YORK UNITARIANS

News Sheet **January 2026**

We hope you have all had a lovely festive season, a peaceful Christmas and a happy start to 2026

CHAPEL NEWS

Information from the Chapel Committee meeting

Elizabeth Faiers is continuing to organise the pulpit cover either by members of the congregation or visiting Ministers and Lay Readers. There are still some vacancies available for the next few months so if you are interested in leading a service yourself or working with someone else to deliver a service, please do contact her to find out which dates are still free on efaiers@gmail.com

There are going to be further chances for chapel members to attend Lay Preacher or Worship Leader training sessions during 2026 and so please do let a member of the committee know if you would be interested in attending.

We are aware that there are reduced numbers of the Purple Hymn Books in chapel and this was noticeable recently when we had a wedding and also a funeral in chapel. We know that some members may have copies at home to help them when preparing for services and some people may also have copies at home still after COVID when we all needed hymn books at home. If you have additional hymn books, either green or purple, at home that you are not using for services and that belong in chapel please could you return them so that we can see how many we actually have. We know that some people have purchased their own copies of the purple hymn book and these do not need to be returned to chapel of course as they are your personal copies. Many thanks.

The Social Action Group will be meeting on either Sunday **4th Jan or 11th Jan** after the service. They will be deciding on various projects for the year ahead and which of these may need action on behalf of York Unitarians. If you have any suggestions for them to include in their discussions, please let one of them know as soon as you can.

The Meditation Group will meet again on Thursday **8th Jan**. 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 28th Jan** 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 6th January was going to be the first meeting of the new year but this has now been cancelled. Instead, the YIG committee will be meeting to discuss plans for the York Interfaith Group in the future. They will meet at 7pm in West Offices, York. If you have any points that you would like to be included in their discussions, please send them to any member of the YIG committee before 5th Jan so that they can be placed on the agenda. The annual programme for the year 2026 may have to be changed and so as soon as a new programme is finalised a copy will be sent out to all members with the chapel notices. We will also be printing a new copy of it and this will be placed on the vestry noticeboard.

Dates for your diaries

The next **Pocket FUSE,** a mini festival of Unitarians in the South East **is on Saturday 21st February at Rosslyn Hill Chapel, London.** Christian nationalism is on the rise, but what exactly is it? It has been described as 'far-right nationalist politics cosplaying as piety'. How can Unitarians push back against this misappropriation of Christianity by a divisive far-right agenda? At the next Unitarian Pocket FUSE we will seek answers to these urgent questions.

For further details contact them on: **www.ldpaunitarians.org/pocket-fuse**
This event is free. Only 40 places available so be sure to book early.

Chapel AGM – Our Chapel AGM will be on **March 22nd** after the morning service. All reports from individuals and chapel groups need to be with the secretary by 31st January to ensure that they can be included in the Annual Report. Many thanks.

CONCERTS THIS MONTH

The official concert season is having a winter break now and will commence again in February 2026. There may be private concert bookings and these will be mentioned in notices.

WORSHIP LEADERS & SERVICES THIS MONTH

Jan 4th – Elizabeth Faiers (Serendipity Service for the start of the new year)

Jan 11th – Dee Boyle (What's on your Bookshelf?)

Jan 18th – Mieke Dux Harrap (Peace be with you)

Jan 25th – Claire Wilton (Open the Window)

Any news or information for the January news sheet, please send to Dee before 23rd January 2026