

YORK UNITARIANS : Half time ministerial vacancy from January 2020

York Unitarians CIO 1181531

**St. Saviourgate Unitarian Chapel, St. Saviourgate,
York YO1 8NQ**



Website: <http://www.york.unitarians.org.uk>

**Information pack for applicants
for the Ministerial vacancy**

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Applications are invited for a half time ministerial post with the York Unitarian congregation at half G.A. recommended scale and half G.A. recommended manse allowance.

Potential applicants are asked to read this pack carefully and respond in writing with a full CV and personal statement including:

- Reasons for applying
- Qualities in line with those set out in the *Ministerial job description*
- Vision for the position including ideas and responses to the job description
- A list of Sundays in the next two months when you would be available for an exploratory visit if short-listed
- Names and contact details of three people who will be able to provide personal character references and references relating to your ministerial skills or training.
- Information regarding any published works

The applicant should give an indication of when, if successful, she/he would be available to take up the post.

Applications and enquiries should be addressed to:

Ministry Sub-committee
Margaret Hill
34 Broadstone Way
York YO30 4UF

Alternatively, applications and enquiries may be e-mailed to mhill.york@gmail.com

Selection procedure

The procedure for appointing a minister will be as follows:

- All applicants who have expressed an interest in the pulpit vacancy will be sent this information pack and invited to prepare a full written application. If there are several applications, a short list will be compiled.
- Short-listed ministers will be contacted as soon as possible and invited to come for an exploratory weekend visit, and will be invited to conduct a Sunday service and meet the congregation informally over lunch.
- A second visit to conduct a service and a formal interview with the Ministry sub-committee will take place on either the Saturday or Monday. On the basis of congregational feedback following the exploratory visits, and the formal interview, we hope to select one applicant as our recommended ministerial candidate.
- The recommended candidate will be invited to take a formal candidating service at St. Saviourgate Unitarian Chapel.
- Accommodation can be provided and applicants are also welcome to bring a spouse or partner and children.
- The members of the congregation will then hold a Special General Meeting to vote on whether to invite the candidate to become our minister. The successful candidate will be informed of the outcome shortly afterwards and discussion on details of the contract will follow.

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Introduction

This information pack is designed to provide candidates for the vacant pulpit of St. Saviourgate Unitarian Chapel, York, with useful information on various aspects of the Chapel and the congregation's expectations about the job of the minister.

In making this ministerial appointment the congregation looks forward to a lively friendly exchange of views and information. The pack has been compiled by the Ministry sub-committee, Claire Lee, Jen Atkinson, Margaret Hill and Nick Morrice.

York Unitarians – the building

St. Saviourgate Unitarian Chapel was built in 1692, and is reputedly the oldest nonconformist chapel in York and a Grade II* Listed Building, consisting of the Chapel, with a small balcony, a vestibule (with toilet), and two additional rooms (an upper room for meetings, and a lower room (vestry). In 2008 the chancel was adapted to form a more usable area for concerts and other activities, and the vestry was improved to include a good kitchen area and storage, and an adjacent accessible toilet. In 2013 the Chapel was repainted, and the monuments cleaned.

York Unitarians – the congregation

Today's York Unitarians are mostly new Unitarians or Unitarians new to York. We currently have 42 members, plus a number of regular attenders. There is a reasonable spread over the age groups. A number of the congregation have participated in the Worship Studies Courses, and take services both in the York Chapel and elsewhere. Some members have also attended the Pastoral Care course, R.E. Summer School, and have signed up for the Rites of Passage course. On the first Sunday of each month, we usually light 'Candles of Joys and Concerns', and occasionally during the year we have 'Serendipity' services when the congregation bring a reading of their choice on a designated theme. There is a group of children, aged up to 12, who are welcome to attend any service and we have a 'story for all ages' during the service. They have a special "Sparklers' children programme" on the second Sunday of each month (except August) when they go to the Upper Room for their own activities after the 'story for all ages'. Also four times a year, we hold a Bright Lights intergenerational service, when children and adults participate in the service. We hold occasional 'bring and share' lunches following the service. The committee and members of the congregation look forward to working collaboratively with the appointed minister.

York Unitarians – Chapel groups

- The Meditation group meets weekly at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday mornings in the Upper Room.
- The Poetry group meets monthly on the last Wednesday of the month at 7.30 p.m. at a member's home.
- Last Friday lunchtime concerts are held on the last Friday of the month at 12.30 p.m. from March to November with occasional concerts on other Friday lunchtimes, sponsored by the Chapel
- Equinox and Solstice events are held. Several members and attenders of York Unitarians like to meet to celebrate the Quarter days, either in the chapel or in a green space nearby which people can easily reach.

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Other groups hire the Chapel for concerts including a regular booking by Late Music on the first Saturday of each month at 7.30 p.m. from March to October, and rehearsal space by Soon Amore Acapella singers weekly on Monday evenings

York Unitarians – publicity

- The Chapel's Newsletter – the York Unitarian – is published monthly, and distributed by e-mail, post, and published on the Chapel website
- The Chapel's website – www.york.unitarians.org.uk is supported by the DUWIT team, and maintained by a chapel member, and regularly updated.
- The Chapel's facebook page – is updated regularly
- The Chapel has a Twitter account [York Unitarians@YUnitarians](https://twitter.com/YUnitarians)
- The outside notice board is regularly updated.
- The internal notice board contains information regarding local and national events and is regularly updated.

York Unitarians CIO– administration

The Chapel became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in January 2019. The Chapel Committee, of up to 12 members, will be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. The congregation financially supports the running of the Chapel, and holds an annual fundraising day at St. Crux Hall.

York Unitarians – outreach

York Unitarians support Colton's Hospital Almshouses, and currently six Chapel members and three people from the local community are trustees.

The Chapel usually supports an individual local charity annually, with a sponsored walk and other fundraising events, in 2019 this is My Sight York.

The Chapel also supports *Carecent*, at the nearby Methodist church, who provide breakfasts for the homeless, by supplying food from the annual 'tin' harvest.

York Unitarians support the York Interfaith Association and are signed-up members supporting the York City of Sanctuary campaign.

The Chapel also supports York Pride March each year with members marching in the parade.

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Ministerial Job Description

Main Responsibilities

- Provide spiritual leadership to our congregation.
- Support the growth and development of Unitarianism in the York area especially amongst younger people.
- Co-ordinate pastoral care, particularly of elderly, vulnerable, housebound and isolated members, and develop the congregation's skills to contribute to this within a collaborative team.
- Conduct marriages including same sex marriages, civil partnership blessings, funerals and naming ceremonies.
- Work co-operatively with Committees and Groups.
- Work with other religious and interfaith groups in York.
- Participate in Unitarian activities in Yorkshire and the UK.
- Raise the profile of our congregation in York and nationally.
- Report to the Chapel Committee on a regular basis.

Requirements

Skills and abilities	Essential	Desirable
Leadership skills and ability to work collaboratively	✓	
Ministerial or Lay qualifications	✓	
Ability to involve members and develop their potentials	✓	
Excellent verbal and written communication skills	✓	
Excellent interpersonal and team-working skills	✓	
Counselling skills and sensitivity to pastoral needs	✓	
Creative skills in planning well-balanced services of worship and spiritual exploration	✓	
Competence in planning, self-organising and time-management	✓	
IT skills, especially email, internet and word processing	✓	
Musical interest and aptitude		✓

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Ministerial Job Description *continued*

Experience	Essential	Desirable
Providing spiritual leadership, preaching, preparing services and Rites of Passage	✓	
Providing effective religious education for all ages	✓	
Sustaining and developing the congregation's spiritual life	✓	
Encouraging personal and congregational growth	✓	
Engagement with social justice and community issues		✓
Experience of serving a Unitarian or Unitarian Universalist congregation effectively		✓
Working with a chapel management committee	✓	

Attitudes and Values	Essential	Desirable
Statement of Applicant's religious views	✓	
Understanding and acceptance of a wide range of beliefs within our Unitarian congregation, including Humanist, Christian, Theist and Pagan, and the ability to minister to this range	✓	
Respect for other religious groups and inter-faith activities	✓	
Respect for diversity and difference	✓	
Strong sense of Social Responsibility	✓	

Other Requirements

- Eligible for accreditation by the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches
- Full details of any relevant qualifications
- Provision of supporting references

We recognise that no one person would be able to fulfil all of these tasks in a 50% ministerial post, but the congregation is both keen and able to help with a variety of tasks. We are a congregation who will welcome a minister who is happy and willing to work collaboratively with all our different groups in order to fulfil the diverse needs of York Unitarians. We would prefer our Minister to live in or around the York area if possible as much of the chapel life occurs in the evenings and at weekends.

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Ministerial Conditions of Service

Stipend: Half G.A. recommended stipend is offered

Housing: Half G.A. recommended manse allowance is offered

Pension: York Unitarians will contribute to the Ministers' Pension Fund.

Expenses: York Unitarians will pay the Minister approved expenses wholly and necessarily incurred in the work of ministry for travel, postage, telephone rental and calls, stationery, computer consumables, and other outgoings; and to attend Yorkshire Unitarian Union meetings, the General Assembly Annual General meetings, the Ministers' Conferences and any other event or meeting relevant to ministerial duties, prior approval having been granted by the Officers. Should the Minister need to upgrade computer equipment, an interest free loan for the purchase of equipment may be negotiated, repayable by agreed deductions from the monthly stipend.

Sunday Services: The Minister would be expected to conduct a minimum of 23 Sunday services.

General: The appointee will at all times be expected to behave in a fully professional manner and not to behave in a way likely to bring the congregation or the denomination into disrepute. The minister must be prepared to be fully accountable to the Committee for the work undertaken and to keep the Committee informed of current activities. The "Guidelines for Partnership between Congregations and Ministers" will be discussed with the successful applicant and any variations agreed.

Termination of Contract: Three months notice to be given by either side.

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Background information on York

HISTORY

York is steeped in history and it is often said that “the history of York is the history of England”. The Romans called it Eboracum. Later the Vikings called it Jorvik, from which the present name is derived. The City Walls date back to the time of William the Conqueror and are the most complete set of walls remaining in England. Complete with four Bars (Gateways) they provide interesting walking with dramatic views of the city and – in springtime – of thousands of daffodils that have been planted on the banks outside them.

Rev. Charles Wellbeloved, Minister at St. Saviourgate from 1792 to 1858 led a vigorous campaign to save the walls from demolition in the early 19th Century, before their historical significance was as widely appreciated as it is today.

There are many historic buildings including the Minster dating from 1080, Ancient Guild Halls such as the 14th Century Merchant Adventurers and Merchant Taylors Halls and the tourists’ favourite – The Shambles – a street so narrow that neighbours can shake hands across it at the upper storeys.

There are many famous Museums (National Railway Museum, Castle Museum, Yorkshire Museum, Quilt Museum and Jorvik Centre) and other attractions such as Theatres (Theatre Royal, Grand Opera House, Joseph Rowntree, Friargate) and Restaurants of many different types (Italian, Chinese, Indian, Mexican, Thai, Indian, Spanish and, of course, English). Whilst acting as a powerful magnet for tourists these features also contribute to the very high quality of life for local residents.

LOCAL SERVICES

City of York Council, a Unitary Authority, provides the usual range of local and government services (see: www.york.gov.uk). There are many high-achieving schools in both the state and private sectors, including a Steiner School; and at high education levels there are two Universities, the University of York (see: www.york.ac.uk) and York St. John University (see www.yorks.j.ac.uk) which has a Department of Religious Studies with a growing range of multi-faith activities.

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TRANSPORT

There are local bus services, including 'Park and Ride' services strategically located around the perimeter near to the City's main arterial roads; and excellent road and rail links to all parts of the country, for example:

Regular train services to :

London	- 2 hours
Leeds	- 30 minutes
Newcastle	- 1 hour
Sheffield	- 1 hour
Manchester	- 1 hour 30 minutes
Edinburgh	- 2 hours 30 minutes
Birmingham	- 2 hours 30 minutes

By road it is only 2 hours (78 miles) to the Unitarian Nightingale Centre at Great Hucklow in Derbyshire, and is on the route of the Coastliner bus service from Leeds to Whitby or Scarborough and the fast ZAP bus service between York and Leeds.

York is also situated close to beautiful and varied scenery, with walking and many other activities including The Yorkshire Dales National Park, the North Yorkshire Moors National Park, the Yorkshire Wolds and the Yorkshire Coast including Scarborough, Filey and Whitby.

MORE INFORMATION

Useful websites:

www.york.unitarians.org.uk (see homepage for 2 videos of the Chapel)
<https://unitariansinyorkshire.wordpress.com> (Yorkshire Unitarian Union)
www.york.gov.uk
www.rightmove.co.uk

If you need information about any other aspect of living and working in York, please let us know and we will be happy to try to provide it.