

# Memorial

## The Rt Hon the Lord Archer of Sandwell QC

Report by Vijay Mehta

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February a number of MPs, peers and representatives from civil society took part in a Memorial to The Rt Hon the Lord (Peter) Archer of Sandwell, QC at The Robing Room, House of Lords. Lord Archer's wife, Lady Margaret, universally known as Miff, and son John were present at the memorial.

Uniting for Peace (UfP) Vice-Presidents Lord Judd and Frank Jackson, and Chair Vijay Mehta, attended the Memorial. Lord Archer was President of UfP and his huge contribution to its work was described by Frank .

The introduction to the meeting was made by the Rt Hon Baroness Royall of Blaisdon, Shadow Leader of the House of Lords. On behalf of the Labour Party, she praised Lord Archer's work in the Parliament, as a cabinet minister in the Labour Government and also as an opposition Spokesman on Legal Affairs, Trade and Northern Ireland.

The meeting was officiated by Lord Griffiths of Burry Port, Superintendent Minister at Wesley's Chapel, who praised Lord Archer's outstanding work for the Methodist Church.

Lord Archer's exceptional work in many fields was recognised and praised by representatives of organisations for which he worked tirelessly.

He was a founding member of Amnesty International and a campaigner for Human Rights. Kate Allen spoke about the work of Lord Archer for Amnesty International.

Lord Archer was President of the World Disarmament Campaign from 1994 until 2010, when it merged with Action for UN Renewal to form Uniting for Peace, upon which he took up the presidency of the new group.

Frank Jackson praised Lord Archer and said he was not just a figurehead as President of WDC and UfP. He hosted both committee and public meetings in the House of Lords, chaired the AGM each year, contributed articles to *World Disarm!*, the WDC Journal, and its successor, *UNITING for PEACE*, and took a full part in the groups' policy debates. He spoke regularly on peace and disarmament issues in the House of Lords.

Lord Judd spoke about the parliamentary work of Lord Archer who served as Minister in the governments of Harold Wilson and James Callaghan.

Other speakers who spoke at the event were Michael Hammer on behalf of One World Trust, Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town on behalf of the Fabian Society and Roger Davis on behalf of Methodist Homes for the Aged.

All present appreciated the momentous work of Lord Archer for Human Rights, Peace, Disarmament and his vision of a better world.