

## Humanist Reflection

Etienne de Grellet du Mabillier

*I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.*

### Humanist Council Address

Steph Bramwell

Before the meeting opens, I'd like to invite you to spend a moment thinking about all the decisions and chances that have brought you here. Your family, your education, your wider circle of friends all played a part in making you who you are. You have learnt from your colleagues, both how to do your job well, and how to do it better. And a vast number of people you have never met cast their votes to bring you here, and now you carry the responsibility of working in their best interests.

We all support each other: each one of us an individual link in the chain of humanity.

### Humanist 'prayers/blessings'

From Denis Cobell who used most during his tenure as Humanist Chaplain

In this world, still beset by war and human rivalry, we think today of those whose lives are led in grief, the children born into famine and despair, and the wasteland that war has made of nature.

But let us give thanks to those few and brave people whose minds know no borders, and who have worked unceasingly for peace.

Every person in this world is a member of the same species. We respect all species, and in our shared humanity seek to overcome all barriers between ourselves.

In this world, still beset by war and human rivalry, we think today of what the world could be, and pledge to do all we can to turn aggression and despair into peace and hope.

Let there be respect for the Earth,

Peace for its people

Love in our lives

Delight in the good

Forgiveness for past wrongs

And from now on a new start.

(Millennium prayer)

Our globe is nothing but a little star on the great universe/.  
It is our duty to turn this globe into a planet  
Whose creatures are not tormented by wars,  
Nor tortured by hunger and fear,  
Nor torn apart in senseless divisions  
According to race, colour or creed.  
Give us the courage and foresight, to begin this work even today,  
So that our children and grandchildren may one day take pride  
In being called HUMAN  
(UN Prayer)

Justice is the only worship  
Love is the only priest  
Ignorance is the only slavery  
Happiness is the only good.  
The time to be happy is now  
The place to be happy is here  
The way to be happy is to make others so  
Wisdom is the science of happiness.  
(Ingersoll)

My country is the world  
My religion is to do good  
(Paine)

And a 'grace':  
For what we are about to receive,  
May we be thankful - to those who grown it,  
Thankful to those who have prepared (cooked) it.  
And thankful to those who serve it.