



Walmsley Unitarian Chapel (founded 1689 Built 1713)

Walmsley Unitarian Chapel invite applications for a part time Minister.



Walmsley Unitarian Chapel Congregational Profile

Walmsley Unitarian Chapel was founded in 1713. Although established before 1710 by non-conformists in the area, the original one-storey Chapel was built in 1713. Between 1746 and 1872, gradual improvements were made, including the second storey galleries, comfortable pews and other general additions. The schoolhouse, adjacent to the Chapel was built in 1851.

It was then, and remains now, a small chapel located near the moors on the north edge of Bolton, set back down a driveway from the A666 on the Bolton to Blackburn road, in the village of Egerton. A lot more information about the Chapel history and

the Chapel's current activities can be found on our website www.walmsleyunitarian.chapel.org.uk and on the Chapel Facebook page which is updated regularly.

We hold weekly Sunday morning services, and the Chapel currently has a congregation of around 60 with regular attendance averaging 30-35. There are 35 signed up members. The congregation has been attracting new members for several years. We were further strengthened four years ago when some of the congregation from Bank Street Chapel, Bolton, joined us after their Chapel had to close.

The average age of the congregation is probably 60+. We do have a dedicated Sunday School teacher who runs a Sunday School twice a month with attendance averaging 4 for most sessions though sometimes this can double.

We conduct weddings, including same sex marriages, also funerals, baptisms/ naming ceremonies. The Chapel has its own graveyard and memorial garden. The graveyard has graves dating back to the opening of the chapel in 1713. We have also recently had one of the graves designated a Commonwealth War Grave

Members of the congregation work together to maintain:

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- Regular Sunday services, using visiting preachers as well as members of the congregation who offer a variety of themes.
- Pastoral care to elderly members
- Occasional congregational meals after the Sunday Service
- Maintenance of the grounds and buildings.
- Community involvement in events and activities run in the Chapel buildings and grounds.

The congregation has a reputation for being friendly and welcoming. Refreshments are provided after the Sunday service by members of the congregation in turn. This offers opportunities for a weekly catch up and is usually a lively affair.

The Chapel runs community events, the most regular of which are the Christmas Fair and the very popular 'Carols by Candlelight' evening, where Eagley Brass Band provide the musical accompaniment. Recent events also include Garden Festivals, run jointly with Incredible Egerton and Afternoon Tea with entertainment.

The Schoolhouse building is heavily used. A significant part of our income comes from a Before and After School club called School's Out. They are in the building every weekday throughout the year, apart from the Christmas and New Year period. Relationships with the owners and staff at Schools Out are excellent. A community group, Incredible Egerton, is based at the Chapel. They run an under 5's play group on a Monday morning, a gardening group and a craft group on a Friday morning, and the Nature Café also on a Friday. An over 50's disco is held once a month. All are well attended. This has raised awareness of the Chapel among the local community.

Profile of the Surrounding Area.

Walmsley Unitarian Chapel is at the northern boundary of Bolton in the village of Egerton. It is close to the Pennine Moors with access to many footpaths, adjoining woodlands and hills.

The Cumbrian Lakes, Yorkshire Dales and Peak District are within easy reach as is the Lancashire Coast. The area boasts good schools and amenities with restaurants and coffee shops within the area and good recreational facilities.

Egerton is close to Bromley Cross village, where there are two mini supermarkets, several shops and a railway station which has connections to Bolton, Manchester, Blackburn and Clitheroe.

Ministerial Requirements.

- To provide spiritual leadership and lead worship as agreed with the congregation, recognising the needs and focus of the congregation.
- To conduct Marriages including same sex Marriages and Civil Partnerships, Blessings, Funerals and Baptisms/Naming Ceremonies.
- To be a Responsible Authorised Person for marriages and be the liaison point with the local Registrar with support from the existing Authorised Persons.
- To lead on Pastoral Care and to ensure that networks are in place within the congregation so that pastoral care can be undertaken effectively through a mix of congregational and ministerial support.
- To raise the profile of the congregation.
- To represent WUC at GA Annual Meetings and various local Unitarian events/ meetings including the district organisation NELUM (Northeast Lancs Unitarian Mission) and networking and attending events at the other 11 Chapels in the district.
- To participate in congregational activities.
- To report to the Trustees and attend the Chapel AGM, and to contribute to the Chapel monthly magazine, The Link.

Application

Applicants are invited to send in their CV and personal statement, to include: -

- Reasons for applying for this position.
- Qualification and experience.
- Your aims and focus for the future if appointed.

- Two professional references.

Terms of Employment.

Salary and expenses in line with the GA Stipend Review Committee.

To be reviewed after 6 months and if both parties are satisfied a three-year contract will be offered.

