

Unitarians and Universalists were the first denominations in Britain to ordain women: 1880 in Scotland and 1904 in England.

**Pick a Beliefs and Practices Card.**

1800s: Unitarian preaching encouraged other reforms including getting rid of the slave trade, providing equal rights for women, state education, prison reform and public health.

**Pick a Customs Card.**

Late 1800s-1900s: British missionaries were sent to distant countries in the British Empire such as India. One was Margaret Barr who ministered and taught in the Khasi Hills for 37 years.

**Pick a Beliefs and Practices Card.**

Today there are 195 Unitarian or Non-Subscribing Christian congregations in Britain: 4 in Scotland, 4 in (Northern) Ireland, 23 in Wales and 164 in England.

**Pick a Customs Card.**

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**II**  
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1825: By coincidence the British and Foreign Unitarian Association was organized on exactly the same day as the American Unitarian Association - 25th May, 1825.

**Pick a Customs Card.**

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# UNITARIANS!

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1774: Theophilus Lindsey left the Church of England to found Essex Street Chapel in London, the first strictly Unitarian church in England. Both Benjamin Franklin and Joseph Priestly were among his congregation.

**Pick a Beliefs and Practices Card.**

1781: The first Scottish Unitarian Congregation was founded in Montrose, led by a Scot who was influenced by Joseph Priestly.

**Pick a Customs Card.**

1780-1900s: Nine other Unitarian churches were formed in Scotland but only four have survived in the main cities: Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

**Pick a Customs Card.**

1662: The Act of Uniformity required all ministers to follow the requirements of the Book of Common Prayer. Two thousand ministers refused and started different "dissenters" or "non-subscribing" or "non-conformist" congregations throughout Britain.

**Pick a Beliefs and Practices Card.**

1620: Puritan groups separated from the Church of England. Several groups sailed to New England to start new religious communities.

**Pick a Customs Card.**

The first religious reformers in Britain were put in prison or put to death for heresy (speaking out against the church).

**Pick a Beliefs and Practices Card.**

1491-1547: King Henry VIII rejected the pope and the Roman Catholic Church. He claimed the church lands for himself, and helped religious reformers gain power in England.

**Pick a Customs Card.**

1527: The Church of England was formed under King Henry VIII. It kept many Catholic practices and ceremonies but was controlled by the king, not the pope.

**Pick a Customs Card.**

1500s: The Protestant Reformation spread to the British Islands from Europe.

**Pick a Beliefs and Practices Card.**

King Henry VIII required that every church have at least one copy of an English-language Bible for all the people to read.

**Pick a Beliefs and Practices Card.**

**START**

John Biddle (1615-1662) organized the first Antitrinitarian congregation in England and Wales. Biddle's friend Henry Hedworth was introduced to a Transylvanian Unitarian and became the first known person to use the word "Unitarian" in printed English.

**Pick a Beliefs and Practices Card.**

Other reformers were known as "Antitrinitarian" because they did not believe in the Trinity, the belief that God is in three parts: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**Pick a Customs Card.**

One group of reformers, called Puritans, wanted to "purify" the church of everything Roman Catholic, including church leaders like the archbishop and bishops. They wanted people to govern their own church communities.

**Pick a Beliefs and Practices Card.**

After King Henry died, the Book of Common Prayer took the place of the Catholic mass as the basis of worship in the Church of England.

**Pick a Customs Card.**

Fighting between Catholic and Protestant leaders continued in Great Britain and Ireland for the next 200 years. In Ireland the effects of that fighting are still felt today.

**Pick a Beliefs and Practices Card.**