



# Unitarian Peace Fellowship Newsletter

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

**Issue 6, Spring 2013**

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## Words from the Chair

Dear Members,

I am greeting you for the first time in my new role as Chair of the Fellowship and reflecting now on the GA Meetings, I have to say how delighted I was with the positive tone of the Peace Fellowship slot. I am particularly pleased to welcome two new Committee members and already their enthusiasm has been demonstrated in their contributions so far. This augurs well for the future of the Fellowship, which was beginning to look somewhat fragile on account of our precarious financial situation.

It is my hope that some of **you**, our readership, may feel moved to attend the first Fellowship Retreat planned for this autumn at the Nightingale Centre where, amongst other things, you will be able to have input to our strategy for an appropriate commemoration of the start of World War I. In addition there will be valuable time and opportunity to reflect on how the ideal of peace might feature in the way we daily live our lives. (see page 7)

If anyone knows the whereabouts of the Peace Fellowship archives, please would they contact our Secretary, Sue Woolley (contact details page 8)?

I would like to congratulate and thank the members of Rochdale Church on the success of their Charity Lunch held very recently, which resulted in the Peace Fellowship receiving a cheque for £150 for their General Fund. I encourage other congregations and groups to use imaginative ways to help this Fellowship to survive and to continue with the good work practised in its name since 1916; donations large or small will be very gratefully received.

In Fellowship

**Joyce Ashworth**

# **New Unitarian Peace Fellowship Vision Statement**

The Unitarian Peace Fellowship was founded in 1916. Now, nearly one hundred years later, your Committee felt that it was time to update our Vision Statement. At our slot at the General Assembly meetings in Nottingham, those present voted to approve the following new statement:

**"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."**

Our thanks to Sue Woolley, for drafting the proposed statement, and to Carol Chilton, for revising it. This new statement will now appear on our website, and anywhere else the Fellowship operates.

## **Appeal for e-mail addresses**

As you all know, the Peace Fellowship's finances are not in a wonderful state. Coupled to this is the issue of ever-increasing postage rates, which make it very expensive to send out our newsletter to you, our members. So we are asking you to please send your e-mail address (if you are on e-mail) to Secretary, Sue Woolley, so that she can send the newsletter via e-mail in future. She will also be able to notify you of upcoming peace-related events around the country.

## **The Peace Fellowship at the GA**

Over 30 people came along to the Peace Fellowship slot at this year's General Assembly Annual Meetings. A brief Annual General Meeting was held, during which the following matters were highlighted:

- Tribute was paid to retiring Chair, Joan Norton, who has served the Fellowship devotedly for many years. We are glad that Joyce Ashworth has agreed to take this on for the next year.
- Retiring committee member Carol Chilton was thanked for her contribution to the work of the Fellowship.
- We were delighted to welcome two new members onto the Committee: John Philip Carter (Lewisham) and Christina Smith (Belper).
- The lower than normal figure for the 2012 Appeal for Peace Child International, because of the strong fundraising drive by Send A Child To Hucklow last year.

This was followed by a presentation by Rev. Feargus O'Connor about the future of the Peace Fellowship. He said:

The purpose and mission of the Unitarian Peace Fellowship is a simple but all-important one: to save millions of lives. It has been estimated that the lives of over 100 million people were lost in wars and their tragic consequences in the Twentieth Century alone.

The mission of the Unitarian Peace Fellowship since its foundation in 1916, when the First World War was raging, has been to witness against war and to help establish the conditions where peace can take root.

In war, the Anglican wit and clergyman Sydney Smith declared, God is forgotten and religion is trampled underfoot. It has been

said that wars begin in the minds of people. The wisdom of these words has surely been borne out by history?

It is all the more reason for us to work tirelessly as Unitarian peace makers to help build the foundations of peace. There is surely no more effective way to do this than by being a member of the Unitarian Peace Fellowship?

In addition to active peace making, bridge building and spreading the message of the moral imperative of non-violence our Peace Fellowship over the years has raised a large amount of money for humanitarian causes and life saving charities. Since 1999 we have sent £50,693 for a wide range of charitable and humanitarian causes, including Amnesty International, Landmine Action, International Action Network on Small Arms, Womankind Worldwide and UNICEF.

The 2013 Clara Barton Appeal was directly inspired by the Charter for Compassion, unanimously affirmed by our General Assembly in 2011. Our new Peace Fellowship Vision Statement, drafted by our secretary, Rev. Sue Woolley, who played such an important role in getting our General Assembly to affirm the Charter for Compassion and become a Partner Organization, affirms the 'ethos and values of the Charter for Compassion, recognising that the surest route to peace is through the compassion of human beings for each other and for all living things'. [An amended version was passed by the meeting].

I am so pleased that the new vision statement embraces not only our own species but also our fellow beings who are so often themselves the victims of war and its harmful and destructive effects on the environment.

So it can be clearly seen that not only is the Clara Barton Appeal itself in the spirit of the Charter for Compassion but so are the mission and ethos of our Unitarian Peace Fellowship, as our new

Vision Statement affirms. I feel that this Vision Statement is truly inspirational and so it is wholly appropriate that it has been adopted by us to articulate the values and ideals for which we stand and witness to our movement and the world.

## **Peace Fellowship Appeal 2013**

Our 2013 Peace Fellowship appeal is for the Clara Barton Disasters Emergency Appeal of the Red Cross, which was launched at our Unitarian Peace Fellowship Peace Vespers in 2012. At the start of the GA Annual Meetings the total raised was £1115.05 and we are pleased that a total of £503.82 was raised in Nottingham. This brings our current Peace Fellowship annual appeal to **£1618.87** and the grand total raised by the Clara Barton Disasters Emergency Appeal since its Peace Vespers launch in April 2012 to **£5314.59**. The British Red Cross has asked us to pass on its warm thanks to the Peace Fellowship itself and all our kind donors.

## **Unitarian Peace Fellowship is on Facebook!**

A Facebook page was set up for the Fellowship at the GA meetings by John Philip Carter, and to date (30th April) has over 50 members. Why not log in and Like us?

## **Network for Peace meeting about WWI commemoration**

Two members of the Committee, Joyce Ashworth and Feargus O'Connor, will be attending a Network for Peace meeting at Friends House, Euston Road, London on Thursday 6th June at 2.30 pm. The topic under discussion will be **WWI Centenary - the Peace Movement Alternative**. All are welcome.

Info from: Claire Poyner, Network for Peace,  
[mail@networkforpeace.org.uk](mailto:mail@networkforpeace.org.uk) 07794 036602.

**\*\*\*\* FIRST EVER UNITARIAN PEACE  
FELLOWSHIP RETREAT \*\*\*\***

**Theme: Inner and Outer Peace**

Come along to our first Annual Retreat. There will be three strands:

- \* Commemorating World War I - a Peace Perspective.
- \* Peace in our lives - how we ground ourselves and our peace witness in our theology and spirituality.
- \* Peace and the creative process - an opportunity to create a mandala or do some creative writing around peace.

*Led by members of the Unitarian Peace Fellowship Committee*

The weekend begins on Friday with a buffet supper, and ends on Sunday with lunch after attending the Remembrance Sunday service at Great Hucklow Unitarian Chapel. **All are welcome!**

**When:** Friday 8th - Sunday 10th November 2013

**Where:** The Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow,  
Derbyshire SK17 8RH

**Fully inclusive cost:**

Sharing a normal twin room	£102
Single occupancy of twin	£112
Sharing an en-suite room	£117
Single occupancy of en-suite room	£127

Further details & a booking form from Sue Woolley  
(contact details on p.8)



## 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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