



UNION  
CHAPEL

## Free Training for **VOLUNTEER STORYTELLERS** Musical Tales from the Archive SUNDAY SCHOOL STORIES PROJECT



Union Chapel is home to a unique multi award-winning arts venue, with a reputation for international cultural events engaging diverse audiences. For over 30 years, events have been our lifeblood, annually engaging 123,000+ visitors through 175 events.

Union Chapel is more than a venue. A Grade I listed Gothic architectural jewel and key heritage space with a rich history and archive. As well as its ongoing legacy as a home to a working, progressive and inclusive church, it is home to secular projects tackling homelessness and social injustice, including empowering local communities with support, creative activities, and training and employability programmes. Profits from events directly support our vital charitable work with local communities and we are a model of good practice for community engagement.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL STORIES PROJECT**

We're renovating our Grade II\* listed Sunday School Hall into as a state-of-the-art arts and heritage centre, hosting free creative engagement programmes, co-created with local communities, inspired Union Chapel's unique heritage and archive. Supported by a range of funders including the National Lottery Heritage Fund, this new space will further position Union Chapel as a unique organisation, bringing culture, community, social justice and heritage together in union.

**Cross-arts activities are already underway! Volunteer with us to help shape and deliver this exciting programme. What you'll get in return:**

- A chance to work with an experienced and enthusiastic team on an exciting new programme of activities with training and support to enable you to carry out your role.
- A chance to develop new skills.
- Opportunities to meet new people.
- References for future employment and volunteer roles, on request.

### **Musical Tales from the Archive: Volunteer storytellers & archive interpreters**

We're calling out for volunteers to share stories from our rich musical history, using materials from our archive, in the Union Chapel bar before gigs and at occasional heritage events throughout the year.

**Islington Guided Walks** trainers, during three evening classes, will introduce you to four main themes:

- the 19th-century organ (still in use)
- the role of music and singing in the religious life of the chapel
- the rise, decline and rise again of the chapel, and music in the chapel, over three centuries
- the concerts and performers that have helped make Union Chapel one of the world's best-loved music venues.

You also will learn how to use archive materials to tell these stories about all four topics and develop your skills to engage with the public.

No professional experience is required but the best volunteers will be confident about telling stories, enjoy meeting new people and be able to flourish in the informal atmosphere of the Union Chapel's bar.



### We are looking for volunteers who

- are interested in learning about the musical history of Union Chapel
- are approachable and enjoy meeting and talking with strangers
- are confident speaking in public
- are comfortable being in an occasionally noisy and busy bar environment
- can acquire new knowledge and share it as an entertaining story
- will commit to regular evening volunteering

### Your commitment

Mandatory training will take place at the Union Chapel, 6pm-8.30pm on the following dates:

- Tuesday 19 May
- Thursday 21 May
- Thursday 4 June

**With this training, you'll deliver these fascinating talks ahead of selected Union Chapel shows to live audiences. These aim to run between 6-8pm, once a week, from June to September 2026. Volunteers must be available to commit a minimum of 2 sessions each month.**

Every volunteer will receive 2 free tickets to a Union Chapel event of their choice, subject to availability, before the end of December 2026.

### To apply

Email [stories@unionchapel.org.uk](mailto:stories@unionchapel.org.uk) by **22nd April 2026** to tell us, in no more than 500 words, why this role will suit you and how you've demonstrated the requirements listed above. Please also include your name and phone number so we can get in contact.

**We'll be in touch with shortlisted applicants via email or phone to schedule an informal chat prior to workshop attendance. Interviews aim to be between 27 – 28 April.**



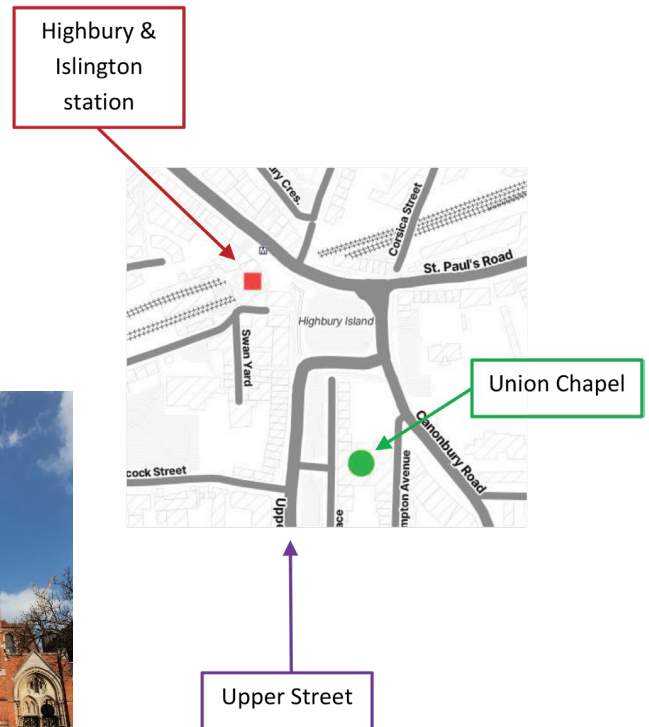
Thoughts from our previous Sunday School Stories volunteers:

“Thank you so much for the opportunity. It was really great to meet everyone involved. I look forward to hearing more about the progress of the project! Getting involved in the workshop was GREAT” – Florrie Ann Thomas

“A really valuable programme... everyone was very accommodating and the day ran seamlessly... I left with a deep appreciation of the wide ranging scope of the organisation which has been supporting the community and disadvantaged since 1799. If you ever have chance to attend one of their many events, I'd highly recommend a closer look.” - David Peach

**Union Chapel 19b Compton Terrace  
Islington London N1 2UN**

- ~ 200m from Highbury and Islington Station
- ~ 0.5 mile from Essex Road Station
- ~ 1 mile from Angel Station



**Photo credits:**

Front page: Signed posters in bar, credit UCP | Live at the Chapel, credit James Bridle | Catrin Finch & Seckou Keita, credit Tatiana Gorilovsky | Love at the Chapel, credit Sophie Harbinson

Page two: news clippings and programmes from Union Chapel's archive, including fundraising concert preview with Patti Smith, Winter Programme 2008 highlighting a performance by Baby Dee, Islington Gazette news clipping from 2006 featuring Lily Allen, Mencap's 'Little Noise Sessions' programme from 2006 featuring Amy Winehouse

End page: Live at the Chapel, credit James Bridle | Exterior Union Chapel, credit Daniela Sbrisny



Shortlisted  
Best Loved