

# YORK LIBERAL JEWISH COMMUNITY

England & Wales · Charity number 1166145

## Details

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**Other names** YLJC

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2016-03-21

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Lytchett House  
13 Freeland Park  
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BH16 6FA

**Phone** 03001020062

**Email** [info@jewsinyork.org.uk](mailto:info@jewsinyork.org.uk)

**Website** [jewsinyork.org.uk](http://jewsinyork.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE THE ADVANCEMENT OF LIBERAL JUDAISM, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY THE PROVISION OF A PLACE OF PUBLIC RELIGIOUS WORSHIP AND ARRANGING AND CONDUCTING RELIGIOUS SERVICES AND UNDERTAKING SUCH OTHER RELIGIOUS, EDUCATIONAL, RECREATIONAL AND CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES AS THE TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME DECIDE IN FURTHERANCE OF THIS PURPOSE.

**Activities:** York Liberal Jewish Community's only activities are the advancement of Liberal Judaism. In particular, but not exclusively, by the provision of public religious worship, arranging and conducting religious services and undertaking other religious duties such as religious, educational, recreational and charitable activities.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Religious Activities, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- **Area of benefit:** LOCAL
- City Of York
- North Yorkshire

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-04	£52,493	£56,819	-	-
2024-04-04	£62,518	£73,976	-	-
2023-04-04	£17,317	£17,584	-	-
2022-04-04	£29,703	£8,397	-	-
2021-04-04	£39,498	£9,978	-	-

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
Julia Beaumont		2026-02-07
Lucy Skelton-Meech		2024-10-01
Rachel Ralphs		2026-02-07
Sarah Hubbard		2026-02-07

**YORK LIBERAL JEWISH COMMUNITY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1166145

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# Accounts

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## YLJC AGM – TRUSTEES REPORT

It has been difficult to put down in print just what a privilege the last 2 years have been as Chair of YLJC.

In previous reports and articles I know I have made mention of my pride having been given the honour and trust of the keys to the door of this wonderful growing community and I am still not quite sure how to express my gratitude.

There have been a number of highlights during my tenure but I will focus on what we have achieved and accomplished in 2025.

First and foremost we held 3 amazing Festival Celebrations where we hosted between 60/70 people at each event.

- 1) Purim: Purim in Austria was hosted by Rabbi with a wonderful cast of our youngsters and students. An amazing night of pure fun, food and community.
- 2) Pesach: A Seder at Clements Hall, hosted by Lucy and the committee
- 3) Rosh Hashanah: First night tradition and sharing, being together as our growing extended family.

We have continued to have and celebrate 6 Shabbat Services a month (2 Erev Shabbat Friday nights, 2 family services and 2 Saturday Shabbat services) – at times our numbers in attendance seem small if you count up the numbers across these Services we are between 30 and 40 attendees per weekend (with no double counting) which is what we used to get on a monthly basis in the “old days” so it’s wonderful to see our growth but if I have an ask as we move into the new regime, with a new committee is to see more of our community at services more regularly and attend events.

Chanukah was celebrated and once again YLJC made history – with an event every day of the week either online (together with friends and members from London, Leeds and York), Rabbi Elisheva hosted our first Public lighting in front of the Mansion House (3<sup>rd</sup> night). We had support from various Civic Leaders, and together with community members and the public we were around 50 people (excluding on lookers). It was incredible.

6<sup>th</sup> night we celebrated not only Channukah in Clifford’s Tower, but it was Shabbat and we also celebrated “welcoming the stranger” which was supported by our Social Action committee. We had almost 100 tickets allocated, with a turnout of over 80 and we had numerous Civic and Religious Leaders attend including Canon Maggie and the Archbishop from York Minster and 3 York MPs and their families were there too. Special thanks must go to Lilian Coulson our Engagement officer for her help and co-ordination and ongoing support of this event together with our Gabbe Howard Duckworth.

The support to myself and the community from North Yorkshire police regarding the above events providing us the opportunity to continue with our visibility and services and keeping us as safe as they could. I have written and called personally to express my thanks and gratitude.

Unfortunately in the past year as we know only too well we have witnessed 2 terrible and frightening attacks on our communities, one so close to home in Manchester, and of course Bondi Beach many of us knew of people personally affected by both. The only positive out of all this was the amount of and the outpouring of support from various Faith leaders, strangers, and general kindness. I personally received over 60 emails of support into the Chair mailbox during these times from people and I know that Rabbi Elisheva and other members of the committee received

additional thoughts and prayers and I made sure these were all responded too as it's so important to acknowledge kindness.

Our HHD were well attended this year, we have our own YLJC Machzorim which we will now use year on year. We also had the most generous and successful HHD Charity Drive this year with over £7000 raised for our 3 chosen charities) I know I thanked you at the time but again it just shows what an incredible group of kind and generous people our community is made up.

None of the above would have been possible without our very own Rabbi Elisheva. One of my greatest moments in this role came in the past couple of months when we renewed Rabbi's contract, this is now a permanent part-time contract and we look forward to many more years together as York remains her home and us her growing and thriving community.

YLJC is beginning to get far reaching visibility across the UK thanks to the dedication of Rabbi Elisheva. We continue to grow, this year we have seen a further 3 members of our community pass the Beth Din and we have a steady flow of new students who are reaching out to YLJC from across all of North Yorkshire to learn, become members and study with Rabbi Elisheva. We have celebrated another 3 Bat Mitzvah's with a fourth only a few short months away.

Rabbi hosts a Shabbat Family service, attended by our families bi-monthly and it's wonderful to see the next generation amongst us.

Rabbi Elisheva has also overseen our first Adult Education course for the past 8 months (Yeshivat HaNefesh), the focus of this was to spend some time stretching ones intellect with no grades. Broadening your Jewish text understand and subjects included prayer, the Talmud, Jewish mysticism, moral understanding, and progressive Jewish philosophy. This we hope is the beginning of many more.

The committee which today I leave behind me has gone from strength to strength and we have various sub-committees including Social Action, Eco-Judaism, Interfaith and we are looking at creating a new focus on Mental Health and Well-being. We have also established the first Ritual Committee that oversees and ensures correctness and Halacha.

I am not going far and will continue to support our new committee as they take on the mantle of this wonderful community. I look forward to seeing you all at our services, events and celebrations over the coming months.

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart for the support and kindness you have shown me.

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**York Liberal Jewish Community  
Receipts and payments account**

DRAFT 9/05/2025

**Year ended 4 April 2025**

	Unrestricted funds	Bursary fund (restricted)	Total funds	2024	budget 25/26
<b>Receipts</b>					
General donations	2,373		2,373	3,161	3500
High holy day appeal	4,002		4,002	940	
Donations for Rabbi's salary & expenses	15,000		15,000	38,500	15000
Gift aid	4,238		4,238	-	5000
Conversion rebate	600		600	-	-
Interest	1,009		1,009	1,166	1000
Events and school talks income	-		-	-	950
Membership fees	25,271		25,271	18,751	20000
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>52,493</b>		<b>52,493</b>	<b>62,518</b>	<b>45,450</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Accountancy fees	1,411		1,411	1,092	2,000
Bank charges	139		139	95	150
Charitable contributions	2,840		2,840	250	-
Insurance - other	1,126		1,126	479	500
Service expenses	1,355		1,355	993	750
Rabbinic salary	27,549		27,549	41,458	32,000
Rabbinic expenses	325		325	7,108	500
Rabbinic pension	3,625		3,625	-	4,000
Room booking	3,424		3,424	11,553	5,000
Cheder teachers	560		560	45	800
Newsletter	158		158	148	-
Postage, stationery etc			-	206	300
Social action	273		273	369	50
Subscriptions	926		926	5,797	4,000
Sundry expenses	1,008		1,008	4,317	500
Telephone	165		165	66	275
Website	540		540	-	720
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>45,424</b>		<b>45,424</b>	<b>73,976</b>	<b>51,545</b>
<b>Net receipts</b>	<b>7,069</b>		<b>7,069</b>	<b>(11,458)</b>	<b>(6,095)</b>
<b>Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>49,750</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>53,750</b>	<b>65,208</b>	<b>60,819</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>56,819</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>60,819</b>	<b>53,750</b>	<b>54,724</b>

**Statement of assets at 4 April 2025**

**Cash assets**

Current account	5,768
Savings accounts	55,051
	<u>60,819</u>

**Funds**

General fund	56,819
Bursary fund-restricted	4,000
Total funds	<u>60,819</u>

**Rabbi's pay**

£25,000 at £2,083 pcm

Employer pension

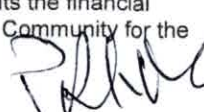
£562 for the year

No Employer NI

Signed by a trustee on behalf of all the trustees



Signed by an independent examiner Paul Silver-Myer FCCA on 16th January 2026, who has reviewed the above account and confirms that it accurately represents the financial transactions of the York Liberal Jewish Community for the year ended 4 April 2025



16th January 2026

**York Liberal Jewish Community  
Receipts and payments account**

DRAFT 9/05/2025

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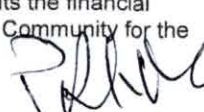
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Signed by an independent examiner Paul Silver-Myer FCCA on 16th January 2026, who has reviewed the above account and confirms that it accurately represents the financial transactions of the York Liberal Jewish Community for the year ended 4 April 2025



16th January 2026

**YORK LIBERAL JEWISH COMMUNITY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1166145

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# Accounts

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I cannot believe that it is 14 months since the day I was elected Chair of YLJC was one of immense pride and a little trepidation. There was also a little sadness that neither of my parents were alive to have witnessed my love and commitment to YLJC. Both my parents spent many years as Chair persons, my dad of the Windhoek Hebrew Congregation and my mum the local and national chair for the Union of Jewish Woman both in Windhoek and then in Cape Town, I suppose in some way this is me carrying on that same tradition.

Being one of the first Chairs to be in situ with our first Rabbi in almost 800 years is beyond comprehension in many ways and together with the existing committee I am so grateful to be part of it all. Proud seems an understatement.

We have achieved an amazing amount in the past year, a lot would not have been possible without Rabbi Elisheva and her outreach work and engagement across York and many communities has been immense.

Finally before my list of achievements below, we cannot forget that none of this would have been possible without the dedication, time and engagement of Ben Rich, one of our founders and figurehead of YLJC and those members like Lilian, Katrina, Shannon, Lee and others who helped create this from nothing 10 years ago.

#### **Achievements & YLJC in a year:**

- Celebration of 10 years of YLJC – with special thanks to Lilian Coulson for her Organisation. We were almost 70 people, with 25 guests including Interfaith Leaders, Rabbi Charley Baginsky and many more.
- 4 Shabbat Services a month.
- 2 family services a month (the wee ones are growing, we have a regular cohort of 5 “littlies” attending our family services  
Relaunch of the YLJC website & Membership database
- Relaunch of the amazing Jews in the Ouse Newsletter  
Pesach Seder this year saw YLJC friends and family joined by new friends for an amazing 68 strong Seder.
- Our very own engagement officer, Lilian Coulson who in her professional capacity as a Town planner continues to fly the flag for YLJC with the ongoing Jewbury Project and The development of the Eye of York together with the support of Rabbi Elisheva and Howard Duckworth.
- Interfaith & Social Action – these functions would not be possible without Jay Prosser and Sarah Hubbard, allowing our interaction and celebration of Faith Week, Mizvah day and the ongoing growth of Tikun Olam. We have had the amazing input and support of Stuart Diamond, CEO of Mitzvah Day spend the day in York and partake in our Shabbat Services as well as the Interfaith Service hosted by Rabbi Elisheva in November 2024.
- HDD where quite something this year: The most successful first night, YLJC traditional Rosh Hashanah Seder, we had another wonderful evening of new friends, a little tradition and learning and wonderful meal attended by 70 people, we look to 2025 to only make these bigger & better. Services were well attended for Kol Nidre as well as the full day of Yom Kippur, with a little something for everyone including

the family service, community services, Jonah and Yiskor. We celebrated Havdalah and broke the fast together as a community which again was truly special. Our HHD fundraising was literally record breaking with 3 charities receiving over £1200 each from YLJC. (quite something)

- Rabbi Elisheva and myself were invited this year to attend the York Armistice Day Parade and for the first time in our history, we were part of the group of Faith Leaders, VIPs and York City Councillors who walked together behind the various veterans and service men and woman and then laid a wreath on behalf of YLJC. It was one of the greatest privileges I have experienced personally and as part of YLJC.
- In the past year we have welcome 5 Jews by Choice into our Congregation and Community and I am delighted and proud. Rabbi Elisheva continues her engagement and growth of the Conversion class and we have a current class of approximately 20 conversion students.
- Our Cheder classes have begun, and we have a cohort of 3, possibly 4, Bnei Mitzvah students who have begun their studies with Rabbi Elisheva, this to me is one of the most exciting times not just for our families (and the stresses that go with it) but that it shows and celebrates the importance of adulthood in our community.
- A committee of dedicated friends of YLJC who have all gone above and beyond to bring Rabbi Elisheva on board, to help support and grow our community and make us who we are. Thank you to Ben, Howard, Lilian, Lucy, Jay, John, Owen, Ruth and Sarah and to Lauren, Mim and Rosie for their help and support in the early months of my tenure.

We continue to pray for the safe return of the hostages in Israel, for peace and cessation of war. The news tonight as I write this (18/01/2025) brings a glimmer of hope for the return of the hostages back to their loved ones and we pray for all those who are not returning.

I look very forward to 2025, to building our community with the foundation of old members and of new members. I look, together with the committee, to keeping those traditions going, bringing in new families, new traditions and growth for today, tomorrow and many many more years of a growing, Jewish community in York.

## York Liberal Jewish Community Receipts and payments account

Year ended 4 April 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Bursary fund (restricted)	Total funds	2023
<b>Receipts</b>				
General donations	3,161		3,161	3,487
High holy day appeal	940		940	480
Donations for Rabbi's salary & expenses	38,500		38,500	-
Interest	1,166		1,166	242
Membership fees	18,751		18,751	13,108
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>62,518</b>		<b>62,518</b>	<b>17,317</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Accountancy fees	1,092		1,092	474
Bank charges	95		95	78
Charitable contributions	250		250	90
Insurance - other	479		479	401
Service expenses	993		993	282
Rabbinic salary	41,458		41,458	-
Rabbinic expenses	7,108		7,108	9,559
Rabbinic pension	-		-	-
Room booking	11,553		11,553	2,994
Cheder teachers	45		45	355
Newsletter	148		148	-
Postage, stationery etc	206		206	-
Social action	369		369	-
Subscriptions	5,797		5,797	3,034
Sundry expenses	4,317		4,317	245
Telephone	66		66	72
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>73,976</b>		<b>73,976</b>	<b>17,584</b>
<b>Net receipts</b>	<b>(11,458)</b>		<b>(11,458)</b>	<b>(267)</b>
<b>Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>61,208</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>65,208</b>	<b>65,475</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>49,750</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>53,750</b>	<b>65,208</b>

### Statement of assets and liabilities at 4 April 2024

#### Cash assets

Current account	8,604
Savings accounts	45,146
	<u>53,750</u>

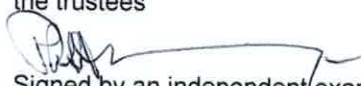
#### Funds

General fund	49,750
Bursary fund-restricted	4,000
Total funds	<u>53,750</u>

#### Liabilities

Pension contributions to be paid	1,340
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Signed by a trustee on behalf of all  
the trustees





B RICH

Signed by an independent examiner Paul Silver-Myer FCCA on  
8th July 2024, who has reviewed the above account and confirms  
that it accurately represents the financial transactions of the York  
Liberal Jewish Community for the year ended 4 April 2024

**YORK LIBERAL JEWISH COMMUNITY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1166145

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# Accounts

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**Trustees' Report**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**2 December 2023**

2023 has certainly been a busy and eventful year. And a historic one for York, where we have now appointed and have in post York's first resident Rabbi in over 800 years, and its first ever Progressive Rabbi. We continue to make our mark on both our local and the world's stage, hopefully showing that size does not matter, making our voices heard, and growing our membership and community.

It has always been my aim as Chair to ensure that YLJC should be an inclusive and welcoming community, where everyone can participate in those things of interest and/or meaningful to them and, hopefully, that widens as they get to know us and we offer more opportunities for learning and to get to know each other. For my part as Chair these past years, I have always said that as equally important as the religious side, YLJC aims to be your Jewish 'family' in York. We celebrate Shabbat and all festivals together – with an amazing attendance level for a community our size – and are increasing our offer of activities for all ages and interests. The Committee has spent the past year working hard and, to keep doing this, we need to all be proactive and to work together to build our community spirit and Jewish life in York, whilst continuing to keep everyone safe.

Our membership has once again increased and we currently have circa 100 members, including children and students, of whom circa 70 are active Full members and Friends. Our Vice Chair Shaan Bloch has also been our Membership Secretary and has been very efficiently contacting those regulars / members whose membership forms and / or fees may have fallen through the cracks and also correlating this with our Treasurer Miriam Hoffman, and encouraging new members too. We need membership to enable us to pay our way, but also to get to know better those we engage with and what services we can offer and provide together to better build our community. As Chair, I have had the pleasure of speaking to various people of all ages and interests wanting to engage with and potentially join us, as well as of course to many of our regular members (and their families) through both good times and the more difficult ones. We have received many supportive contacts more recently, happily due to the publicity we have engendered with Rabbi Elisheva joining us but also now sadly due to the current horrendous Israeli / Palestinian conflict. We welcome these new Members and Friends to our community. I have also engaged with many at Liberal Judaism and the wider Progressive movement both within Yorkshire and nationally, who support us at York in so many ways.

Throughout this year's provision of services and events, we had strong levels of attendance and participation, so that we now hold twice monthly erev and morning Shabbat services. I would like to especially thank Sam Borin and Ruth Morris who regularly led our Shabbat evening services for a long period, as well as Howard Duckworth, our warden, who continued and expanded these, and now hosts them with Rabbi Elisheva.

For the first half of the year, our 'current' Student Rabbi Rafe Thurstance stayed on as our spiritual leader and educator. He started with us in September 2021, and agreed to stay on for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year to provide continuity for all. He consistently travelled up to York, whilst continuing his Rabbinic training at the Leo Baeck College in London, provided us with a stimulating and considered pastoral range of services, especially his Shabbat morning services and festivals, J101 discussions and our in-house conversion course (undertaken with Rabbi Danny Rich). Thanks, Rafe, for all your past work leading our community.

We had been advertising for a fully qualified Rabbi to join us as our resident York Rabbi for a while, and wonderfully Ben Rich, who has led our search and the appointment process, encouraged Rabbi Elisheva Salomo to come and meet us and the rest, so they say, is history (literally). Once she agreed to sign up as our resident Rabbi in York, Ben worked closely with her to agree terms and assist with visas, manage the complicated paperwork etc and he now supports her work and has helped publicise her joining us, and also leads our much-needed fundraising. Rabbi Elisheva joined us late summer in time to lead the High Holidays and is working for the first 6 months full time, and then will be half time as per the advertised post (and until we can afford to make it full time and our membership grows). Rabbi Elisheva, you are already making a difference by expanding what we do, encouraging all ages of our community to join in and join us, and inspiring and teaching us all. Thank you for joining us; we look forward to working with you. And a huge thanks to Ben for helping make it happen and for his ongoing support and work.

YLJC's activities this special year commenced last December with a very special Chanukah celebration. Organised in collaboration with North Yorkshire Police, we lit our Chanukah lights for the first time ever in Clifford's Tower, the first Jewish ceremony within its walls in over 800 years. The event was attended by over 70 guests from across the North of England, including from City of York Council, The Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell and English Heritage. The event was a watershed moment in York's history, and a symbol of the City's commitment to being a City of Sanctuary and Human Rights as we stood together with our fellow Yorkshire Jews and interfaith friends to light the Chanukah candles and sing the Ma'oz Tzur together.

We celebrated all the other festivals together, including a Purim service / megillah reading led by Sam Borin. We held a successful 'in person' Pesach community Seder led by Rafe. And continued that with Rabbi Elisheva leading our Rosh Hashanah Seder and a full suite of meaningful and inclusive High Holiday services and activities. The family highlight of Yom Kippur was our amazing children who acted out the Book of Jonah in such confident and characterful style. A joint Succah building with our Friends at the Meeting House was enjoyed by all, and was a lovely way to join together with our hosts there. A huge thanks to the whole Committee for everyone's work in preparing and making all of these and other events happen so seamlessly, and to Howard especially for always being there standing by the Rabbi's side throughout all services.

To re-concentrate on and engage with our children, Cheder is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Shabbat of the month, and Rabbi Elisheva is now expanding our programme to reach out to all ages, including a short family service suitable for smaller children before Cheder, and reviewing our education and activities programme for all. We so enjoy involving our youngsters in our services and events, seeing them grow and develop, with Cheder teaching them Hebrew as well as the meaning behind much of what we do. Please contact Rabbi Elisheva if you have yet to sign your child(ren) up. She will continue to work with Beth Thorpe our 'Youth Champion' in bringing lots of family activities for you all to engage in.

And huge congratulations to Sam who recently celebrated his Bar Mitzvah, very much in his own style. In a difficult time in the wider world, he brought joy to his family and our community. We are so proud of him, and his commitment to a Jewish life and our LJ values. With another BM scheduled for next year, our community continues to inspire and thrive and we truly love that of our youth.

In a wider community perspective, we are proud to confirm that YLJC is now very much York's Jewish representative community and is the 'go to' Jewish faith contact within the City. This has been emphasised by the various events this year at which I and other members of the Committee have been delighted to represent YLJC. We continue to work with English Heritage and others regarding Clifford's Tower and the Eye of York area, and have spoken to schools and continue to help plan / be involved in events there (eg the recent Tracey Ann Oberman candle procession with Rabbi Elisheva, and our forthcoming Chanukah lighting), and with the Castle Museum where the Clifford's Tower commemoration was held this year (led by Sam Borin as Chair of the HMD Steering Group). Our relationship with York Minster has strengthened further over the year, especially with the Dean and Canons, and included my reading a lesson at York Minster's Carol Service and our annual involvement in the Holocaust Memorial 600 Candles event. I also represented YLJC at various events there together with the Civic Party and other faith leaders, including the Royal Maundy Service attended by the King and Queen in April and also at the Coronation Service on 7 May, where all faiths were actively included in the service and processions as per Westminster Abbey.

I have been working with Rabbi Elisheva to introduce her to our wider community, and we were officially welcomed by the Lord Mayor and Civic Leaders to the Mansion House in September, in recognition of her historic appointment and to emphasise their continued commitment to work with and support their Jewish community here. Likewise, meetings and relationships are ongoing with York Minster, the Archbishop of York, and our Interfaith friends of all religions. Sarah Hubbard has this year worked tirelessly as our representative at York Interfaith Group and we thank her for this important role, where we stand together with our Interfaith Friends in this City of Sanctuary. Especially important in recent times, she helped organise York Interfaith Group 'Prayers for Peace' event – where a small group of us as each Interfaith leads stood together with our Civic leaders, Police etc to pray for peace in the Middle East. Likewise, York Minster hosted a multi-faith Vigil for Peace in Israel and Gaza, where Miriam Hoffman represented us and spoke beautifully, and was attended by 1,100 people.

On a wider Yorkshire perspective, I have been working throughout the year with a team led by Laurence Saffer of LJRC to seek to engage those Jews declaring themselves Jewish in the census but not engaging. This included Leeds Sinai and Bradford synagogues, our fellow Progressive communities, with whom we intend to continue that relationship as part of the wider national progressive tie up. This culminated in an event called 'Beit Yorkshire' held in October in Leeds, Huddersfield and Bradford, and was well attended throughout by Civic dignitaries and faith leaders of

these cities, including the Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire. We were delighted that the Shabbat morning service at the Holocaust Memorial Centre North, based at Huddersfield University, was led by LJ CEO Rabbi Charley Baginsky and our Rabbi Elisheva, followed by lunch and talks and a tour of this important centre. The timing and location were especially poignant given the current crisis, and again an important interfaith event where we all stood together for peace, whilst remembering previous atrocities.

Social Action remains an important part of what we do, and this is so ably instigated and led by Jay Prosser. He attended the Mitzvah Day awards in March when we were nominated and is now offering to take our scroll down for the MST event in 2024, to commemorate their arrival 60 years ago. He also organised and led with Shannon a fantastic day of work for Mitzvah Day, where a team from YLJC gave themselves quite a workout digging up a new wildflower meadow for St Nick's Nature Centre in York. Thanks to all those involved – and please continue to work with Jay and his sub committee on the many initiatives being explored.

YLJC continues to fundraise for our 'Rabbi for York' fund to cover the costs of our part time Rabbi and her work. The recent joint talk between Tracey Ann Oberman and Rabbi Elisheva was well attended and raised some funds, although donations of all sizes are always needed. Ben Rich continues to lead on this and further major initiatives are being planned. A huge thank you for all donations already received. Please speak to Ben further if you can help in any way, large or small.

I wish to thank the YLJC Committee this year for their commitment and the huge amount of work they have done. In particular, there are always some who give so much and these people must be given especial thanks: Shaan Bloch as Vice Chair has also led on Security, reviewing our digital presence and taken on the Membership role. Howard Duckworth is our ever active Warden. Miriam Hoffman has taken over as Treasurer, although Ben Rich remains on our committee including his work above and also pro-actively fund raising and raising our profile in the wider UK Progressive Jewish community. Lauren McNeilage is our lovely efficient Secretary and sends all of our email messages to you all of our activities. Jay Prosser leads on all of our Social Action and Sarah Hubbard attends York Interfaith Group as our representative.

Not currently on the Committee as now so busy elsewhere too, a very special thanks to Sam Borin and Ruth Morris who led our Friday night Shabbat services and were knowledgeable lay readers and advisors to our community, and Ruth for all her work as editor of our community newsletter 'Jews on the Ouse'. If there is anyone who can now take over our newsletter, please let us know. Owen Power is our LJ Link Officer, our Facebook champion and our Board of Deputies representative - congratulations too for his Mitzvah Day Individual Award. And Sharon Tagger does an amazingly important role leading on many and varied school visits throughout the region as requests are received. Also a huge thanks to our 'Youth Champion' Beth Thorp who so wonderfully organises and encourages family events throughout the year. Beth continues to coordinate and disseminate information on youth activities for us, including LJ camps – a great asset to our team.

Of course, many others also work hard behind the scenes, and I thank you all for your service to our community.

We must also thank all of our Members, Associates and Friends for your invaluable support and for making us the unique and inclusive community that we are today. Please continue to join in with our many services and activities; suggestions and volunteers will always be welcomed! There is no better

way to get to know people, to make new friends and to feel an integral part of the community of YLJC, than to join in and contribute to the work we all do for each other.

Finally, we say a huge thank you to the NLPS Trust for their continuing financial support and to all the Rabbis and staff at Liberal Judaism, and my colleagues at the other LJ Communities, for their leadership, advice and support, especially during this past year.

**Lilian Coulson**  
**Chair**  
**York Liberal Jewish Community**

**23 November 2023**

**York Liberal Jewish Community  
Receipts and payments account**

**Year ended 4 April 2023**

	Unrestricted funds	Rabbinic fund (restricted)	Bursary fund (restricted)	Total funds	2022
<b>Receipts</b>					
General donations	3,087	400		3,487	16,193
High holy day appeal	480	-		480	950
Grant income		-		-	-
Interest	85	157		242	4
Membership fees	13,108	-		13,108	12,556
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>16,760</b>	<b>557</b>		<b>17,317</b>	<b>29,703</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Accountancy fees	474	-		474	480
Bank charges	78	-		78	16
Charitable contributions	90	-		90	250
Insurance - other	401	-		401	314
Service expenses	282	-		282	-
Rabbinic salary & expenses	9,559	-		9,559	3,759
Room booking	2,994	-		2,994	975
Cheder teachers	355	-		355	-
Subscriptions	3,034	-		3,034	2,207
Sundry expenses	245	-		245	5
Telephone	72	-		72	391
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>17,584</b>	<b>-</b>		<b>17,584</b>	<b>8,397</b>
<b>Net receipts</b>	<b>(824)</b>	<b>557</b>		<b>(267)</b>	<b>21,306</b>
<b>Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>28,466</b>	<b>33,009</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>65,475</b>	<b>44,169</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>27,642</b>	<b>33,566</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>65,208</b>	<b>65,475</b>

**Statement of assets and liabilities at 4 April 2023**

**Cash assets**

Current account	6,482
Savings accounts	58,726
	<u>65,208</u>

**Funds**


General fund	27,642
Restricted funds	
Rabbinic Fund	33,566
Bursary fund	4,000
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>65,208</u>

Signed by a trustee on behalf of all the trustees



B RICH

Signed by an independent examiner P Silver-Myer, FCCA on 2 October 2023, who has reviewed the above account and confirms that it accurately represents the financial transactions of the York Liberal Jewish Community for the year ended 4 April 2023

 — FCCA  
2nd October 2023.

**YORK LIBERAL JEWISH COMMUNITY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1166145

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# Accounts

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**Trustees' Report**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**3 December 2022**

It's been a challenging year for us all in so many ways. A year of sadness and of celebration. And one to come together and to (continue to) support each other.

It has also been a 'bounce back' year for YLJC, and we hope that you feel that YLJC has bounced back (post Covid) better than ever, with you all at our side. I will continue – as my Chair's 'slogan' – to say that as equally important as the religious side, YLJC aims to be your Jewish 'family' in York. Following and respecting the Covid previous restrictions, we have thrived and maintained our community and supported each other as best we could. We have spent the past year working hard on getting us back together and re-engaging with each other. To keep doing this, we need to all become proactive and for all of us to work together to build our community spirit and Jewish life in York, whilst continuing to keep everyone safe.

We currently have circa 85 members, including children. The role of Membership Secretary has unfortunately been disjointed this year, but our Vice Chair Shaan Bloch has now also taken over this role and will be contacting those regulars / members whose membership forms and / or fees may have fallen through the cracks. We need membership to enable us to pay our way, but also to get to know better those we engage with and what services we can offer and provide together to better build our community. Please speak with her re any Membership issues, as we try to enlarge the Jewish community of York and its hinterland. As Chair, I have had the pleasure of speaking to various people of all ages and interests wanting to engage with and potentially join us, as well as of course to many of our regular members through both good times and the more difficult ones. I have also engaged with many at Liberal Judaism, who wholeheartedly support us at York in so many ways.

Throughout this previous year's provision of online services and events, we had strong levels of attendance and participation, but we have spent the last year trying to move increasingly to 'in person' services and events. Our Shabbat morning service now takes place regularly at FMH on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month. During the year, Sam Borin and Ruth Morris moved their 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month Shabbat evening service from the online platform Zoom to meeting in New Earswick, with time to socialise with refreshments before. Based on this success, Howard Duckworth, our warden, is now working with them in introducing an additional Friday night Shabbat service on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the

month, so we will now have 3 services a month, all now to be located at Friargate Meeting House (FMH) in York. And we have also advertised (and will continue to advertise) the availability of other online offerings by our sister Liberal Judaism communities to provide a fuller range of talks, education opportunities and so much more.

For this last year, we have been so lucky to have Student Rabbi Rafe Thurstance as our spiritual leader and educator. He started with us in September 2021, and agreed to stay on for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year to provide continuity for all. He has consistently travelled up to York, whilst continuing his Rabbinic training at the Leo Baeck College in London, provided us with a stimulating and considered pastoral range of services, the highlights being his Shabbat morning services, J101 discussions and our now in-house conversion course. He has also led our celebrations of many of our festivals, including the recent High Holidays services, reaching out and endeavouring to include all ages and interests as best we could.

In March, we hosted a very successful and enjoyable a cappella concert of Jewish music by the Pizmon group of students from Columbia University / Jewish Theological Seminary, New York. I coordinated with their team over many months, agreeing a programme that they visited York (the only northern location) as part of a tour of various British Progressive (including other LJ) synagogues. Working with York Interfaith, York University Jewish Society and Sinai Synagogue, we took them on a tour of old York before the concert and enjoyed a (pre covid style) afternoon tea together after. We provided press releases to LJ and other Jewish press to promote Jewish life for all ages in York.

For Purim we held separate events for adults and children. Thanks to Sam for leading a zoom Purim service / megillah reading. And a huge thanks to our new 'Youth Champion' Beth Thorp for taking on this role, who organised a successful Purim party for our children as well as various events since. Beth continues to coordinate and disseminate information on youth activities for us, including LJ camps – a great asset to our team.

We held a successful 'in person' Pesach community Seder for circa 40 people. Rafe unfortunately was ill on the day so was unable to attend, so the Seder was led jointly by myself and Ben Rich. Our biggest ever 'in person' Seder was this year at Rosh Hashanah, led by Rafe, for circa 65 people! There were, as expected, smaller attendances at our other High Holidays services, with good attendances at the Family service (where the story of the Book of Jonah was read by our youngsters). A huge thanks to Howard, Ben, Shaan and Sarah especially for all the work put into preplanning and working on these and many other days; definitely worthwhile as enjoyed by many.

We again held an outside Shabbat 'Service in the Park' in June at Homestead Park in York, thanks to the hospitality of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, combining the celebrations of Shavuot with YLJC's 8<sup>th</sup> birthday.

We continue to be wonderfully supported by Liberal Judaism and were delighted to host one of the LJ 120<sup>th</sup> Year of Celebration services at our Shabbat morning service in September. Various LJ attendees include Rabbi Charley Baginsky (CEO) and Rabbi Danny Rich (who now leads our conversion course with Rafe) et al. We also made this our annual Interfaith service and invited all our York Interfaith Group friends as well as Civic Dignitaries and our friends at York Minster, with whom we work increasingly throughout the year (including 600 Candles).

To re-concentrate on and engage with our children, Cheder re-commenced at the beginning of 2022 under Rafe and Oliver, our student teacher. We so enjoy involving our youngsters in our services and

events, seeing them grow and develop, with Cheder teaching them Hebrew as well as the meaning behind much of what we do. Please contact Rafe or Shaan if you have yet to sign your child(ren) up. Ruth and Sam also tried to set up a 'Shabbat Tots' group prior to our Shabbat morning service, but had little response – this can be restarted at any time should there is be sufficient interest.

On a positive note, huge congratulations again to Rufus and Finlay who both had their Bar Mitzvahs in April. We are very proud of them both, and their commitment to a Jewish life and our LJ values. With another BM scheduled for later next year, our community continues to inspire and thrive and we truly love that of our youth.

In a wider community perspective, we are proud to confirm that YLJC is now very much recognised as York's Jewish representative community. This has been emphasised by the various events this year at which I and other members of the Committee have been delighted to represent YLJC. Following many years of working with English Heritage and others regarding Clifford's Tower and the Eye of York area, we were invited to English Heritage's pre-opening event at Clifford's Tower in March. To celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee in June, the Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire and the Archbishop of York invited us to their Jubilee Garden Party and service at York Minster, where we lit a candle to the Queen as one of York's faith representatives. Soon after, we sadly returned to York Minster for the now late Queen's commemoration service in September, where Ben and I laid flowers to her as York's faith representatives as part of the service. And we also participated in York University's faith service, and signed various condolence books. One Yorkshire Committee's invitation to the 'Yorkshire Reception' in June at the House of Lords (invite organised by Laurence Saffer of LRJC) was deferred to November due to train strikes, and here we were represented by Ben. And finally, we were truly honoured to again be invited by York Minster (as one of only 3 faith representatives) to the recent visit by King Charles III and the Queen Consort in November for their unveiling of a new statue to the late Queen, where I was introduced to the Queen Consort and told her more about our community. King Charles describes his role - and we welcome in response - as 'Defender of Faiths' (rather than of 'The Faith') and his intention to protect the diversity of religion in Britain.

YLJC has successfully raised in excess of £80,000 through our 'Rabbi for York' fund to cover the costs of a part time Rabbi for three years. Unfortunately, a shortage of Rabbis in the UK has delayed the process. The committee is determined to find a candidate who is the right fit for York, not just to fill the post. We continue to invite individual applications and hope to start seeing candidates in the new year. At the same time the shortage of candidates means that we are also looking at non-rabbinic options to support the growth and development of our community, for example a community organiser. We will discuss with you the options being considered as we welcome your views and will keep you informed of any progress made.

As devastating as coronavirus has been and continues in some form, Liberal Judaism congregations still come together in various forms with much reduced need to travel, which is to be welcomed. Many meetings, conferences and events are livestreamed for free, and other events have been made available to us, such as Hebrew lessons and educational sessions. All can be attended from the comfort of our homes, without the need for long-distance travel, which has enabled greater participation, and many such events will continue in this way. Much as we would encourage you to attend our and others' events in the future 'in person', we appreciate that there will continue to be a role for online participation and we are investing in new technology accordingly.

I wish to thank the YLJC Committee this year for their commitment and the work they have done in such uncertain times. In particular, there are always some who give so much and these people must be given especial thanks: Shaan Bloch has been my ever supportive Vice Chair in her usual efficient and pro-active way, and Howard Duckworth is our ever active ever wanting to do more friendly Warden. Ben Rich remains our Treasurer but as always does so much more, including pro-actively fund raising and raising our profile in the wider UK Progressive Jewish community. Brian Berry was our membership secretary but has now left our community; hence Shaan has taken over this role too, Owen Power, our LJ Link Officer, is our Facebook champion and our Board of Deputies representative. Jay Prosser has re-joined us to lead Social Action, working with Sharon Tagger leading on school visits and Adrian Tellwright attending York Interfaith Group as our representative. And of course, a very special thanks to Sam Borin and Ruth Morris who continue to regularly lead our Friday night Shabbat services and so much more as knowledgeable lay readers and advisors to our community, and Ruth is also editor and puts together our community newsletter 'Jews on the Ouse'. Of course, many others also work hard behind the scenes, and I thank them too for their service.

Sadly, we received a complaint about the conduct of the committee during the year, which was investigated by a member of the committee not mentioned in the complaint on our behalf. This was not upheld, with LJ also providing advice and confirming no need to take the matter further.

We must also thank all of our Members, Associates and Friends for your invaluable support and for making us the unique and inclusive community that we are today. Please continue to join in with our many services and activities; suggestions and volunteers will always be welcomed!

Again, please can I say that we would love to welcome new members onto the Committee. Please let me know if you would like to be involved and if you have a special interest or skill or if you have new ideas – you will receive the support you need. There is no better way to get to know people, to make new friends and to feel an integral part of the community of YLJC, than to join in and contribute to the work we all do for each other.

Finally, we say a huge thank you to the NLPS Trust for their continuing financial support and to all the Rabbis and staff at Liberal Judaism, and my colleagues at the other LJ Communities, for their leadership, advice and support, especially during this past year.

**Lilian Coulson**  
**Chair**  
**York Liberal Jewish Community**

**20 November 2022**

**York Liberal Jewish Community  
Receipts and payments account  
Year ended 4 April 2022**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	2021
<b>Receipts</b>				
General donations	1,183	15,010	16,193	27,414
High holy day appeal	950	-	950	-
Grant income	-	-	-	-
Interest	3	1	4	6
Membership fees	12,556	-	12,556	12,078
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>14,692</b>	<b>15,011</b>	<b>29,703</b>	<b>39,498</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Accountancy fees	480	-	480	840
Bank charges	16	-	16	-
Charitable contributions	250	-	250	645
Insurance - other	314	-	314	127
Newsletter	-	-	-	99
Rabbinic expenses	70	-	70	158
Rabbinic salary	3,689	-	3,689	6,500
Room booking	975	-	975	-
Staff training & welfare	-	-	-	254
Subscriptions	2,207	-	2,207	1,283
Sundry expenses	5	-	5	-
Telephone	391	-	391	72
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>8,397</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,397</b>	<b>9,978</b>
<b>Net receipts</b>	<b>6,295</b>	<b>15,011</b>	<b>21,306</b>	<b>29,520</b>
<b>Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>22,171</b>	<b>21,998</b>	<b>44,169</b>	<b>14,649</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>28,466</b>	<b>37,009</b>	<b>65,475</b>	<b>44,169</b>

**Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year**

**Cash assets**

Current account	10,006
Savings account	55,469
	<u>65,475</u>

**Restricted funds**

Rabbinic Fund	33,009
Bursary fund	4,000
	<u>37,009</u>

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signed by an Independent Examiner: P Silver-Myer FCCA on 17th August 2022 who has reviewed the above account and confirms that it accurately represents the financial transactions of the York Liberal Jewish Community for the year ended 4th April 2022



**York Liberal Jewish Community  
Receipts and payments account  
Year ended 4 April 2022**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	2021
<b>Receipts</b>				
General donations	1,183	15,010	16,193	27,414
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**Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year**

**Cash assets**

Current account	10,006
Savings account	55,469
	<u>65,475</u>

**Restricted funds**

Rabbinic Fund	33,009
Bursary fund	4,000
	<u>37,009</u>

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signed by an Independent Examiner: P Silver-Myer FCCA on 17th August 2022 who has reviewed the above account and confirms that it accurately represents the financial transactions of the York Liberal Jewish Community for the year ended 4th April 2022



**YORK LIBERAL JEWISH COMMUNITY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1166145

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# Accounts

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**Trustees' Report**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**4 December 2021**

This has been a difficult and strange year. As equally important as the religious side, YLJC aims to be your Jewish 'family' in York. And Covid has restricted how we can get together. But we have thrived despite the restrictions and maintained our community and supported each other as best we could. But now it's time to get back together (Covid permitting), to re-engage and build back better. We need to all become proactive and work together to rebuild our community spirit and Jewish life in York, whilst still keeping everyone safe.

Much has changed since our last report in 2020 and we have worked together through the challenges. We currently have circa 100 members, including 20 children. Since I stepped up from being Vice Chair and took over from Shannon Kirshner as Chair in May 2021, I have had the pleasure of speaking to various people of all ages and interests wanting to engage with and potentially join us, as well as of course to many of our regular members through both good times and the more difficult ones. I have also engaged with many at Liberal Judaism, who wholeheartedly support us at York in so many ways.

Throughout this past year's provision of online services and events, we have had strong levels of attendance and participation. For much of the year and especially important during the Covid-19 lockdown where many had limited external contact, we increased our Shabbat services from twice a month to once a week, alternating Friday nights and Saturday mornings, over the online platform Zoom. These have now returned to fortnightly services as our world reopened and people resumed their normal busy lifestyles. And we have also (and will continue to do so) advertised the availability of other online offerings by our sister Liberal Judaism communities to provide a fuller range of talks, education opportunities and so much more.

For most of the last year, we have been so lucky to have Student Rabbi Gabriel Kanter – Webber as our spiritual leader and educator. He and his family have been with us intermittently over a number of years and we missed seeing them in person. Although most of this was online, Gabriel provided us with a stimulating and considered pastoral range of services, the highlights being his Shabbat morning services and J101 discussions. He also provided joyous celebration of all our festivals, ranging from the more serious High Holidays to a fun Passover family friendly Seder, and led all the other festivals throughout the year as they were celebrated, reaching out to all ages and interests as best we could.

We at last decided to hold some outside Shabbat services over the summer as Government restrictions were loosened, and held two wonderful 'Services in the Park' thanks to the hospitality of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation at Homestead Park in York. The first in July 2021 coincided with our 7<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration and was led by our outgoing Student Rabbi Gabriel, with assistance from our new incoming Student Rabbi Rafe Thurstance. It was a very emotional live service with everyone praying and singing together 'in person' for the first time in a very long time. The second, in August 2021, was a triple celebration: our family friendly service was led by guitar playing senior LJ Rabbi Aaron Goldstein of Ark Synagogue, who came up to welcome into our community three longstanding members who had passed the Beit Din (via his support and tutorage) – Yasmin King, Ahmed Mousa and our membership secretary Brian Berry.

We were wonderfully supported by Liberal Judaism over the recent High Holidays and enjoyed a full range of services over zoom. We had planned an 'in person' Erev Rosh Hashanah Seder, but with rising Covid levels there were concerns and so we got together online with plenty of representative foods and readings. We were honoured to have our Rosh Hashanah service led by LJ CEO Rabbi Charley Baginsky, which she undertook in her usual joyous way, and we shared a lovely inclusive service with lots of mitzvot shared with Peterborough LJ community. For Yom Kippur, we were kindly invited by South London Liberal Community to join them by zoom for all their services throughout Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur, which were beautifully led by their Rabbi, Nathan Godleman. Many thanks to LJ, Peterborough and SSLC – it was lovely to be with you and to share these most important spiritual days with your communities, proving that sometimes distance is no prohibitor to getting together with those who share our values and Jewish lives.

Also in September, we were proud to promote YLJC and York as a home to modern Liberal Jewry and Interfaith relationships through helping to host the Worldwide launch of the film '*Getting Away With Murder(s)*', made by Yorkshire born Filmmaker David Wilkinson. This helped publicise the potential for an improved monument to those who died at Clifford's Tower in 1190 as part of the draft proposals for a wider contemplative space being proposed for the site. Shannon has continued throughout the pandemic to lead discussions on our behalf on the Clifford's Tower area redevelopment proposals with English Heritage and My Castle Gateway. She is working with them to make York's Jewish history more widely known, including more educational material about the life of York's Medieval Jews and the context of the massacre in 1190, with hopefully an improved memorial space at the base of the tower that would remember the lives lost in 1190 and subsequently because of racism and xenophobia.

In October 2019, we officially launched our 'Rabbi for York Fund', aiming to raise £100,000 to enable us to hire a part-time ordained Rabbi on a 3-year contract (increasingly required due to the scarcity of available Student Rabbis). To date we have raised circa £80,000 but so far have not secured interest from any suitable candidate. If we are able to hire a part-time Rabbi, we would be able to offer an increasing number of Shabbat services and celebrate festivals and hold other events and have more pastoral and educational support locally, which would be particularly helpful for the Cheder children as they approach bar and bat mitzvah age, as well as provide more direct support for all lifestyle events, including weddings and conversions. Our aim by appointing someone for a three year period, is to give them the opportunity to grow the community over this time and identify additional sources of funding, so – at the end of this initial period - we will hope to be able to make a more permanent commitment and possibly even extend the hours. Thank you to the generous donors who are helping us to make this dream a reality, but we still have some way to go to make this dream a reality. However, we believe that securing the correct candidate that is the right 'fit' for our community is more important than filling the post, so in the meantime we welcome Student Rabbi Rafe Thurstance to lead us for the 2021/22 academic year.

Unfortunately, a casualty of Covid and the overabundance of online learning for children during lockdown meant that our Cheder was put 'on hold'. Believing very firmly that our children are our future, now is the time to re-establish this and make learning and Jewish life fun for all ages. We are reaching out to all parents to enrol their children into our monthly Cheder class, which will be led by Student Rabbi Rafe and a new young teacher who are currently working together to prepare a programme of fun but educational activities for the year, which will take place before and during the monthly Shabbat morning service. Sam Borin and Ruth Morris are also proposing a new Tots group for our little ones. Hopefully both will start imminently, but only if there is demand, so please tell us asap if you are interested.

As devastating as coronavirus has been, it has also brought Liberal Judaism congregations together in a way that has been unprecedented. Many meetings, conferences and events are livestreamed for free, and other events have been made available to us, such as Hebrew lessons and educational sessions. All can be attended from the comfort of our homes, without the need for long-distance travel, which has enabled greater participation, and many such events will continue in this way. Much as we would encourage you to attend our and others' events in the future 'in person', we appreciate that there will continue to be a role for online participation and we are investing in new technology accordingly.

I wish to thank the YLJC Committee this year for their commitment and the work they have done in such uncertain times. In particular, there are always some who give so much and these people must be given especial thanks: Shannon Kirshner has been a fantastic Chair and I have been honoured to support her in her expansive work where she always seeks to care for all members of our community, and she remains with us helping to publicise all our offerings amongst other work. Shaan Bloch has stepped up to work as Vice Chair in her usual efficient and pro-active way, and Howard Duckworth is now our Warden. Ben Rich remains our Treasurer but as always does so much more, including pro-actively fund raising and raising our profile in the wider UK Progressive Jewish community. Brian Berry is now our membership secretary and Board of Deputies representative. Karli Grazman and Tina Anderson ensured that YLJC remained an active participant of York Interfaith Group throughout the pandemic (with YIG members attending our annual Interfaith service, currently by zoom). And of course, a very special thanks to Sam Borin and Ruth Morris who continue to regularly lead all of our Friday night Shabbat services and so much more as knowledgeable lay readers and advisors to our community (Ruth is also editor of our community newsletter 'Jews on the Ouse'), so they were deserving recipients of a 'Chair's Award' at the last Liberal Judaism Conference. My thanks also to Chloe Wigston Smith, Jay Prosser, Orly Askew and Katrina Blackmore who have stepped down during the year, and a huge welcome to Owen Power, our new Facebook champion and LJ Link Officer. Of course, many others have also worked hard behind the scenes, and I thank them too for their service.

We must also thank all of our Members, Associates and Friends for your invaluable support and for making us the unique and inclusive community that we are today. Please continue to join in with our many services and activities; suggestions and volunteers will always be welcomed!

And in this time of new beginnings, we would also like to welcome new members onto the Committee. Please let me know if you would like to be involved and if you have a special interest or skill or if you have new ideas – you will receive the support you need. There is no better way to get to know people, to make new friends and to feel an integral part of the community of YLJC, than to join in and contribute to the work we all do for each other.

Finally, we say a huge thank you to the NLPS Trust for their continuing financial support and to all the Rabbis and staff at Liberal Judaism, and my colleagues at the other LJ Communities, for their leadership, advice and support, especially during this past year.

**Lilian Coulson**  
**Chair**  
**York Liberal Jewish Community**

**5 November 2021**

# York Liberal Jewish Community Receipts and payments account

Year ended 4 April 2021

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	2020
<b>Receipts</b>				
General donations	9,864	17,550	27,414	7,549
Grant income		-	-	1,973
Interest	2	4	6	12
Membership fees	12,078	-	12,078	11,652
<b>Total receipts</b>	21,944	17,554	39,498	21,186
<b>Payments</b>				
Accountancy fees	840	-	840	
Ark design & build	-	-	-	985
Charitable contributions	645	-	645	378
Cheder teachers	-	-	-	480
Insurance - other	127	-	127	130
Newsletter	99	-	99	255
Postage	-	-	-	29
Rabbinic expenses	158	-	158	2,851
Rabbinic salary	6,500	-	6,500	4,185
Room booking	-	-	-	5,663
Staff training & welfare	254	-	254	
Service expenses		-	-	512
Subscriptions	1,283	-	1,283	150
Sundry expenses	-	-	-	206
Telephone	72	-	72	72
<b>Total payments</b>	9,978	-	9,978	15,896
<b>Net receipts/(payments)</b>	11,966	17,554	29,520	5,290
<b>Cash funds last year end</b>	10,205	4,444	14,649	9,359
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	22,171	21,998	44,169	14,649

## Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

### Cash assets

Current account	10,115
Savings account	34,054
	<u>44,169</u>

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf  
of all the trustees

**York Liberal Jewish Community  
Receipts and payments account**

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**Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period**

**Cash assets**

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Signed by one or two trustees on behalf  
of all the trustees

Signed by an Independent Examiner: M J  
Simon FCA, FCCA on 4th August 2021 who  
has reviewed the above account and confirms  
that it accurately represents the financial  
transactions of the York Liberal Jewish  
Community for the year ended 4th April 2021

