



## Unitarian Peace Fellowship Newsletter

*For all within our denomination who witness to the  
belief that war and preparation for war are  
failures of humanity*

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[www.ukunitarians.org.uk/peace/](http://www.ukunitarians.org.uk/peace/)

## Musings from the Chair

What an active year we have had: a fantastic Unitarian four groups retreat in October, the work around Compassion and our support of the motion on Nuclear Weapons at GA in April, committee meetings, speaking engagements and leading services with a peace witness theme throughout the year.

As this year has developed, We the UPF committee, have begun to notice that there are important items slipping into the metaphorical cracks of necessary business. The two main ones are the Charter for Compassion and the Clara Barton Emergency Fund. Each is important and can help us as we focus our work for both just living and peaceful existence.

The UPF committee will be exploring ways for us to address this need. We would welcome your ideas as well.

During this past year as I have pondered the meaning of Peace for myself, three things have kept reappearing in my reflections.

Overall the vision of Shalom the Hebrew prophets demonstrated and called Israel to live...

Lao Tse's teaching on Peace.... "If there is to be peace in the world.....it must begin in the heart"

And Paul's short statement in the letter to the Romans in the Greek Testament that states: "As far as it depends upon you, live in Peace with everyone."

Peace and justice are more than political concepts they are calls to living life in a way that respects all life. Each calls us to be engaged as best we can, a lifetime journey of reflection, action, success and lose. Throughout it all hopefully we are evolving into more peace-filled persons.

In this season of commercialised Christmas may our thoughts turn to the values extolled, in the narratives of the season, Hanukkah, Yule, Christmas, Kwanza and New Year. The values of Light and Enlightenment, Joy and Gratitude, Peace and Justice, Love and Compassion are all expressed in this time...may we hear them and equally may we live them all the days of the year, of our lives.

As always,  
Salam & Shalom  
Peace

**Rev. John Carter, UPF Chair**

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**Peace Fellowship Matters**  
**PUTTING IT POLITELY,**  
**WE NEED THE MONEY, PLEASE!**

Many thanks to those of you who **have** paid your subscription for 2018/19. To the many of you who **haven't**, this year's subs are:

|              |        |
|--------------|--------|
| Individual:  | £9.00  |
| Couple       | £15.00 |
| Small Group  | £18.00 |
| Large Group: | £27.00 |

**Our 2018/19 Appeal**, which was launched at the General Assembly meetings last month, is in aid of the **International Rescue Committee**, which helps refugees all over the world.

**We would be very grateful** if you would send your cheques, made payable to 'The Unitarian Peace Fellowship', to our Treasurer, Celia Cartwright. (address on back page). Please write on the back of the cheque what the payment is for (i.e. subs / appeal / both). Thank you very much.

## **GA President's message for 2018/19 Peace Fellowship Appeal**

"The International Rescue Committee is a long-established charity which responds to the world's worst humanitarian crises, helping to restore health, safety, education, economic wellbeing and power to people devastated by conflict and disaster.

The IRC strive to reach more people, more quickly, to maximise the impact of their interventions, bringing rescue and relief more rapidly to communities devastated by crisis or disaster, and aim to respond within 72 hours of a disaster, their priorities are to organise health care, distribute cash, and deliver clean water.

Having seen personally, the devastation caused following a major typhoon, when a hillside previously covered with shanty type dwellings was completely flattened, and the people in a state of utter confusion, and despair, having lost everything they had. It is at that time that organisations such as the IRC are so badly needed, the time before the major disaster relief organisations can deploy their personnel and equipment, the time when people are in shock, distress, and at their most vulnerable. At any one time IRC may be working to bring aid, in up to four such emergencies. The IRC also works alongside, and in partnership with other agencies, both international and local, recognising the need for integrated input, in order to maximise the benefit and relief to those affected.

Above all, the IRC aims to help the most vulnerable, those affected by crises and disasters, and to enable millions of men, women and children to reclaim control of their lives.

I urge you to support this most worthwhile Appeal.

**Joan Cook, President of the General Assembly**

## UPF HIGHLIGHTED CHARITY FOR 2018/19



UPF invites you to support International Rescue Committee by friending them on social media as well as with financial contributions.

Webpage: <https://www.rescue.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IRCEurope/>

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### **I was a common Greenham woman by Pam Archer**

Back in the 1960s, influenced by by Quaker Aunt, Uncle and Cousin, I went on several CND Easter marches from Aldermaston to London. I remember we marched all day and at night we slept in sleeping bags on the floors of church halls and similar buildings. I always associate hard-boiled eggs with that time, because that was our breakfast, probably cooked in advance by my aunt!

I remember the feeling of solidarity as hundreds of us walked along through towns and along country roads, singing “The Family of Man”, “The H-bombs Thunder”, “We shall overcome” and other anti-nuclear songs.

Then in the 1980s Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan came to power, and with them plans to expand and further develop the nuclear arsenal which had never gone away. That was when a group of women known as “Women for Life on Earth”, walked from Cardiff to Greenham Common, where Cruise missiles were to be sited. They wanted to challenge that decision and they delivered a letter to the Base Commander describing their fears for the future. Their request for a debate was ignored and so they set up a Peace camp outside the fence in September 1981. And there they stayed for nearly twenty years.

Some women actually lived there, in “tents” they constructed themselves from tree branches and polythene sheets, known as “benders”; one woman even gave birth there in August 1983 and gave her boy the name Jay Greenham. Many more women visited, and some stayed for a long time, others paid shorter visits and quite a few times the camp arranged demonstrations and invited thousands of us to visit at the same time.

Yes, I was one of those occasional visitors, travelling with others from our CND group in Solihull where I lived. Usually we just visited for a day, but on occasions we stayed overnight, pitching ordinary camping tents alongside the regular ones. When I went in September 1984 my 16 year old daughter came with as well, and my friend from Portsmouth also brought her daughter along while another from Norwich brought her two young sons. We have some photos from that occasion, not very good, but enough to remind me of it all.





(I'm the one wearing the long rainbow scarf, with my daughter on my right holding a friend's child.) (I still have that scarf)



With a few of the other women protesting there that night.



My feelings about nuclear weapons have not changed; I'm still a member of CND, I still hate the thought of nuclear weapons and take part in local events to mark the anniversaries of the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. Debate continues about whether that really did end the war – there are many who say that Japan was on the verge of surrender, and others who say that the Americans had a new toy and they wanted to play with it. In 2014 I took part in another demonstration. This was “Wool Against Weapons”, a project suggested by a “Common Greenham Woman” to knit a pink scarf that would reach for seven miles (yes, you read that right – 7 miles) from Aldermaston to Burghfield, two Atomic Weapons Establishments in Berkshire. Women round the world knitted and knitted to produce squares 60cm x 100 cm in any shade of pink. And we did it! I hadn't knitted since I made that rainbow scarf in



1983, but it got me going again and now I like to knit at every opportunity.



The scarf was held by women, men and children who lined the roads between the two nuclear sites, or it was laid down on the ground in the places where there weren't so many people, even though thousands turned up.

Afterwards the scarf was dismantled and re-created into blankets for children in hospitals, homeless people, or wherever there was a need.

Did we make a difference? We still have nuclear weapons but Cruise has gone and Greenham Common is a common once more and women realised the power they have when they come together. But I haven't stopped yet and I won't.



## Joint Gathering October 2018

The Four Groups Gathering (Unitarian Peace Fellowship (UPF), Unitarian Earth Spirit Network (UESN), National Unitarian Fellowship (NUF) and Unitarian Renewal Group (URG)) went really well. 35 of us gathered at the Nightingale Centre at Great Hucklow at the end of October.

The theme of the weekend was 'Endings and Beginnings' and the first slot was led by UESN, on the Friday evening. We shared the meaning of Samhain, when we remembered loved ones who had passed away. It was a gentle and deep time of sharing. The next morning, the URG shared a timeline, from the founding of the General Assembly in 1928 to the present day, and beyond. It was interesting to see how Unitarianism has evolved over the past 90 years.

In the afternoon, the NUF offered a choice of two slots – participants could either write something and then share it to camera, or, more scarily, just speak to the camera in an impromptu session. Some of the results will be shared on UK Unitarian TV.

On Saturday evening, it was our turn. We shared the ideal of peace, and our Treasurer, Celia Cartwright, gave an inspirational talk about all the good things that had come out of World War I – from stainless steel through medical advances to paper tissues.

Celia also led the service on Sunday morning, and it was wonderful to see how she managed to incorporate things from all four slots in her service. It is now available on UK Unitarian TV, under the title 'Unitarian Sunday Service (Hucklow).

The next Four Groups Gathering will be in 2020 – watch this space!





The Pulpit at Great Hucklow Chapel,  
with John Carter's beautiful mandala below it.



## Unitarian Peace Fellowship Vision



The Unitarian Peace Fellowship was founded in 1916 in the darkest days of the First World War to witness for peace and against the futility of war. Today we maintain that witness. Our vision includes the ethos and values of the Charter for Compassion. The surest route to peace is through the compassion of human beings for each other and for all living things. We support and encourage Unitarians in their witness for Peace and Compassion locally, nationally, and internationally.

### Unitarian Peace Fellowship Officers & Committee

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