

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 Women 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, Mitzvah 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.
- HHD 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
Receipts				
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
Total receipts	62,518		62,518	17,317
Payments				
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
Total payments	73,976		73,976	17,584
Net receipts	(11,458)		(11,458)	(267)
Cash funds last year end	61,208	4,000	65,208	65,475
Cash funds this year end	49,750	4,000	53,750	65,208

Statement of assets and liabilities at 4 April 2024

Cash assets

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

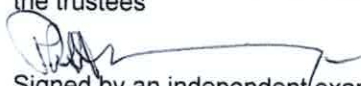
Funds

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



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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