



## VACANCY FOR PART TIME MINISTER





Belper Unitarian Chapel, Field Row, Green Lane, Belper, DE56 1DG

[www.belperunitarians.org](http://www.belperunitarians.org)

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### THE CONGREGATION

The congregation at Belper was founded in 1689. Jedediah Strutt, the local mill owner, had the original chapel built in 1788, and there is much civic pride in our historic chapel. The Chapel is listed Grade II\*, and is well-maintained, with an unusual amphitheatre design. The congregation sit in the original boxed pews raked up one side of the building with the minister, choir and organ in tiers on the other side. There is a kitchen and other services, and the 'well' of the chapel provides space for gatherings, and the tiered seating ideal for concerts, meetings and services. The Congregation has sole use of the chapel building for worship, and at present, aside from Belper Ukulele Group who meet fortnightly at the chapel, there is no use by any outside body.

The Congregation is committed to a broad non-dogmatic liberal religious outlook. The members seek to be inclusive, tolerant, and respectful of the opinions of others. The first same-sex marriage at a place of worship in Derbyshire took place at the Chapel in 2016. Weekly services are held every Sunday morning with attendance often reaching twenty or more, and much more for special and festive services. The Chapel has an organist who regularly accompanies Sunday services.

It is the Congregation's and the District Association's opinion that Belper offers a real opportunity for community growth and development if supported by committed ministerial leadership.

## THE ROLE

The Congregation seek a trained Unitarian minister to

- Provide spiritual leadership in line with Unitarian principles and ethics
- Lead two well prepared services a month at the Chapel
- Foster an inclusive welcome to all
- Deal with enquiries about all ceremonies
- Arrange, plan and conduct rites of passage services
- Provide pastoral support to the congregation
- Develop a regular mid-week activity at the Chapel, accessible to the congregation and the wider community
- With the support from the officers and the congregation, develop and implement a strategy to continue to grow a sustainable congregation
- Develop outreach and involvement in the local community, representing the Chapel at local events
- Support and encourage members of the congregation in assisting with and leading services
- Create and share engaging content via our website and social media channels, raising the profile of the Chapel and Unitarianism
- Take an active role on the Chapel Planning Committee
- Work with chapel members and officers to produce a bi monthly chapel newsletter
- Engage in District and National Unitarian events

The post holder will be required to adhere to the safeguarding policy and procedures. This includes a responsibility to remain up to date with safeguarding training at the level appropriate to the role. Please note that this role requires an enhanced DBS check.

The post is part-time (0.5) with a remuneration package in line with GA guidelines (a relevant housing allowance could be considered). Working patterns will be discussed during the recruitment process.

## INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

We know that it may take us some time to find our Minister and we are flexible about arrangements so that we can find the right person and they can feel that they fit the post.

Interested parties are welcome to seek further information about the role by contacting the Chapel's Chairman, David Burton on 01629 734072.

Those wishing to apply should contact the GA (via Simon Bland [sbland@unitarian.org.uk](mailto:sbland@unitarian.org.uk)) in the first instance, and ask to be put in touch with the congregation. The congregation will handle the selection process from thereon in, which for shortlisted candidates, will include the delivery of one or more services at the chapel, as well as a formal interview..



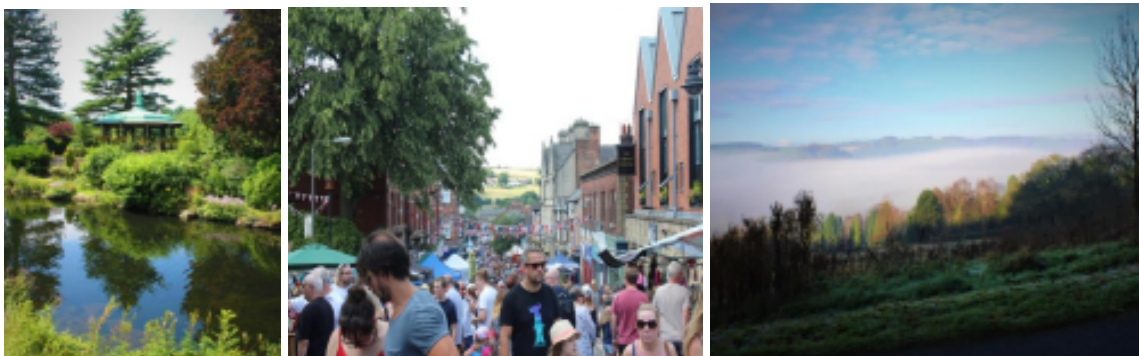
## More about Belper...

Belper is a pleasant market town of about 24,000 people, lying just south of the Peak District National Park, in a valley formed by the Derwent River, about 7 miles north of Derby. It has a considerable industrial heritage.



The Strutt family, who built the Chapel, were together with the Arkwrights, one of the ten leading cotton-spinning manufacturers at the end of the eighteenth century. The Chapel is in the historic part of the town, and lies within a neighbourhood of stone terraced and larger houses along the side of the valley, including the much sought-after housing the Strutts built for their employees. It is a particularly pleasant residential setting.

There is a railway service to Derby (journey time 12 minutes), with services to all parts of the country, and also to Matlock, the County town. The A6, a major trunk route, runs through the town. Belper has many community groups, such as the Belper Historical Society, the Caring & Sharing Food Bank, the Belper Folk Group, and the Strutt Centre showcasing arts and music. Any of these groups and others would offer an active minister a good opportunity to develop the Chapel's role in the local community.



Visit [www.belpertowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.belpertowncouncil.gov.uk) for more information about the town.