u>Other expenditure:</u>				
Maintenance of an investment asset	Note 13	8,163	-	
Legal costs		<u>8,163</u>		<u>70</u>
<u>Total resources expended</u>		<u>24,679</u>		<u>23,006</u>
<u>Net incoming resources</u>		9,834		14,324
<u>Gains on investment assets:</u>				
Realised		10,921	3,642	
Unrealised		<u>20,736</u>	<u>31,657</u>	<u>57,408</u>
Capital receipt from Clarke Memorial Fund		<u>----</u>		<u>287</u>
<u>Net movement in the fund</u>		41,491		72,019
Fund balance brought forward at 1 January 1998		<u>541,480</u>		<u>469,461</u>
Balance at 31 December 1998	Note 7	<u>£582,971</u>		<u>£541,480</u>

Manchester District Association of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches Inc.

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 1998

Manchester Domestic Mission Society Fund - Charity Commission ref. 253233

		<u>1998</u>		<u>1997</u>
<u>Income and Expenditure</u>		£	£	£
<u>Incoming resources</u>				
Investment income	Note 8	15,087		16,540
<u>Resources expended</u>				
<u>Direct charitable expenditure:</u>				
Grants	Note 14	16,250		14,600
<u>Net incoming (outgoing) resources</u>		(1,163)		1,940
<u>Gains on investment assets:</u>				
Realised		7,604	2,535	
Unrealised		14,437	37,434	39,969
<u>Net movement in the fund</u>		20,878		41,909
Fund balance				
brought forward at 1 January 1998	Note 7	284,229		242,320
Balance at 31 December 1998		<u>£305,107</u>		<u>£284,229</u>

Leech Fund - Charity Commission ref. L3(E) 602094

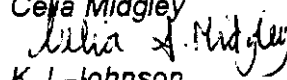
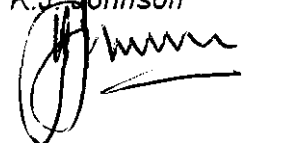
		£	£	£	£
<u>Income and Expenditure</u>					
<u>Incoming resources</u>					
Investment income	Note 8		264		277
<u>Resources expended</u>					
<u>Direct charitable expenditure:</u>					
Grants for purchase of books			126		102
<u>Net incoming resources</u>			138		175
<u>Gains on investment assets:</u>					
Realised		127		42	
Unrealised		242	369	627	669
<u>Net movement in the fund</u>			507		844
Fund balance brought forward at 1 January 1998			5,175		4,331
Balance at 31 December 1998	Note 7		<u>£5,682</u>		<u>£5,175</u>

Manchester District Association of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches Inc.

Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 December 1998

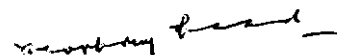
			<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
			£	£
<u>Fixed Assets</u>				
Tangible fixed assets	- Land held as an investment	Note 2	70,000	70,000
	- Held for use by the charity	Note 3	6,651	7,847
Investments		Note 4	<u>1,126,780</u>	<u>1,143,534</u>
			<u>1,203,431</u>	<u>1,221,381</u>
<u>Current Assets</u>				
Debtors		Note 5	11,168	9,892
Short term deposits			143,173	32,703
Cash at bank			<u>11,057</u>	<u>9,839</u>
			165,398	52,434
Less Liabilities falling due within one year		Note 6	<u>4,010</u>	<u>3,879</u>
Net Current Assets			<u>161,388</u>	<u>48,555</u>
<u>Total Net Assets</u>			<u>£1,364,819</u>	<u>£1,269,936</u>
<u>Funds</u>				
Unrestricted Funds		Note 7	<u>£1,364,819</u>	<u>£1,269,936</u>

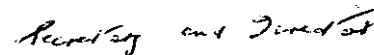
These accounts were approved by the Directors
on 26 January 1999 and are signed on their behalf by:

Celia Midgley

 K.J. Johnson


President

Treasurer





Manchester District Association of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches Inc.

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 1998

1 Basis of accounting

The accounts are prepared in accordance with the Statement of Accounting Practice for Accounting by Charities, issued October 1995.

2 Accounting Policies

(a) Tangible Fixed Assets

- (i) Investment land is included in the Balance Sheet at Professional Valuer's estimate of market value at the 31 December 1997. It is the Directors' opinion that there has been no significant change on value since that date.
- (ii) Motor vehicles, office equipment and computers are valued at cost less depreciation.

(b) Investments

- (i) Listed investments are included in the Balance Sheet at their middle market value at the accounting date.
- (ii) Unsecured interest-bearing loans to churches are expected to be repaid in full over time, though there are no specific agreements as to repayment.

(c) Grants and donations receivable and payable are accounted for when received or paid by the charity.

(d) Income from investment land is brought into account on an accruals basis.

(e) Dividends and interest on securities are brought into account when received by the charity; interest on short term deposits is brought into account on an accruals basis.

(f) Fixed Assets are depreciated:

motor vehicles by 25% of their book value of the previous year end:

computer by equal amounts over 5 years:

office equipment by equal amounts over 3 years.

3 Tangible Fixed Assets held for use by the Charity

	<u>Motor Vehicles</u>	<u>Office Equipment</u>	<u>Computer</u>
	£	£	£
<u>Cost at January 1998</u>	12,363	1,737	-
<u>Add acquisitions of the year</u>	-	243	2,256
<u>Less disposals</u>	<u>5,550</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>6,813</u>	<u>1,980</u>	<u>2,256</u>
 <u>Depreciation at January 1998</u>	 4,618	 1,635	 -
<u>Depreciation of the year</u>	<u>1,936</u>	<u>183</u>	<u>451</u>
	6,554	1,818	451
<u>Less depreciation on disposals</u>	<u>4,425</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>2,129</u>	<u>1,818</u>	<u>451</u>
 <u>Net value at 31 December 1998 = £6,651</u>	 <u>4,684</u>	 <u>162</u>	 <u>1,805</u>

4 Investments

(i) Quoted investments

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Balance as at 1 January 1998	1,104,938	804,823
Add acquisitions in the year, at cost	<u>155,524</u>	<u>255,984</u>
	1,260,462	1,060,807
Less sales (market value or cost, as appropriate)	<u>226,520</u>	<u>101,696</u>
	1,033,942	959,111
Unrealised gain for the year	<u>56,242</u>	<u>145,827</u>
	<u>1,090,184</u>	<u>1,104,938</u>

(cost value £706,030 (£696,292))

The investments are held by Pershing Securities Limited on behalf of the Trustees.

Pershing Securities Limited is regulated by SFA. It conducts the safe custody and administrative duties of Capel-Cure Sharp, the Trustees' Stockbrokers.

(ii) Loans to Churches

	<u>Wilbraham Rd</u>	<u>Queens Rd</u>	
	<u>Chorlton</u>	<u>Urmston</u>	
Balance at 1 January 1998	33,096	5,500	<u>38,596</u>
Repaid in the year	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	
Balance at 31 December 1998	32,096	4,500	<u>36,596</u>

Investments per Balance Sheet	<u>£1,126,780</u>	<u>£1,143,534</u>
-------------------------------	-------------------	-------------------

5 Debtors

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
Income tax recoverable	6,188	8,982
Due by Queens Road Chapel, Urmston	500	275
Rent and compensation for loss of Chief Rent	-	635
Interest accrued on short term loans	2,175	-
Due by insurer for car damaged beyond repair	2,200	-
Public Liability insurance paid in advance	<u>105</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>£11,168</u>	<u>£9,892</u>

6 Liabilities falling due within one year

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
Rent received in advance	3,500	3,300
Creditors	352	419
Prepayments	<u>158</u>	<u>160</u>
	<u>£4,010</u>	<u>£3,879</u>

7 Unrestricted Funds

	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Incoming</u>	<u>Balance</u>
	<u>1 Jan. 1998</u>	<u>Resources</u>	<u>31 Dec. 1998</u>
General Fund	439,052	32,007	471,059
Manchester Unitarian			
Congregational Fund	541,480	41,491	582,971
Manchester Domestic			
Mission Society Fund	284,229	20,878	305,107
Leech Trust Fund	<u>5,175</u>	<u>507</u>	<u>5,682</u>
	<u>£1,269,936</u>	<u>£94,883</u>	<u>£1,364,819</u>

8 Investment Income

	<u>Income from listed investments Bank A/Cs etc.</u>	<u>Interest on loans</u>	<u>Rents etc. Charges & insurance</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1997</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	21,764	1,880 *	---	23,644	25,920
M.U.C. Fund	21,670	---	12,843	34,513	37,330
M.D.M.S. Fund	15,087	---	---	15,087	16,540
Leech Fund	264	---	---	264	277
	<u>£58,785</u>	<u>£1,880</u>	<u>£12,843</u>	<u>£73,508</u>	<u>£80,067</u>

* Interest is charged on loans to Churches at 5% p.a.

9 Subscriptions from Member Churches

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
	£	£
Altrincham	80	75
Chorlton	100	100
Cross Street	65	60
Dean Row	100	100
Dob Lane	25	25
Flagg	-	10
Gorton	50	50
Hale	35	30
Knutsford	100	100
Macclesfield	50	25
Monton	50	50
Oldham	25	25
Rivington	25	25
Styal	100	100
Urmston	-	88
	<u>£805</u>	<u>£863</u>

10 Contributions for pastoral care

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
Dob Lane	1,571	1,553
Chorlton	1,250	1,250
Oldham	1,301	1,240
Sundry preaching fees	60	162
	<u>£4,182</u>	<u>£4,205</u>

11 Grants

<u>Stipend Grants:</u>		<u>1998</u>		<u>1997</u>
	£	£	£	£
Altrincham/Urmston Churches	3,000		3,000	
Monton Church	<u>1,250</u>	4,125	<u>1,500</u>	4,500
<u>For Building repairs etc.:</u>				
Hale Chapel	-		2,500	
Macclesfield Church	-		5,000	
Rivington Chapel	-		<u>500</u>	8,000
<u>Miscellaneous:</u>				
To assist an Indian Student at UCM	-		250	
To assist in funding a UCM				
Student training in the District	350		3,000	
G.A. Ministerial/Students Fund	500		500	
3 (8) grants each £50 or less	150		340	
Net amount to G.A. for Chester expenses	<u>180</u>	1,180	-	4,090
<u>Interest grants to Churches</u>		<u>1,655</u>		<u>1,692</u>
		<u>£6,960</u>		<u>£18,282</u>

12 Subscriptions, affiliation fees and donations

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
	£	£
The General Assembly	500	500
World Development Committee	50	50
Unitarian Millennium Fund		
(fourth of four pledged contributions)	1,250	1,250
Manchester Academy Fund	400	400
I.A.R.F.	15	15
Unitarian Holiday and Conference Centre (Nightingale Centre)	200	200
"The Inquirer"	500	500
Unitarian College Manchester	700	700
Greater Manchester County Ecumenical Council	150	190
Provincial Assembly	20	20
Manchester Council of Christians and Jews	40	25
Stockton Church building fund	-	250
G.A. Romania Fund	-	25
Jubilee 2000 - Manchester	150	-
G.A. India Fund	<u>400</u>	-
	<u>£4,375</u>	<u>£4,125</u>

13 Maintenance of an Investment Asset

A retaining wall on the land at King Street/Queen Street, Salford, leased out as a car park, collapsed. It had formerly been a burial ground and some human remains were revealed. The cost of rebuilding the wall and reimbursing Manchester Corporation for re-interring the remains in Southern Cemetery was £8,163.

14 <u>Manchester Domestic Mission Society Grants</u>	1998	1997
	£	£
Decade for Women	-	100
Shepley House Amenities Fund	1,000	1,000
Family Advice Centre, Moss Side	6,000	5,000
Boys and Girls Welfare Society	250	2,250
The Woodhouse Park Family Advice Centre	2,500	1,000
Lifeshare Resettlement Amenities Fund	-	1,000
Broom House Centre	250	4,000
Cheetham Women's Group	-	250
Gorton "Out of School" Club	1,000	-
Greater Manchester Probation Service (Salford)	250	-
Greater Manchester Probation Service (Cheetham Hill)	750	-
Oldham Children's Home	2,000	-
Trinity House	<u>2,250</u>	-
	<u>£16,250</u>	<u>£14,600</u>

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

Schedule of Investments at 31 December 1998

	<u>Holding</u>	<u>Market Value</u>	
<u>British Funds</u>		£	£
Conversion 9% Stock 2000	£5,000	5,213	
Treasury 10% Stock 2001	£79,250	87,270	
Treasury 10% Stock 2003	£15,000	18,427	
Treasury 8% Loan 2002/06	£10,700	<u>11,904</u>	122,814
<u>Corporation and Country Funds</u>			
Manchester Corporation 4% Consolidated Irr. Stock	£7,660		6,128
<u>Fixed Interest excl. prefs and equity elements</u>			
Bradford & Bingley B. Soc. 13% PIBs	£30,000	61,350	
Bristol & West plc 13.375% Uns Perp Sub bds	£12,000	23,580	
Halifax plc 8.75% Perp sub ord bonds	£50,000	<u>66,750</u>	151,680
<u>Preference Securities</u>			
Nat. West. Bank 9% "A" Non-Cum. Pref	15,900		24,963
<u>Convertible Securities</u>			
Land Securities 7% Conv. Bonds 30/9/2008 Reg	£14,000	17,343	
Blue Circle Industries 7.625% conv. cum. red prefs	9,150	<u>15,097</u>	32,440
<u>Oil, Integrated</u>			
Shell Transport and Trading plc Ord. 25p	7,650		28,248
<u>Engineering</u>			
Tomkins Ord. 5p	5,400	15,309	
B.T.R. B pref. 36.5p	3,740	<u>1,290</u>	16,599
	Carried forward		382,872

	Brought forward		382,872
<u>Food Producers</u>			
Unilever Ord. 12.5p	4,390		29,589
<u>Pharmaceuticals</u>			
Glaxo Wellcome Ord. 25p	1,650	34,122	
Smith Kline Beecham Ord 6.25p	2,740	23,016	
Zeneca Group Ord. 25p	1,000	<u>26,170</u>	83,308
<u>Leisure and Hotels</u>			
Granada Group Ord. 25p	2,760	29,325	
Queens Moat Houses Ord. 5p (consolidated)	1,449	<u>275</u>	29,600
<u>Retailers, Food</u>			
Tesco Ord. 5p	2,000		29,284
<u>Retailers, General</u>			
Boots Co. Ord. 25p	2,000	20,470	
Marks & Spencer Ord. 25p	4,200	<u>17,314</u>	37,784
<u>Telecommunications</u>			
British Telecommunications Ord. 25p	2,875	26,033	
Cable & Wireless Ord. 25p	2,500	<u>18,475</u>	44,508
<u>Electricity</u>			
Scottish Power Ord. 50p	4,020		24,823
<u>Water</u>			
United Utilities Ord. £1	2,550		21,242
<u>Banks, Retail</u>			
Barclays Bank Ord. £1	1,800	23,328	
HSBC Holdings Ord 75p (UK reg)	1,180	<u>19,234</u>	42,562
<u>Insurance</u>			
CGU Group Ord. 25p	2,025		19,055
<u>Life Assurance</u>			
Prudential Corporation Ord. 5p	3,830		34,757
<u>Investment & Unit Trusts</u>			
Henderson Far East Ord. 25p	7,700	7,354	
Law Debenture Corp.	2,000	21,430	
M&G Securities Charifund income	23,830	236,620	
Sharp (Albert E) AES Intl. Bond & Convertible	20,000	29,350	
Temple Bar Invest. Trust	2,820	<u>16,046</u>	<u>310,800</u>
			<u>£1,090,184</u>

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

**REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE OFFICERS OF
MANCHESTER DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF UNITARIAN
AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES**

We have audited the financial statements on pages to 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 judgements 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 1998 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
Spring Court
Spring Road
Hale
Cheshire
WA14 2UQ

Dated:

1.3.1999

Page

"The Unitarian" Magazine

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 1998

		<u>1998</u>		<u>1997</u>
<u>Income</u>	£	£	£	£
Magazine sales	5,524.79		5,517.15	
Donations	535.00		224.90	
Interest	<u>257.81</u>		<u>252.53</u>	
		6,317.60		5,994.58
 <u>Less Expenditure</u>				
Printing	3,444.00		3,444.00	
Carriage and postage	1,181.21		1,164.64	
Honoraria	750.00		687.50	
Management expenses	<u>58.81</u>	<u>5,434.02</u>	<u>115.07</u>	<u>5,411.21</u>
 <u>Increase of Income over Expenditure</u>		883.58		583.37
 <u>Movement on investments</u>				
Unrealised gain		<u>659.55</u>		<u>809.30</u>
 <u>Net movement on the Fund</u>		1,543.13		1,392.67
Balance at 1 January 1998 - brought forward		<u>9,679.24</u>		<u>8,286.57</u>
		<u>£11,222.37</u>		<u>£9,679.24</u>

Balance Sheet at 31 December 1998

<u>Fixed Assets</u>				
Investment in COIF Income Shares (cost £4,000) at market value	6,351.85		5,692.30	
 <u>Current Assets</u>				
Magazine debtors	149.02		759.06	
Halifax Building Society	1,104.51		1,062.58	
Balance at Bank	<u>3,616.99</u>		<u>3,317.88</u>	
	4,870.52		5,139.52	
Less Creditors	<u>---</u>	<u>4,870.52</u>	<u>1,152.58</u>	<u>3,986.94</u>
		<u>£11,222.37</u>		<u>£9,679.24</u>

Signed: Frances Teagle (Manager)

Examined: K.J. Johnson