



The Associate

Autumn 2024 Newsletter

Dear Friends and Associates of Unitarian College, As cooler weather and a slower pace arrive, I have now had a chance to reflect, and what a truly busy and inspiring summer we have had at Unitarian College. We are working with the highest number of Ministry Students we have ever had at one time (ten in total); all of our Lay Worship and Leadership courses are fully booked and in process (50 students at three levels); and the Youth and Families weekends bursting at the seams; we continue to be inspired by these budding contributions to our precious Unitarian faith. Having recently received a large donation, and announced a match funding scheme, we have, luckily, been able to meet the costs of all these extra activities and students with our expanded staff team.

My grateful thanks continue to go to the Board of the College who allow us the freedom to try new ideas and expand under their careful watch, to the staff team who always go above and beyond expectation and, of course, to all our students who inspire us every day with their willingness to learn, their care for each other and their loyalty to our faith. We are also 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 Students Venture to Prague

Unitarian College Ministry students, staff and friends, spent a weekend in September in Prague meeting with Czech Ministry Students for a residential encounter.

The hospitality of the Czech Unitarians is legendary. Sessions were held in the Unitaria - the amazing legacy of Nobeřt Capek, the founder of Czech Unitarianism.

This was an amazing experience for our students as we celebrate the values we hold in common as Unitarians, wherever we may be.

Lots of learning, worship, deep sharing, emotion, laughter and fun were shared.



Upcoming Carol Service Friday, 13th December

The Ministry Students will again be leading a Christmas Carol Service in the Old Chapel, Great Hucklow. The Service this year will be on **Friday, 13th December 2024 at 7:30pm**. Come and enjoy in the festive season, all are welcome to join us for this Service. If you would like to join us for the holiday meal before the service, please contact The Nightingale Centre to book directly.



We are So Grateful

The Board, staff team and students would like to extend our gracious thanks to the dissolution committee at Bank Street Chapel, Bolton for a very significant donation towards the work of the College. This gift will make a real difference to the work we are able to do to grow our faith from the inside. We are also extremely grateful for the contribution of an anonymous Trust who are match funding all our live giving for the next few years. That means everything you give will be worth double to Unitarian College.

Lay Worship and Leadership Studies

Foundation: 20x new students from all over the country have joined the Foundation Course that is being held over zoom for 8 weeks. They are halfway through their sessions and will soon be writing a short service to present to the class in December. So lovely to see these fresh new faces!

Intermediate: In July, 18x students met at the Nightingale Centre for a long Residential Weekend. It was a beautiful and powerful time together to move forward in our beloved Unitarian community. They are now all working on their modules, writing assignments and delivering services.

Advanced: The 2023 class is just finishing their modules, and a new batch of students will begin their Advanced Course in February 2025.



PHOTO CREDIT: TONY TREE

Jennifer Sanders Ordination

A wonderful celebration was held with Rev Jennifer Sanders and the congregation at Brighton Unitarian Church, where they received their Certificate from Unitarian College and was Ordained.

Jennifer spoke eloquently of the Ministry Training process and said that we never know what having the courage to step over a threshold might lead us onto, and observed that some of the people who had come to church for the first time on Saturday might even end up as Ministers too in a few years time!





Youth & Families

Inters Weekend: In June, 14x children, aged 11-14, set up camp at The Barn at Flagg for Inters Weekend. They tromped through fields, tunnels and streams, held bonfires and danced in a silent disco. So much energy, we may be out-growing The Barn, so stay tuned for a date and venue in 2025!

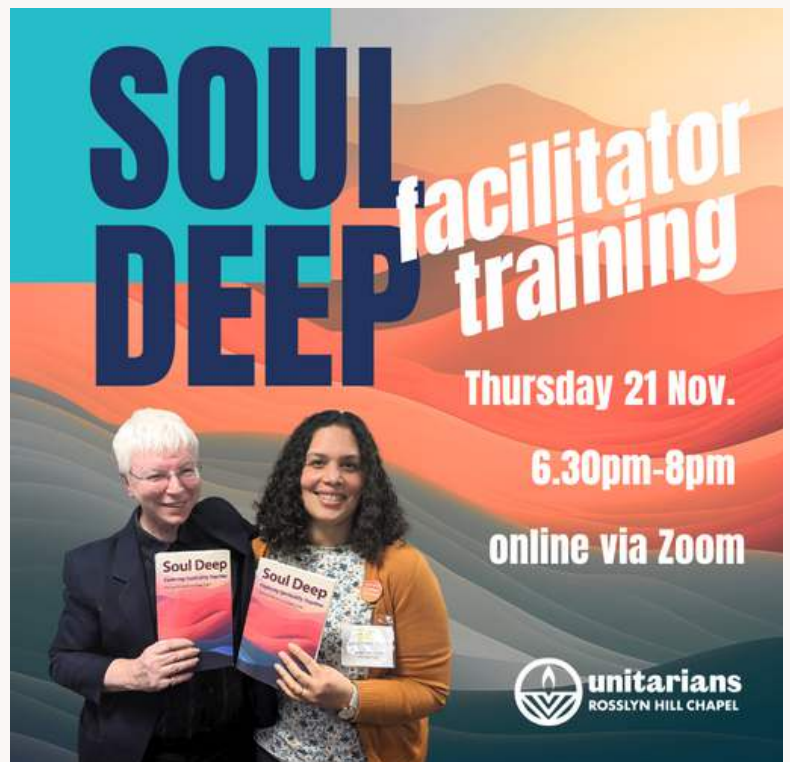


Junior Weekend: In October, 16x children, aged 6-11, along with their parents, descended upon The Nightingale Centre in Great Hucklow for the "Life's A Circus" Junior Weekend. Lots of circus tricks and talents were discovered, they walked in the dark for a lantern walk, and boy did they boogie in the night disco! Be sure to save the date and spread the word for our next Junior Weekend, 14th-16th March 2025.

Soul Deep Facilitator Training

Are you considering running the Soul Deep course? You can get started straight away with all the info in the book, but the authors are also offering a facilitator training to support you! Join us to prepare to run a Soul Deep: Exploring Spirituality Together course, based on the book by Rev Michael Allured and Rev Kate Dean.

The Zoom link will be emailed to participants.



Register:

<https://www.rosslynhillchapel.org.uk/event-details/soul-deep-facilitator-training-thurs-pm>

Questions?

Contact Rev Kate Dean: minister@rosslynhillchapel.org.uk

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.

Our Mission

Unitarian College exists to grow our faith from the inside by providing outstanding education and development which enhances leadership, deepens faith and nurtures fellowship.

Our Vision

The College's vision is built on our belief that when we all learn together, our denomination will be enriched and flourish. The College aims to deliver a new generation of leaders that will ensure a healthy future for our denomination.



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!