YORK UNITARIANS

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

No. 1181531

Company Registered in England and Wales

No. CE016179

Annual Report and Financial Statement of York Unitarians CIO for the year ended 31st December 2025 to be presented at the annual meeting of members on Sunday 22nd March 2026.

Revised following independent examination, October 2026.

St Saviourgate Unitarian Chapel, St. 31 Saviourgate, York, YO1 8NQ

CONSTITUTION AND OBJECTS

York Unitarians CIO is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by its Constitution passed on 18th March 2018 and registered as a CIO with Companies House on 11th January 2019.

The Object of York Unitarians CIO ("the Congregation") is the advancement of religion in accordance with the usages and practices of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, and for other charitable purposes that the Trustees may from time to time determine.

YORK UNITARIANS CIO 1181531 and Company registered in England and Wales number CE016179

Linked charity: Trust Property held in connection with the St Saviourgate Unitarian Chapel (1181531-1), governed by a Scheme of the Charity Commission dated 2 May 1990.

Bankers: CAF Bank Limited. Investment managers: CCLA Investment Management Limited.

Independent examiner: Stephen Perry

Trustees, 2025-2026

Officers		**Dates (where not stated are for the full year)**
Chairperson	Dr. John Issitt	Resigned as Trustee and Chair 8th January 2026
Secretary	Dr Indira Zoe Bojelian (Zoe)	
Treasurer	Richard Charles Alfred Brown	
Members:	Jennifer Atkinson	
	Deirdre Mary Boyle (Dee)	From 23rd March 2025
	Laura Autumn Cox	Resigned as Trustee 4th November 2025

Minutes Secretary	Sue Cooper	
	Mary Elizabeth Faiers (Elizabeth)	
	Rev. Nicola Jenkins (Nicky)	
	Elizabeth Joan Sinanan (Joan)	From 22nd March 2026
	David Graham Zucker	From 22nd March 2026

Non-Trustee Leads

Membership Secretary	Joan Sinanan
Music in the Chapel	David Hammond
Safeguarding	Joan Sinanan with Trustee Richard Brown
Chapel Bookings	Steve Crowther with Trustee Zoe Bojelian
Chapel Website	David Pearce

York Unitarians Annual Report

Chair's Report

Thanks must go to committee members for their sterling work in keeping this ship afloat. What would we do without you! I know the congregation is most grateful – as am I.

We seem to be nowhere nearer getting a minister which is a shame as securing a minister is the expressed ambition of congregation and committee. At some point we will have to consider our future prospects and whether securing a traditional minister is likely and/or an appropriate objective. I do hope the situation is resolved to the satisfaction of all involved as soon as possible. If I get any news about an application or interest in the post, I will immediately bring it to the attention of the committee.

Fire safety equipment and procedures have been implemented – many thanks to Jen and her team for this. The balcony is now out of use which is a sad loss but fire regulations trump everything and we are all safer and as trustees we are more secure, as a result. Many thanks for all involved in applying the fire safety regulations across the board. We must remain vigilant in ensuring that the regulations are always and consistently observed.

Arrangements for the services are being expertly managed by Elizabeth – many thanks.

Governance is being brilliantly developed and applied by Zoe – great stuff.

Our funds continue to be reassuringly handled by Richard – we remain in your debt.

Weddings and funerals are being sensitively overseen and managed by Dee – we are very grateful for this and all the other things you do.

Best wishes for the future.

John Issitt, December 2025

Hon. Chairperson (Resigned 8th January 2026**)**

Secretary's Report

This report summarises the work undertaken in my role as Secretary over the last year. In the interests of transparency and good governance, it distinguishes between:

- **A. Governance and trustee-secretary responsibilities**; and
- **B. Administrative and operational work** normally undertaken by an administrator or volunteer team, but which I have carried out due to lack of capacity elsewhere.

A. Governance and Trustee-Secretary Responsibilities

1. Constitution and Governance Framework

- Undertook substantial work to bring the chapel constitution into a legally robust and usable form, for approval at the AGM.
- Produced a *plain English* version to support trustees' and members' understanding and consistent application.
- Drafted proposed amendments to address known governance difficulties, including:
    - Clarification of honoraria where trustees or connected persons lead services.
    - Who may attend and speak at the AGM.
    - Extension of maximum terms for executive trustees (Chair, Treasurer, Secretary) where willing replacements cannot be found.
- Corresponded with the Charity Commission to seek approval in principle (or confirmation that approval was not required) before bringing proposals to members.

2. Regulatory and External Liaison

- Acted as the main point of contact with external regulators where appropriate to the Secretary's role.

3. Authorised Person for Marriages

- Submitted the formal application to register as an additional authorised person for marriages.
- Responded to follow-up queries from the Chief Registrar's office to ensure completion of the process.
- Appointed as an additional authorised person.

4. PRS Licensing and Compliance

- Took responsibility for resolving a longstanding governance risk relating to PRS licensing.
- Liaised directly with PRS and secured agreement that historic back payments would be limited to one year, despite decades of concerts.
- Oversaw the introduction of systems to ensure ongoing compliance.
- Worked closely with David Hammond, whose careful compilation of performance data has been essential.
- Reported transparently to trustees on costs.

5. Hire Contract and Bookings Oversight

- Drafted and implemented a revised hire contract which is legally sound, PRS-compliant and incorporates health and safety input from the Buildings Sub-Committee.
- Ensured contracts are signed on behalf of the Trustees and distributed appropriately.
- Clarified governance and accountability around bookings and documented a clear division of responsibilities:
    - **Bookings Manager:** day-to-day enquiries, access, keys and calendar entries.
    - **Secretary:** trustee oversight, contract sign-off and governance assurance.

- Amended procedures so signed contracts are returned to a central chapel email address.

6. Governance Infrastructure and Risk Management

- Initiated the creation of a Chapel Directory / Knowledge Vault to reduce reliance on individual knowledge.
- Circulated draft categories and access levels and began consultation.
- Planned staged completion to ensure the task is manageable and sustainable.
- Drafted and circulated a letter to members explaining why the balcony can no longer be used, with particular reference to trustees' legal liabilities.

7. Trustee and AGM Responsibilities

- Circulated notices of trustee meetings and relevant documentation.
- Coordinated reports, drafted and finalised the Annual Report, prepared trustee rotation information, and guided the then Chair through the AGM.

8. **Written CIO record**

- In keeping with legal requirements, maintain and regularly review the CIO's written records held at for inspection by members of the public.

B. Administrative, Operational and Other Tasks (Beyond Trustee-Secretary Remit)

The following tasks would normally fall within the remit of an administrator or volunteer team but were undertaken by me due to lack of capacity elsewhere.

Communications and Organisation

- Prepared weekly chapel notices and weekly email notices throughout the year, including during periods of illness or leave.
- Monitored and responded regularly each week to the chapel's main email and bookings email accounts.

- Established and maintained the Sunday morning rota, recruited volunteers, managed gaps and addressed non-attendance.

Practical Support and Hospitality

- Together with my husband Paul, covered refreshments, welcome duties and flowers on 22 Sundays, to ensure continuity and hospitality.
- Collected and laid the chapel wreath at the York Remembrance Ceremony.
- Produced sign-up sheets for shared lunches and, with my husband Paul, undertook washing up on these occasions.

Events and Outreach

- Booked, organised and co-ran the chapel stall at York Pride, involving a full day (8am–7pm) plus preparation of materials and volunteer coordination.
- Booked, recruited and coordinated volunteers for York Unlocked, updated the volunteer crib sheet, and volunteered on the day.
- Attended the York Multifaith Tea Party with my husband Paul.

Other Tasks

- Researched and designed A5 welcome folders (to be printed).
- Obtained and distributed keys as required.
- Provided, set up and recycled an ethically sourced real Christmas tree following concerns raised the previous year.
- Attended the General Assembly as a chapel representative and produced both a detailed written report for Trustees and a shorter summary for members.

I extend my thanks to my fellow trustees and chapel members and friends for their support for the work I do. Particular thanks to David Hamond for his extensive PRS work, Steve Crowther for the day-to-day management of bookings and my husband and chapel member Paul Bojelian for repeatedly stepping up to support chapel activities.

Zoe Bojelian, Hon Secretary

Treasurer's Report for Financial Year to 31 December 2025

Income

Total income to the cash account during the year was over £64,000, an increase of nearly £10,000 on the figure for 2024. It would have been a decrease without the £14,000 grant from the Leonard Chamberlain Trust. Along with the income from the chapel's permanent endowment, this meant that grants and endowment income accounted for over 50% of our total income.

"Live giving" receipts were slightly down on last year. Offertories were comprised of: members' standing orders: £9,899; collections: £2,824.

Soon Amore and the U3A Choir, which both use the chapel for rehearsals, were our chief source of rental income along with York Late Music. Total income from lettings for the year was £6,815 (£7,335 including weddings and blessings).

Fundraising income continues to increase year on year. In 2025, this was mainly due to more charitable fundraising, and sales also showed a small increase. Concert income of £1,786 excludes £569 raised at a charity concert for St Nick's and Send a Child to Hucklow, which is shown with charitable collections and was paid over to those charities.

We reclaimed £4,315 from HMRC in Gift Aid.

Expenditure

At £46,901, total expenditure for the year was comparable to when we had a minister. This was due to us spending £22,068 on the chapel building. Of this, £12,609 was for the new fire alarm and emergency lighting, funded by the Leonard Chamberlain Trust grant, and most of the remainder was for essential electrical works. We also had unanticipated expenses to replace the fridge and water boiler. The chapel building accounted for 62% of our total expenditure.

Our first full year without a minister nonetheless saw only a modest decrease in costs associated with worship. Pulpit supply and expenses almost doubled, whilst music and IT support also showed notable increases. It should be borne in mind though that we only had a minister for two months in 2024, so worship costs were still relatively low. In addition, fees for preachers, musicians and IT support have all increased.

We raised more in donations to other charities (£1,422) than we did for our nominated charities (£1,349). There are various reasons for this. We raised good sums for York Interfaith, local refugee charities, and the Send A Child to Hucklow appeal in December (despite the latter not being a nominated charity as it had been in 2024/25). Also, a generous donation to The Ambulance Staff Charity from the collection at Rachel Hardy's funeral.
Administration costs increased because of payments due in respect of our Performing Rights Licence.

Assets

Our financial position remains strong.
Despite much increased expenditure on the chapel building, we ended the year with a £17,869 surplus on the cash account, of which £1,810 is the unspent balance of the Leonard Chamberlain Trust grant.
It was a different story for our investments. The markets were buoyant at the start of the year, but the U.S. tariffs caused a crash in May/June from which they never fully recovered. As a result, the value of the investments held for the congregation fell by £6,594 and the value of the permanent endowment investments fell by £32,270 during the year. These are unrealised losses: no investments were sold.
Total funds at 31 December 2025 were £814,734 (2024: £835,728). Of this, £658,540 is permanent endowment held for the chapel, the income of which is used for the congregation's purposes, and £1,810 is the unspent restricted grant. General funds increased by £12,481 to £154,384.

Richard Brown
Hon Treasurer

Reserves policy

The trustees aim to hold sufficient free reserves to meet the running costs of the chapel and congregation, the upkeep of the Grade I listed chapel building and the possible cost of appointing a minister.

At 31 December 2025 the general (free) reserves were £154,384, including £66,382 of investments. The trustees intend to agree a target level of reserves during 2026, taking into account the quinquennial survey due in February 2027.

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st December 2025

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Receipts				
Live giving				
Offertories	12,723.19	-	12,723.19	13,169
Donations	90.05	-	90.05	561
Grants				
Leonard Chamberlain Trust	-	14,419.20	14,419.20	-
Use of premises				
Lettings	6,815.00	-	6,815.00	6,975
Weddings and blessings	520.00	-	520.00	400
Fundraising				
Sales	365.39	-	365.39	202
Charitable collections for onward giving	1,596.38	-	1,596.38	389
Concerts	1,786.20	-	1,786.20	2,239
Investment income				
Income from permanent endowment	18,195.42	-	18,195.42	17,889
Other investment income and bank interest	3,943.60	-	3,943.60	3,824
Other				
Gift Aid reclaimed	4,314.91	-	4,314.91	9,034
Miscellaneous income	-	-	-	249
Total receipts	**50,350.14**	**14,419.20**	**64,769.34**	**54,931**
Payments				
Worship				
Minister’s stipend, expenses and pension	-	-	-	3,883
IT support	2,400.00	-	2,400.00	1,656
Pulpit supply including expenses	4,128.50	-	4,128.50	2,089
Pianists	3,105.00	-	3,105.00	2,580
Premises				
Electricity and water	4,708.86	-	4,708.86	5,763
Internet	440.20	-	440.20	429
Insurance	2,089.89	-	2,089.89	1,972
Cleaning	1,560.00	-	1,560.00	1,560
Fire alarm and emergency lighting	-	12,609.49	12,609.49	-
Maintenance, repairs and hardware	9,458.36	-	9,458.36	3,716
Donations, grants and fees				
Chosen charities	1,349.24	-	1,349.24	1,440

Other charitable donations	1,421.52	-	1,421.52	540
General Assembly quota	-	-	-	3,115
Other grants including GA fees and YUU	780.00	-	780.00	370
Administration and publicity				
Administration	2,756.31	-	2,756.31	2,185
Publicity	40.00	-	40.00	105
Inquirer	-	-	-	74
Miscellaneous expenses	53.19	-	53.19	54
Total payments	**34,291.07**	**12,609.49**	**46,900.56**	**31,531**
Net receipts for the year	**16,059.07**	**1,809.71**	**17,868.78**	**23,400**

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st December 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash funds		
CAF Bank current account	90,173.91	72,181
Cash in hand (banked January)	687.41	95
	90,861.32	**72,276**
Investments at market value (note 4)		
CCLA COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund – congregation	66,382.06	69,961
CCLA COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund – permanent endowment	598,572.41	630,843
CCLA COIF Charities Investment Fund – trust property	59,967.45	62,982
	724,921.92	**763,786**
Liabilities (note 6)		
Payments for 2025 made after the year end	(1,049.62)	(334)
Net assets	**814,733.62**	**835,728**
Represented by funds (note 3)		
Unrestricted – general fund	154,384.05	141,903
Restricted – Leonard Chamberlain Trust	1,809.71	-
Endowment – linked charity 1181531-1	658,539.86	693,825
Total funds	**814,733.62**	**835,728**

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis in accordance with section 133 of the Charities Act 2011. They include the linked charity, Trust Property held in connection with the St Saviourgate Unitarian Chapel (1181531-1), which is registered with York Unitarians CIO and is treated as part of the CIO for accounting purposes. Investments are shown at market value at 31 December. Payments relating to 2025 that left the bank after the year end are included in payments and shown as liabilities.

2. Linked charity and permanent endowment

The linked charity is governed by a Scheme of the Charity Commission dated 2 May 1990. Its property derives from the sale of former chapel property, including Colton's Cottages, and is held as permanent endowment. Only the income may be used, and it is applied for the purposes of the St Saviourgate Unitarian Chapel. The income is paid directly into the CIO's bank account and is included in the receipts above. The trustees of the CIO act as trustees of the linked charity. The endowment was previously reported as a separate Chapel Charity statement (formerly charity 230167).

3. Analysis of funds

	General £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total £
At 1 January 2025	141,903.33	-	693,825.06	835,728.39
Receipts	50,350.14	14,419.20	-	64,769.34
Payments	(34,291.07)	(12,609.49)	-	(46,900.56)
Unrealised gains / (losses)	(3,578.35)	-	(35,285.20)	(38,863.55)
At 31 December 2025	**154,384.05**	**1,809.71**	**658,539.86**	**814,733.62**

Unrealised losses on the general fund include a £0.45 difference between the cash book and the bank statement.

The general fund is unrestricted and available for the charity's objects. The Leonard Chamberlain Trust fund is the unspent balance of a grant for the fire alarm and emergency lighting. The endowment fund is the linked charity's permanent endowment (note 2).

4. Investments

	Value 31.12.24 £	Value 31.12.25 £	Change £	Income 2025 £
COIF Ethical Fund – congregation (22,622.02 units)	69,960.86	66,382.06	(3,578.80)	2,017.87
COIF Ethical Fund – permanent endowment (203,984.60 units)	630,842.77	598,572.41	(32,270.36)	18,195.42
COIF Investment Fund – trust property (3,103.60 units)	62,982.29	59,967.45	(3,014.84)	1,760.68
Total	**763,785.92**	**724,921.92**	**(38,864.00)**	**21,973.97**

No units were bought or sold during the year. The change in value is an unrealised loss. All income is distributed and paid to the CIO's bank account.

5. Leonard Chamberlain Trust grant

A grant of £14,419.20 was received in July 2025 towards the installation of a fire alarm and emergency lighting. The work cost £12,609.49, leaving £1,809.71 unspent at 31 December 2025, which is held as a restricted fund.

6. Liabilities

Liabilities of £1,049.62 are payments relating to 2025 made in January and February 2026. They include £1,040.42 of collections held at the year end for other charities:

Send a Child to Hucklow £362.88, TASC £347.14, Emerging Voices £230.40 and York Interfaith Group £100.00.

7. Trustees' remuneration, expenses and related party transactions

During the year five trustees received fees totalling £700 for leading services or acting as a wedding celebrant: Zoe Bojelian £200, Dee Boyle £200, Richard Brown £100, Elizabeth Faiers £100 and Nicky Jenkins £100. These payments are permitted by sections 185 to 188 of the Charities Act 2011. Trustees were reimbursed £560 of expenses paid on behalf of the CIO, and payments totalling £1,402 were made to the treasurer for onward payment to third parties. No other trustee or connected person received any remuneration or benefit from the charity.

8. Restatement of 2024 comparatives

The 2024 comparatives have been restated. £1,984 of income from the congregation's own COIF investment, previously shown as a grant from the Chapel Charity, is now shown as investment income. The permanent endowment and trust property, previously shown separately, are now included as an endowment fund. Total 2024 receipts and payments are unchanged.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of York Unitarians CIO

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of York Unitarians CIO (the CIO) for the year ended 31 December 2025, which comprise the receipts and payments account, the statement of assets and liabilities and the related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have also assisted the trustees with the preparation of the revised accounts. The trustees have reviewed and approved the accounts and remain responsible for them.

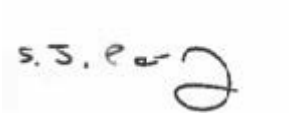
Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the CIO as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Without modifying my statement above, I draw attention to notes 2 and 8. The accounts include the linked charity, Trust Property held in connection with the St Saviourgate Unitarian Chapel (1181531-1), and its permanent endowment, and the 2024 comparatives have been restated. These accounts replace the version presented to members on 22 March 2026.

Signed: ……

……

Stephen Perry LLB FCAM CGMA FCII
Chartered Management Accountant
2a St Martins Lane, York, YO1 6LN
30th October 2026

Reports from sub-committees

The Trustees would like to extend their warmest thanks to everyone who so generously gives their time and expertise to ensure the smooth running of our chapel.

The following annual reports have been received from sub-committees:

Buildings

Members: Jen Atkinson (chair), Janet Eldred (secretary), David Harrap, Nicky Jenkins (through June 2025).

The subcommittee oversees fire safety, building and grounds maintenance, accessibility, and the quinquennial survey, advising the main committee on relevant matters.

Work Completed.

- Fire alarm and emergency lighting systems were installed. We extend grateful thanks to Jen Atkinson for securing a grant from the Leonard Chamberlain Trust to cover the full cost of this work.
- Fire extinguishers were serviced.
- The boiler and the expansion vessel under the kitchen sink were replaced and leak stopped.
- Following an unsatisfactory Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) in Dec 2024, remedial electrical works were completed, including installing new/updated circuit breakers and an electrical surge protector and rectifying faulty wiring. Separately, new LED bulbs in the pendant light fixtures in the sanctuary, were fitted.
- We thank Peter Exley and David Harrap for regular and swift attention to various maintenance matters, and we also thank Betty Rumsby and her

“team” of gardeners for the work they undertake to add beauty to our chapel frontage.

Work in progress and/or identified for 2026.

- Following professional advice, balcony access has been discontinued for the foreseeable future. We are arranging a fire risk and Health and Safety risk assessment of the balcony to determine what, if any, measures can be taken to return the balcony to use.
- Arrange for final stump removal of the old tree and planting of a new tree in the front garden.
- De-cluttering days will be arranged and all members encouraged to help out on those dates. It is important that these are carried out as part of our fire risk mitigation requirements to minimise fire hazards under stairs.
- Continue with annual checks and servicing (e.g. PAT testing, EICR, fire extinguishers, fire alarm and emergency lighting systems).
- Any work necessary in preparation for the next quinquennial survey (due February 2027).

We thank the trustees and chapel members for their support and patience as we continue to make our building safe, beautiful, and complaint with regulations.

Pastoral Care

Members: Jen Atkinson, Dee Boyle, Janet Eldred (team coordinator), Peter Exley, Joan Sinanan, Richard Thompson

As the Pastoral Care Group Mission Statement says, pastoral care is an integral part of any church or chapel community. We abide by the Unitarian principle of affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Our goal is to provide a service of hope and caring so that no member of our community feels alone.

In 2025, we continued gentle checking on members of the congregation to make sure that all was well with everyone. We offered support as and when needed and requested and within our capabilities. The type of care provided ranged from practical support (e.g. hospital visits, lifts to appointments) to confidential listening (on phone, email, Zoom, and in person) to signposting to relevant local services.

At the request of the trustees, we developed a policy and procedure for recognising (and celebrating, if wished) milestone birthdays and other significant events in the lives of chapel members. The Membership Secretary now maintains a digital record of how each member wishes to have these milestones recognised or celebrated.

Without a minister, there are times when the team is challenged to maintain the level of support we aim for, but we are good at looking out for each other and feel we have the ability to continue providing pastoral care. The watchful care that other chapel members provide for our community is much valued and appreciated in helping us continue what we do.

Social Action Group

The Social Action Group aims to nurture and support our community both within the chapel and locally in York, through organising or helping with events linked to our chapel charities and enabling people to take action on issues of social and environmental justice.

In March, 2025, we ran an Eco-Action Day in co-operation with staff at St Nicks, raising £450 as well as learning more about their work and enjoying a sponsored walk. In May, we helped with the organisation and catering for the York U3A's spring concert which raised £230 for Emerging Voices. This encouraged the charity to run their own concert in the chapel in November, raising another £218 giving a total of

£448 towards their funds. Earlier this year, 2026, we have, through Claire's chapel service in January, raised awareness within our congregation of the work of York Community Energy and, by the time of this AGM, will have helped their staff to raise funds from their lunchtime concert in the chapel on 6th February.

Two of our group, Joan and Dee, work regularly in conjunction with a local food bank and York City of Sanctuary organising welcome bags for refugees and asylum seekers arriving or staying temporarily in York. They deliver or organise delivery of the goods generously provided from our congregation. In addition, Joan has recently joined the team of Emerging Voices.

In June, some of the group supported individuals on the main committee with the Pride march and it has since been agreed that the Social Action Group will take responsibility for organising the chapel's presence at the Pride march: this does not include setting up and running a stall at the Knavesmire. We need more marchers please!

Group members have been prominent in helping with catering for the shared lunch at the end of Refugee week in June and Interfaith week in November and we have committed to planning these events as long as the preceding services are held in the chapel. We are especially grateful to Zoe for setting up a refreshment duty rota which has helped to dispel the inaccurate image that we are 'the catering group'.

If you know any local and social or environmental topics that the congregation should be aware of, please inform the Social Action Group, currently comprising Anje, Barbara, Claire Wilton, Dee and Joan.

Additional Reports

Music in the Chapel

In 2025 we held 20 concerts as part of the Chapel's series, which included 12 returning performers or groups, and 8 new. Audience numbers varied, and we sold 768 tickets for concerts in that time.

The total income from tickets was £5487, up from £4649 in 2024 - this gave £1834 income to the chapel in 2025. Within this year, from June's concert onwards, the ticket price was increased to £8, which doesn't seem to have made much difference to audience numbers - several people have said to me it still represents excellent value for money. Some of the chapel income currently goes to Performing Rights Society (PRS) payments, which vary from concert to concert but are mostly £33.79 for a concert with music by composers who are living or died less than 70 years ago, or £0 for older music. At present we do not take this out of performers' fees, and I would prefer for the series for it to remain this way - however for outside hires, the committee may want to consider whether this extra charge is passed on to them. To this end I have slightly changed the split of takings for the concert series from 2/3 to performer, 1/3 to chapel to a 60/40 split. A small change like this, based on 2025's income, would bring in an extra £360 to the chapel, to help offset PRS. Another option is to mention to performers that a concert of earlier music would avoid a cost to the chapel, however I'm keen that we don't restrict their choices of music and that audiences get to experience more modern music.
2026's series runs from 13th February to 23rd October, and there will be 19 concerts in that team.
I'm very grateful to volunteers Kay Federico, Joan Sinanan, Catherine Strachan, Meike Dux-Harrap and Malcolm and Margaret Hainsworth for their help in stewarding concerts.

Late Music are running a shorter season of concerts this year, from March to July, with some exciting professional performers - some more great value performances in our own chapel.

Outside hires of the chapel have included weekly rehearsals continuing for Soon Amore and U3A choirs, along with return bookings by York Opera and York Singing Academy. Other one-off hires have included local teachers running concerts for their students, and other performers or groups, some in aid of chapel charities. The committee may want to look at how the administration of these outside hires takes place, as there is more work involved for hirers who have not used the chapel previously, for example. I (David Hammond) am happy to continue gathering information for communications to the PRS, which is currently billed quarterly based

on all music outside of services that is performed publicly in the chapel. PRS distributes royalties to the composers of music who rely on it for all or part of their living.

We are lucky to have four musicians who can play for services, meaning that a musician is always available to play for services - these are Laura Jones, Sophie Ilango-Lyon, Nicky Losseff and me, David Hammond.

David Hammond

Unitarians in the community

During the last 12months York Unitarians have continued our work within the local community giving support and making contributions in many different ways to various organisations within the city.

Chapel members have supported Refugee Action York by taking part in Refugee Week and we held an Interfaith service in our chapel to mark the end of the week followed by a ‘bring & share’ vegetarian lunch afterwards. During the year we also help them by supporting some of their other projects to help refugees.

During the year we have continued to give support to York City of Sanctuary (YCoS) and one of our members is on the board of Trustees to keep us up to date with events and activities taking place or help that is needed. Our Chapel was one of the first faith groups to sign up to being a part of the work towards York gaining City of Sanctuary status originally and we have continued to support them ever since. YCoS take part in a ‘welcome café’ every other week where refugees can go for advice, support and also to meet with others for a meal and refreshments. Volunteers help in the kitchen and also to guide people to the correct areas of the café that can offer the best help for them. YCoS started a project just over a year ago where they put together a ‘Welcome Bag’ of food items so that every family arriving had some food to enable them to make meals for themselves while they settled in. York Unitarians have now become the main collection point for these bags and we organise the

delivery of the bags once they are filled. Together with others from York Interfaith Group we have now delivered over 220 bags to the newly arriving refugees.
Our chapel congregation has a group membership of York Interfaith Group (YIG) as well as us having several members who are individual members of the group also. The Vice Chairperson of YIG is a Unitarian and makes sure that Unitarians are represented in all events and plans for the future within the Interfaith work taking place within the city. Our chapel hosts several Interfaith services throughout the year and these are attended by people from many different faiths. We also organise several events in our chapel during Interfaith Week that is held in November each year. We have taken part in many different interfaith events throughout the year including vigils, rallies and special services in York Minster, York Mosque, Friargate Friends Meeting House as well as the City of York Council West Offices.

As Unitarians we continue to look outward to see what other organisations and groups may need our support within the community and either as individuals or as a congregation we try to help as many times as we can. Many thanks to all those who help in so many different ways towards our work within the community.
Dee Boyle

Colton's Hospital Almshouses Trust

Trust property held in connection with St Saviourgate Unitarian Charity
Charity number: 1181531-1

These are 12 Almshouses round a central lawn on Shipton Street off Burton Stone Lane in York. The money to build them was donated by Doctor Thomas Colton and his wife. He was the minister of St Saviourgate Chapel between 1692 and 1731. The majority of the eight trustees must be Unitarian; the remaining trustees are from the community local to the cottages. At present we have two trustees from St Luke's; the Anglican church which neighbours the cottages; Mrs Lesley Wilkinson and Dr Mike Tyler. Our chapel Trustees are Miss Dee Boyle, Dr John Issett and Mrs Joan Sinanan. We do need at least one new Unitarian Trustee, preferably two. If anybody is interested, then please contact me or why not have a chat with one of our Unitarian Trustees. Trustees have four in-person meetings during the year and have a WhatsApp page. We also keep contact by email if anything important crops up. Dr

Janet Eldred, who is an experienced chaplain has been our Volunteer Chaplain for the Cottages for several years. She contacts the residents regularly.
We now have very little damp in the cottages (probably none). 10 of the 12 cottages now have the Positive Input Ventilation systems installed in their attics. PIV systems consist of a devise that is placed in the loft space which filters and warms air from outside and then direct the warm, dry air into the property. One of the remaining residents has never had any problems with damp, the other resident is bedridden and neither the resident nor her family have complained of any damp problems.
During 2025 we had two cottages completely updated this included removal of baths, new walk-in showers, and other sanitary wear and new kitchens with hobs and ovens on the work surfaces. Both cottages were also redecorated internally. As soon as the cottages were completed, we advertised for new residents and interviewed 3 ladies. We are now full.
There is no more upset from the Duncombe Barracks site as most of their units are now occupied.
Again, we sang Christmas Carols round the cottages. This was much appreciated with many residents joining us and then inviting the singers to join them for Sherry, Mince pies and Christmas Cake.
In 2026 we hope to completely resurface all the paths and areas of hard standing. We also hope to have the external woodwork on the cottages and sheds repainted as it is over five years since this was last done.

Elizabeth Faiers
(clerk to the trustees)

Safeguarding

Joan Sinanan and Richard Brown continue in their roles as safeguarding leads, and the following safeguarding notices are displayed within the chapel:
We are committed to ensuring that everyone feels safe, respected and welcome here. Your safety and well-being are our top priority.
If you have any concerns about your own safety or the safety and well-being of someone else, please do not hesitate to reach out. You can confidentially contact our Safeguarding Leads Joan Sinanan and Richard Brown in person or by email at

Safeguarding@yorkunitarians.org.uk *or speak to any member of our committee: Zoe Bojelian; Richard Brown; Sue Cooper; Joan Sinanan; Jen Atkinson; Elizabeth Faiers, Dee Boyle and Nicky Jenkins.*
Your concerns will be taken seriously and handled with care and discretion.
All Trustees have previously undertaken generic on-line safeguarding training, but the Committee is currently looking into bespoke training for all trustees.

Statement of Public Benefit

York Unitarians is committed to providing public benefit in accordance with its charitable objectives. The chapel offers a welcoming and inclusive space for spiritual exploration, reflection, and community engagement. Our activities and services are open to all, regardless of faith or background, and we strive to create an environment where everyone feels valued and respected.

Key ways in which we provide public benefit include:

- Worship and Spiritual Reflection – Regular Sunday services provide an opportunity for spiritual growth, discussion, and connection. Services are open to all, offering a space for contemplation and shared reflection. A weekly Thursday meditation group that is open to everyone wishing to attend and that is followed by time for lunch and additional one to one time if needed.
- Community and Social Engagement – The chapel serves as a hub for local community activities, including discussion groups, social gatherings, and concerts. These events foster a sense of belonging and support among attendees.
- Cultural and Educational Opportunities – Through hosting lectures, musical performances, and talks, we contribute to the cultural enrichment of the wider community.
- Charitable Giving and Social Action – The congregation supports charitable initiatives, both locally and internationally, raising funds and providing assistance to those in need.
- Safeguarding and Inclusion – We are committed to ensuring that all individuals, particularly vulnerable members of society, feel safe and

supported. Trustees have undertaken safeguarding training, and clear safeguarding policies and contacts are in place.

- Historic and Architectural Preservation – As custodians of a historically significant chapel, we ensure its upkeep and make it accessible for visitors, contributing to the preservation of local heritage.

Through these activities, York Unitarians provides meaningful benefit to individuals and the wider community, fostering a spirit of inclusivity, support, and personal development.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this Annual Report and for all your work and support for York Unitarians CIO during the year.

DECLARATIONS

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report and the accounts above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



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Full name: Richard Charles Alfred Brown

Position: Treasurer

Date: 30th October 2026

St Saviourgate Unitarian Chapel, 31 St. Saviourgate, York, YO1 8NQ