

Unitarian College

Growing our faith from the inside



Issue 10 - Spring 2025

The Associate Newsletter

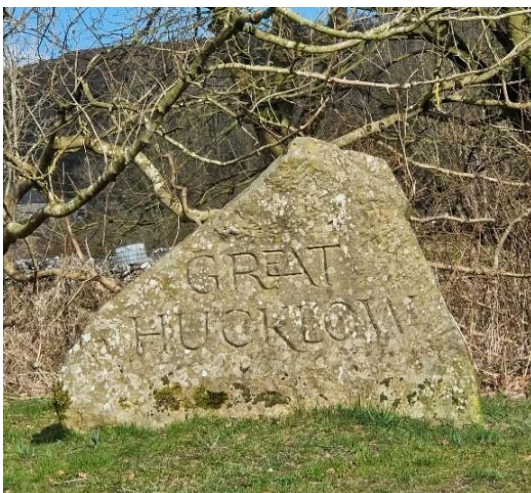


Dear Friends and Associates of Unitarian College,

As the sun has started to shine, our hope also blossoms as we have been busy preparing a year of fantastic events and courses. “Spotting the Talent” all across the country is our mission for this year for both Ministry and Lay Leader students. We can’t emphasise enough the urgent need for good leadership, to help grow our beloved faith into the future during these most difficult times.

Unitarian College is prepped for this new wave of leaders with a great line-up of events and courses coming up this spring.

Our Rites of Passage residential weekend course 9th-11th May is almost fully booked. A Leadership Inquiry Event being held by the GA is set for 13th May on zoom. A new short course, “All About U”, 3 sessions on zoom, starting at the end of May/beginning of June, will review our Unitarian theology and history, and allow people to share their voice and experience to enhance our movement. A Ministry Application Workshop being held by the GA is set for 1st July. Please get in touch with us soon as registration for all these events and courses is currently underway.



We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meetings in April, please come visit our booth, attend our Plenary and Workshop sessions, and be ready to register for all our courses, our beloved denomination needs you!

We are so grateful for your continuing support and enthusiasm for the work of the College. We couldn’t do any of this without you.

Helen Mason
Director, [Unitarian College](#)

Ministry Student Update

Two students completed their last Residential last December and are now working on completing their assignments, placements and portfolio. Three other students are also working towards completion at the moment which will lead to a raft of vivas, valedictories and ordinations in the Autumn.



Lay Worship & Leadership Update

We have more Lay Worship and Leadership students than ever, with three expected to get onto the GA Register this spring. Twelve Advanced Students started their residential weekend journey in February with three more weekends to get through to September.



Our Rites of Passage residential weekend course in May is part of the Advanced Course curriculum, but is also being held as a stand-alone course for those interested in specifically leading special life events and celebrations. Twenty newly finished students from last Autumn's Foundation Course will be continuing onto a new Intermediate course being held in October, and a new round of Foundation Students will be starting again in September.



Children and Families Update



Our Children and Families weekends continue to grow with 21x children aged 6-12yo with their 11x parent/carers having just returned home from a bustling Junior Weekend in March at Great Hucklow celebrating the theme "Water of Life". Activities included walking to a local pond, swimming in an outdoor pool and helping to lead worship.

Our Inters Weekend for 12-14yo children has outgrown Flag Barn, so it has had a strategy shift. A new event called "UniYouth" being held from the 3rd-5th October will welcome children of all ages 6-14yo. They will share The Nightingale Centre with meals, excursions and worship, but will have separate programmes for two age groups, 7-11yo's with their parents/carers to accompany, and unaccompanied 11-14yo's housed in a separate wing.



Upcoming Events & Courses



Conducting Rites of Passage

MAY
FRIDAY TO 9TH-11TH SUNDAY
2025

Unitarians bring a unique and individualised flavour to important life events such as weddings, blessings, memorial services and child welcoming.


Unitarian College is offering an introductory course in how to lead these ceremonies to a high standard. The course will include a preliminary Zoom workshop at 7pm on the 23rd April, followed by a Residential Weekend, 9th-11th May at The Nightingale Centre in Great Hucklow.

The cost of the course is £400 which includes all tuition, food and accommodation (but not travel costs). Participants are encouraged to approach congregations and Districts to help with funding.


To book your place and find out more, please email Admin@unitarian-college.org.uk

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Have You Thought About Becoming a Unitarian Leader?



Explore



Imagine

Want to learn about various forms of leadership in Unitarianism, the difference between Lay Leadership, professional ministry and what a Unitarian Minister does? Join us for this online zoom session held by The General Assembly to chat with their staff, the Ministry Interview Panel and Unitarian College staff. For people who are at an early stage of considering ministry or other leadership possibilities.

Unitarian Leadership Inquiry Session
Tuesday, 13th May 2025, 7pm-8:30pm
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81841117300?pwd=Y6Q2gF4WZHMe14q6JyQLcnVFxaab.1>

Meeting ID: 818 4111 7300
Passcode: 216141

To book your place on this session, please contact us at: Admin@unitarian-college.org.uk

the unitarians www.unitarian.org.uk

ALL ABOUT U

A New Course at Unitarian College

An Introductory Course about Unitarian history, theology and values. Find where you fit in, and share your experience to enhance the future of Unitarianism.

3x zoom sessions, 7 9pm, Wednesdays: 28th May, 4th and 11th June 2025.

There is no fee for this course, but please consider making an appropriate donation for the work of Unitarian College.

To join us, book your place at: Admin@unitarian-college.org.uk

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Are You Ready to Apply to be a Unitarian Minister?

Create

Have you heard the call to apply for Unitarian Ministry? Join us for this informative online zoom session, held by The General Assembly, for people who are hoping to make an application this year. Chat with representatives from General Assembly staff, the Interview Panel and Unitarian College staff, to review the application and interview process, and take a more detailed look at the training schedule and financial support.

Ministry Application Workshop
Tuesday, 1st July 2025, 7pm-8:30pm
How do I apply and how do I fit training into my life?
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81207188795?pwd=mchr75KbQDnp3CtVxkZ5Lb9RbdgLTm.1>

Meeting ID: 812 0718 8795
Passcode: 314390

To book your place on this session, please contact us at: Admin@unitarian-college.org.uk

For more information about the GA ministry application contact: sbland@unitarian.org.uk

the unitarians www.unitarian.org.uk

Lay Worship Leadership Foundation Course Autumn 2025



Are you inspired to lead Unitarian services with your unique voice, need help with leading, or want to improve the quality of your worship leadership?

For more info, contact us at: Admin@unitarian-college.org.uk

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Our Objective

Unitarian College is a national College providing training, education and development for all Unitarians, including Ministry Students, Lay Leaders, Adults and Young People. Our College is not based in one place as our training and courses take place in variety of locations and online, so that all of us can access them.

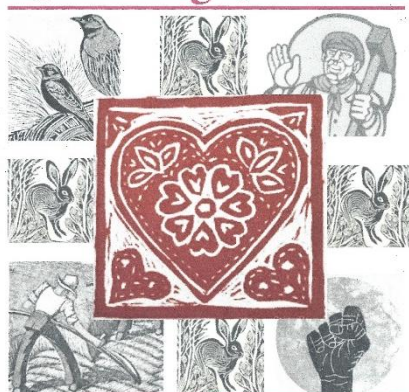


Come and Visit Us at the Annual Meetings

We look forward to seeing you 12th-14th April, please come visit our stand, attend our two Plenary sessions and full Workshop session, so you can be ready to register for all our courses! Spread the word to anyone who you feel would be interested or ready to further their leadership journey.

Unitarian Music Society
Summer Conference
8th -11th August 2025
Nightingale Centre
Great Hucklow, Derbyshire

Folk Songs Forever!



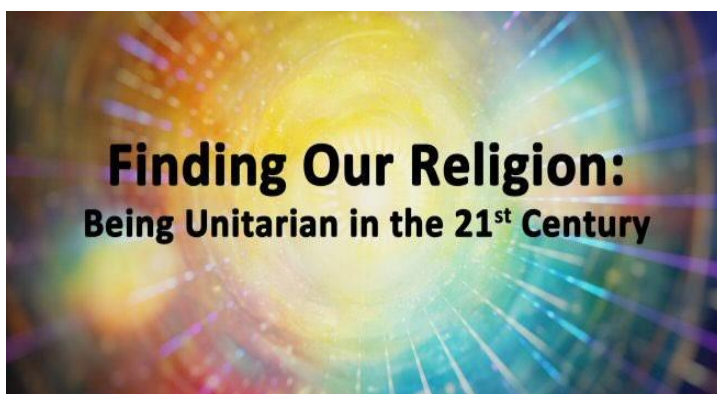
Contact - Margaret Robinson - UMS Secretary - margaretrobinson81@gmail.com

Unitarian Music Society (UMS) Conference

With the theme "Folk Songs For Ever", the Unitarian Music Society Conference is being held at The Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow, Derbyshire, 8th - 11th August 2025. It is a fun mixture of music, eating, drinking, worship and business. Anyone with even a passing interest in music both inside or outside church is welcome to join us, young and not so young. We love to welcome singers, instrumentalists and if you want to come and just listen, that's fine too.

Hucklow Summer School: 15th to 22nd August 2025

Marking their 30th Anniversary, Summer School turns their attention to the question of what it means to be religious, as progressive people of faith, at this moment in history. During the week, through daily talks and in-depth engagement groups, you will have a chance to examine, explore, reclaim, and affirm our religious identity as Unitarians and Free Christians, in this historic and radical faith tradition which upholds unity and embraces diversity.





How You Can Help

Unitarian College could not function without the generous financial support given to us by individuals, congregations, districts and Unitarian trusts. We are very grateful for all those who support our work and who believe in our vision of 'growing our faith from the inside'. The work and scope of the college has scaled and, with that, our costs.

If you feel you could support our work with a one-off or regular donation, here are the details you need:

Bank account: Unitarian College

Account: 00032558

Sort Code: 40-52-40

Thank you so much for your continued support!