



## 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 18, May 2019  
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## Musings from the Chair

UPF had a great session at this year's GA. Our time together sparked a lively conversation with many areas of concern being mentioned. Palestine & Israel being atop this list of concerns. Also mentioned were developing Peace themed services and resources. The growing concern around Arms Sales, with the UK being in the top 6 arms dealers in the world. These are a few of the many areas in which UPF needs to explore and develop. We invite you as you continue in your quest for peace to let us know of your concerns, as well as where you can bring insight and assistance (see report on page 7).

Our charity focus this year is related to what is called the Palestine/Israeli conflict. The enormity of the situation is great, and we, the committee, decided to highlight two projects, one that is proactive in working for non-violent peaceful engagement across the spectrum, and one that is offering reactive emergency services to Palestinians who struggle to live with the Israeli government's enforced blockade. These are: Spirit Of Peace: [www.spiritofpeace.co.uk](http://www.spiritofpeace.co.uk) and Medical Aid for Palestinians: [www.map.org.uk](http://www.map.org.uk). Details on page 6.

I hope you will go to both websites and inform yourself of the needs and the ways people are working for peace in the region.

We also highlighted our developing work as a committee, and have formed two sub committees to focus on ongoing decisions and concerns of our General Assembly: Charter for Compassion and The Clara Barton Emergency Fund. Sue Woolley is taking lead for the work around the Charter and Feargus O'Connor is

taking lead for the work with Clara Barton. If you would like to volunteer and work with them, I am sure they would appreciate your assistance.

We are also looking into our social media profile with the view to begin a Peace Fellowship blog, as well as using other social media platforms. I will be leading this side of our collective work. We would welcome contributions for the blog, which may also be used for our newsletter.

This year, one of our long standing and hard-working committee members, Joyce Ashworth, has decided that she needed to stand down from the committee. We thank you, Joyce, for all the work you have done on behalf of the UPF over the years, for your balance, advice and peaceable presence.

As we say goodbye to Joyce's presence on our committee, I invite you to join me in welcoming Dominic Winter as our newest committee member. Welcome, Dominic!

As always, I thank you for your continued support of the Unitarian Peace Fellowship. May we all in our daily lives be living channels of Peace, Shalom, Salam....

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 2019/20. 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 2019/20 Appeal**, which was launched at the General Assembly meetings last month, is in aid of the **Spirit of Peace** which works "to overcome the barriers and differences which create disharmony, enabling people and groups to work creatively with difference to promote the 'common good'. We work towards a world where all can flourish and this depends on the ability to respect our shared humanity, our differences and the earth - our shared home."

**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.

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**GA President's message for 2019/20 Peace Fellowship Appeal**

"SPIRIT OF PEACE – person to person for peace.

This year's charity is special, working as it does to develop a more compassionate and fairer world where all people can have the conditions to flourish – safety, education, adequate and fair access to physical (food and shelter), spiritual and natural resources.

Their actions are rooted in faith be it in human nature, religious tradition or the future as well as spiritual principles which

recognise and value the underlying connections between all people and the earth.

They work to overcome barriers and differences which create disharmony, enabling people and groups to work creatively with difference to promote the 'Common Good'. They work towards a world where all can flourish knowing that this depends on the ability to respect our shared humanity, our differences, and the earth, - our shared home.

They teach that a stable global future depends on a safer, fairer world where all people and the earth can flourish. This depends on creating a global culture where all people can work together across the issues and thresholds which can divide – racial, cultural, ethnic, national.

So what do they do?

- They bring people together across those racial, cultural, national and ethnic boundaries.
- Foster harmonious relationships and connecting people with the aim of working for the common good.
- Form partnerships and networks which enable people and organisations to work together.
- Support peace and community builders locally and globally.
- Support and energise local initiatives through connecting them with projects and leaders abroad.
- And they develop and deliver training in working for the common good and promoting a culture where all can flourish.

If you too pray for, hope for peace in our world, then please support this invaluable charitable organisation.”

**Celia Cartwright, President of the General Assembly**

UPF HIGHLIGHTED CHARITIES FOR 2019/20



UPF invites you to support Spirit of Peace by friending them on social media as well as with financial contributions.

Webpage: <https://www.spiritofpeace.co.uk>

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



UPF invites you to support Medical Aid for Palestinians by friending them on social media as well as with financial contributions.

Website: <https://www.map.org.uk/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/MedicalAidforPalestinians>



## Notes from the 2019 Peace Fellowship session at GA

John Carter gave out a paper 'What is the future of the UPF?' The following points were raised:

- The formation of two sub-committees, one for the Charter for Compassion, one for Humanitarian Appeals.
- The 2019/20 appeal is Spirit of Peace. See elsewhere in this newsletter.
- Medical Aid for Palestine – our secondary appeal, under the Humanitarian Appeals banner.
- Setting up UPF Blog – John Carter is leading on this, and will be launching it on Facebook, inviting contributions.
- Arms sales – shame that UK is in top six in the world. A moral issue, a peace issue. **Idea:** Put together study pack to circulate to congregations and THEN bring a motion to the GA meetings.

Those present came up with lots of good ideas:

1. That we should study ways of creating peace once war has ended, both historically & contemporary. (Ann Peart)
2. The idea of folding cranes (originated by small girl who caught leukaemia after Hiroshima). It is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hiroshima on 6<sup>th</sup> August. Perhaps we could post a YouTube video on how to fold cranes on website and Facebook to mark this, as a symbol for peace. The organisation Mayors for Peace – 87 members in the UK. Suggest going into schools and getting children to fold cranes so that they understand the impact of what happened on that day (Robert Ince)
3. Ask government to tax banks who invest in arms. The need to build peace-keeping capacities with the threat to the future in mind (Christopher Winter)

4. Preparation is going on to take action against a major arms fair taking place in London. Peace Pledge Union, Campaign against the Arms Trade and CND involved. Peaceful protests. Need to be active, putting ourselves in the front line, campaigning for peace (Robin Hanford)
5. Look at structural violence too, against the most vulnerable in global society (Robin Hanford)
6. Production of workshop / worship pack we could offer to our congregations – looking at peace in our own lives. To make people think more about what it is to be without peace. (Jean Bradley)
7. The Israel / Palestine situation – Kate Jayne reported that the Israeli government was linking anti-Israel sentiments with anti-semitism. Taken to the extreme, this means that if you criticise what Israel is doing, you will be judged as anti-semitic. John Carter advised always saying “Israeli government” when making comments.  
Rowan Beton from Belper reported that within Israel itself there is strong liberal objection to Netanyahu, which is not much reported in the Western media.  
Feargus O'Connor mentioned a 2004 GA resolution concerning the founding of a peace village with a mixed school for Jews and Palestinians. The Trump government has recently slashed the grant to this school. Netanyahu has banned peace groups. The Quakers have disinvested in companies supporting the occupation. The Irish senate has said that goods from occupied territories should be labelled.  
Many organisations are carrying on conversations across the divide – talking to people who think differently to what we do. Good work being done by the IARF.
8. With the collapse of Islamic State, Sally from Mill Hill Chapel commented about people in camps. The concern is

especially for children who have one parent from a European country – the governments should show compassion in action and welcome them back into their parents’ countries.

9. Celia Cartwright commented that as 2019/20 President, she will be visiting many congregations and listening to concerns. Sense of reason, tolerance, forgiveness, redemption. She urged those present to go back to their congregations and have this conversation. If we don’t study history, we will repeat its mistakes.

John Carter closed the session by asking for any ideas on peace-making and bridge-building, and asking those present to consider writing articles for the new UPF Blog. All submissions to the blog may be used in the newsletter too.

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## Peace in Community: Blogpost

I’ve just spent four wonderful days at the Annual Meetings of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches – one day at the Ministers’ Pre-conference, and the other three at the Annual Meetings proper.

As usual, it was wonderful to catch up with friends, many of whom I have not seen since last GA (as the Annual Meetings are affectionately known).

The Ministers’ Pre-conference included a gorgeous session about Metta meditation, led by Rev Maud Robinson, which included a twenty-minute practice of this loving-kindness meditation. In retrospect, it set the scene for the whole GA, at least for me.



Photo of the Meetings by Rory Castle-Jones

The Annual General Meeting of the Unitarian Peace Fellowship was on the first afternoon of the meeting proper. The Peace Fellowship was founded in 1916, in the depths of World War One, and for the last few years, the theme of the gathering following the AGM has been connected to the centenary commemorations of this bloody, futile war.

But this year, 2019, our theme was ‘Where do we go next?’. Nearly a hundred people turned up (twice as many as normal), and the discussion that followed was rich and fascinating (see article on page 7). The hunger for peace, for Unitarians to be involved in social action related to peace, was palpable in the room.

Then later, it was time for Peace Vespers, led by the current ministry students – Michael Allured, Stephanie Bisby, Jane Blackall and Elizabeth Harley. Again, the turn-out was greater than usual, and it was a gentle, peaceful end to the first day of the Meetings.

The following morning, I attended the morning meditation, led by Richard Bober of the Meditation Fellowship, which grounded me for the busy day ahead.

In the evening, the Anniversary Service was conducted by Revs Maria Curtis and Andy Phillips, on the theme *Knowing Our Place* – an impassioned plea for humankind to take care of our world and each other.

On the final morning, the motion on knife crime was passed – more evidence of the Unitarian desire for peace in our communities. At the end of the session, our Peace Fellowship Treasurer, Rev Celia Cartwright, was inducted as President of the General Assembly for the year 2019/20 (left below, with UPF Secretary, Rev Sue Woolley)



Photo by Peter Forder

I came home on the Thursday afternoon feeling comforted and strengthened for the year ahead. I had experience peace in our beloved community.

**Sue Woolley**



## 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

**Chair:** Rev John Philip Carter, 9, Hoyle Road, London SW17 0RS. Tel: 020-8682-3353 e-mail: revjohn.ukuni@gmail.com

**Treasurer & Membership Secretary:** Rev Celia Cartwright, 16, Nether St, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 7DS Tel: 01539-733403 e-mail: revcelia51@gmail.com

**Secretary and Newsletter Editor:** Rev Sue Woolley, 5, Martins Road, Piddington, Northampton NN7 2DN. Tel: 01604-870746 e-mail: revsuewoolley@gmail.com

**Committee Members:**

Rev Cody Coyne, Cross Street Chapel, Cross Street, Manchester M2 1NL Tel: 07786 820 383 e-mail: rev.c.coyne@gmail.com

Rev Feargus O'Connor, 11, Claremont Square, London N1 9LY. Tel: 020-7837-4472 e-mail: ggunirev@aol.com

Mrs Christina Smith, 27, Morrell Wood Drive, Belper, Derbyshire DE56 0JD Tel: 01773-829736 e-mail: smith.christina@yahoo.com

Mr Dominic Winter, 5, Allington Lane, Fair Oak, Eastleigh, Southampton SO50 7DA Tel : 07530 285 458 e-mail : d.m.winter@icloud.com