



Kensington Unitarians

112 Palace Gardens Terrace, Notting Hill, London W8 4RT
t: 020 7221 6514 e: info@kensington-unitarians.org.uk w: www.kensington-unitarians.org.uk



Annual Report 2012



Essex Unitarian Church

Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2012

Name of Charity

Essex Unitarian Chapel and Minister's House and Other Charities, as shown, known locally as Kensington Unitarians, 112 Palace Gardens Terrace, Kensington, London W8 4RT.

Charitable Registration

The church is registered as Charity number 230789. The original governing instrument is a conveyance dated 7th January 1783 and modified by schemes dated 9th December 1884, 15th January 1973 and 18th April 1986, which last incorporated the remaining eight charities.

Trustees

Howard Hague (*Chairperson*), Caroline Blair, David Francis Darling, Juliet Edwards, Heidi Ferid-Hands, Harold Lorenzelli, Roy Parnell, Jo Ridgers.

The Custodian Trustee is the British and Foreign Unitarian Association Incorporate.

Management Committee

David Francis Darling (*Chairperson*), Caroline Blair (*Treasurer*), Juliet Edwards, Heidi Ferid-Hands, Howard Hague, Harold Lorenzelli, Jo Ridgers, Carol Sheppard (from September 2012).

Minister

Rev. Sarah Tinker
The Manse Flat, 112 Palace Gardens Terrace, London W8 4RT

Treasurer

Caroline Blair (appointed 1st January 2012)
40 Killowen Avenue, Northolt, Middlesex, UB5 4QT

Warden

Jenny Moy
Warden's Flat, 112 Palace Gardens Terrace, London W8 4RT

Secretary

Jane Blackall
20 Manchester Grove, London E14 3BG

Independent Examiners and Accountants

Lindeyer Francis Ferguson
North House, 198 High Street, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1BE

Investment Advisers

Citi Quilter
4th Floor, The Pinnacle, 73 King Street, Manchester, M2 4NG

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd.
25 King's Hill Avenue, King's Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TA

Essex Unitarian Church

Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2012

The Charity's Purpose and Objectives:

Charitable Purpose and Policies

The purpose of the charity is to perpetuate public worship and to celebrate divine service every Sunday in the Unitarian manner.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have had due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit when reviewing the charity's objectives and planning future activities.

Aims and Activities of the Charity

We are here to worship, to share our experiences, to learn from each other, to explore our diverse faiths, to welcome spiritual seekers and to offer companionship on life's journey. We advance Unitarianism in West London for the benefit of the public through: the holding of open Sunday services; celebrating rites of passage and multi-faith festivals; sharing our experience and learning from each other in religious education and social activities. We welcome spiritual seekers and offer companionship on life's journey (including visiting the sick and comforting the bereaved) and producing and distributing Unitarian literature. The church also provides meeting spaces to other spiritual and social groups that are in accord with our liberal and spiritual ethos.

Organisation

The running of the church is under the control of the management committee with the trustees having overall responsibility for finance and staff employment. Trustees are appointed by invitation with a maximum number of 9 trustees to serve. They manage the charity by means of monthly meetings. The management committee is elected at the AGM with casual vacancies filled during the year. New trustees are given copies of the church accounts and previous Annual Reports along with a Charity Commission booklet explaining the responsibilities of trustees and a verbal explanation of how the church is organised.

Trustees

The trustees who have served during the year are listed, with other key personnel, on page 1.

Review of Activities

During 2012 the trustees continued to work towards key objectives identified during previous AGMs. In particular these objectives included:

- The on-going maintenance and improvement of our church building and its facilities and renting space to other groups whose activities are in accord with our Unitarian ethos
- The on-going commitment to maintain a high standard in public liberal religious worship and in making our congregation visible to the wider world through high quality publicity materials and notice boards
- Encouraging families with children into our community by running weekly children's activities on Sunday mornings
- Widen the number of people actively involved in congregational life by offering opportunities for people to attend a wide range of small group activities and to volunteer for a range of roles to support the life of the church.

These objectives will continue to shape the trustees' future plans with a continuing emphasis on maintaining and improving facilities within our building, seeking professional advice about the continuing roof problems, and ensuring that our liberal religious activities are well publicised.

Risks

The major risk is generating enough income to finance the charity's occupation of the building. The trustees have reviewed the risks to which the charity is exposed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks.

Policy on Reserves

The church has invested most of the reserves in funds expected to give a reasonable rate of interest, while keeping accessible enough to cover three month's running costs, and to fund anything but very major repairs to the building.

Restrictions on Funds

All Funds/Trusts under the control of the Trustees are for the benefit of the Church other than Thomas Scott's Endowment (income may be expended at the sole discretion of the Minister) and Stock Bequest (income must be used for Church music). We are working towards merging the small trusts, except the Stock Bequest and the Lindsey Hall Trust, into the main Essex Church charity, in which case Thomas Scott's Endowment will be replaced by a sum from general church funds, agreed by the trustees, being set aside for the minister's discretionary use.

Investment Performance

Having consulted financial advisors attached to the Unitarian and Free Christian General Assembly, the church divided their financial reserves between short and long term investments, bearing in mind their duty to invest safely and sensibly.

Approval on behalf of the Trustees:

Howard Hague, Chair of Trustees

Date: 19th May 2013

ESSEX UNITARIAN CHURCH

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2012, comprising a statement of financial activities, balance sheet and accompanying notes.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below:

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

John Francis FCA
LINDEYER FRANCIS FERGUSON
Chartered Accountants

19th May 2013
North House
198 High Street
Tonbridge
Kent TN9 1BE

ESSEX UNITARIAN CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

	2012 Unrestricted Funds £	2012 Endowment Funds £	2012 Restricted Funds £	2012 Total Funds £	2011 Total Funds £
Income and expenditure					
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income					
Collections and donations	9,757	-	152	9,909	13,166
Income Tax on Gift Aid	2,074	-	-	2,074	3,244
Activities for generating funds					
Lettings	115,252	-	-	115,252	117,993
Investment income					
Dividend income	180	-	4,698	4,878	4,621
Bank interest received	8,067	-	-	8,067	5,052
Other incoming resources	74	-	-	74	280
Total incoming resources	<u>135,404</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,850</u>	<u>140,254</u>	<u>144,356</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of charitable activities					
Donations	1,443	-	1,000	2,443	1,643
Projects	3,900	-	-	3,900	3,390
Ministry	51,519	-	-	51,519	52,104
Church running	38,809	-	-	38,809	35,442
Premises	33,426	-	-	33,426	27,520
Fixtures depreciation	-	9,240	-	9,240	9,354
Support costs:					
Accountancy costs	1,746	-	-	1,746	1,776
Governance costs					
Independent Examiner	2,040	-	-	2,040	2,040
Total resources expended	<u>132,883</u>	<u>9,240</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>143,123</u>	<u>133,269</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers	<u>2,521</u>	<u>(9,240)</u>	<u>3,850</u>	<u>(2,869)</u>	<u>11,087</u>
Transfers between funds	3,850	-	(3,850)	-	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains and losses	<u>6,371</u>	<u>(9,240)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,869)</u>	<u>11,087</u>
Realised gains on disposal of assets	-	-	-	-	-
Unrealised gains/(losses) on revaluation of investments	1,306	1,188	8,667	11,161	(4,677)
Net movement in funds	<u>7,677</u>	<u>(8,052)</u>	<u>8,667</u>	<u>8,292</u>	<u>6,410</u>
Balances brought forward	512,858	1,374,534	85,048	1,972,440	1,966,030
Balances carried forward	<u><u>520,535</u></u>	<u><u>1,366,482</u></u>	<u><u>93,715</u></u>	<u><u>1,980,732</u></u>	<u><u>1,972,440</u></u>

**ESSEX UNITARIAN CHURCH
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2012**

	Notes	2012 Unrestricted Funds £	2012 Endowment Funds £	2012 Restricted Funds £	2012 Total Funds £	2011 Total Funds £
Fixed assets						
Tangible assets	3	-	1,326,418	-	1,326,418	1,335,658
Listed investments	4	36,306	12,526	93,252	142,084	95,923
		<u>36,306</u>	<u>1,338,944</u>	<u>93,252</u>	<u>1,468,502</u>	<u>1,431,581</u>
Current assets						
Current asset investment	5	325,000	-	-	325,000	-
Accrued interest on Bond		6,094	-	-	6,094	-
Other debtors - Gift Aid		1,094	-	-	1,094	4,427
Prepayments		620	-	-	620	3,720
Cash at bank and on deposit		162,501	27,538	105	190,144	541,113
Cash held for rent deposit	6	4,298	-	-	4,298	25,190
Due from Stockbroker		-	-	358	358	358
		<u>499,607</u>	<u>27,538</u>	<u>463</u>	<u>527,608</u>	<u>574,808</u>
Creditors : amounts falling due within one year						
Social security costs		1,531	-	-	1,531	-
Accruals		9,549	-	-	9,549	8,759
Rent deposit		4,298	-	-	4,298	25,190
		<u>15,378</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,378</u>	<u>33,949</u>
Net current assets		484,229	27,538	463	512,230	540,859
Net Assets		<u>520,535</u>	<u>1,366,482</u>	<u>93,715</u>	<u>1,980,732</u>	<u>1,972,440</u>
Capital and reserves						
Endowment funds	7	-	1,366,482	-	1,366,482	1,374,534
Restricted funds		-	-	93,715	93,715	85,048
General funds		520,535	-	-	520,535	512,858
		<u>520,535</u>	<u>1,366,482</u>	<u>93,715</u>	<u>1,980,732</u>	<u>1,972,440</u>

Approved by the trustees on 19th May 2013 and signed on their behalf by:

S M Tinker (Minister)

H Hague (Chairman)

ESSEX UNITARIAN CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

1 Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" published in 2005 and applicable accounting standards.

b) Grant income

Grant income is recognised on a receivable basis.

c) Collections and donations

All congregational giving and donations are included on a cash received basis.

d) Legacies

Legacies are recognised on a receivable basis, once the conditions for the receipt have been satisfied and the amount can be measured with certainty.

e) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets (excluding investments and the freehold property) are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. The costs of minor additions, or those costing below £400 are not capitalised.

Fixtures, fittings and works of art are depreciated at rates of 10% or 20% on cost per annum, depending on the estimated useful life of the asset. Computer equipment is depreciated on a straight line basis over 3 years.

Freehold property is included at the balance sheet at an historic valuation plus the cost of subsequent improvements. The policy is a departure from the charity SORP (2005), which requires the use of either cost less depreciation or revaluation as appropriate for fixed assets. The trustees believe it offers a more true and fair view, and consider that the market value of the property is not less than the amount at which it is stated in the balance sheet.

f) Resources expended

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries.

Expenditure on **Projects** relates to the costs incurred by the church during the year on the Repairs & Buildings project, as detailed in note 6.

Expenditure on **Ministry** includes the Minister and congregation costs.

Expenditure on **Church Running** includes the warden staff costs and general administrative expenses.

Expenditure on **Premises** includes the general running costs of the property.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

g) Investments

The investments are held in a variety of investment funds see note 4 and these are valued at the market value in the balance sheet. All movements in the valuations of the investments are taken to the statement of financial activities as they arise.

h) Pension costs

The charity contributes to the Ministers Pension Fund. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the fund totalling £2,954 (2011: £2,890).

ESSEX UNITARIAN CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

i) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for any other purpose.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by the charity, principally the church building and the investments. The income arising on The Carlisle endowment fund can be spent at the discretion of the minister. The income arising on the other endowment funds can be used in accordance with the objects of the charity and is included as unrestricted income.

2 Employee costs

There was an average of three employees in the financial year. The significant volume of voluntary contribution to the life of the Church by members of the congregation is not quantified in these accounts.

	Ministry	Church	2012	2011
	£	Running	Total	Total
		£	£	£
Minister	25,950	-	25,950	25,000
Warden and Outreach Officer	-	25,980	25,980	24,799
Social security costs	2,562	1,548	4,110	4,007
Minister pension contributions	2,954	-	2,954	2,890
Employee costs	31,466	27,528	58,994	56,696
Locum Preachers	558	-	558	908
Total staff costs	32,024	27,528	59,552	57,604
Average number of staff:				
31 December 2012	1	2	3	
31 December 2011	1	2	3	

The trustees are not remunerated. Fees are paid to trustees for officiating at services and preaching. During the year the following fees were paid to four trustees for such services: preaching fees £355 (2011: £255), choir fees £1,785 (2011: £1,200). One of the trustees was reimbursed £102 (2011: £117) for travelling expenses incurred on the business of the charity.

3 Fixed tangible assets

	Freehold	Fixtures &	Total
	Property	Fittings	£
	£	£	£
At 31st December 2011	1,322,709	84,750	1,407,459
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31st December 2012	1,322,709	84,750	1,407,459
Depreciation			
At 31st December 2011	-	71,801	71,801
Charge for the year	-	9,240	9,240
Written off on disposals	-	-	-
At 31st December 2012	-	81,041	81,041
Net Book Value			
At 31st December 2012	1,322,709	3,709	1,326,418
At 31st December 2011	1,322,709	12,949	1,335,658

The Freehold property relates to the Essex Church building in Palace Gardens Terrace.

ESSEX UNITARIAN CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

4 Listed investments	General Fund £	The Stock Bequest £	The Carlisle Fund £	Endowment Funds £	Total £
Market value at 1 January 2012	-	84,585	7,532	3,806	95,923
Add: Additions at cost	35,000	-	-	-	35,000
Net gain/loss on revaluation	1,306	8,667	766	422	11,161
Market value at 31 December 2012	36,306	93,252	8,298	4,228	142,084

All of the investments are held in UK companies.

Included in the market value of the investments are holdings of Charifund Income Units £61,405 (2011: £61,405) and Shroders Charity Equity Fund Units £16,944 (2011: £14,472).

5 Current asset investment

The current asset investment represents £325,000 (2011: £Nil) that was put into a fixed rate 1 year bond, which matures in early 2013. The interest accrued up until the year end is shown separately as a debtor on the Balance Sheet.

6 Cash held for rent deposit

This balance represents a rental deposit received from Lucy Williamson under a revised Rent Security Deposit Deed dated August 2007. According to the revised terms of the Deed, the deposit represented half of the revised annual rent in the prior period, and approximately one month's rent for the current period, and must be held in an interest bearing account in the name of the trustees. All interest earned on this account is payable to Miss Williamson on written request.

7 Analysis of funds

	Brought forward £	Net movement £	Movement on investments £	Carried forward £
Endowment Funds				
* Permanent Endowment	1,325,495	(9,240)	-	1,316,255
Carlisle Capital Fund	7,532	-	766	8,298
Theophilus Lindsey	2,378	-	-	2,378
Percival North	535	-	-	535
Harriet Pearson	1,464	-	-	1,464
Thomas Scott	2,162	-	-	2,162
Mrs M L Whyte	2,825	-	-	2,825
Lindsey Hall	32,143	-	422	32,565
Total endowment funds	1,374,534	(9,240)	1,188	1,366,482

Endowment Funds:

The endowments listed above comprise the original charity, known from 1793 as the Essex Unitarian Chapel and Minister's House, together with a number of other charities founded between the 19th and 20th centuries. These have been brought together by a number of Schemes of the Charity Commissioners, the most recent dated 18 April 1986. Under the terms of the Scheme, these charities are administered as a single charitable body. The smaller charities are accounted for as Endowment Funds, with the exception of the Stock bequest (for the Choir Fund).

- * The permanent endowment fund consists of the estimated value of the property from which the charity operates and is not a readily convertible asset.

ESSEX UNITARIAN CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

7 Analysis of funds (cont.)

	Brought forward £	Net movement £	Movement on investments £	Carried forward £
Restricted Funds				
A E Stock Bequest	85,048	-	8,667	93,715
Carlisle Fund Income Fund	-	-	-	-
Africa Education Project	-	-	-	-
Total restricted funds	85,048	-	8,667	93,715

Restricted funds:

Africa Education Project: a fund set up in 2008 to receive donations and money raised through fund raising efforts to help support educational projects in Africa, as agreed by the management committee.

Unrestricted Funds

General Fund	512,858	6,371	1,306	520,535
	512,858	6,371	1,306	520,535
Total Funds	1,972,440	(2,869)	11,161	1,980,732

Net movement in funds, included in the above, are as follows:

	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Net movement £
Endowment Funds				
Permanent Endowment	-	(9,240)	-	(9,240)
Restricted Funds				
A E Stock Bequest	4,330	-	(4,330)	-
Carlisle Fund Income Fund	368	-	(368)	-
Africa Education Project	152	(1,000)	848	-
	4,850	(1,000)	(3,850)	-
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund	135,404	(132,883)	3,850	6,371
	140,254	(143,123)	-	(2,869)

Treasurer's Report

It has been my first year as treasurer, and I was fortunate to take over the job with good, efficient systems already in place, and also to have a lot of help from the warden, Jenny Moy.

As has been the case for many years, most of our income has come from letting the building, in particular to the Lloyd Williamson School; we continue to be grateful to Jenny Moy, for efficiently managing the many other lettings. In addition we receive money from individual donations, including the Sunday morning collection; several members have now chosen to donate on a standing order basis.

It was obvious at the start of 2012 that too much of our assets were being held in accounts at CAF Bank, where they were receiving a low rate of interest. It was also a concern that the majority of our assets held in this form would not be protected in the unlikely event that CAF Bank ceased trading. We have therefore transferred some to the Ecology Building Society, which pays a similar low rate of interest, but where it is instantly available in case of major need, and where it will be fully covered in the event of the building society ceasing trading. About £35,000 was in a low interest account that was no longer needed in this form; it was of historical importance only, because of assets being liquidated some years ago to build the manse flat, and having, under charity commission rules, to be 'repaid'; this account has now been closed and the contents invested in an ethical portfolio recommended by Unitarian General Assembly financial experts. Finally, the remainder of Patricia Walker-Hesson's bequest from 2010 was placed in a one year bond with Scottish Widows at a guaranteed rate of 2.75%; this gave us some breathing space while we investigated more long term investment plans.

We have encouraged people to gift-aid any donations where possible. We have continued to fund outreach officer Jane Blackall's university degree, and to send £1000 per year to SOS Children's Villages, from which sum we sponsor two orphans in Mbabane in Swaziland, and also contribute to an area of greatest need, which in 2012 was Sudan. We have devoted one Sunday collection per month from June onwards to a charity or good cause suggested by members of the congregation: the charities and good causes who have benefited in 2012 are Brighton Unitarians' roof appeal; the Down's Syndrome Association; The Forgiveness Project; the Unitarian Peace Fellowship; Freedom from Torture; and Sightsavers. All of these collections went well and we intend to continue the system in 2013. Overall, the assets of Essex Church have remained stable and healthy in 2012, and we hope to continue along the same lines in 2013.

Caroline Blair
Congregational Treasurer

Chairperson of the Congregation's Report

This was my first full year as Chair of the congregation and I must first of all apologise for not being at my first AGM as chair last year and thank Caroline Blair for stepping back into the role of chair when I found myself briefly in hospital as a patient rather than in my usual role as a nurse!

In last year's report Caroline joked that the role of the Chairperson is like that of a "minister without portfolio" as in a community of reliable committed people the chair probably has the least to do - and I must agree with her!

I would therefore like to thank all those reliable committed people who week by week support our community of Kensington Unitarians in so many ways: those who greet people as they come into our services, a very important ministry especially for people who may be coming through our doors for the first time, the stewards, readers and tea and coffee makers.

We are very fortunate and the envy of many other congregations, in having a wonderful group of musicians who add so much to our Sunday worship. I am very grateful to them and to the Sunday school teachers, maintenance workers and gardener. I would also like to thank our staff team, Jenny, Jane and of course, Sarah who ministers to and with us.

I am fortunate in my role as lay preacher to visit many of our sister congregations in London and the South East. It is a great privilege to be able to share with them and to be welcomed by them but it also makes me realise how fortunate we are here at Essex Church. We are where we are today because of the passion, commitment and hard work of members both in the past and today, and it's great to see so many newish members contributing so much to our life. We should be proud of what we have achieved but not rest on our laurels. Let us continue to work together to provide a welcoming, inclusive, compassionate and stimulating community to all who walk through our doors.

David Francis Darling
Chairperson of the Congregation

Minister's Report

German theologian Meister Eckhart told his students that if they were able only to utter one prayer, 'thank you' would suffice. In that spirit, my report for 2012 could simply consist of those two words: THANK YOU, because as I look back on the last year there is indeed much to be grateful for. I am grateful for our congregation here at Essex Church and for the individuals and families who are its essential ingredients. At our core we are a worshipping community and Sunday morning services are our central activity. Each Sunday I wonder who will walk through the doors and then experience the pleasure of seeing all the friendly faces of people who have made an effort to be there – struggling at times with transport and the demands of busy lives, yet making a commitment to our community as well as to their own spiritual lives. As a church in central London we receive many visitors and it is to the credit of our team of volunteer greeters, stewards and coffee makers that so many people report on our friendly welcome and that so many visitors return.

I am grateful that we have such a useful and attractive building here in Palace Gardens Terrace. 2012 saw a number of building improvements completed and I think we can now officially say that our 'five year' building improvement programme is complete, although of course there will always be more to do. The church is newly decorated but the roof still leaks alas. But let's bask, at least for a while, in the satisfaction of knowing that we have done our best to care for the physical fabric of our church. Our building is an asset that we are committed to sharing with as many other groups as we can. Living as I do above the church I am so aware of how busy our building is and of the remarkable job Jenny Moy, our live-in warden, does in sorting out our ever more complex bookings and finances, with grace and efficiency. Our building is clean and tidy, calm and welcoming, thanks to Jenny and to our loyal and hardworking cleaner Gitana Kleitane, who, often with her father, is here late on almost every Saturday evening of the year, making sure all is shipshape for our Sunday service. We are fortunate to have her support.

Our church has charitable status and is run by its management committee and trustees. These wise and committed individuals deserve our thanks for their steady handling of church business over the last year. Ours is a committee that likes to say 'yes' and is always willing to hear and implement new ideas and to offer church resources for congregational projects, as well as supporting important causes in the wider world. Do let us know if you have ideas that you would like support in developing.

Kensington Unitarians have for many years had a glowing, and deserved, reputation for the quality of small group activities held here at the church and we have Jane Blackall, our Arts, Education and Outreach Officer to thank for the breadth and depth of our programming. Her report gives more detail of all our activities but highlights for me in the past year include the wettest walk ever, the enthusiastic response to our course on the history of Unitarianism, assorted shared lunches and hosting the Forgiveness Project exhibition for a week in the autumn. Our building sees hundreds of people coming in and out of our doors most weeks and it was a profound experience to hear their responses to the exhibition. We invited all the groups that use the church to take part in this special week of forgiveness related activities and it was good to be reminded that our church is in many ways a community of communities.

As a congregation we strive for high standards in the quality of our worship and our outreach to the wider world. Thanks to Jane, our publicity materials and newsletter are regularly praised as examples of good practice. Thanks to choir member Margaret Marshall, who is also a singing teacher, the quality and volume of our hymn singing on Sundays continues to improve, in part because of her free monthly 'Finding Your Voice' sessions. Thanks also to Harold Lorenzelli who sings for us and ensures that our musical programme runs so professionally. At Essex Church we are part of a wider liberal religious movement and during 2012 our General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches worked, alongside the Quakers and liberal Judaism, to ensure that the campaign for equal marriage remained on the government's agenda. Some of our churches were the first to be registered for, and to conduct, civil partnership ceremonies on their premises. We support our General Assembly through our quota payments for our members, through other fundraising and through providing free meeting space for Unitarian groups. As a minister I am committed to serving our denomination, as time allows, and at present am chair of our Interview Panel and a member of the Ministry Strategy Group. How best to prepare student ministers for 21st century church life is a key issue for both of these groups. Ours is a worldwide movement and in the autumn I enjoyed attending a meeting in Transylvania for Unitarian women.

Much of ministry goes on behind the scenes in quiet conversations with people. Thank you to everyone who has shared their life issues with me in the last year and do feel free to ask if there are matters you would like to discuss in the year ahead. It is always a privilege to work with people on rites of passage ceremonies that mark life's transitions, either in our own building here at Essex Church or elsewhere, and I am proud that Unitarians have such freedom to create events that truly reflect the people involved.

Being a church member and coming to church on a Sunday morning are not mainstream activities here in Britain. Sociologists tell us that people don't join voluntary organisations as often as they used to. Let's dare to be different. Let's tell the world about our liberal religious faith and the difference it has made in our own lives and let's use all the resources we have to make this busy world of ours a more just, more loving, more possibility-filled place to be for all its inhabitants.

Rev. Sarah Tinker
Minister with Kensington Unitarians

Warden's Report

The most major improvement to the building in the last year was repainting the main Church space. This has made a huge difference to its appearance and we've had lots of favourable comments from users. Redecoration has been urgently needed for some years due to staining on the walls caused by the leaking roof, but for this very reason we've been reluctant to redecorate until we were confident the leaks had been dealt with. In the end, after some minor work on the roof and several more inconclusive specialist inspections, we decided to just cross our fingers and hope for the best – vowing that if new stains appeared we would use them as a way to trace back to where we still had problems. Much to our surprise after six months we have only had one obvious leak point – halfway up the wall to the left of the altar – which we are monitoring carefully.

Another much appreciated building improvement this year was installing double-glazed windows with integral blinds in the toilets. Previously the very large window area in proportion to the space made them impossible to heat effectively and meant that people were too visible from the street even through opaque glass. Now they are more private and far warmer. The library carpet had got quite stained even though it's only a few years old and rather than pay for professional cleaning we decided to try hiring a "Rug-Doctor". This was very effective and surprisingly cheap and easy to use so we'll do so again when necessary. Finally a less visible but still satisfying improvement has been changing the foyer light bulbs to LEDs. This should pay for itself within a couple of years in lowered electricity bills and we'll have the added satisfaction of knowing we've reduced our carbon footprint a little bit.

Lettings income fell by a few thousand pounds in 2012 – from 67k to 65k – but some fluctuation is to be expected as user groups come and go. The building remains generally busy and we're happy to be a home for such a varied range of activities. We put up our hire charges at the end of the year so income will perhaps be slightly higher in 2013.

A useful innovation in managing the lettings is that the bookings diary has now been transferred to Google. This should protect us from computer crashes etc. and also means that people like Sarah and Jane can access it from home if they want to check when rooms are free for congregational use.

Much of my work for the church is quite routine, so it was very interesting to work with Sarah to host the Forgiveness Project exhibition this autumn. This was an exhibition we'd both seen before and found very moving, so when the idea came up of hosting an exhibition for a week as a way of opening the building to more people, it was an obvious one to go for. Much of the value of this project for me was involving different users of the building in a wide range of events during the exhibition week: dance, music, storytelling, theatre, art etc. I also found that spending a whole week exploring the forgiveness theme had a profound effect on me personally & led to shifts in several areas of my life.

Jenny Moy
Essex Church Warden

Sunday School Report

In spite of the fact that we had no children or young people attending very regularly, I attended and offered a Sunday School on almost every Sunday in 2012. The number of children varied from none to 2 or 3, generally under 7 years old. Because of the intermittent nature of the Sunday School I did not manage to undertake any substantial projects, or to follow the Chalice Award Scheme, but I often did offer an activity related to the Sunday service. I also did sessions devoted to the five senses, including everything from music to touching different tree barks to discussing how people with visual impairments can pour a cup of tea. Even though we had many weeks with no children at all, I think it is worth offering a Sunday School session whenever possible as it is part of making the church feel like a welcoming and inclusive place.

Jordan McCrindle
Sunday School Leader

Outreach Officer's Report

In my role as outreach officer for the congregation I am responsible for our newsletter, website, podcasts, leaflets, posters, signage, and other occasional projects. I am also involved in planning the programme of church events with a particular focus on adult religious education (RE) courses, workshops, and engagement groups.

In early 2012 we launched a new series of occasional Sunday afternoon workshops, in response to requests for one-off activities, for those who find it difficult to get to church in the evening or during the middle of a busy week. These sessions are on the theme of 'Life's Ultimate Questions' and in each workshop we take two questions, mostly taken from a list generated by the group itself, to explore in a structured and non-adversarial way. We had a very encouraging turnout at the first session back in March, and though attendance at these sessions has fluctuated somewhat since then, feedback has been very positive so we intend to continue these sessions approximately quarterly throughout 2013.

In the autumn of 2012 we launched a new monthly group, 'Rediscovering the Bible', in association with the Liberal Christian Affinity Group of the LDPA, our local district association of Unitarians. The group meets on the 2nd Monday of every month and is co-facilitated by David Francis Darling and Jane Blackall. It follows on from a group that had previously been offered by Jim Corrigan at the Golders Green Congregation. In each session we simply read the bible together and offer our own reflections on the text. The bible-reading group is open to all who share a spirit of goodwill and curiosity about discovering the text anew and no particular theology is presumed. This group will continue into 2013.

Late in the year we initiated a new Worship Leaders' Practice Group (WLPG) for members of the congregation who take services at the church to reflect on the practice of leading worship, share hints and tips, seek feedback, and get training. It is our intention that this group will meet approximately quarterly and eight members are signed up to take part in the foundation step of the Worship Studies Course (WSC) which we will be running here at Essex Church in 2013.

The major event of 2012 was our hosting of 'The Forgiveness Project' for a week in September. This was organised by Jenny Moy and Rev. Sarah Tinker and their many months of hard work ensured that the exhibition and programme of related events, which involved many of the faith and community groups who share our building, was a great success.

We have a number of long-running once-a-month activities at the church: A Nia class for holistic movement and dance is led by Sonya Leite on the 2nd Sunday of each month, and a 'Finding Your Voice' singing workshop is offered by Margaret Marshall from our choir on the 3rd Sunday. Small-group communions continued throughout the year with a variety of members taking turns to lead them. This development has been of interest in our wider Unitarian movement and we have been invited to contribute articles, telling the story of our communion services, to *The Unitarian* and *The Unitarian Christian Herald* (the latter published a piece by Tristan Jovanović in spring 2012). We also hold walks throughout the year, to coincide with the solstices and equinoxes, and organise other occasional outings and social events.

Our reading engagement group has been running since 2003 and, once again, tackled a diverse selection in 2012: *'Broken for You'*, *'The Namesake'*, *'Women Who Run With The Wolves'*, *'Justice: Doing the Right Thing'*, *'Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats'*, *'Quiet: The Power of Introverts'*, *'The Book of Amos'*, *'Proust was a Neuroscientist'*, *'Better Times Will Come'* and *'Nothing to Envy'*. By the end of the year we had read our 97th title. The reading group is quite small, but is supported by a core of about six regular members, who take their turn to nominate titles. Individual sessions are facilitated by whoever selected the book. The reading group has a relaxed atmosphere and newcomers are always welcome to drop in and join at any time.

In addition, there were a number of adult RE courses and one-off events during the year, including:

- '**Singing in Community**' – a one-off workshop organised by Veronica Needa and led by Jo McAndrews of StroudSong.
- '**The Unreconciled**' – a 4-session Lent group on reconciling conflict in ourselves and the world led by Rev. Sarah Tinker.
- '**Tenebrae**' – a special evening service focusing on the themes of Holy Week led by Rev. Sarah Tinker.
- '**Foundations of our Liberal Faith**' – a 3-part course looking at the origins of Unitarianism led by Rev. Sarah Tinker.
- '**Shaping the Future**' – a one-off session exploring the Hibbert Trust report on the future of liberal religion.
- '**Living Faith**' – an original course led by Jane Blackall & Rev. Sarah Tinker, on the ways we live out our Unitarianism.
- '**Colour and Imagination**' – a one-off art workshop, exploring colour, led by Heidi Ferid.
- '**Step into Christmas**' – a three-part course for advent led by Rev. Sarah Tinker, Jane Blackall & Michaela von Britzke.
- '**World Healing Meditation**' – a one-off session to mark the date 12.12.12 with Rev. Sarah Tinker & Kathryn Reynolds.

Many thanks to all those who have inspired, organised, led, and supported all these events by participating in them.

Jane Blackall
Outreach Officer (Arts and Education)

Essex Church Congregational Library and Archives: Librarian's Report

A list of books added to the library stock during 2011/12 was printed in the February 2012 church newsletter. The following list covers additional titles processed in recent months. Quite a number of these items were donated, and we are very grateful for this generosity.

CHRYSSIDES, George	The elements of Unitarianism. Element Books, 1998.
DIAMOND, Louise	The courage for peace: creating harmony... , 2000.
FULWOOD OLD CHAPEL	Discussion pack on assisted dying [for GA]. Sheffield, 2012.
GORING, J.& R.	The Unitarians [a useful introduction]. 1984.
HANDS, John	Some trees ... and a few flowers [poems]. 2008.
HOLLOWAY, Richard	Godless morality: keeping religion out of ethics. 2000.
LADINSKY, Daniel	Love poems from God: twelve sacred voices... 2002.
LAMBOURNE, David	Living with meaning and value. Ash and Oak Books, 2010.
LAW, Stephen	Humanism: a very short introduction. OUP, 2011.
MASON, Leonard	Bold antiphony: meditations. Lindsey Press, 1967.
MASON, Leonard	Hinge of the year: Christmas crosstalk. Lindsey Press, 1967.
McTIGUE, Kathleen	Shine and shadow: meditations. Skinner House Books, 2011.
OWEN-TOWLE, Tom	Theology ablaze: celebrating the 50th anniversary year of Unitarian Universalism. Flaming Chalice Press, 2011.
ROHR, Richard	Falling upward: a spirituality for two halves of life. 2011.
RUSSELL, Bertrand	The autobiography: 1872-1914. Allen & Unwin, 1967.
RUSSELL, Bertrand	Common sense and nuclear warfare. Allen & Unwin, 1959.
RUSSELL, Bertrand	History of western philosophy. Unwin Paperbacks, 1979.
USHER, David	Twelve steps to spiritual health. Lindsey Press, 2013.
WHITE, David M.	Zen birding. O Books, 2010.
WILSON, Mary	Selected poems. Arrow Books, 1973.
WOOTTON, Bill	January song: poems. [Edited by John Hands]. 2009.
YUSUF, Baba Dovid	The leaves from the tree of life (meditations & prayers). 2007.

Church Archives

Following my retirement last summer I have been coming in to the church on a regular basis to start sorting and listing the church archives. The work is ongoing, but the following is a brief note of some of the material found so far:

Annual Reports:	from 1890 – (with some gaps)
Committee Minute Books:	from 1961 – (with a separate file for trustees' minutes)
Newsletters & Calendars:	1896/7 – 1935 (bound set in 16 volumes), 1936-1941, 1958-1965, then misc. issues still being sorted, with a full set from 2004
Sunday School:	minute books 1899-1910, 1936-1939, 'cradle roll' 1957-1964
Visitors' Books:	1956-1973

There is a good deal of material that is still being sorted (e.g. the Lindsey Literary Society minute book for 1933-39, a church subscription register for 1952-1966, various files of correspondence etc.). In addition a rather intriguing 'tin box' has been found in one of the cupboards but has not yet been examined. It is hoped that a full list of archives will be made available in due course.

Howard Hague
Honorary Librarian

Church Music Report

The Church continues to offer a varied musical offering during the Sunday morning service. This includes a monthly quartet, solos and duets as well as a regular instrumental contribution. We work closely with the presiding minister to ensure that as far as possible the music enhances the spiritual experience. We are fortunate in having a group of singers, pianists and instrumentalists upon whom we can rely to provide what is seen as a valuable, enriching contribution to the worship at Essex Church.

Harold Lorenzelli
Church Music Coordinator

Chairperson of Trustees' Report

Essex Church's governing document, the Charity Commission Scheme dated 18 April 1986, requires that the trustees meet at least once a year. Since most of the current trustees are also members of the management committee, the arrangement in recent years has been that a trustees' meeting is held at the start of the May or June meeting of the committee, dealing with any specific business. This seems to have worked well. The 2012 meeting took place on 28 May. The main item of business was that Jo Ridgers was elected as a new trustee, bringing our total to eight (out of a possible nine).

The church trustees are now: Caroline Blair, David Francis Darling, Juliet Edwards, Heidi Ferid, Howard Hague, Harold Lorenzelli, Roy Parnell and Jo Ridgers. Much of the business of running the affairs of the church and congregation is rightly in the hands of the elected management committee. The advice we have received is that the trustees need to be involved in any legal matters such as leases or contracts. As part of the current archives project, I am trying to ensure that there is a full set of trustees' minutes on file.

Howard Hague
Chairperson of Trustees

Minutes of the AGM Held at Essex Church on Sunday 15th May 2011

Present: Jane Blackall, Caroline Blair, Natasha Drennan, Peggy Dunnett, Juliet Edwards, Betty Evans, Heidi Ferid, Gill Hague, Howard Hague, Jill Inskip, Harold Lorenzelli, Stephanie Saville, Carol Sheppard, Sue Smith, Sarah Tinker.

1. **Opening:** Opening words were spoken by Sarah Tinker, Harold Lorenzelli, Juliet Edwards, and Sue Smith.
2. **Welcome and Apologies:** Caroline Blair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from David Darling (who had been due to chair the meeting but had been taken ill and was in hospital), Jim Blair, Joe Darling, Margaret Darling, Carole Grace, John Hands, Christine Joshi, Alice Lambert, Will Lyons and Michaela von Britzke.
3. **Review of 2010 AGM Minutes:** The minutes were accepted as a correct record and signed by Caroline. Sarah Tinker thanked Jane Blackall for taking the minutes.
4. **Review of Reports:**
 - a. **Treasurer:**

Caroline noted that 2011 will be Juliet Edwards' last year as treasurer and expressed gratitude on behalf of the congregation for the eight years that Juliet had taken on this role. She noted that the accounts were in a much better state due to the hard work that Juliet and Jenny Moy, our warden, had put in during this time. Juliet stated that she had enjoyed a great deal of the job over the last eight years and she felt that things had improved quite a lot as some of the tasks, such as writing cheques, had been taken on by Jenny. Stephanie Saville said that she wished to praise Juliet for her work. Sarah noted Juliet's good stewardship and capable management and noted that the church finances were in a worrying state at the time she had taken on the job and this situation had turned round. The meeting gave Juliet a round of applause.
 - b. **Chair of Congregation:**

Caroline commented that the year covered in the report was her last year as chairperson. David Darling is the new chairperson. Caroline noted that this is not a difficult job as we have a very good committee and the chair doesn't have too much to do. She also commented that the church depends on the goodwill of the people who come and expressed her gratitude to those who turn up regularly, with a positive and enthusiastic attitude, and take on various tasks around the church. Caroline concluded by saying it had been a pleasure to be chair. Sarah thanked Caroline for her steadiness in the role.
 - c. **Minister:**

Sarah noted that we probably have more visitors here at Essex Church than any other Unitarian community in the UK and that this presents both a blessing and a challenge. There is a transient population and it is difficult to maintain the steady sense of a core congregation who are here to greet and welcome people. Sarah mentioned all the work that Jane had done during 2010 to publish the congregational book 'Kindred Pilgrim Souls' and reminded everyone that the previous congregational book 'Kensington Quest', published in the 1980s, was now available to download for free from the church website. Sarah read the words from the back cover of 'Kindred Pilgrim Souls':

'A community of kindred pilgrim souls meets each week at Essex Church in Kensington, West London, to explore, reflect, converse, be still, share joys and sorrows, and support one another on life's journey.'

Sarah concluded by thanking everyone for the part they played in making that community a reality.
 - d. **Outreach Officer:**

Jane commented that the production of 'Kindred Pilgrim Souls' had been the biggest project of the year. She reminded everybody that we are interested to hear from members who would like to offer activities or make suggestions for the church programme. Sarah noted that we already have a very eclectic programme.
 - e. **Warden:**

Jenny Moy was not present. Sarah offered to answer any questions on the building but none were raised.

f. Sunday School:

Jordan McCrindle was not present. Caroline commented that we have offered a Sunday School almost every week and that she was proud that we had continued to do this even though there was often only one child in attendance as it does mean we can provide for visiting families. Sarah mentioned that she had received a message from the Prellberg family who had valued being part of our community but had been travelling for over an hour to attend on Sundays and had found it too much. Howard commented that a few families came intermittently. Sarah suggested that we would do best to attract more local people as it's unlikely that families will travel right across London to come here. Stephanie commented that the Dublin congregation have people coming from all over Ireland and that the children are made a fuss of with their own club after the service. Sarah noted that Ireland and the US both have a very different context and attitude towards the religious education of children and the fact that we have liberal religious education in our mainstream schools means that people are less likely to send their children to church for it. Peggy Dunnett commented that children will often be playing football at weekends and their parents doing DIY. Sarah agreed that youngsters tend to be very busy these days. She also noted that there is an issue of critical mass with a Sunday School and once the ball starts rolling more families will follow.

g. Music:

Harold commented the choir are continuing to find the right sort of music for services and we have an instrumental presence about once a month. It is quite a different experience to have instrumental music and it works differently with the rest of the service for being wordless. Harold noted that we continue to manage without a musical director as this is cheaper for the congregation. Caroline pointed out that Harold has been covering for a musical director for some years now. Juliet explained that we did interview several people for the role some years ago but that nobody was suitable for the role or had the right ethos. Juliet also commented that she has very much enjoyed Margaret's 'Finding Your Voice' monthly singing classes. Sarah commented that Peter Crockford and Sandra Smith are both great pianists.

h. Chair of Trustees:

Howard commented that he was pleased to write a much shorter report this time. He noted that the trustees are required to meet annually and so one of the committee meetings each year is a joint meeting with the trustees. Although Howard plans to move away he is happy to continue as a trustee for the time being. He noted that it was a good policy on the whole that new trustees are also members of the committee as it eases communication. Caroline expressed the gratitude of the congregation for all of Howard's work as the chair of trustees. Sarah expressed the hope that Howard would still be with us at Essex Church at next year's AGM.

i. Librarian:

Howard noted that there had been lots of donations to the library, with quite a number coming from the collections of Patricia Walker-Hesson and Doris Campbell, and that almost all had now been added to the shelves. Howard will work with Jane on the handover of the library as he is preparing to move away. Jane suggested that it would be good for people to review books from our library for the newsletter to help draw attention to this resource.

5. Acceptance of 2010 Reports and Accounts:

Juliet Edwards proposed, and Stephanie Saville seconded, the acceptance of the Annual Report and Accounts, and this was agreed unanimously.

6. Election of Management Committee

Jane stated that the following members of the management committee had been put forward for re-election:

Caroline Blair, David Francis Darling, Juliet Edwards,
Heidi Ferid, Howard Hague, Harold Lorenzelli, Jo Ridgers.

Stephanie Saville proposed, and Sue Smith seconded, that all these names should be re-elected en bloc and this was agreed unanimously. Sarah noted that there is room for more people to join the committee.

7. Any Other Business

Jill Inskip commented that she has been a long-standing friend of the church and very much appreciates receiving our newsletter. Caroline agreed that the newsletter is exceptionally good.

Sue Smith looked back to the congregational goals that were set a few years previously and asked whether we had reached a membership of 75 people. Sarah replied that we were nowhere near this number of members. Sue commented that attendance was perhaps a better indicator of how we are doing than formal membership. Sarah agreed that in some ways this might be true and reported that in the district census we found that our attendance was almost unchanged. Sarah commented that there is a certain skill to enrolment of people as members and that she has been getting some coaching in this. It involves following up visitors and asking people directly and due to the large turnover of about 20% a year in inner-city churches you need to work hard just to stay still. Sue commented that there is no point in setting unrealistic goals. Sarah commented that this is an issue we need to return to and that rather than getting obsessed with numbers we could remember that it is about something that has made a difference in our lives. Sue noted that the strength of this community is in the people who are present and questioned whether it was about formal membership as such. Jane noted that at the time the membership goals were set the targets (of 50 attending on a Sunday and 75 as formal members) seemed fairly modest. Sarah had done some analysis of people who had left in the intervening years and only one had left through choice. Some had died and many had moved away. Juliet wondered whether we should reduce our goals so that we can be happy with what we have achieved. Heidi Ferid noted that our congregation is widely spread across London and asked whether we should specifically target local people with leaflets and concerts. Sarah commented that we are situated in an odd area where there is a very transient element and also a very established element who do not seem to be seeking a spiritual community. If you look at an imaginary circle of one mile around the church it would contain a fascinatingly diverse community. Heidi noted that Sarah and Jane already work very hard but suggested we have a concert to bring people through the door. Sarah commented that it is very hard to get people through the door for concerts and it is embarrassing when nobody comes. Caroline noted that there is a trade-off due to the building being so thoroughly used – we couldn't keep going on what we receive in the collection on Sunday mornings – but it means we can't use the building for weddings and child-namings in the way that other congregations do and these rites of passage are a key way of bringing people in.

Sue asked if there was a way that we can find out who looks at the website. Jane replied that there should be some way to look at such statistics but that she had not done so. Jane went on to recommend that members of the congregation should use social media such as Facebook and talk enthusiastically about their experience of our church – for example posting a link to a sermon they had enjoyed – enabling their friends to find out about us and 'try before they buy'. Sarah suggested that we should have a training course.

Stephanie asked that if the high levels of footfall in the building had translated into people joining our congregation from other groups. Juliet commented that other users have probably got the impression that we are nice but they have not actually joined us. Some people have come via the website and others have been invited to come by friends. Jo Ridgers commented that she had been coming to Interfaith gatherings in our building for five years, and hadn't given any thought to what Unitarians were all about, assuming that we were just another Christian denomination. Jo would be happy to get involved in promoting us and felt that we could do more within the building.

8. Votes of Thanks

Caroline thanked Sarah for an excellent year of leadership and Jenny and Jane for doing so much to help keep the church running well. Caroline also thanked everybody who gives up their free time to help the church.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned. The closing words were read by Sarah.

Minutes taken by Jane Blackall

