

York Minster - Community Matters Forum

Summary Minutes of Meeting | Thursday 5 March 2026 | Shephard Room | 6.45pm–8.01pm

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. Community Visibility

Discussion summary

- The weekly service sheet is now being used consistently to identify the clergy member in residence.
- The display of photographs of community representatives and clergy will be considered as part of wider Visitor Experience work being undertaken by York Minster staff.

Decisions

- The inclusion of clergy member in residence in service/notice sheets be monitored.

Actions

- The Co-Chairs will monitor consistency and raise any lapses.

2. Communication and Minutes

Discussion summary

- The Forum reviewed a revised format for concise minutes to be shared with the wider community.
- The format is intended to record key discussions, decisions and actions while excluding personal, confidential and sensitive information.

Decisions

- The revised summary format was approved for future meetings.

Actions

- The Co-Chairs will arrange approval and wider distribution of the summary minutes.

3. Safeguarding

Discussion summary

- Safeguarding information is now included clearly on every service sheet.

Decisions

- No further action is required at this stage.

4. Generous Giving

Discussion summary

- The possible reintroduction of giving tokens was considered.
- The Forum also considered how giving data could support future planning.

Decisions

- The giving-token proposal will be revisited as part of future budget planning.

Actions

- The Co-Chairs will include giving tokens in future discussions about generous giving and progress further consideration of giving data.

5. Social Action Partnerships

Discussion summary

- An update was provided on the assessment of potential charity partners.
- The assessment will include opportunities for financial support, long-term partnership and practical community involvement.

Decisions

- The selection process should consider both financial support and opportunities for the community to participate in the partnership.

Actions

- Forum members will consider practical ways in which the community could engage with the future charity partner.

6. Discipleship and Formation

Discussion summary

- An increase in participation in current teaching programmes was reported, including attendance by both established and newer members of the community.

- Plans include a summer series linked to the St William anniversary, with possible use of relevant national resources.
- Possible themes for 2027 include baptism and diocesan rhythms of life.

Decisions

- Planning will continue for a coordinated annual programme of teaching, supplemented by occasional special events.

Actions

- The Co-Chairs will explore relevant national resources and future programme ideas.

7. Community Event

Discussion summary

- The Forum considered plans for a community event in May.
- A Desert Island Discs-style evening, potentially including a shared meal and guest speaker, was identified as the preferred format.

Decisions

- Planning will proceed on this basis.

Actions

- The Co-Chairs will approach potential guest speakers and develop the arrangements.

8. Community Matters Gathering

Discussion summary

- The next Gathering will include a safeguarding presentation and updates from social action and children's ministry.
- It will also include an exercise to gather community feedback and inform future Forum priorities.

Decisions

- Feedback and consultation will become a regular feature of Community Matters Gatherings.

Actions

- The Co-Chairs will coordinate the programme and practical arrangements, including room setup.

9. Volunteer Roles and Hospitality

Discussion summary

- The Forum considered the resourcing of hospitality activities and the expectations placed on volunteers.

Decisions

- Any additional volunteer duties should be clearly defined and appropriately resourced.

Next Meeting Dates

- Wednesday 6 May 2026
- Wednesday 8 July 2026
- Wednesday 9 September 2026
- Wednesday 11 November 2026