

York Minster - Community Matters Forum

Summary Minutes of Meeting | Wednesday 6 May 2026

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. Previous Minutes

Discussion summary

- The minutes and summary minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed.

Decisions

- The minutes and summary minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

2. Local Charity Partnerships

Discussion summary

- A conflict of interest was declared in relation to one of the organisations considered.
- The Forum received an update on the assessment of local charities working at different stages of homelessness prevention, immediate support and longer-term recovery.
- A proposed framework of Prevent – Respond – Rebuild was considered as a basis for supporting three complementary charity partners.
- Existing commitments to HOPE Africa and Mustard Seed will continue within the six-year model previously agreed.
- The Forum also considered opportunities for practical community involvement alongside financial support.

Decisions

- Restore York, The Island and Carecent will be supported under the Prevent – Respond – Rebuild framework.

Actions

- The Social Action Group will contact the three charities to inform them of the decision.
- The Forum will arrange opportunities for the Minster community to meet and engage with the charities at future Community Matters Gatherings.

3. Minster Island Discs

Discussion summary

- The Forum received an update that 120 people had registered for Minster Island Discs.
- The event had therefore been moved from the Lady Chapel to the Nave. Refreshments would no longer be provided as originally planned.

4. Community Cream Tea

Discussion summary

- The Community Cream Tea will follow the established format, with refreshments in the Dean's Garden, seating and tables, and a dedicated children's play space.
- The Forum considered the volunteer support required for setting up the event.

Decisions

- The Community Cream Tea will proceed in the established format.

Actions

- The Co-Chairs will liaise with the Volunteer Manager about support for setting up the event.

5. Visitor to Worshipper Pathway

Discussion summary

- The Forum considered the draft Visitor to Worshipper Pathway, which explores how visitors might be welcomed into intentional membership of the worshipping community.
- Discussion covered student engagement, welcome events, volunteering, digital communication and regular opportunities for members of the community to meet clergy and CMF members.
- Strategic responsibility for the pathway rests with the Senior Executive Team and Chapter.

Decisions

- The draft pathway was welcomed in principle and will be reviewed after further comments have been received.

Actions

- A member will submit proposed tracked changes to the Co-Chairs.
- The Co-Chairs will explore regular opportunities for community members to meet clergy and CMF members.
- Members will submit any further comments to the Co-Chairs before the document is reviewed.

6. Feedback from the Community Matters Gathering

Discussion summary

- The Forum received feedback from the April Community Matters Gathering.
- A safeguarding update included reference to the INEQE report, and the Forum considered how related information is communicated to the worshipping community.
- The Forum sought clarification about how members of the community could participate in a proposed focus group.
- Feedback was also received about Holy Week, the visiting preacher and the Lent course.

Decisions

- Clear communication with the worshipping community will remain an ongoing priority.

Actions

- The Co-Chairs will seek clarification about participation in the proposed focus group.

7. Deanery Synod and CMF Membership

Discussion summary

- Conal Gregory was appointed to Deanery Synod without the need for an election, as no other nominations had been received.
- The Forum considered the process for filling the remaining Deanery Synod vacancies and noted that these may be treated as casual vacancies, subject to confirmation.
- The Forum also reviewed its co-opted membership.

Decisions

- Further work will be undertaken to assist Chapter in filling the two remaining Deanery Synod vacancies.
- Ehren Mierau was appointed as a co-opted member of the Community Matters Forum.

Actions

- The Co-Chairs will clarify the process for filling the Deanery Synod vacancies with the Chapter Clerk.
- Members will submit possible nominations privately to the Co-Chairs.
- The Co-Chairs will confirm whether the relevant existing co-opted members wish to continue.

Next Meeting Dates

Discussion summary

- Wednesday 8 July, Wednesday 9 September and Wednesday 11 November 2026.