THE YORK ORATORY TRUST (CIO)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1187865

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

THE YORK ORATORY TRUST (CIO)

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THE YORK ORATORY TRUST (CIO)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2025

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31st December 2025. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102), in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the Charity.

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS
The Charity's principal address is:
Petergate House
11, High Petergate,
York YO1 7EN

TRUSTEES
The Very Reverend Richard Duffield (Chair)
Rev. Daniel Seward
Rev. Stephen Brown
Rev. David Chadwick

All these Trustees served throughout the year and to the date of this report.

BANKERS
National Westminster Bank
3 Westborough,
Scarborough
YO11 1UH

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER
Hunter Gee Holroyd
Club Chambers
Museum Street
York YO1 7DN

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Legal Status
The Charity was established under a Trust Deed dated 11th February, 2020. It was registered as a CIO on 20th February, 2020. The Charity Number is 1187865.

Governance
New Trustees are appointed by existing Trustees.

The Trustees are appointed from among the voting members of the General Congregation of the York Oratory which is the governing body of the Congregation of the Oratory of St Philip Neri in York in Roman Catholic particular law.

The Trustees themselves are responsible for the day to day running of the charity under the leadership of the Provost of the York Oratory, presently, Fr Richard Duffield, who is also *ex officio* Chair of the Trustees.

The Trustees meet once a month for ordinary business, generally on the first Monday of the month, and as required for extraordinary matters relating to the charity.
There is a finance committee, appointed by the Trustees from among the charity's supporters, and made up of members with relevant experience and always including a member with expertise in finance. This committee meets quarterly.

The Trustees themselves are obliged to attend regular training provided by the Diocese of Middlesbrough in safeguarding, health and safety, data protection and the care of historic buildings. Since all the Trustees live under the same roof and attend all the meetings, any further relevant training is done through the regular meetings of the Trustees.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2025

Clergy stipends of the Trustees are set according to the provisions made in the Particular Statutes of the Congregation of the Oratory of St Philip Neri in York. Clergy receive a stipend according to their need and not exceeding the amount agreed for clergy salaries by the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Middlesbrough in which we work. This is reflected in the York Oratory Trust (CIO) governing document.

Risk Management
The Trustees have a risk management strategy based on the risk management strategy of the Diocese in which we work. This involves an annual review of the risks the Charity may face and the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks, and the implementation of procedures to mitigate any potential impact on the Charity should those risks materialise.

The Trustees consider that the Charity's main risks are those associated with financial sustainability, safeguarding, legislative compliance, and buildings.

Objectives and Activities
The Charity exists for the benefit of the public, the advancement of the Roman Catholic religion in England and particularly in, or in the vicinity of, the city of York and the county of North Yorkshire by, but not limited to, the provision of religious services and pastoral care in the region.

The York Oratory Trust (CIO) was founded to support a religious community, the Congregation of the Oratory of St Philip Neri in York, which was invited to undertake religious and pastoral work in the City of York and its vicinity by the Bishop of Middlesbrough, the Roman Catholic Diocese in which it works. In addition to providing the Diocese with the religious and pastoral services required by a parish, the Congregation of the Oratory also undertakes other activities particular to its own tradition.

The Charity's objectives and activities fall under the following broad headings:

- Religious and Spiritual Activities
- Pastoral Activities
- Social Activities
- Cultural Activities & Church Music

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE
Religious and Spiritual Activities
The main activity of the Charity is to provide Liturgy and Worship according to Roman Catholic rites in the parishes and chapels entrusted to us by the Diocese of Middlesbrough, St Wilfrid's Church, St Joseph's Church and the Shrine of St Margaret Clitherow in the Shambles. We also do this for the Chaplaincy of the University of York, in our Primary School and for a local religious community. We have two daily Masses in St Wilfrid's Church and six Masses (with two other sung services) every Sunday across all the Churches and Chapels entrusted to us. The parishes – especially St Wilfrid's – have a large number of Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

All the trustees and the other members of the York Oratory Community (including parishioners) are involved in giving spiritual talks for a wide variety of different audiences in the City of York and further afield. The "Talking Heads" Bible Study talks are repeated twice each week and are made available online. There are regular talks every Sunday afternoon for most of the year on Christian Art, Poetry and Church music. There are classes in Latin, Church Music and, according to demand, in New Testament Greek. These are all well-attended, attracting up to thirty people.

Many of the Trustees and Members of the Oratorian Community are engaged in giving spiritual retreats, conferences and lectures, both in the city of York and further afield. We also provide spiritual direction and counselling for a large number of individuals.

Pastoral Activities
The Parish has the care of a Catholic Primary School for which the community provides chaplaincy and governance. There is extensive parish visiting for the lonely and housebound, both by members of the community and by parishioners co-ordinated by the Parish Priest.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2025

The community also provides a Chaplain to the University of York who provides a service for the Roman Catholic students and who also works collaboratively with Anglican and Methodist colleagues in an Ecumenical Covenant. Priest members of the Oratorian Community take their turn in providing chaplaincy services in the York hospital and for religious communities in the district.

Social Activities
Together with the Trussell Trust we run a weekly Food Bank in St Joseph's Parish. There are also two groups of parishioners who provide relief for poverty through the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

Cultural Activities and Church Music
The Charity runs two choirs, one semi-professional and one amateur, who sing at the main services on Sundays. Apart from providing music for services the Director of Music is also charged with musical formation of parishioners across all our parishes. The choirs also gives sacred concerts, called Musical Oratories, on a regular basis.

The Charity is responsible for three listed buildings, St Wilfrid's Church, Petergate House and the Shrine of St Margaret Clitherow in the Shambles.

Plans for the Future
Restoration of the interior of St Joseph's Church.

Developing the property on High Petergate to provide accommodation for the community or for income for the Charity.

Order of Malta Group for social events for the elderly and lonely; Knights of the Holy Sepulchre group for social and charitable activities for the relief of poverty and loneliness; young adults group for faith formation and social activities. Religious instruction through talks and classes; the Church has been designated an official pilgrimage destination by the Diocese which had been and will continue to bring many visitors.

Reserves Policy
The Trustees have set a level of unrestricted or 'free' reserves that the Charity needs to have to bridge any shortfall between future income and expenditure levels (particularly in relation to increased utility bills and church fabric repairs costs) at a level of £250,000 which equates to approximately 12 months running costs. The total unrestricted reserves at 31st December were above this level at a total of £311,594.

The Trustees are conscious of significant capital works revealed by the last Quinquennial Report on the condition of the property, and that cost of living pressures are likely to increase.

Investment Policy
The trustees are aware of a need to develop an investment policy for the future and to avoid keeping more liquidity in current accounts than we need. We have opened an interest bearing account and will look at ways of establishing an investment fund governed by policies consistent with the Catholic Faith.

Volunteers
We recruit and train volunteers to help us meet different demands of our charitable objectives including administration, pastoral support, education and the maintenance of the church buildings and their contents. We have thirty regular volunteers.

Financial Review
The charity's main expenses are the maintenance of our property; the support of the clergy who, together with volunteers, undertake most of the work for the charity's objectives; and the training of new clergy to do this work in the future. The income comes from the donations of those who come to our churches, some rental income, and grants from charities which support the training of clergy.

The charity incurred an operating surplus in the year on unrestricted activities of £8,978. The total reserves at 31st December 2025 increased to £625,424 (2024 £313,593).

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2025

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities
The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on 31st March 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

V. R. Duffield

V. Rev. Richard Duffield
Provost & Chair of Trustees

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE YORK ORATORY TRUST (CIO)

I report on my examination of the financial statements of The York Oratory Trust (CIO) for the year ended 31 December 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet and related notes, which are set out on pages 8 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 (the Act); you consider that an audit is not required for this period under s. 144(2) of the Act and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. This examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which give me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

Mr. N C Everard BA FCA
Hunter Gee Holroyd
Club Chambers
Museum Street
York YO1 7DN

22nd July 2026

Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 December 2025

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£
Income from:			*Note 5*		
Voluntary income					
	Donations and giving	218,780	204,398	423,178	237,443
	Legacies	54,386	-	54,386	41,384
	Training grant	-	111,840	111,840	4,000
Generated income					
	Diocesan contribution	7,662	-	7,662	27,068
	Mass stipends and stole fees	9,495	-	9,495	5,100
Rental income		36,557	-	36,557	29,820
Investment income		2,511	-	2,511	3,858
Other income		19,913	14,985	34,898	25,987
Total income		349,304	331,223	680,527	374,660
Expenditure on: Charitable activities					
	Administration and office costs	14,639	-	14,639	11,734
	Church, liturgical and pastoral	135,638	-	135,638	152,308
	Community allowances	30,468	-	30,468	28,605
	Household expenses	68,311	-	68,311	59,568
	Property expenses	17,597	-	17,597	64,703
	Clergy training	-	22,725	22,725	15,309
	Utilities and insurance	55,819	-	55,819	63,989
	Other expenditure	17,854	5,645	23,499	12,862
Total expenditure	*Note 4*	340,326	28,370	368,696	409,078
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		8,978	302,853	311,831	(34,418)
Reconciliation of funds					
Funds brought forward at 1 January 2025		302,616	10,977	313,593	348,011
Funds carried forward at 31 December 2025		311,594	313,830	625,424	313,593

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 10-15 form part of these accounts.

Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2025

	Notes	2025	2024
		£	£
Current assets			
Debtors	2	2,746	73,770
Cash at bank and in hand		649,523	259,964
		652,269	333,734
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	3	(26,845)	(20,141)
Net current assets		625,424	313,593
Total net assets		625,424	313,593
Funds			
Restricted funds	5	313,830	10,977
Unrestricted funds	5	311,594	302,616
Total funds	6	625,424	313,593

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 31st March 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

V. Rev. Richard Duffield
Provost & Chair of Trustees

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1. Statement of accounting policies

Charity information
The York Oratory Trust is an incorporated charity.

Basis of preparation
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

Basis of accounting
The financial statements are prepared on an accruals basis.

Going concern
At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Income
Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to the income, the amount can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Church collections are recognised when received by the charity. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid is recognised when agreed by the Revenue.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected.

Resources expended
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice including costs relating to the Independent Examination.

Fund Accounting
Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Cash at bank
Cash at bank and in hand includes bank accounts, cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of 3 months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Creditors and provisions
Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

Tangible Fixed Assets
The Charity has the use of a shrine, two churches and related presbyteries which are in the ownership of the Diocese of Middlesbrough. No rights of ownership are vested with the Charity and therefore the Trustees consider that, for the purposes of the financial statements, the nature of ownership is that of a custodianship and therefore these properties have not been included.

Heritage Assets
No value is attributed to heritage assets on the basis that information on cost or valuation of the assets is not available and could not be obtained at reasonable cost. The age, variety and lack of comparable market data would make any attempt at valuation extremely onerous and costly compared with the benefit derived by the users of the accounts.

Taxation
The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

2. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	-	56,361
Prepayments and accrued income	2,746	17,409
	2,746	73,770

3. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	17,694	16,742
Accruals and deferred income	9,151	3,399
	26,845	20,141

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

4. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Religious activities	368,696	409,078
Direct costs		
Church, liturgical and pastoral	87,575	104,199
Music provision	48,063	48,109
Community allowances	30,468	28,605
Household expenses	68,311	59,568
Property expenses	17,597	64,703
Clergy training	22,725	15,309
Utilities and insurance	55,819	63,989
Other expenditure	21,294	7,935
Total	351,852	392,417
Support costs		
Administration and office costs	9,983	10,654
Website and IT consultancy	3,456	2,869
Bank charges	2,205	2,058
Governance	1,200	1,080
Total	16,844	16,661
Total	368,696	409,078

All support costs relate to charitable activities.

Expenditure on charitable activities was £368,696 (2024 £409,078) of which £340,326 was unrestricted (2024 £365,515) and £28,370 restricted (2024 £43,563)

Governance costs are Independent Examiners Fees of £1200.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

5. Funds

	Balance at 1.1.25	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31.12.25
	£	£	£	£
Restricted General funds:				
Priests' training	977	111,840	(22,725)	90,092
Shrine Fund	10,000	-	-	10,000
Special collections for third party charities	-	2,865	(2,865)	-
Patrimony Fund	-	147,554	-	147,554
Hall and Narthex Grant	-	54,940	-	54,940
St Wilfrid's Statue	-	5,000	-	5,000
Church Lighting Project	-	6,244	-	6,244
Library Appeal	-	2,780	(2,780)	-
	10,977	331,223	(28,370)	313,830
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	302,616	349,304	(340,326)	311,594
Total funds	313,593	680,527	(368,696)	625,424

The Priests' Training Fund is in respect of donations received and expenditure on clergy education.

The Shrine Fund relates to a specific donation from the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom for expenditure for the Shrine of St Margaret Clitherow.

The Hall and Narthex Grant represents monies received related to specific works in Clifton.

The Patrimony Fund represents monies received for capital costs on property occupied by the charity or which is used for the charity purposes.

The St Wilfrid Statue refers to monies raised for a statue of the church's patron saint.

The Church Lighting Project refers to monies raised to upgrade the church's lighting system.

The Library Appeal refers to funds raised to buy books for the community library required for the education of our clergy in training.

The Charity also has a bell tower maintenance fund which is a restricted fund with a balance at 31st December 2025 of £3,899 which has not been consolidated within the financial statements. The income in the year was £4,203 and expenditure was £2,850.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

6. Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31st December 2025 are represented by:

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Current assets	336,495	315,774	652,269
Current liabilities	(24,901)	(1,944)	(26,845)
Total net assets	311,594	313,830	625,424

Fund balances at 31st December 2024 are represented by:

Current assets	322,757	10,977	333,734
Current liabilities	(20,141)	-	(20,141)
	302,616	10,977	313,593

7. Commitments under operating leases

As at 31st December 2025 the total of the charity's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts due within one year	4,172	4,172
Amounts due between one & five years	8,691	5,215
	12,863	9,387

8. Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	21,121	5,952
Social security costs	3,781	-
Pension contributions	1,179	-
	26,081	5,952

There was one employee during the year (2024: nil).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

9. Transactions with Trustees

As members of the Congregation of the Oratory, the Trustees' living expenses during the year were borne by the Charity.

No payments are made by the Charity for the benefit of the trustees in their capacity as trustees, but payments are made to support the priests in carrying out their pastoral responsibilities.

10. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year other than those described in Note 9 above.