YORK UNITARIANS

News Sheet **February 2026**

CHAPEL NEWS

YORK FUTURE MINISTRY – message from the Chapel Trustees Committee

Last year the congregation charged the Trustees with finding a suitable half-time minister for York. Since then, they have explored every avenue to fulfil this requirement. This has involved discussions with the Ministry and Congregational Support Officer (Simon Bland), placing an advert on the GA Unitarian website, increasing the stipend above the GA recommended rate, approaching the Unitarian College for a trainee placement and informal investigations to see if any current minister is indicating a wish to move. There has not been any positive response.

In addition, it is not just a case of finding a minister. It is finding a minister to suit the York congregation. The Trustees can assure you they intend to keep on actively looking. In the meantime, we are asking the congregation to play their part in making things run smoothly.

1. **Worship Studies Training provided by the General Assembly through the Unitarian College**
   We have some very talented members of the congregation and to help them develop we are recommending that they apply to join the Worship Studies Course at the Introductory, Intermediate or Advanced levels. These courses are mainly on Zoom. The Trustees have agreed to fund in full all costs.

2. **General Volunteers**
   Currently we are struggling to fill the Sunday morning rota. This involves welcoming at the front door, bringing and arranging flowers and the important preparing and serving refreshments. If you are unsure about what these roles involve, just ask.

3. **Administrator**
   As well as congregational usage, we also let out the chapel, mainly to music groups. The Trustees have agreed to take steps with a view to employing a part-time Administrator, at least until we have a Minister.

   The Trustees will continue to keep the congregation up-dated on their search for a Minister. In the mean time they look to the congregation to provide support where they are able.

The next Chapel Trustees committee meeting will be on Sunday **8th Feb** after the service. If you have anything for them to include in their meeting, please let Zoe know so that she can add it to the agenda.

The Meditation Group meets on a Thursday morning. Doors open 10.30am and meditation starts at 11am. The session ends by 12midday with time for lunch and chats afterwards. Cuppa soups & drinks are available but otherwise please bring your own lunch with you.

The Poetry Group will meet again on **Wed 25th Feb** at 7pm at Marta & Simon's house. The topic is yet to be decided. An email will be sent out nearer the time once the group has chosen the topic.

OTHER NEWS

York Interfaith Group

Tuesday 3rd February is the first members meeting of the new year This month we have a guest speaker talking about some of **'The Indigenous Religions of Africa'**. **Bethel Omeife**, who organises Africa Day in York, will give a presentation on Indigenous African Beliefs, focusing on Nigeria.

Dates for your diaries

Chapel AGM – Our Chapel AGM will be on **March 22nd** after the morning service. There will be refreshments after the service as usual and then we will go straight into the AGM. Many thanks.

CONCERTS THIS MONTH

The official concert season is back again after the winter break. This month we have several concerts to get us off to a good start for 2026.

The first is for one of our Chapel Charities this year 'Community Energy' and it is a concert & a café.

Fri 6th Feb – 12.30 to 1.30 Concert with David Hammond (piano) and ESK (violin & guitar folk tunes). £5 entry on the door. This is followed at **1.40 to 2.30** by an **Energy Café.** Have your queries answered about managing your home to save energy. Share you experiences and chat to advisors. Tea & Cakes. For more information phone 01904 922249 or check out yorkenergyadvice.org.uk

The Friday Concert season at 12.30 commence with tickets costing £8 on the door.

13th Feb – Catherine Strachan (cello) and David Hammond (piano)

27th Feb – Jen Townsend (flute) and Dominic Degavino (piano)

The Late Music Concert season will be from March to July this year. More details to come in the March news sheet but if you want to know dates in advance, please check out https://latemusic.org The first concert will be on **Sat 7th March 7.30pm** with the Obert Quartet. £13 / £11 on the door.

WORSHIP LEADERS & SERVICES THIS MONTH

Feb 1st – Richard Brown (Candlemas / Imbolc)

Feb 8th – Marta Hardy (Holding On, Letting Go)

Feb 15th – Joan Sinanon (St Valentine's service,)

Jan 22nd – Nicky Jenkins ("Following in the footsteps of Heretics?")

Any news or information for the January news sheet, please send to Dee before 23rd February