

Fulwood Old Chapel

Unitarians

Who are we?



We are from all walks of life individually finding our own Spiritual Path

We believe that everyone has the right to search for the meaning in life in their own way.

We have no conformity of belief or set creed. Guided by our conscience, we gain inspiration from all the great thinkers and teachers of the world, both religious and secular.

We believe that religion is wider than any one sect and deeper than any one set of opinions.

We welcome people of all faiths and spiritual inclinations and see diversity as valuable rather than threatening.

*By listening
we can learn!*

By reasoning

we can understand!

By being tolerant

we can get to know

each other!

Unitarians

The roots of the Unitarian movement lie in the 16th century when people were able, for the first time, to read and interpret the bible for themselves. This led to some questioning of the orthodox Christian doctrine and in particular:

- *the doctrine of the Trinity (three Persons in one God, made up of Father, Son and Holy Spirit)*
- *the deity of Jesus*
- *the belief in original sin and inherited guilt*
- *the doctrine of Eternal Damnation*

The Church felt threatened and in 1662 introduced the Book of Common Prayer to dictate the order of service. Some clergy felt this restricting and refused to follow. Known as the 'Great Ejection,' they were forced to leave the church but continued to meet in secret. Local dissenters met near Stanage Pole at a place known as the Lord's Seat. Gradually the laws were relaxed and John Fox, in 1714, was granted a licence to use Fox Hall in Fulwood as a place where dissenters could meet. One attendee, William Ronksley, on his death left £400, the interest to be used to build *a large and handsome chapel for the use of Protestant Dissenters.*

Fulwood (Old) Chapel was built in 1728/29.

Today our worship still has a basis in Christianity though we are now more liberal in our views and are open minded to all things spiritual.

We encourage each other to discover our own spiritual path - guided by our conscience, life experiences, observations and reflections. We impose no demands and welcome any one who feels they are on a religious journey whatever that might be. Amongst our members you will find liberal Christians, Buddhists, Humanists, Agnostics, and those who are simply just not sure!

All are welcome at Fulwood Old Chapel.

Services

Our weekly services are varied. We have a resident minister who gives services for part of the month. The remaining services are taken by visiting ministers, lay people and by members of the congregation.

Although there is no set format, services usually include music, words, prayers and a time for reflection. As Unitarians we draw from the wisdom of all faiths and branches of human knowledge and readings may be taken from a variety of different religious scriptures or from secular sources.

Births, Marriages & Farewells

With no religious restrictions, we are able to offer tailored ceremonies to celebrate life's special milestones including child-namings, marriages, partnership blessings and for those lives that have come to an end.



God

We do not have a single, defined concept of God. Each member is free to explore and develop an understanding of God that is meaningful to him or her. They are also free if they so wish to reject the term or concept altogether.

Jesus

Many Unitarians do not believe that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin, performed miracles and was resurrected from death.

We do, however, admire and respect the way he lived, the power of his love, the force of his example, and his values.

Most Unitarians regard Jesus as one of several important moral and ethical teachers who have shown humans how to live a life of love, service and compassion and that his teachings are of significant moral value.

The Bible

Although Unitarians respect the Bible, most regard it as one of many important religious texts and do not consider it unique or exclusive in any way.

We do not interpret it literally and think some parts offer more truth and relevance than others.

Do you believe
that people have
the right to form
their own
religious views?

Do you feel
more spiritual
than religious?

Are you perhaps
...Unitarian...?

For more information or
for a friendly chat
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