

## Join us

By becoming a friend of Dukinfield Old Hall Chapel you can play your part in preserving this important part of our history for future generations.

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Membership costs **£5 a year**. Fees are collected in April of each year after 12 months membership

I wish to apply for Individual Membership and enclose cash/cheque for £5

Affiliated organisations £20 a year

I am/am not (please delete) happy for my contact details to be revealed to other supporters

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### Please return to:

Jacqueline Tucker, Treasurer,  
Friends of Dukinfield Old Hall Chapel,  
c/o 210 Astley St, Dukinfield, SK16 4QD

Friends of Dukinfield Old Hall Chapel was founded in 2011 to raise awareness of the historical value and significance of Dukinfield Old Hall Chapel in Tameside, Greater Manchester, and to protect and preserve its heritage.

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dukinfieldoldhallchapel.htm](http://www.tamesidehistoryforum.org.uk/dukinfieldoldhallchapel.htm)

## Acknowledgments

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# Friends of Dukinfield Old Hall Chapel



One of the most important  
buildings in the history  
of Christianity in England?

# Help us save this historic building

Dukinfield Old Hall Chapel is arguably one of the 100 most important buildings in the history of Christianity in England.

The 16<sup>th</sup> Century Chapel once belonged to the Duckenfield family and during the 1640s and 1650s was an important location in Congregational, Quaker and Unitarian history. Now in a ruinous condition and on the **English Heritage 'At-Risk' Register**, we want to preserve this historic building for future generations.

## History

Dukinfield Old Hall Chapel is a **Tudor structure (mid-late 16<sup>th</sup> century)** which was the family chapel of the Duckenfields of Dukinfield Hall (long since demolished). During the 1640s and 1650s England was embroiled in the Civil War and, as an Independent or Congregational chapel, this building was part of a revolution in both religion and government.

- Claims have been made that Dukinfield Old Hall Chapel was in 1642 the **first Congregational Chapel in the country**.
- **George Fox, founder of the Quaker movement**, visited Dukinfield in 1647 and it's said the chapel was the first place he ever proclaimed his views in public.
- In the 1650s the congregation split over the issue of the Trinity (Father, Son and

Holy Ghost). The Trinitarians left, and it's claimed that **those remaining became the first congregation, outside London, preaching a Unitarian doctrine**.

Whatever the precise truth of the claims later made, the building has great historical significance for Congregationalists, Quakers and Unitarians – three religious movements of global significance. It is also the last remaining link with the home of the Duckenfield family, Lords of the Manor until the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

## Future

We want to **save this important building**. Our vision is that the building is made safe and accessible for the community and can become a focus for studying our local history.

Sadly the Chapel is now in a ruinous condition and on the English Heritage 'At-Risk' Register. The building is one of only **a handful in Tameside at risk that is listed as a Grade II\***, which recognises its historical value. Architects chosen by English Heritage have studied the building and proposed a plan for stabilising it as a 'controlled ruin'.

The next stage in our campaign is to help prepare a new planning application and an application for a grant from English Heritage for a substantial part of the expense of actually carrying out the stabilisation work, and undertaking further archaeological studies.

## We need you

Friends of Dukinfield Old Hall Chapel is run by volunteers and we need you to join us. **Show your support for this historic building by becoming a member.**

