

## Spiritualism

<b>1. Origin</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Modern Spiritualism began in the USA in 1848.</li><li>• There are now about 350 churches or centres in the UK with approximately 18,000 members.</li><li>• There are about 2,200 members in North Tyneside and Northumberland.</li></ul>
<b>2. Languages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• English or native language.</li></ul>
<b>3. Beliefs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There isn't a sacred text, instead there are 7 principles which offer a model for living by. These are:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The fatherhood of God.</li><li>2. The brotherhood of man.</li><li>3. The communion of spirits and the ministry of angels.</li><li>4. The continuous existence of the human soul.</li><li>5. Personal responsibility.</li><li>6. Compensation and retribution hereafter for all the good &amp; evil deeds done on earth.</li><li>7. Eternal progress open to every human soul.</li></ol></li><li>• The website of The Spiritualists National Union says: "Whatever Spiritualism may come to mean or be defined as by any individual, it is fundamentally a journey of unfolding one's own spirituality with the aim of bringing about a transformation of the individual's spiritual qualities, morals and ethics for the betterment of self and to the benefit of all in this life."</li></ul>
<b>4. Birth</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No particular requirements.</li></ul>



<b>5. Prayer &amp; Customs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Churches hold services every week, usually on a Sunday and led by a medium. They consist of prayers, hymns, and an address by the medium through the presence of the Spirit.</li> <li>The medium, Spiritualists would say, invites the spirit-world to pass on messages through them to members of the congregation. Such communication is thought to give proof of ongoing individual life after death.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Diet &amp; Fasting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No particular requirements.</li> </ul>
<b>7. Clothing &amp; Washing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No particular requirements.</li> </ul>
<b>8. Medicine</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No particular outlook. Patients are likely to be positive towards medical practitioners and their recommendations.</li> <li>There are likely to be no objections to blood transfusions or organ reception.</li> </ul>
<b>9. Care of the Dying</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastoral conversations with a church leader who is registered with their Church as a hospital visitor may be appreciated, perhaps with prayer and the “laying-on-of-hands”. This will normally take the form of a quiet conversation offering reassurance and helping people to be at peace.</li> </ul>
<b>10. Death</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spiritualists do not usually object to organ donation but it is a matter for personal decision.</li> <li>There may be a reluctance to have post mortems, preferring to leave the body whole.</li> </ul>
<b>11. Contacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The chaplaincy department has a local contact number for obtaining further advice and support.</b></li> </ul>

