

Our Contributors

Rev Jo James is minister to Bradford Unitarians. He trained for the Unitarian ministry at Harris Manchester College Oxford and served as minister of Mill Hill Unitarian Chapel in Leeds for ten years between 2014 and 2024, and was convenor of the Executive Trustee board of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches. He also serves as a mental health chaplain and has qualifications in clinical pastoral counselling. Before ministry he had a career in the theatre as an actor, director and teacher. He is married to Ann, an artist and designer and they have two school-age children.

Rev John Midgley trained for the ministry at Unitarian College, Manchester (UCM) and Manchester University. He then undertook ministries in Lancashire, Cheshire and Yorkshire, combined with tutoring at UCM for twenty years. He served for six years as General Assembly Development Officer, has been President of the General Assembly and was a director of the Inquirer Board for fifteen years. He continues as a regular columnist.

Dan C. West is a writer and theologian who retired as a Presbyterian minister and college administrator in 2008. Beginning in 1965, he pastored a Presbyterian church in Smyrna, TN. In 1968, he was recruited to teach and serve in various administrative posts at Austin College, TX. He was president of Lyon College, AR, for 16 years, then president of Carroll University, WI, for three years. Next, he served as vice president for college relations at Union College, NY, for six years and then vice president for development at Swarthmore College, PA, for nine years. He has earned degrees from Austin College, Union Presbyterian Seminary, and Vanderbilt and Harvard Universities. He lives in Atlanta.

Feergus O'Connor is minister emeritus of Golders Green Unitarians, where he served as minister from 2001 to 2022. He was Honorary Secretary of the World Congress of Faiths (2006-2023) and founding Chair of the Animal Interfaith Alliance (2014-2022). He trained for the Unitarian ministry at Harris Manchester College Oxford and was awarded an MA in Death and Immortality by the University of Wales in 2009. He was the founder of the Clara Barton Appeal of the British Red Cross, which since 2012 has raised £214,388 for Red Cross

emergency lifesaving appeals, and of the Gandhi Schweitzer Universal Kinship Appeal of the charity Animal Free Research UK, which has raised £55,627 for humane medical research.

Imran Usmani works as a part-time general practitioner in south London. He read Physiological Sciences and Medicine at Oxford. He also has an undergraduate degree in Mathematics and Physics from the Open University, and a PhD in Mathematics from Surrey University. He has studied the Torah, Gospel and Quran, and he believes they teach the same essential message. However, he feels that the religious traditions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam do not accurately reflect the teachings of their Scriptures.

Peter B. Godfrey has been a Unitarian minister for sixty-nine years and is Editor Emeritus of *Faith and Freedom* which he edited for twenty years.