

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.

**By listening
we can learn!**

**By reasoning
we can understand**

**By being tolerant
we can get to know
each other**

Is organised religion
too constricting
for you?

Are you spiritual
in thought?

Do you believe that
everyone has the right
to find their own
Spiritual Path?

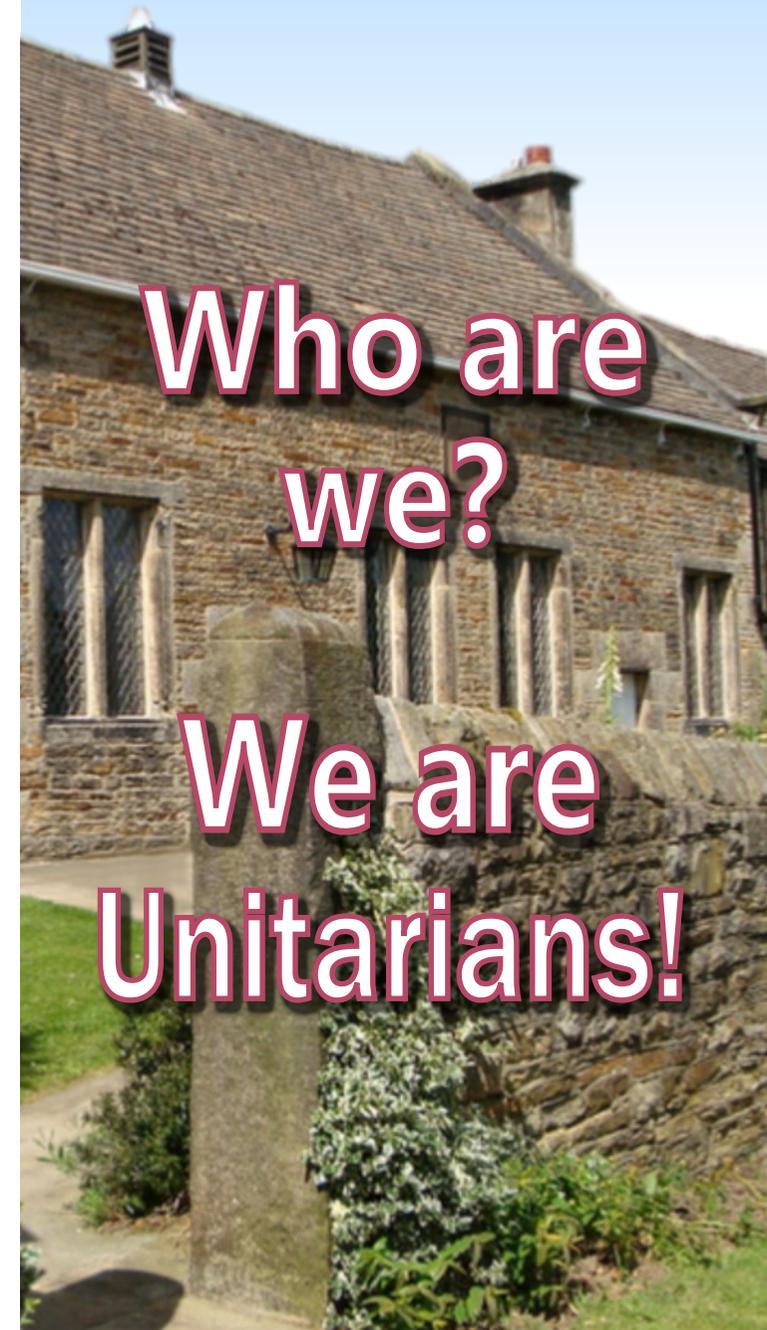
Interested in becoming a Unitarian?

For more information or
for a friendly chat
please contact:

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Fulwood Old Chapel



Who are we?

We are Unitarians!

Unitarians

Unitarian roots lie in the 16th century when the people, now able to read, could interpret the bible for themselves. This led to questioning, in particular:

- *The Doctrine of the Trinity (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 Parliament introduced the Act of Uniformity forcing the clergy to use the Book of Common Prayer and swear allegiance to the Bishop. Some refused and had to leave the church but continued to meet in secret. Locally, they and their followers met near Stanage Pole at a place known as the Lord's Seat. Gradually the laws were relaxed and, in 1714, John Fox was granted a licence to use Fox Hall (now Fulwood Hall) as a meeting place for dissenters. One attendee, William Ronksley left £400 in his will stating that the interest should be used to build '*a large and handsome chapel*' for the use of Protestant Dissenters and so our chapel was built.

Today, Unitarian worship is more liberal than our dissenting predecessors. Open minded to all things spiritual and guided by our conscience, experiences, observations and reflections, we understand that we are each finding our own spiritual path. There is no right or wrong way. We impose no demands and welcome any one who is on a religious journey whatever that might be. Amongst our members are liberal Christians, Buddhists, Humanists, Agnostics, and those who are simply just not sure!

Anyone with an open and sincere heart is more than welcome at Fulwood Old Chapel.

Services

Our weekly services are varied taken by our part-time minister. The remaining services are given by visiting ministers, lay people and 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 human knowledge. Readings etc may therefore be taken from a variety of different religious scriptures or from secular sources.

Births, Marriages & Farewells

With no religious restrictions, our minister is happy to perform services to celebrate life's special milestones for anyone as long as they can show commitment. Tailored to suit the individual, these include baptisms, marriages, blessings of partnerships and farewells for those whose life has come to a close.



God

We do not have a specifically defined concept of God. Rather we believe that everyone should be free to explore and develop their own personal understanding of what God might be.

Unitarians are also free to reject the idea altogether if they so wish

Jesus

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

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 to the way we live today.

The Bible

Although Unitarians respect the Bible, most regard it as only one of many important religious texts and not as an unquestionable authority.

We do not interpret it literally. What it says must be viewed in the light of reason and conscience and we consider some sections offer more truth and relevance than others.