

York Minster - Community Matters Forum

Summary Minutes of Meeting | Wednesday 14 January 2026 | Shephard Room | 6.45pm–8.00pm

These summary minutes record the principal matters considered, decisions reached and actions agreed. They are not intended to be a verbatim record of the discussion.

1. Strategic Vision: Communication, Clarity and Belonging

Discussion summary

- The Forum considered communication within the worshipping community in the light of recent feedback and review work.
- Discussion covered clarity, consistency and visibility of information, and ways of strengthening belonging and participation across the community.
- Existing communication routes were reviewed, including Community Matters Gatherings, monthly drop-ins, clergy availability after services and email contact routes.
- An update was provided on the Welcome for All Charter, which is being finalised.

Decisions

- Communication will be the first practical focus of the Community Matters strategic vision.
- Summary minutes will be made available to the community on noticeboards, with online publication to be considered in future.
- The clergy member in residence will be identified in the weekly notice sheet.
- Safeguarding information will be included in every notice sheet.
- A member of the Visitor Experience team will be invited to a future Community Matters Gathering.

Actions

- Add information about communication routes to the Community Matters presentation slides.
- Ensure that the clergy member in residence is identified weekly in the notice sheet and explore ways of improving the visibility of clergy banners.
- Arrange photographs of CMF members for the community noticeboard.

2. Community Matters Gatherings

Discussion summary

- Planning updates were shared for forthcoming Gatherings.
- The Dean is due to speak at the February Gathering about the 800th anniversary of St William.
- The Lead Safeguarding Officer is expected to contribute to the April Gathering following completion of the relevant review work.
- Children's Church and Minster Walkers will also be invited to contribute.

Decisions

- Community Matters Gatherings will continue to provide community updates and opportunities for questions and discussion.

Actions

- Present information about the selected charities at a future Gathering once it has been finalised.
- The Social Action Group will prepare charity summaries for the April Gathering.
- Arrange volunteers to assist with Gathering setup.

3. Social and Whole-Community Events

Discussion summary

- The Forum considered future events for the whole community.
- The proposed Minster Mardi Gras remains on hold because of space limitations.
- Options for an event in May are being explored.
- The Ceilidh was reviewed as an established community event.

Decisions

- The Ceilidh will continue as an annual event.
- A whole-community event in May will be pursued if a suitable and practical option can be identified.

Actions

- Make arrangements for the next annual Ceilidh.
- Investigate practical options for a May event and report back to the Forum.

4. Discipleship and Formation**Discussion summary**

- The Lent Course, linked to a forthcoming book, will be open to visitors as well as regular worshippers.
- Future plans include Journey with the Saints in May and a possible autumn series, details of which are to be confirmed.
- The future format of Beer and Bible will be reviewed in the light of attendance levels.

Actions

- A nominated CMF member will coordinate refreshments for the Lent Course.

5. Social Action Group: Third Charity**Discussion summary**

- The Forum considered the selection of a third charity partner, with particular attention to work addressing homelessness.
- Long-term partnership and local impact were identified as important criteria.

Decisions

- Preference will be given to a York-based charity where this would enable meaningful local engagement and impact.
- Community suggestions will be invited before a final decision is made.

Actions

- CMF members should submit charity suggestions through the Social Action Group lead.

6. Generous Giving and Notice Sheets**Discussion summary**

- Generous Giving information was reviewed. The number of givers had decreased, while the total amount given had increased.
- The Forum considered the use of QR codes alongside the giving information.
- The distribution of weekly notice sheets was also discussed.

Decisions

- Everyone attending worship should receive, or be offered, a notice sheet.

Actions

- Locate the existing giving tokens and review whether the previous token system should be reinstated or revised.