

MERSEYSIDE UNITARIAN
MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP

serving our congregations and communities together

VACANCY FOR A MINISTER,
LAY PASTOR or LAY PERSON IN CHARGE

As a result of a career change, a vacancy has occurred to minister to PARK LANE CHAPEL (near Wigan), CAIRO STREET CHAPEL (Warrington) and MATTHEW HENRY CHAPEL (Chester)



Cairo Street Chapel, Warrington



Park Lane Chapel, Bryn, Wigan



Matthew Hnery Chapel, Chester

and to work with the Ministry Partnership's Committee and the District Association to better serve all local congregations and to develop Unitarianism in the area.

Information Booklet



We believe we offer a special ministry opportunity....

- ✓ To lead one of two ministries, each covering three enthusiastic congregations
- ✓ A proven 20-year record of the six congregations working together
- ✓ Opportunities for collaborative working across the Partnership
- ✓ Good links can also be made with other ministers via the the neighbouring District Associations
- ✓ Enhancement of the GA recommended remuneration
- ✓ attractive residential areas with good schools (but with houses often priced below national averages)
- ✓ Simple administration – the support of a well-established Partnership Committee
- ✓ Good security – long-term District financial underpinning support agreed
- ✓ Reasonably compact geographical area (though there will be travelling)
- ✓ Professional development, sabbatical and other arrangements following the GA's Guidance

A message from Rev Bob Janis-Dillon, our most recent minister for five years

I highly recommend the ministry to these chapels and to the Merseyside Unitarian Ministry Partnership. I have found the last five years at Wigan, Warrington and Chester to be engaging, joyful, inspiring, challenging and rewarding. For the right person, the model of ministry here has many strengths: you can focus your energies where you feel most called, while experiencing the support of a brilliant co-minister as well as dedicated, inventive leadership. As you'd expect, each chapel has its own character, making the minister's work-week diverse and interesting. It has easily been five of the best years of my life.

Our Partnership

The Merseyside Unitarian Ministry Partnership of six congregations has been working together since 2004 but the churches involved shared a minister before that. The Partnership works closely with the other two churches in the District and with the district association (the MDMA) which provides substantial financial support.

A small Partnership Committee (a representative from each church with the Partnership Ministers) organises the work of the Partnership which is underpinned by a renewable formal five-year Agreement. Each church commits funds with additional funds granted by the MDMA sufficient to sustain the appointed ministers. The Agreement, although for five years, is renewable and has been maintained since 2004. We are planning for the long term!

Our Ministry

The vacancy is the result of Rev Bob Janis-Dillon's decision to seek a career change. He has returned to USA. The vacant post involves the leadership of three congregations. An appointee will serve the three congregations of Park Lane Chapel (Bryn, Wigan), Cairo Street Chapel (Warrington) and Matthew Henry Chapel (Chester) and support the movement more widely where appropriate. Chester is a small congregation; the majority of time is divided between Park Lane and Cairo Street chapels. A Role Description can be provided on request.

The appointee will not be required to lead all the services at each church. The churches are used to inviting visiting preachers to carry out some services each month. The three congregations have differing emphases as to how they wish to use their ministerial time. They will discuss and agree this with the new appointee.

Part of the role will be to help others within each church to develop their own contributions to worship, pastoral work, outreach, rites of passage, religious education and so forth. Earlier this year, our two Partnership Ministers provided a course of training for several lay people to better enable their contribution to ministry across the district.

Terms of Employment

In the case of our appointing a Minister or Lay Pastor on the GA Roll, we will pay the successful candidate the GA recommended stipend plus 10%, the other arrangements being mainly as per GA recommendations though we are prepared to discuss with prospective candidates any particular issues they may have. Remuneration for a part-time position will be on a pro-rata basis. In the case of a lay person in charge being appointed, we will discuss the remuneration arrangements and seek to offer an attractive package dependent on the candidate's qualifications and experience etc.

The Chapels to be served by the new appointee

Park Lane Chapel, Bryn Nr Wigan



Park Chapel was built in 1697 although people were meeting as early as 1662. We have a membership of around 40 and a children's group with ages ranging from 3-14. We at Park Lane have always been active when it comes to raising money; annually we have four fund raising events: a Spring and Christmas Fayre and two Attic Sales, one which incorporates Heritage Weekend. Countless raffles are run throughout the year. Our well-maintained graveyard shows how much we care about our beautiful Chapel and we have an active "Monday maintenance" team.

Apart from life-long Unitarians, we have Catholics, Anglicans and an array of members from different denominations who have found Park Lane Chapel a warm, welcoming place of worship. We have regular Sunday morning services and we are very committed to the pastoral care needed for some of the congregation who may not be able to attend Chapel.



We support several charities such as World Vision, MacMillan, Mencap and our local Hospice, just to mention a few. We own the adjacent school building where we have a kitchen, meeting room and children's room. We also rent part of the school to a gym, which gives us security when we are not on site.

Cairo Street Chapel, Warrington



Cairo Street Chapel situated in the centre of Warrington has a long and proud heritage, being established in 1662. Anna Barbauld, poet and political agitator, Joseph Priestley, Rev Phillip Pearsall Carpenter and the Gaskell family, Frederick Monks (who gave to Warrington the Golden Gates) are all associated with the chapel. Today we are a hard-working, progressive and growing religious community with the majority of our members new to the values and belief systems of Unitarianism.

We hold a bi-weekly Sunday service, monthly meditation services and Equinox celebrations. Following our Unitarian forebears, we are socially conscious, are involved with the local homeless shelter, the Rati Project, and our chapel is available for use by a mental health group.

Concerts are held to raise funds for charities including the Rati Project. We have recently altered the interior by removing some pews and enabling a space for a kitchen and social area. The chapel is well maintained and surrounded by attractive gardens, maintained by the congregation. Two members of the congregation are organists and we have a very active group of Lay Preachers in the congregation. It is important to us that any future minister would support this Lay Preacher ministry.



There is a past that has gone for ever ... But there is a future that is still our own - F.W. Robertson

Matthew Henry's Chapel, Chester



Matthew Henry Chapel has origins in the 17th century and currently meets in the Unity Centre in central Chester (the old chapel was demolished in the 1960s to make way for a by-pass). The rented space is light and flexible and suits a variety of forms of service, including solstice and circles. This very small but enthusiastic congregation meets on the first and third Sundays of the month at 10.30 am and - at other venues - for monthly meditations and *Dine and Discuss*

sessions. All members lead or take part in services and the preaching plan includes lay and ministerial support. The congregation support the charities SACTH, Save the Family and Water Aid.

A look at the other three churches in the Partnership (served by Rev Philip Waldron)

Southport Unitarians



Southport Unitarians meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 11am. The congregation has provision for a Sunday School when children attend. The congregation meets at the Southport Quaker Meeting House.

The congregation has social events and *Coffee and Chat* sessions with the Minister which are regularly attended by some of its members.

Ullet Road Church



The Ullet Road Church congregation meets every Sunday at 11am. The congregation has a healthy Sunday School programme. The large church building is of architectural significance, with Grade 1 listing. It provides a venue for many rites of passage, especially weddings, complemented by the fine adjacent church hall.

The church is an active part of the community, holding a wide variety of activities, events, concerts, and celebrations.

Wirral Unitarians



Meeting at the Quaker Meeting House in Heswall (a small town on Dee side of the Wirral peninsula), usually worshipping in a circle format, the church draws its congregation of 10 - 15 from all over the Wirral peninsula and beyond. As well as two 6.30 pm services each month, Wirral Unitarians hold regular book club meetings and open-door meetings which have examined a wide range of subjects from poetry and music to the work of charities, science, famous people and religion. Two concerts each year raise funds for local charities.

The ministry area, a varied and attractive part of the country ...

Chester is one of England's finest walled cities with lots of interesting Roman heritage as well as high quality shopping facilities some of which are located in the black and white mediaeval "rows".



The river Dee is a popular venue for boating trips and in the Summer there are outdoor plays in the park nearby. Chester Zoo is one of the UK's most famous where the attractive gardens add to the usual animal interest. The city sits within the beautiful countryside of Cheshire and close by is North Wales with its mountains and coastline. Nearby Theatr Clwyd has an excellent ongoing programme throughout the year and both Liverpool and Manchester are in easy reach for wider cultural and other activities.

Well known for its industrial heritage (not least its pier!), **Wigan** today has a mix of lively cultural and sporting activities including the annual international jazz festival, food and beer festivals and the historic Wigan Little Theatre.



In the peaceful surrounding countryside can be found pleasant boating and walks along the Leeds-Liverpool Canal. Arley Hall Gardens can be reached in half an hour and, closer to the centre is the fine Georgian Haigh Hall in its 250 acres setting. For further things to do, Manchester centre can be reached in half an hour by train.

Positioned midway between Liverpool and Manchester and with exceptional access to the motorway and rail system, **Warrington** has access to a wealth of different activities all over the country.



The town itself, founded by the Romans, a successful industrial centre in the nineteenth century and designated a new town in 1968, has much to offer both in the town itself and in the attractive surrounding area, especially to the south where Delamere Forest and the beautiful Cheshire countryside can be reached in half an hour.

...and we are close to both Liverpool and Manchester

Liverpool, a short car or train journey from the vacant ministry area, has transformed itself in recent years with revitalised housing, a new central shopping area and the historic Albert Dock complex while continuing to maintain and develop its beautiful parks and its World Heritage river frontage. The city is a major tourist and cultural centre with its own Tate Gallery, top class theatres, a new library and museum and excellent concerts catering for wide musical tastes. The Echo arena hosts many sports and music events.



The city has the largest collection of listed buildings outside London, many restored when the city was European City of Culture in 2008.

Manchester is a short distance away by train and, taken with Salford, Tameside and Trafford, is by far the North's biggest city. It is a thriving and expanding metropolis which hosts major events, and many theatre productions. It is home to many famous artistic and scientific institutions including art galleries and both the Halle and the BBC Philharmonic Orchestras. It has interesting Unitarian connections including the home of William Gaskell and several churches with a distinguished Unitarian history. Although the vacant ministry is part of the Merseyside District Missionary Association, links with the nearby Manchester district can also be developed.



...with beautiful countryside nearby



Cheshire sandstone trail



Preston Brook canal tunnel



Delamere Forest

...plus the Pennines are accessible in an hour with the Lake District and Peak District also not so far away

Who are we looking for?

The Job Role Description and the Person Specification are attached as Annexes. We are an equal opportunities employer, welcoming diversity and will not discriminate on the basis of the candidate's sex, race, marital status, age, religion or sexual orientation – the closeness of fit with the Person Specification is the criteria on which we will base our decisions.

What is the Selection Process?

All applications will be examined by members of the Partnership's Selection Sub-Committee for closeness of fit to the Person Specification.

Candidates will attend an interview and take at least two services and meet congregation members. We will pay a fee for taking the services and reimburse travel expenses necessarily incurred. Exceptionally we may request a second interview and a further service. Based on the above, the Sub-Committee will make a recommendation to the three congregations who will each consider the recommendation. The Sub-Committee will aim for agreement from all three churches, this being necessary to finalise the choice of appointee.

Any appointment will follow the taking of references, receipt of a doctor's health report (but this should not discourage an application from someone with health issues who is capable of carrying out the role), and a DBS check. We expect to appoint as soon as practicable after, appreciating that notice may have to be given. In the case of an applicant living outside the UK the process will mirror the above as closely as is practicable.

How to apply

If you need more information at this stage please contact Simon Bland at the GA, sbland@unitarian.org.uk, **any such contact being treated strictly in confidence**. There will of course be an opportunity to ask further questions at the interview stage, should you be short-listed.

To apply please send to Simon (see contact details below) your curriculum vitae and a statement explaining what you think you would bring to the ministerial role, covering, as part of this, how you would aim to develop membership and the quality of ministry. Please note that Unitarian Ministers or Ministerial Students should in the first instance make known their interest in the position to the General Assembly via Simon Bland.



contact address

Simon Bland
sbland@unitarian.org.uk

MERSEYSIDE UNITARIAN MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP

Role Description: Partnership Minister/ Lay Leader in Charge

Reporting to: the Merseyside Unitarian Ministry Partnership Committee (*Employment administration is covered on the Committee's behalf by Ullet Road Unitarian Church*)

Summary of Role: to lead in serving three congregations (Park Lane, Cairo Street and Matthew Henry Chapels) and - in collaboration with the other Partnership Minister - to contribute across the Partnership of six congregations to develop and implement strategies for Unitarian regeneration and growth

Definition

The term "Minister" below is used to indicate the Partnership's appointee whether a minister or lay person.

Accountabilities

1. To provide spiritual leadership, lead worship and other ministry across the churches above, as agreed with each congregation, recognising the focus and needs of each church may differ. Each church will have a specified proportion of the minister's time
2. To work with the Partnership Committee and the other Partnership Minister to develop and implement strategies for regeneration and growth in the district. The scope for change is wide.
3. To undertake pastoral care, including of those who are sick and needy, and to this end, to help ensure networks are in place within the congregations so that pastoral care can be undertaken effectively through a mix of congregational and ministerial support.
4. To administer rites of passage as required, helping to ensure each congregation has workable systems for this which do not place too a great burden on the job holder.
5. To put in place systems and training to exploit the talents of those congregation members willing to take services or undertake other roles within the district in the pursuit of the strategy (e.g. Information and communications, Sunday school and Youth development, Social Responsibility).
6. At the Merseyside level, and where possible within local communities, to provide a voice for Unitarianism on social justice and other societal issues, aiming to influence a better world and to make Unitarians more visible in the community.
7. The minister will work closely with the other minister in serving the Partnership churches, agreeing leadership on particular development issues according to the respective preferences and abilities of the ministers involved.

MERSEYSIDE UNITARIAN MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP – PERSON SPECIFICATION FOR MINISTRY ROLE

Attributes	No	Essential	Desirable	How Identified
SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP	1.1	Knowledge of a wide range of beliefs.		CV, Interview, references
	1.2	Ability to remain open and objective and not allow his/her own beliefs to dominate		Sermon, interview
	1.3	Ability to conduct interesting, stimulating services		Services, interview
	1.4	Willingness to be work flexibly and adapt to change		Interview
	1.5		Creative approach	CV, interview, references
LEADERSHIP SKILLS	2.1	Experience of effective planning and organising		CV, interview, references
	2.2	Excellent team working and team-building skills (incl. delegation)		CV, references, interview
	2.3	Good time-management skills		Interview
	2.4	Good communication skills		Interview, references, service
	2.5	Ability to lead and develop lay preaching and/or lay leadership in the District		CV, Interview
SPECIFIC ATTRIBUTES FOR PASTORAL CARE	3.1	Ability to demonstrate a kind and caring nature		Sermon, interview, references
	3.2	Be able to demonstrate a person-centred approach		References, interview
	3.3		Perceptive, sociable	Interview, references
GENERAL AND SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE	4.1	Experience of or ability to undertake and coordinate Rites of Passage		CV, Interview
	4.2	To be able to visit all congregations for which responsible when required, sometimes at short notice.		CV, interview
	4.3	Ability to use e mail & reasonable IT/admin skills		CV, interview
	4.4		Effective Outreacher /Networker with community and the media	CV Interview
QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE	5.1		Holds an appropriate ministerial qualification	CV
	5.2		Prior ministry experience	CV
	5.3	In the absence of a ministerial qualification, has appropriate, demonstrated religious knowledge/ understanding and “ministering” experience (eg as a lay preacher/leader)		CV, interview
	5.4		On the GA Roll	CV
	5.5		Experience of strategy development	CV, interview

