

Issue 12 - Autumn 2025

## The Associate Newsletter



Dear Friends and Associates of Unitarian College,

As the holiday season approaches, we are feeling so blessed with the support you have given us this past year, which in turn has given us the means and confidence to continue expanding our course offering at full speed into 2026. We have already celebrated two of six Ministry Ordinations planned for the next few months, which mirrors the season in a balancing act of both endings and new beginnings. We are so proud that our denomination is thriving with the gifts of these amazing individuals. You can catch a glimpse of our remaining Ministry Students if you are able to attend our upcoming [Carol Service](#) held at the Old Chapel, Great Hucklow on Fri, 12<sup>th</sup> Dec, that is traditionally led by these bright sparks.

Our Lay Leadership programme also keeps rapidly expanding and we will soon be completing our autumn Foundation Course and going straight into our next [Foundation Course](#) starting in January 2026; we held an inspiring Intermediate Course at The Nightingale Centre in late October and will have our next Intermediate Course quickly following next July 2026. Our 2025 Advanced Course students have also completed their four residential weekends in September, and are now in full swing of writing and submitting their assignments. We extend a huge thank you to all those chapels and districts who have provided financial support for the training of our lay students (does your congregation have a budget line for the development of your people?). Please get in touch if you would like us to see whether one of these talented lay leaders could lead worship at your chapel in 2026.

Our most recent [UniYouth Children & Families](#) programme held in early October at The Nightingale Centre was a huge hit amongst our largest group to date of 32x 7-14 year old children, and several of their parents. We are so thankful to our parents who helped develop this new format where former Juniors (7-11 year olds) and Inters (11-14 year olds) have been merged together into the same weekends to share meals, games, the main excursion and the Sunday worship, but also have separate age-appropriate programmes. Be sure to keep an eye out for our next UniYouth weekend being held in the spring, 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

As always, I thank you for your ongoing support. Donations from individuals, congregations, districts and small funds are our only source of income as we do not receive any overall grant funding. We continue to be extremely grateful to the anonymous benefactor who match funds all your donations, so everything you can give is worth double to us.

I wish you all a lovely beginning to the winter holiday season, and we hope to catch up with you soon.  
Warmest regards,

Helen

Director, Unitarian College

07494 4957

## Ministry Student Update



It has been an absolute joy to see two of our students, Tina Gandhi and Kieren Mardle Moss, recently ordained, and at the time of writing we are preparing for a further ordination of Robert Foreman. We wish them all every blessing in their ministries. In January we will head to Edinburgh for yet another ordination, this time for Janine Sim. We expect two further students to complete in early 2026.



Back in September we held a Ministry Training Residential at Holland House where we considered Congregational Dynamics, Growth, Diversity, and Promotion. Soon we will hold our December Ministry Training Residential where we will be looking at Unitarian History and Theology, Rites of Passage, Administration for Ministers, and Multi-Church Ministry. We will be joined by guest tutors, Rev Jeff Gould and Rev Robert Nagy. The students will also lead the [Carol Service](#) in the Old Chapel at Great Hucklow at 7:30pm, Fri, Dec 2025, at the end of our Residential. We look forward to seeing many of you there!

We have just finished interviews and will have new Ministry Students joining us in 2026, holding an Orientation for them in February. We are aware of others who are considering applying for professional [Ministry Training](#) in future years. It is so good to see people stepping into their calling and a delight to walk with them through their Ministry formation.

Thank you to all the guest tutors who have worked with our Ministry Students this year; also to Ministers who have had our Ministry Students with them on first placement, and to congregations who have hosted Ministry Students on second placement. I'm really grateful to you all for supporting our future Ministers in this way.

We look forward to 2026!  
Rev Ant Howe  
Senior Tutor



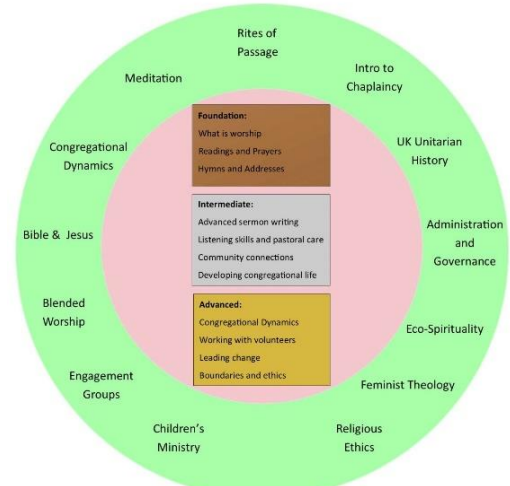
## Lay Leadership Update

Unitarian College  
Growing our faith from the inside



### Lay Worship and Leadership Pathway

Unitarian College provides training for those just starting the process of worship leadership and provides a whole training pathway through to recognised Lay Leader status with the General Assembly of Unitarian & Free Christian Churches (GA). To become a fully recognised Lay Leader within Unitarianism students are required to complete courses at Foundation, Intermediate (by invitation) and Advanced level (also by invitation), to submit assignments, lead worship, and complete safeguarding training before applying for status.



Certificate in Worship and Leadership: Intermediate, Advanced, UK Unitarian History, Administration and Governance.



### Foundation Course

We will soon be completing our autumn Foundation Course with a full roster of 20x students sharing their unique voices and starting to lead worship across the country. If you missed this last round, we will be going straight into our next Foundation Course 14th January 2026, registration is already open, click the link here to enrol.

<https://buytickets.at/unitariancollege/1948905>



### Intermediate Course

What a fantastic Intermediate Course residential weekend we held in late October. These students finished their Foundation Course last autumn 2024 and were selected to participate in this next level of Lay Leader Training. A very inspiring weekend and a brilliant group of people who are all working so hard in their respective Unitarian communities.



### Advanced Course

In Sept, our 2025 Advanced Course students completed their 4-part residential weekends which began last February. They are now in full swing of writing and submitting their assignments. We extend a huge thank you to all the chapel and districts support for the training of our lay students.

## Children and Families Update



Our new [UniYouth](#) event, with the theme “Going Underground”, was held from the 3rd-5th October where we welcomed 32x children aged 7-14yo, with several of their parents. They shared The Nightingale Centre with meals, excursions and worship, but had separate programmes for two age groups, 6-11yo's with their parents/carers, and unaccompanied 11-14yo's housed in a separate wing. Our next [UniYouth](#) weekend will be held, 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> March 2026, with the theme “Thrills & Spills”.

## International Work



In October Helen travelled to Belfast to run a training event with the newly formed Elders fellowship. The group discussed our commitment to our dissenting faith and why it means so much to us.

## Upcoming Events



*Carol Service*  
7:30pm, Fri, 12th Dec 2025  
*All Welcome!*

**LED BY MINISTRY STUDENTS OF  
UNITARIAN COLLEGE  
GREAT HUCKLOW UNITARIAN CHAPEL  
DYRTE LANE, SK17 8RG**

The Nightingale Centre have generously created a few offers, so that you can enjoy the whole evening, or an overnight stay.

- Dinner only (main course, dessert, and unlimited hot drinks), £21 pperson
- Dinner with overnight stay and breakfast, £82 pperson
- Dinner with overnight stay, breakfast and lunch, £97 pperson



**PLEASE BOOK DIRECTLY WITH  
THE NIGHTINGALE CENTRE**

☎ 01298 871218 ● [www.thenightingalecentre.org.uk](http://www.thenightingalecentre.org.uk)

### Ministry Student Carol Service 7:30pm, Fri, 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025

Join us for our much anticipated Ministry Student Carol Service being held at the Great Hucklow Unitarian Chapel at 7:30pm on Fri, 12th December 2025.

The Nightingale Centre have generously created a few offers, so that you can enjoy the whole evening, or an overnight stay.

- Dinner only (main course, dessert, and unlimited hot drinks), £21 pperson
- Dinner with overnight stay and breakfast, £82 pperson
- Dinner with overnight stay, breakfast and lunch, £97 pperson

We look forward to seeing you! Please book directly with The Nightingale Centre.

<https://www.thenightingalecentre.org.uk/>



# soul teens

Youth-led spirituality group  
for 11 - 15 year olds

MEETINGS ON ZOOM

SESSIONS EVERY FORTNIGHT MONDAYS @6:30PM

**Starts online:  
Monday 19 January @ 6.30pm**

Looking for answers? This is a group to explore life's big questions!  
We'll meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday each month

Register for zoom link!  
Scan our QR or visit:  
[rosslynhillchapel.org.uk/whats-on](http://rosslynhillchapel.org.uk/whats-on)



Image by Josh Kahan on Unsplash

### Unitarian Facilitators Network

Looking to develop your facilitation skills or launch engagement groups in your community? The new Unitarian Facilitators Network starts this autumn with monthly Zoom sessions designed for both experienced facilitators and newcomers.

Jane Blackall and Lizzie Kingston-Harrison will host these gatherings for peer support, skill development, and collective problem-solving. Whether you're running groups now or hoping to start, this network aims to build facilitation expertise across the movement.

**Monthly meetings:** Third Monday, 7-8:30pm

**Contact:** Email Jane ([jane@kensington-unitarians.org.uk](mailto:jane@kensington-unitarians.org.uk)) for joining details.

## How You Can Help



### Consider Holiday Giving

Unitarian College could not function without the generous financial support given to us by individuals, congregations, districts and Unitarian trusts. Donations from individuals, congregations, districts and small funds are our only source of income as we do not receive any overall grant funding.

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. We continue to be extremely grateful to the anonymous benefactor who match funds all your donations, so everything you can give is worth double to us.

If you feel you could support our work with a one-off or regular donation, below are our details:  
Bank Account: 00032558  
Sort Code: 40-52-40

#### 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. ***Thank You For Your Support!***