

In addition to regular services **Belper Unitarian Chapel** is available for special services like Namings/Baptisms, Weddings, Relationship Blessings and Funerals.

A variety of other activities are typically scheduled. These include midweek groups, social activities and open days/coffee mornings – see back panel.



*Love is the Spirit of this Chapel*

Belper Chapel is a member congregation of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches. The General Assembly's website [www.unitarian.org.uk](http://www.unitarian.org.uk) contains much to interest those exploring Unitarianism for the first time.

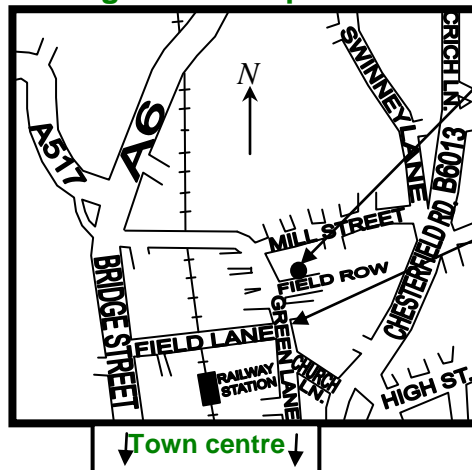
We are also part of East Midland Unitarians. Amongst a variety of events EMU organizes an annual weekend, normally at the Unitarian Holiday & Conference Centre, Great Hucklow, Derbyshire.

The Chapel is an official part of Beth's Poetry Trail.

### Getting to Belper

Belper lies 8 miles North of Derby on the A6 and is 16 miles West of Nottingham. It is served by the A38 (from M1 Jn 28 or from W. Midlands) and the A610 (from the M1 Jn 26) as well as by beautiful drives from Manchester via Buxton on the A6 and from the West via Ashbourne on the A517.

### Getting to the Chapel



Belper Unitarian Chapel  
Field Row,  
off Green Lane,  
Belper DE56 1DH

Parking  
often  
available on  
Green Lane

### Services

First Sunday of the month at 11 am  
Third Sunday of the month at 3 pm

### Other Activities

Discussion Group  
Exploring Meditation Group  
Open Days/Coffee Mornings  
As announced on website, on noticeboard (on Green Lane) and in newsletter.

### Contacts

Mary Smedley 01773 822383  
[mary@smedleybros.co.uk](mailto:mary@smedleybros.co.uk)  
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[www.belperunitarians.org.uk](http://www.belperunitarians.org.uk)

# Belper Unitarians



*Openness and Fellowship in Seeking Truth*



*We are a loving community of spiritual seekers, diverse in opinion yet united by our common search for truth and our desire to support each other in that search.*

You are **most welcome** to join us.

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

## A fascinating place in Belper's history...

Belper's Unitarian chapel is hidden away up Field Row off Green Lane. It is of architectural interest and is the oldest place of continuous worship in the town.

The Act of Uniformity (1662) sought to impose a uniformity of belief and worship. Some clergy refused to conform and lost their living but several continued to preach – this was the beginning of non-conformist worship. In 1689 John Taylor obtained a licence to hold services at his house in Belper and this was the beginning of the non-conformist movement here. In 1721 a meeting house was built on Green Lane.

Jedediah Strutt harnessed the power of the River Derwent and built his cotton spinning mills in Belper from 1776 – these are now part of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. He built houses and developed a community for his workers. Jedediah was a Unitarian and built the present chapel in 1788 – it was extended a few years later and the chapel cottage added at that time.

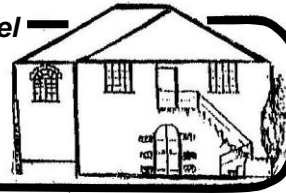
The stone chapel has a cantilevered stairway leading to the gallery. Most of the interior is original with box pews, commemorative plaques and a John Whitehurst clock. There is an arched catacomb beneath the boxed pews where Strutt family members are interred. Jedediah Strutt himself is buried beneath the catacomb.

...and continuing spiritual home of local Unitarians.

### Belper Unitarian Chapel

a meeting-place for those seeking a spiritual dimension to life

#### Voices



“As a Unitarian I am on a personal journey of spiritual discovery that will take a lifetime... or longer.”

“Unitarians believe that there can be no exclusive claim to truth in religion or in the search for the meaning of life.”

“An amazing thing is the wide range of views that co-exist quite happily. At Belper we have liberal Christians, religious humanists, earth centred pagans, universalists, Buddhists, atheists and all kinds of hybrids. The diversity is really exciting!”



“One week the readings might be from the Bible and the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy and the next week from the Bhagavad Gita and the works of Dickens or Gaskell. You can never be sure what you'll get next!”

“We worship God (but nobody tells us what kind of God...!), we celebrate life, we try to serve humanity and respect all creation.”



“It is so refreshing being able to honour the Christianity of my upbringing without having to agree literally with any specific part of it. And being able to set it aside when it doesn't speak to my need or understanding.”



“As a newcomer to Unitarianism my view of God has grown bigger without me becoming smaller.”

“We share a religious pilgrimage of discovery, learning, and being challenged, without dogmatic assertion.”

“I don't find the word 'God' useful and I still feel very welcome in this Unitarian chapel.”



“Unitarians have no prescribed beliefs or restrictive creed. We are free to search worldwide sources and philosophies for increased understanding and to nurture our own spirituality.”