

TRIRATNA BUDDHIST COMMUNITY (NOTTINGHAM)

England & Wales · Charity number 1044031

Details

Other names	FRIENDS OF THE WESTERN BUDDHIST ORDER (NOTTINGHAM), F W B O NOTTINGHAM
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1995-02-09
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	9 St. Marys Place Nottingham NG1 1PH
Phone	07519 571040
Email	info@nottinghambuddhistcentre.org
Website	www.nottinghambuddhistcentre.org

Activities

Objects: ADVANCEMENT OF THE BUDDHIST RELIGION

Activities: We are an international Buddhist movement bringing the Buddha's teaching to the general public. We provide meditation classes and a space for yoga, Shiatsu, etc. We operate on a donations basis.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Nottinghamshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£101,188	£103,061	-	-
2023-12-31	£102,541	£90,563	-	-
2022-12-31	£80,527	£90,886	-	-
2021-12-31	£74,176	£79,465	-	-
2020-12-31	£75,880	£68,921	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Gareth Jonathan Austin		2018-10-01
Jnanaruchi Cox		2023-03-27
MISS LUCY JANE SPENCE		2015-04-14
MS CORNELIA REMIJN		2013-11-24
MS JOANNE KSHANTIKA COATES		2015-04-14
Rachel Woodburn		2020-01-20
UPEKSHANANDI MONIKA PODGORSKA		2023-03-27

TRIRATNA BUDDHIST COMMUNITY (NOTTINGHAM)

England & Wales - Charity number 1044031

Accounts

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
(Registered charity, number 1044031)
Financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

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8	Receipts & payments account
9	Statement of assets & liabilities
10 - 11	Notes to the accounts

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 December 2024

Full name Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)

Other names by which the charity is known Nottingham Buddhist Centre

Registered charity number 1044031

Principal address 9 St Mary's Place, Lace Market, Nottingham, NG1 1PH

Trustees

Lucy Jane Spence (Kusaladevi), Chair,
Rachel Woodburn, (Pasannacitta) Treasurer
Gareth Austin (Dayajava), Secretary
Joanne Coates (Kshantika)
Cornelia Anna Maria Remijn (Khemasiri)
Paul Johnson (Danabha)
Upekshanandi Monika Podgorska
Peter Robert Cox (Jnanaruchi),

Independent examiner

John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus, Units 1 & 2 North West, 41 Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GL

Governance and management

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 23 October 1994 and most recently amended 27 March 2011.

All new trustees are invited through discussion between existing trustees (the Council), to ensure that they are in harmony with the aims of the charity. In practice this means that trustees are selected from the pool of ordained Buddhists and those who have requested Ordination in Triratna in Nottingham. Trustees are nominated by the charity's members and appointed at the AGM as per the constitution. The constitution allows a minimum of 4 and maximum of 10 trustees. Ten regular trustee (Council) meetings were held in 2024.

Objectives and activities

The object of the Triratna Buddhist Community is the advancement of the Buddhist religion, in particular:

- To encourage the members and others to live in accordance with the teachings of the Buddha;
- To support ordained members of the Triratna Buddhist Order and other duly ordained Buddhists, at the discretion of the council of the Nottingham Buddhist Centre;
- To maintain close communication with, and work under the guidance of the Triratna Buddhist Order and in co-operation with other groups with the same objects.

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)

We are an international Buddhist movement bringing the Buddha's teaching to the general public.

In 2021 The Council/Trustees revisited the centre's vision and agreed key themes:

1. Facing outward/responding to the world with the Buddha's teaching;
2. Deepening practice of the Buddha's teaching within our community;
3. Making the Buddha's teachings accessible (by encouraging a diverse and inclusive sangha/community).

We have sustained a diverse range of events and activities that make available the teachings and practices of the Buddha to the local community. We run events for the general public and when possible, to educational establishments across the region. We run activities at the centre and in various locations outside. This year most of our activities have been in-person events, although we have maintained both online and hybrid events (both online and in person) to make our activities more accessible for those who find it difficult to attend in person.

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

Meditation classes and Buddhist teachings can provide valuable support to people and assist them to deal with the uncertainties of their lives and meditation can improve mental health and decrease stress. This can enable people to more fully participate in all areas of their lives.

Summary of the main achievements during the period

In 2024, we ran regular sangha nights for the whole community to gather. We maintained a hybrid (in person and online) element for our sangha (community) nights, to ensure that as many people as possible can attend and to ensure we are more accessible to those who find it difficult to attend physically. This was reduced to one session each month.

There continued to be a high demand for Introductory courses in 2024. This meant that we could fulfil one of our main charitable objectives, reaching and introducing people to the Buddha's teachings, whilst also helping reduce the isolation present in society. We ran a number of other events to fulfil our charitable objectives.

EVENTS

The Buddhist Centre runs regular classes and events for sangha members and also introductory classes for newcomers. We have 3 weekly drop in meditation classes, open to anyone who wishes to learn meditation. These have been popular and full throughout the year.

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)

Our main regular events this year were sangha night for the whole community (weekly), Drop in meditation classes (3x weekly), study sessions for Mitras and those doing the foundation course, puja nights (monthly), meditation mornings (occasional), Introduction to Buddhism and Meditation courses, follow on courses, men's and women's gatherings, sub 35 activities and the monthly People of Colour (EMPoC) group. We also had a residential retreat for the sangha, some guest run weekends at the Buddhist Centre and some Order Member and Mitra gatherings.

We also celebrated the main Buddhist festivals this year and added some additional special events such as study seminars. We also had some guest Order members visit from other Triratna centres to offer events for our sangha.

Yoga - Bodhiyoga is a regular part of the Buddhist centre offerings, on a donation basis. These classes are a wonderful way for new people to meet the Buddhist centre, as well as supporting those who are regular in the sangha. This year there were a number of successful Yoga day retreats, which had benefits to our regular sangha, as well as introducing new people to the centre.

DONATIONS

Our regular monthly donations were £5,000 lower than expected in total for the year. That sum was made up in donations for activities, so that our total donations for the year were pretty much exactly as predicted at £67,620. We are very grateful for these generous donations.

MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance occurred in the building this year as required.

CIO

Work continues to help us transition to being a CIO.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

We had a Presidential visit from Ratnaghosha, who met with the Buddhist Centre council, Mitras and Order members, as well as other sangha members. He led a special event for Mitras training for Ordination.

We continued with Interfaith work this year. One of our Trustees, Rachel Woodburn (Pasannacitta) also continued her role as chaplain at the University of Nottingham.

There have been some changes in the men's residential community above the centre. New community members moved in during February, March and July and two moved out in February.

Our Safeguarding policies can be found on our website:

<https://nottinghambuddhistcentre.org/our-policies>

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)

Our safeguarding officer has co-ordinated the work to address any safeguarding issues throughout the year. The details of what has been done by whom and why, have been securely logged by her. Our Safeguarding officer, Upekshanandi Monika Podgorska, works closely with the Safeguarding Trustee, Gareth Austin (Dayajava).

Many volunteers joined or continued with us in 2024, for which we are so grateful. As well as supporting the Centre's activities, volunteering is an opportunity for members of our sangha to creatively engage together on projects, as part of their Dharma practice.

This year, two people joined the Order, which was very joyful. Also, eight people made the commitment of becoming Mitras and 3 people asked for ordination. There are currently 16 active Order members. There are currently 66 Mitras and 26 of them have requested Ordination.

The Buddhist Centre and sangha are thriving, with many people making commitments in their Buddhist practice and supporting each other, as well as newcomers, in their Buddhist practice.

EMPLOYEE CHANGES

There have been no changes in employees this year.

At the end of 2024, there are 3 supported Order Members (Chair, Women's Mitra Convenor and Men's Mitra Convenor), a Part time salaried Centre Administrator and a Part time salaried bookkeeper.

Financial Review

We've ended 2024 with a £1,873 deficit. To put that into context, we ended 2023 with almost £2,000 surplus (after taking into account a £10,000 grant received in that year to cover £10,000 of 2022 building costs), so we have broken even over the two year period. We are mindful of the recent deficit however, particularly the shortfall of £5,000 in what we expected from recurring donations.

Our recurring donations did not fall in 2024 from what they were in 2023, but they did not rise as we had expected. We aim to address this with a new way of soliciting recurring donations through a phone campaign planned in May 2025.

We ran our campaign "February is Giving Month" again in 2024. This year we were able to once again raise close to £6,000 in one-off donations, but were not as successful in increasing regular donations. Hence the change to our way of approaching regular donations in 2025.

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)

Financial risks

As stated above, we face financial risks from any decreases in regular donations, in event-specific donations, or in rent. Of these three, the biggest risk is probably in regular donations, which is likely to be sensitive to the economic environment. As living costs and inflation increase, donors may have less income available to give us. We mitigate this risk by keeping a close eye on regular giving each month, so we will be able to respond quickly to changes. We also plan to do a regular giving appeal each year.


On the cost side, we also face risks associated with our building, particularly as the climate crisis leads to more frequent and more severe storms which may cause damage which we'll need to repair.

The charity's policy on reserves

We rely on income from regular donations, from event-specific donations and from rent of our building to cover our operational costs. If any of those three were to decrease substantially, we would need to rely on our reserves to cover those costs until we were able to increase income again or cut costs in some way. It's also possible that we will face an unexpected one-off cost, most likely if we needed an emergency repair or upgrade to our building. We consider it prudent to maintain reserves representing 3-6 months of operating costs in order to protect against these risks.

At the end of 2024, our reserves stood at £31,000 representing 3.3 months of projected costs. This is in line with our policy and a bit better than last year, but still on the low end. We will continue to monitor our reserves. It is still important to us to make good use of the funds generously donated to us, and while remaining financially prudent, not tying up too much of them in reserves.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed 
Lucy Jane Spence (Kusaladevi), Trustee

Date 9/06/25

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of
Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham) (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

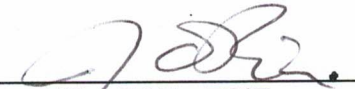
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed  Date 17/4/25
John O'Brien MSc, FAIA, FCIE
Employee of Community Accounting Plus


Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
Receipts & payments account
for the year ended 31 December 2024

2023		2024
£	Note	£
	Receipts	
3824	Activities contributions	3073
315	Bank interest	648
10512	Gift Aid reclaim	11130
64262	Grants & donations	2 67620
19225	Rent	15964
3526	Sales	2753
877	Sundry income	-
102541	Total receipts	101188
	Payments	
132	Activities & events	1629
1117	Bank and transaction charges	1587
1748	Consumable items	2048
2501	Donations paid	4233
803	Equipment, repairs & renewals	500
1204	Fundraising & publicity	1194
630	Independent examination fee	732
2261	Insurance	1794
1273	Payroll & professional services	1393
11244	Premises	5 10127
243	Printing & stationery	336
2222	Shop purchases	1887
58542	Support costs	68359
901	Telephone & postage	993
5734	Training, accommodation & retreat expense	6249
8	Sundry payments	-
90563	Total payments	103061
11978	Net receipts/(payments)	(1873)
20681	Cash funds at start of this period	32659
32659	Cash funds at end of this period	30786

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
Statement of assets and liabilities
at 31 December 2024

2023		Note	2024
£	Cash assets		£
32659	Bank accounts		30786
<u>32659</u>			<u>30786</u>
	Other monetary assets		
142	Debtors	3	265
942	Prepayments - insurance		747
6424	Stock		5082
<u>7508</u>			<u>1012</u>
	Assets retained for the charity's own use		
	Land & building purchased in 1995, cost £135,000		
	General equipment retained for use by the charity.		
	Liabilities		
(1213)	Creditors	4	(1141)
<u>(1213)</u>			<u>(1141)</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed  Date 9/1/25
 Rachel Woodburn (Pasannacitta), Trustee

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2024

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

2. Grants & donations

	£
Sundry donations	67620
	<u>67620</u>

3. Debtors

	£
Bank interest	183
Support costs	82
	<u>265</u>

4. Creditors

	£
Support Costs	1063
Independent examination fee	732
	<u>1795</u>

5. Premises

	£
Council tax	2265
Utilities & servicing	6859
Maintenance & repairs	1003
	<u>10127</u>

The premises are owned by the Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham). The cost of the property in 1995 was £135,000; the property was last valued in 2024 at £734,820.

6. Trustees' remuneration

3 Trustees are ordained Buddhists and they received financial support in the form of support pay totalling £46,295 (gross pay), this includes an allowance towards retreats. Another trustee received £1,112 which was 50% of donation takings for the yoga class she delivered.

7. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the period.

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)

8. Glossary of terms

Creditors: These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

Debtors: These are amounts owed to the charity, but not received in the accounting period.

Prepayments: These are services that the charity has paid for in advance, but not used during the accounting period.

TRIRATNA BUDDHIST COMMUNITY (NOTTINGHAM)

England & Wales - Charity number 1044031

Accounts

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Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 December 2023

Full name Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)

Other names by which the charity is known Nottingham Buddhist Centre

Registered charity number 1044031

Principal address 9 St Mary's Place, Lace Market, Nottingham, NG1 1PH

Trustees

Lucy Jane Spence (Kusaladevi), Chair, Dorry Lake (Karunavaca), until 22.5.23
Rachel Woodburn, Treasurer Jyotida Melbourne, until 28.7.23
Gareth Austin (Dayajava), Secretary
Joanne Coates (Kshantika)
Cornelia Anna Maria Remijn (Khemasiri)
Paul Johnson
Upekshanandi Monika Podgorska, from 27.3.23
Peter Robert Cox (Jnanaruchi), from 27.3.23
Jesus Marquez Briceno (Aryavacin) until 20.2.23

Independent examiner

John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus, Units 1 & 2 North West, 41 Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GL

Governance and management

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 23 October 1994 and most recently amended 27 March 2011.

All new trustees are invited through discussion between existing trustees (the Council), to ensure that they are in harmony with the aims of the charity. In practice this means that trustees are selected from the pool of ordained Buddhists and those who have requested Ordination in Triratna in Nottingham. Trustees are nominated by the charity's members and appointed at the AGM as per the constitution. The constitution allows a minimum of 4 and maximum of 10 trustees. Fifteen regular trustee (Council) meetings were held in 2023.

Objectives and activities

The object of the Triratna Buddhist Community is the advancement of the Buddhist religion, in particular:

- To encourage the members and others to live in accordance with the teachings of the Buddha;
- To support ordained members of the Triratna Buddhist Order and other duly ordained Buddhists, at the discretion of the council of the Nottingham Buddhist Centre;
- To maintain close communication with, and work under the guidance of the Triratna Buddhist Order and in co-operation with other groups with the same objects.

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)

We are an international Buddhist movement bringing the Buddha's teaching to the general public.

In 2021 The Council/Trustees revisited the centre's vision and agreed key themes:

1. Facing outward/responding to the world with the Buddha's teaching;
2. Deepening practice of the Buddha's teaching within our community;
3. Making the Buddha's teachings accessible (by encouraging a diverse and inclusive sangha/community).

We have sustained a diverse range of events and activities that make available the teachings and practices of the Buddha to the local community. We run events for the general public and when possible, to educational establishments across the region. We run activities at the centre and in various locations outside. This year most of our activities have moved back to in-person events, although we have maintained both online and hybrid events (both online and in person) to make our activities more accessible for those who find it difficult to attend in person.

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

Meditation classes and Buddhist teachings can provide valuable support to people and assist them to deal with the uncertainties of their lives and meditation can improve mental health and decrease stress. This can enable people to more fully participate in all areas of their lives.

Summary of the main achievements during the period

In 2023, our activities were back in person at the Buddhist Centre. We maintained a hybrid (in person and online) element for our sangha (community) nights, to ensure that as many people as possible can attend and to ensure we are more accessible to those who find it difficult to attend physically.

There continued to be a high demand for Introductory courses in 2023, which seemed to be due to people coming out of the Covid 19 lockdowns and searching for community and Buddhist teaching to support their lives and the suffering they had encountered. This meant that we could fulfil one of our main charitable objectives, reaching and introducing people to the Buddha's teachings, whilst also helping reduce the isolation present in society due to the pandemic.

EVENTS

The Buddhist Centre runs regular classes and events for sangha members and also introductory classes for newcomers. We have now increased to 3 weekly drop in

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)

meditation classes, open to anyone who wishes to learn meditation. These have been popular and full throughout the year.

Our main regular events this year were sangha night for the whole community (weekly), Drop in meditation classes (3x weekly), study sessions for Mitras and those doing the foundation course, puja nights (monthly), meditation mornings (occasional), Introduction to Buddhism and Meditation courses, follow on courses, men's and women's gatherings, sub 35 activities and the monthly People of Colour (EMPoC) group. We also had a residential retreat for the sangha, some guest run weekends at the Buddhist Centre and some Order Member and Mitra gatherings.

We also celebrated the main Buddhist festivals this year.

Yoga - Bodhiyoga is a regular part of the Buddhist centre offerings, on a donation basis. These classes are a wonderful way for new people to meet the Buddhist centre, as well as supporting those who are regular in the sangha. This year there were a number of successful Yoga day retreats, which had benefits to our regular sangha, as well as introducing new people to the centre.

We held special events during Buddhist Action Month in June, including a working day in partnership with Stonebridge City Farm, a local farm charity and a street meditation to raise awareness of the benefits of stillness and meditation in the midst of busy lives.

DONATIONS

Regular monthly donations were as expected throughout the year. Our total donations for the year were around £2700 higher than budgeted. We are very grateful for these generous donations.

MAINTENANCE

We were approached to take part in a Nottingham Trent University Sustainability in Enterprise project back in 2022. As part of this project, students came to assess the sustainability of our building and make suggestions as to how we might become more environmentally sustainable and use less carbon. Of the suggestions made, the work we chose to carry out in 2022 was to double glaze the windows at the back of the building and to install new insulation in the loft space. We received a grant in January 2023 towards 40% of the work carried out thanks to the project. We successfully fundraised for the remaining amount in February 2023. Other Regular maintenance occurred in the building this year as required.

CIO

Work continues to help us transition to being a CIO.

Tiratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)

OTHER ACTIVITIES

We had a Presidential visit from Ratnaghosha, who met with the Buddhist Centre council, Mitras and Order members, as well as other sangha members. He also led a morning for volunteers.

Jnanaruchi became the new Men's Mitra Convenor in October 2023.

We continued with Interfaith work this year. One of our Trustees, Rachel Woodburn, is now a chaplain at the University of Nottingham.

There have been some changes in the men's residential community above the centre. A new community member moved in during January 2023. A second moved in during June 2023. Another moved out in June 2023.

We adopted new Safeguarding policies for 2023 - these can be found on our website: <https://nottinghambuddhistcentre.org/our-policies>

Our safeguarding officer has co-ordinated the work to address any safeguarding issues throughout the year. The details of what has been done by whom and why, have been securely logged by her. We appointed a new Safeguarding officer, Upekshanandi Monika Podgorska, on 27th March 2023 and a new Safeguarding Trustee, Gareth Austin (Dayajava) on 24th July 2023.

Many volunteers joined or continued with us in 2023, for which we are so grateful. As well as supporting the Centre's activities, volunteering is an opportunity for members of our sangha to creatively engage together on projects, as part of their Dharma practice.

This year, two people joined the Order, which was very joyful. Also, twelve people made the commitment of becoming Mitras and 5 people asked for ordination. There are currently 13 active Order members. There are currently 54 Mitras and 27 of them have requested Ordination.

The Buddhist Centre and sangha are thriving, with many people making commitments in their Buddhist practice and supporting each other, as well as newcomers, in their Buddhist practice.

EMPLOYEE CHANGES

The Men's Mitra Convenor, Aryavacin, left at the end of Jan 2023. The Buddhist Centre Council extended thanks for all his work over his time working at the centre. He has given much love and energy to support the centre.

Our Centre Manager, Dayajava, left at the beginning of October 2023. The Buddhist Centre Council extended thanks for all his work over his time working at the centre. He has been very generous in the time and energy he has given to support the centre.

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)

A new Men's Mitra Convenor, Jnanaruchi and a new Centre Administrator, Eve, started in October 2023 - we are very glad to have them as part of the team.

At the point of writing, there are 3 supported Order Members (Chair, Women's Mitra Convenor and Men's Mitra Convenor), a PT salaried Centre Administrator and a PT salaried bookkeeper.

Financial review

We've ended 2023 with just under £12,000 surplus. Even once we allocate £10,000 of that to cover the shortfall we had last year (due to our 2022 building work for which grant money and fundraising came in 2023), we still brought in £2000 more than we spent in 2023. This is good news as it allows us to plan for further growth in our Centre.

Our recurring donations continue their steady rise year on year, another encouraging sign of our financial health as well as the number and commitment of our members.

We were also very pleased with the success of a new fundraising campaign we ran in 2023, "February is Giving Month." Through two large events and a well-designed regular giving campaign, all run by a team of dedicated members of our community with the help of many other community members, we were able to raise around £6000 in one-off donations and £400 per month in increased regular giving. We plan to make Giving Month an annual event.

Financial risks

As stated above, we face financial risks from any decreases in regular donations, in event-specific donations, or in rent. Of these three, the biggest risk is probably in regular donations, which is likely to be sensitive to the economic environment. As living costs and inflation increase, donors may have less income available to give us. We mitigate this risk by keeping a close eye on regular giving each month, so we will be able to respond quickly to changes. We also plan to do a regular giving appeal each year.

On the cost side, we also face risks associated with our building, particularly as the climate crisis leads to more frequent and more severe storms which may cause damage which we'll need to repair. We have replaced windows on the north side of the building as well as improving our loft insulation in 2022, so we can feel confident that we shouldn't need to do more in that area in the near future.


The charity's policy on reserves

We rely on income from regular donations, from event-specific donations and from rent of our building to cover our operational costs. If any of those three were to decrease substantially, we would need to rely on our reserves to cover those costs until we were able to increase income again or cut costs in some way. It's also possible that we will face an unexpected one-off cost, most likely if we needed an emergency repair or upgrade to our building. We consider it prudent to maintain reserves representing 3-6 months of operating costs in order to protect against these risks.

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)

At the end of 2023, our reserves stood at £28,241 representing 3.1 months of projected costs. This is in line with our policy, but on the low end. This is due to our increased plans for spending in 2024 in order to provide more services to our community and to the wider Nottingham public. For example, we are offering an extra six-week Introduction to Buddhism & Meditation course this year. It's important to us to make good use of the funds generously donated to us, and while remaining financially prudent, not tying up too much of them in reserves.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed  Date 9th April 2024
Lucy Jane Spence (Kusaladevi), Trustee

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of
Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham) (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

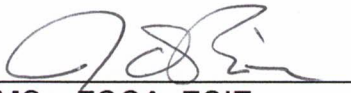
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed  Date 12/4/24
John O'Brien MSc, FCCA, FCIE
Employee of Community Accounting Plus


Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
Receipts & payments account
for the year ended 31 December 2023

2022		Note	2023
£			£
	Receipts		
3012	Activities contributions		3824
53	Bank interest		315
7524	Gift Aid reclaim		10512
51363	Grants & donations	2	64262
15920	Rent		19225
2655	Sales		3526
-	Sundry income		877
<u>80527</u>	Total receipts		<u>102541</u>
	Payments		
972	Activities & events		132
974	Bank and transaction charges		1117
1033	Consumable items		1748
2145	Donations paid		2501
879	Equipment, repairs & renewals		803
420	Fundraising & publicity		1204
612	Independent examination fee		630
1983	Insurance		2261
851	Payroll & professional services		1273
18482	Premises	3	11244
108	Printing & stationery		243
1325	Shop purchases		2222
52739	Support costs		58542
884	Telephone & postage		901
7479	Training, accommodation & retreat expenses		5734
-	Sundry payments		8
<u>90886</u>	Total payments		<u>90563</u>
(10359)	Net receipts/(payments)		11978
<u>31040</u>	Cash funds at start of this period		<u>20681</u>
<u>20681</u>	Cash funds at end of this period		<u>32659</u>

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
Statement of assets and liabilities
at 31 December 2023

2022		Note	2023
£			£
	Cash assets		
20673	Bank accounts		32659
8	Cash in hand		-
<u>20681</u>			<u>32659</u>
	Other monetary assets		
4129	Debtors - Bank interest		142
826	Prepayments - Insurance		942
6402	Stock		6424
<u>11357</u>			<u>7508</u>
	Assets retained for the charity's own use		
	Land & building purchased in 1995, cost £135,000		
	General equipment retained for use by the charity		
	Liabilities		
(1145)	Creditors	4	(1213)
<u>(1145)</u>			<u>(1213)</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed 
 Rachel Woodburn, Trustee

Dated 29/3/24

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2023

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

2. Grants & donations

	£
Nottingham Trent	4077
Building maintenance donations	5625
Sundry donations	54560
	<u>64262</u>

3. Premises

	£
Council tax	2400
Utilities & servicing	7939
Maintenance & repairs	905
	<u>11244</u>

4. Creditors

	£
Support costs	481
Independent examination fee	732
	<u>1213</u>

5. Premises

The premises are owned by the Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham). The cost of the property in 1995 was £135,000; the property was last valued in 2019 at approximately £350,000.

6. Trustees' remuneration

6 Trustees are ordained Buddhists and they received financial support in the form of a salary totalling £46,635. Trustees are also allowed £1,800 each a year towards retreats. Another trustee received £1,115 which was 50% of donation takings for the yoga class she delivered.

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 December 2023

7. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the period.

8. Glossary of terms

Creditors: These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

Debtors: These are amounts owed to the charity, but not received in the accounting period.

Prepayments: These are services that the charity has paid for in advance, but not used during the accounting period.

TRIRATNA BUDDHIST COMMUNITY (NOTTINGHAM)

England & Wales - Charity number 1044031

Accounts

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
(Registered charity, number 1044031)
Financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022

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**Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

Full name Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)

Other names by which the charity is known Nottingham Buddhist Centre

Registered charity number 1044031

Principal address 9 St Mary's Place, Lace Market, Nottingham, NG1 1PH

Trustees

Lucy Jane Spence (Kusaladevi), Chair, Dorry Lake (Karunavaca)
Rachel Woodburn, Treasurer Jyotida Melbourne
Gareth Austin (Dayajava), Secretary Paul Johnson, from 1.2.21
Cornelia Anna Maria Remijn (Khemasiri)
Joanne Coates (Kshantika)
Jesus Marquez Briceno (Aryavacin) until 20.2.23

Independent examiner

John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus, Units 1 & 2 North West, 41 Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GL

Governance and management

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 23 October 1994 and most recently amended 27 March 2011.

All new trustees are invited through discussion between existing trustees (the Council), to ensure that they are in harmony with the aims of the charity. In practice this means that trustees are selected from the pool of ordained Buddhists and those who have requested Ordination in Triratna in Nottingham. Trustees are nominated by the charity's members and appointed at the AGM as per the constitution. The constitution allows a minimum of 4 and maximum of 10 trustees. Ten regular trustee (Council) meetings were held in 2022.

Objectives and activities

The object of the Triratna Buddhist Community is the advancement of the Buddhist religion, in particular:

- To encourage the members and others to live in accordance with the teachings of the Buddha;
- To support ordained members of the Triratna Buddhist Order and other duly ordained Buddhists, at the discretion of the council of the Nottingham Buddhist Centre;
- To maintain close communication with, and work under the guidance of the Triratna Buddhist Order and in co-operation with other groups with the same objects.

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)

We are an international Buddhist movement bringing the Buddha's teaching to the general public.

In 2021 The Council/Trustees revisited the centre's vision and agreed key themes:

1. Facing outward/responding to the world with the Buddha's teaching;
2. Deepening practice of the Buddha's teaching within our community;
3. Making the Buddha's teachings accessible (by encouraging a diverse and inclusive sangha/community).

We have sustained a diverse range of events and activities that make available the teachings and practices of the Buddha to the local community. We run events for the general public and when possible, to educational establishments across the region. We run activities at the centre and in various locations outside. This year most of our activities have moved back to in-person events, although we have maintained both online and hybrid events (both online and in person) to make our activities more accessible for those who find it difficult to attend in person.

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

Meditation classes and Buddhist teachings can provide valuable support to people and assist them to deal with the uncertainties of their lives and meditation can improve mental health and decrease stress. This can enable people to more fully participate in all areas of their lives. Following the Covid-19 pandemic, we are noticing that isolation and struggles with life have been higher, so people seem even more appreciative of our activities.

Summary of the main achievements during the period

In 2022, we were able to transition from online activities to most of our activities being back in person at the Buddhist Centre. We have maintained a hybrid (in person and online) element for our sangha (community) nights, to ensure that as many people as possible can attend and to ensure we are more accessible to those who find it difficult to attend physically.

We saw that there was a high demand for Introductory courses in 2022, which seemed to be due to people coming out of the Covid 19 lockdowns and searching for community and Buddhist teaching to support their lives and the suffering they had encountered. This meant that we could fulfil one of our main charitable objectives, reaching and introducing people to the Buddha's teachings, whilst also helping reduce the isolation present in society due to the pandemic.

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)

EVENTS

The Buddhist Centre runs regular classes and events for sangha members and also introductory classes for newcomers. This year, we were able to increase our successful drop in meditations back to two in person classes, for the first time in two years. We have now (in 2023) increased to 3 weekly drop in meditation classes, open to anyone who wishes to learn meditation.

Our main regular events this year were sangha night for the whole community (weekly), Drop in meditation classes (2x weekly), study sessions for Mitras and those doing the foundation course, puja nights (monthly), meditation mornings (occasional), Introduction to Buddhism and Meditation courses, follow on courses, men's and women's gatherings, sub 35 activities and the monthly People of Colour (EMPoC) group, which has continued to gain momentum and be a very successful group. We also had two residential retreats for the sangha and some guest run weekends at the Buddhist Centre.

This year we also led some events as part of a wider Triratna programme around the Nature of Mind. We held study sessions, open to anyone, Sangha nights around the theme of the Nature of Mind and encouraged our community to attend the two retreats at Adhithana. These sessions introduced some new people to the sangha and also provided inspiring material for our regular sangha members.

We also celebrated the main Buddhist festivals this year.

Yoga - Bodhiyoga is a regular part of the Buddhist centre offerings, on a donation basis. These classes are a wonderful way for new people to meet the Buddhist centre, as well as supporting those who are regular in the sangha.

We held special evenings during Buddhist Action Month in June, with themes around how to respond to conflict in the world, Race, Gender Diversity and the Triratna Earth Sangha. These events look at those areas where our Buddhist practice meets current world issues. The Earth Sangha team also led a 'Work that Reconnects' workshop day in March. And there was an Ambedkar/Buddhism pilgrimage in April, where some sangha members went to London for the day to celebrate Dr Ambedkar's connection to Buddhism and Triratna.

DONATIONS

Regular monthly donations were slightly lower than expected throughout the year. This could be in part due to the rise in costs of living and people having higher expenses following the pandemic.

However, many of our other donations were higher than expected throughout the year. Our total donations for the year were around £900 higher than budgeted. We are very grateful for these generous donations.

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)

MAINTENANCE

We were approached to take part in a Nottingham Trent University Sustainability in Enterprise project. As part of this project, students came to assess the sustainability of our building and make suggestions as to how we might become more environmentally sustainable and use less carbon.

Of the suggestions made, the work we chose to carry out was to double glaze the windows at the back of the building and to install new insulation in the loft space. We received a grant in January 2023 towards 40% of the work carried out thanks to the project. We successfully fundraised for the remaining amount in February 2023.

Other regular maintenance occurred in the building this year as required.

CIO

Work continues to help us transition to being a CIO and this will be completed in 2023.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Our Centre Manager Dayajava was ordained and joined the Triratna Buddhist Order. It was very joyous to welcome him back into the community after a long retreat.

We had a Presidential visit from Ratnaghosha, who met with the Buddhist Centre council, Mitras and Order members, as well as other sangha members. He also led a fantastic weekend retreat.

At the end of November, we welcomed two new Order members to Nottingham and to our sangha - Upekshanandi and Jnanaruchi. Upekshanandi became the new women's Mitra Convenor in November 2022.

We continued with Interfaith work this year. Kusaladevi attended and spoke on a Q&A panel at a women of faith event at UoN, there were regular meetings of Nottingham Interfaith group and a Buddhist society visit. We are also working towards having a chaplain in role at the University of Nottingham. Finally, leaders from other faiths visited the centre in October for a well received event.

There have been some changes in the men's residential community above the centre. One person left the community in February and another left in November. A new community member moved in during January 2023. The women who will live in a residential community (as a private rental they will rent starting in 2023) have been meeting regularly through the year to establish a sense of community amongst themselves.

We adopted new Safeguarding policies for 2022 - these can be found on our website: <https://nottinghambuddhistcentre.org/our-policies>

Our safeguarding officer has co-ordinated the work to address any safeguarding issues throughout the year. The details of what has been done by whom and why, have been securely logged by her.

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)

Many volunteers joined or continued with us in 2022, for which we are so grateful. As well as supporting the Centre's activities, volunteering is an opportunity for members of our sangha to creatively engage together on projects, as part of their Dharma practice.

This year, four people made the commitment of becoming Mitras and three people asked for ordination. There are currently 66 Mitras and 26 of them have requested Ordination.

A new School visits team have been meeting and preparing to start work in 2023.

As part of our good governance, and in response to a process undertaken during 2022, a review was carried out which started in Dec 2022. Procedures, policies and processes were reviewed and a number of useful actions and recommendations were made to the Trustees going forward. The Buddhist centre and sangha are thriving, with many people making commitments in their Buddhist practice and supporting each other, as well as newcomers, in their Buddhist practice.

EMPLOYEE CHANGES

The Men's Mitra Convenor, Aryavacin, submitted his notice in Dec (and left end Jan 2023). The Buddhist Centre Council extended thanks for all his work over his time working at the centre. He has given much love and energy to support the centre. The Women's Mitra Convenor, Khemasiri, who was more recently volunteering, finished at the end Dec. The Buddhist Centre Council are very grateful for all she has given and done for the centre and sangha.

Our new women's Mitra Convenor, Upekshanandi, started in Nov. It's great to have her working at the centre and we are glad she is part of the team.

At the point of writing, there are 3 supported Order Members (Chair, Mitra Convenor and Centre Manager) and a PT salaried bookkeeper.

Financial review

Given the rising costs of energy and general inflation, plus the £10,000 investment we made into making our building more energy-efficient and sustainable this year, we're very happy with our financial position at the end of 2022. When the capital investment (which we have 90% covered in 2023 with a Sustainability in Enterprise grant plus our own fundraising) is removed from the picture, we basically broke even in 2022. Besides general rising costs in 2022, we also had some unexpected costs in terms of paying another person to cover some of the duties of our Centre Manager when he was on his 3-month ordination retreat. We also found that we needed to pay our new Women's Mitra Convenor more than we had our previous one due to her greater financial needs. With all of this in the mix, we are happy to have broken even. We have also recently completed a regular giving campaign from which we are seeing a more than £500/month increase in monthly donations, which is encouraging for the future.

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)

Financial risks

As stated above, we face financial risks from any decreases in regular donations, in event-specific donations, or in rent. Of these three, the biggest risk is probably in regular donations, which is likely to be sensitive to the economic environment. As living costs and inflation increase, donors may have less income available to give us. We mitigate this risk by keeping a close eye on regular giving each month, so we will be able to respond quickly to changes. We also plan to do a regular giving appeal each year.

On the cost side, we also face risks associated with our building, particularly as the climate crisis leads to more frequent and more severe storms which may cause damage which we'll need to repair. We have replaced windows on the north side of the building as well as improving our loft insulation in 2022, so we can feel confident that we shouldn't need to do more in that area in the near future.

The charity's policy on reserves

We rely on income from regular donations, from event-specific donations, and from rent of our building to cover our operational costs. If any of those three were to decrease substantially, we would need to rely on our reserves to cover those costs until we were able to increase income again or cut costs in some way. It's also possible that we will face an unexpected one-off cost, most likely if we needed an emergency repair or upgrade to our building. We consider it prudent to maintain reserves representing 3-6 months of operating costs in order to protect against these risks.

At the end of 2022, our reserves stood at £20,681 representing 3.1 months of projected costs. This is in line with our policy, but on the low end. In 2023 we have already received £9,000 of the capital costs we spent on our building improvements in 2022, so we feel confident we will be able to increase our reserves closer to the middle of our policy range again this year.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed _____ Date _____
Lucy Jane Spence (Kusaladevi), Trustee

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of
Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham) (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed _____ Date _____
John O'Brien MSc, FCCA, FCIE
Employee of Community Accounting Plus

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
Receipts & payments account
for the year ended 31 December 2022

2021		2022
£	Note	£
	Receipts	
1467	Activities contributions	3012
24	Bank interest	53
9063	Gift Aid reclaim	7524
45108	Grants & donations	51363
16272	Rent	15920
2242	Sales	2655
<u>74176</u>	Total receipts	<u>80527</u>
	Payments	
-	Activities & events	972
-	Bank and transaction charges	974
94	Consumable items	1033
1262	Donations paid	2145
1304	Equipment, repairs & renewals	879
1277	Fundraising & publicity	420
612	Independent examination fee	612
1896	Insurance	1983
1016	Payroll & professional service	851
13791	Premises	18482
54	Printing & stationery	108
1000	Shop purchases	1325
1175	Sundry payments	-
51816	Support costs	52739
792	Telephone & postage	884
3376	Training, accommodation & retreat expenses	7479
<u>79465</u>	Total payments	<u>90886</u>
(5289)	Net receipts/(payments)	(10359)
<u>36329</u>	Cash funds at start of this period	<u>31040</u>
<u>31040</u>	Cash funds at end of this period	<u>20681</u>

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
Statement of assets and liabilities
at 31 December 2022

2021		Note	2022
£	Cash assets		£
31032	Bank accounts		20673
<u>8</u>	Cash in hand		<u>8</u>
<u>31040</u>			<u>20681</u>
	Other monetary assets		
-	Debtors	4	4129
823	Prepayments - Insurance		826
<u>7933</u>	Stock		<u>6402</u>
<u>8756</u>			<u>11357</u>
	Assets retained for the charity's own use		
	Land & building purchased in 1995, cost £135,000		
	General equipment retained for use by the charity.		
	Liabilities		
<u>(889)</u>	Creditors	5	<u>(1145)</u>
<u>(889)</u>			<u>(1145)</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed _____ Dated _____
 Rachel Woodburn, Trustee

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2022

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

2. Grants & donations

	£
Sundry donations	51363
	<u>51363</u>

3. Premises

	£
Council tax	2288
Utilities & servicing	4594
Maintenance & repairs	11600
	<u>18482</u>

4. Debtors

	£
Bank interest	52
Grants and donations	4077
	<u>4129</u>

5. Creditors

	£
Support costs	515
Independent examination fee	630
	<u>1145</u>

6. Premises

The premises are owned by the Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham). The cost of the property in 1995 was £135,000; the property was last valued in 2019 at approximately £350,000.

7. Trustees' remuneration

3 Trustees are ordained Buddhists and they receive financial support in the form of a salary totalling £41,017. Trustees are also allowed £1,800 each a year towards retreats. Another trustee is also an employee who received a salary of £1,570 from the charity during the year. Another trustee received 50% of donation takings for the yoga class she delivered.

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 December 2022

8. Glossary of terms

Creditors: These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

Debtors: These are amounts owed to the charity, but not received in the accounting period.

Prepayments: These are services that the charity has paid for in advance, but not used during the accounting period.

TRIRATNA BUDDHIST COMMUNITY (NOTTINGHAM)

England & Wales - Charity number 1044031

Accounts

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
(Registered charity, number 1044031)
Financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2021

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Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 December 2021

Full name Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)

Other names by which the charity is known Nottingham Buddhist Centre

Registered charity number 1044031

Principal address 9 St Mary's Place, Lace Market, Nottingham, NG1 1PH

Trustees

Lucy Jane Spence (Kusaladevi), Chair	Joanne Kshantika Coates (Kshantika)
Rachel Woodburn, Treasurer	Dorry Lake (Karunavaca)
Gareth Austin, Secretary	Jyotida Melbourne
Cornelia Anna Maria Remijn (Khemasiri)	Paul Johnson, from November 2020
Jesus Marquez Briceno (Aryavacin)	

Independent examiner

John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus, Units 1 & 2 North West, 41 Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GL

Governance and management

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 23 October 1994 and most recently amended 27 March 2011.

All new trustees are invited through discussion between existing trustees (the council), to ensure that they are in harmony with the aims of the charity. In practice this means that trustees are selected from the pool of ordained Buddhists and those who have requested Ordination in Triratna in Nottingham. Trustees are nominated by the charity's members and appointed at the AGM as per the constitution. The constitution allows a minimum of 4 and maximum of 10 trustees. Sixteen regular trustee (Council) meetings were held in 2021.

Objectives and activities

The object of the Triratna Buddhist Community is the advancement of the Buddhist religion, in particular:

- To encourage the members and others to live in accordance with the teachings of the Buddha;
- To support ordained members of the Triratna Buddhist Order and other duly ordained Buddhists, at the discretion of the council of the Nottingham Buddhist Centre;
- To maintain close communication with, and work under the guidance of the Triratna Buddhist Order and in co-operation with other groups with the same objects.

We are an international Buddhist movement bringing the Buddha's teaching to the general public.

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)

In 2021 The Council/Trustees revisited the centre's vision and agreed key themes:

1. Facing outward/responding to the world with the Buddha's teaching
2. Deepening practice of the Buddha's teaching within our community;
3. Making the Buddha's teachings accessible (by encouraging a diverse and inclusive sangha/community).

We have sustained a diverse range of events and activities that make available the teachings and practices of the Buddha to the local community. We run events for the general public and when possible, to educational establishments across the region. We run activities at the centre and in various locations outside. This year we have a mixture of online, hybrid (both online and in person) and some in-person events at the centre, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

Meditation classes and Buddhist teachings can provide valuable support to people and assist them to deal with the uncertainties of their lives and meditation can improve mental health and decrease stress. This can enable people to more fully participate in all areas of their lives. During the difficult lockdown period people have continued to be able to access this support via our online classes and events, providing a valuable community network to overcome the isolation and separation faced by people.

Summary of the main achievements during the period

The end of 2020 and moving into 2021 saw the Nottingham Buddhist Centre moving our introductory and follow-on courses online, onto the zoom platform, since the Covid-19 pandemic continued and prevented us from holding in-person classes and courses. We had successfully moved our sangha night and drop in meditation classes online in 2020, so these further classes were able to draw on what we had learnt from that.

These courses were very successful at reaching and introducing new people to the Buddha's teachings, one of our main charitable objectives, at a time when isolation has been particularly present in society due to the pandemic. Through this, our sangha (community) has grown and flourished.

Events

Retreats – Three online retreats were held this year and one in person residential retreat at a new venue. We also held two, day retreat/workshops and two day or weekend events with guests.

The Buddhist centre runs regular classes for sangha members and also introductory classes for newcomers. Due to the pandemic, this year's activities have been mainly online, but started to move towards in-person events from the summer. The activities at the Buddhist centre this year have been;

- Sangha Night (weekly), where all Nottingham Buddhist centre community members can attend and practise together.

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)

- Drop-in meditations moved from Youtube to Zoom to enable greater interaction and communication. 1xweek on Zoom,
- Study sessions (there are now six study groups – 4 women's and 2 men's).
- Puja nights started online fortnightly, then, due to a team member leaving they moved to a monthly basis in June and then starting in person in October.
- 3 online meditation mornings (due to one supported order member being away on a sabbatical for three months).
- Introduction to Buddhism and Meditation courses (Two online and one hybrid 6 week evening courses plus day retreats, one 8-week daytime course).
- Follow-on courses (one 4-week in person).
- Men/women gatherings (5 men's gatherings. No women's gatherings this year due to a supported order member being on a sabbatical).
- Regular Sub35 Buddhist activities.
- We also have a new People of Colour Buddhist group which is gaining momentum and meeting regularly.

We have continued to celebrate the main Buddhist festivals and link with the worldwide Triratna community online (2 online and one hybrid online/in person, including connecting into online events run by the wider Triratna community).

Yoga – Bodhiyoga is now a regular part of the Buddhist centre offerings, on a donation basis. Three classes per week were offered until August, then two classes a week for the remainder of the year.

Rental of space. We were able to begin renting out the space again for Yoga (started in June), Shiatsu and a Women's group.

Donations

Regular monthly donations fluctuated at the start of the year, then slowly decreased from May to August, possibly due to financial strains from the pandemic. General donations from events were slightly lower than expected in April and August. A fundraising appeal from October to December had a very generous response from the sangha, increasing regular donations by £512 each month.

Online activities

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, we have continued offering some online events this year. The added benefit has been that people who would not have been able to attend classes at the centre have been able to access online events. Online donations have also made it easier for people to give. We updated our website, which seems to have reached a number of new people and we have improved and increased our advertising via social media platforms and this is encouraging broader take up.

Maintenance

There has been a significant amount of maintenance and decoration undertaken whilst the building was still out of use, including a new kitchen and decorating in the main centre reception room with new carpets and foot mats at the doors. Work continued on the windows and facades outside. Some work started on the floor and joists. A full electrical survey and emergency lighting work was carried out for the whole building

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)

both the centre and the residential community. The floors have also had work carried out in the community and the radiators in the building were flushed through.

CIO

We are in the process of transferring our charitable status to a CIO status as recommended by Triratna's central body as this protects the trustees from personal liability. This work continued in 2021, but will still continue into 2022, as we transfer assets and accounts to the new legal entity.

Other activities

We have introduced a new team structure (nested circles), which is a way for volunteer teams and the centre team to work together. It enables volunteers to get involved and take ownership, but also enables good communication between the teams, with a clear structure.

We have continued developing interfaith connections in Nottingham and connections with two Universities.

The Council / Trustees agreed that there is a Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE). A Nottingham Buddhist Centre Triratna Earth Sangha group was formed. A new group of people interested in the Buddha's teachings in relation to the Climate and Ecological Emergency.

Due to the generosity of volunteers in our community, we have been able to carry out lots of work on the building this year.

12 people made the commitment to become Mitras this year 3 people asked for ordination. There are currently 21 people who have requested ordination.

The Diversity group is continuing. A group of volunteers and some employees, who explore how best we can make our centre and its activities/events more welcoming and accessible for all. Our work around diversity has continued. Including the People of Colour group development and ensuring all are welcome, including those who are Trans or Gender Diverse.

The Nottingham Buddhist Centre is thriving and the community growing and we look towards increasing our donations to have a larger staff team, in order to build on this success.

Employee changes

The Council (with the exception of the financially supported people who also act as Trustees):

- Decided they would like to agree in principle to move towards financially supporting people at the living wage. There is an aim to have an increase above inflation each year towards this goal.

Our bookkeeper Padmasakhi stopped working for the Buddhist centre in September and a new bookkeeper started working with us in August.

Our women's Mitra convenor Khemasiri retired in October, but will continue volunteering with us.

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)

At the point of writing we now have two full time supported Order Members (one Centre Chair and one Mitra Convenor), a full time supported centre Manager and a part time salaried bookkeeper.

Financial review

We experienced a loss of £5,289 in 2021 where we had expected a loss of £2,700. This is following on last year's surplus of just under £7,000. 2021 was a hard year to predict due to the ongoing pandemic and our loss was due to a combination of expected and unexpected factors. Most of the factors were positive and related to investments we're making in our current and planned growth. These include; increased support costs through supporting another person full-time, and costs to do with necessary improvements to our building which we completed through taking advantage of continuing lockdowns. Other factors that contributed to the loss are in areas that we have already addressed or are addressing. A drop in regular giving linked to our not having run an appeal since the beginning of lockdown (we have now run a successful appeal in Oct-Dec 2021). There were a small number of events we had budgeted to run but then did not have the resources to carry out (we now have a clearer system for ensuring we run what we have budgeted for).

Financial risks

As stated above, we face financial risks from any decreases in regular donations, in event-specific donations or in rent. Of these three, the biggest risk is probably in regular donations, which is likely to be sensitive to the economic environment. As living costs and inflation increase, donors may have less income available to give us. We mitigate this risk by keeping a close eye on regular giving each month, so we will be able to respond quickly to changes. On the cost side, we also face risks associated with our building, particularly as the climate crisis leads to more frequent and more severe storms which may cause damage which we need to repair. We have done some significant electrical work to the building in 2021, so we feel confident that we shouldn't need to do more in that area in the near future.

The charity's policy on reserves

We rely on income from regular donations, from event-specific donations and from rent of our building to cover operational costs. If any of those were to decrease substantially, we would need to rely on our reserves to cover the costs until we were able to increase income again or cut costs in some way. It's also possible that we will face an unexpected one-off cost, most likely if we needed an emergency repair or upgrade to our building.

We consider it prudent to maintain reserves representing 3-6 months of operating costs in order to protect against these risks. At the end of 2021, our reserves stood at £31,040 representing 4.7 months of projected costs. This is in line with our policy.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed _____ Date _____
Lucy Jane Spence (Kusaladevi), Trustee

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of
Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
for the year ended 31 December 2021**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham) (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed _____ Date _____
John O'Brien MSc, FCCA, FCIE
Employee of Community Accounting Plus

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
Receipts & payments account
for the year ended 31 December 2021

2020		2021
£	Note	£
	Receipts	
1163	Activities contributions	1467
81	Bank interest	24
7113	Gift Aid reclaim	9063
48916	Grants & donations 2	45108
17405	Rent	16272
1202	Sales	2242
75880	Total receipts	74176
	Payments	
241	Consumable items	94
898	Donations paid	1262
1590	Equipment, repairs & renewals	1304
805	Fundraising & publicity	1277
612	Independent examination fee	612
1974	Insurance	1896
882	Payroll & professional service	1016
8226	Premises 3	13791
89	Printing & stationery	54
449	Shop purchases	1000
733	Sundry payments	1175
48029	Support costs	51816
617	Telephone & postage	792
3776	Training, accommodation & retreat expenses	3376
68921	Total payments	79465
6959	Net receipts/(payments)	(5289)
29370	Cash funds at start of this period	36329
36329	Cash funds at end of this period	31040

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
Statement of assets and liabilities
at 31 December 2021

2020		Note	2021
£	Cash assets		£
36321	Bank accounts		31032
<u>8</u>	Cash in hand		<u>8</u>
<u>36329</u>			<u>31040</u>
	Other monetary assets		
2062	Prepayments - Insurance		823
<u>8403</u>	Stock		<u>7933</u>
<u>10465</u>			<u>8756</u>
	Assets retained for the charity's own use		
	Land & building purchased in 1995, cost £135,000		
	General equipment retained for use by the charity.		
	Liabilities		
<u>(2000)</u>	Creditors	4	<u>(889)</u>
<u>(2000)</u>			<u>(889)</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed _____ Dated _____
 Rachel Woodburn, Trustee

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2021

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

2. Grants & donations

	£
Sundry donations	45108
	<u>45108</u>

3. Premises

	£
Council tax	2215
Utilities & servicing	5876
Maintenance & repairs	5699
	<u>13790</u>

4. Creditors

	£
Support costs	277
Independent examination fee	612
	<u>889</u>

5. Premises

The premises are owned by the Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham). The cost of the property in 1995 was £135,000; the property was last valued in 2019 at approximately £350,000.

6. Trustees' remuneration

Three trustees are ordained Buddhists and they received financial support, in the form of a salary totalling £32,521. They were also allowed £1,800 each a year towards retreats. Another trustee is also an employee who received a salary of £10,662 from the charity during the year.

7. Glossary of terms

Creditors: These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

Prepayments: These are services that the charity has paid for in advance, but not used during the accounting period.

TRIRATNA BUDDHIST COMMUNITY (NOTTINGHAM)

England & Wales - Charity number 1044031

Accounts

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
(Registered charity, number 1044031)
Financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2020

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8	Receipts & payments account
9	Statement of assets & liabilities
10	Notes to the accounts

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 December 2020

Full name Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)

Other names by which the charity is known Nottingham Buddhist Centre

Registered charity number 1044031

Principal address 9 St Mary's Place, Lace Market, Nottingham, NG1 1PH

Trustees

Lucy Jane Spence (Kusaladevi), Chair	Joanne Kshantika Coates (Kshantika)
Rachel Woodburn, Treasurer	Dorry Lake (Karunavaca)
Gareth Austin, Secretary	Jyotida Melbourne
Cornelia Anna Maria Remijn (Khemasiri)	Paul Johnson, from November 2020
Jesus Marquez Briceno (Aryavacin)	James Burrell (Saccanama), until 1/9/20

Independent examiner

John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus, Units 1 & 2 North West, 41 Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GL

Governance and management

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 23 October 1994 and most recently amended 27 March 2011.

All new trustees are invited through discussion between existing trustees (the council), to ensure that they are in harmony with the aims of the charity. In practice this means that trustees are selected from the pool of ordained Buddhists and those who have requested Ordination in Triratna in Nottingham. Trustees are nominated by the charity's members and appointed at the AGM as per the constitution. The constitution allows a minimum of 4 and maximum of 10 trustees. Seven regular trustee (Council) meetings were held in 2020, in addition to the AGM.

Objectives and activities

The object of the Triratna Buddhist Community is the advancement of the Buddhist religion, in particular:

- To encourage the members and others to live in accordance with the teachings of the Buddha;
- To support ordained members of the Triratna Buddhist Order and other duly ordained Buddhists, at the discretion of the council of the TBC;
- To maintain close communication with, and work under the guidance of the Triratna Buddhist Order and in co-operation with other groups with the same objects.

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

We are an international Buddhist movement bringing the Buddha's teaching to the general public.

We have sustained a diverse range of events and activities that make available the teachings and practices of the Buddha to both the local community and the region. We run events for both the general public and to educational establishments across the region. We run activities at the centre and in various locations outside. This year we have moved the majority of our activities onto an online platform in response to the Covid 19 pandemic restrictions.

Meditation classes and Buddhist teachings can provide valuable support to people and assist them to deal with the uncertainties of their lives and meditation can improve mental health and decrease stress. This can enable people to more fully participate in all areas of their lives. During the difficult lockdown period people have continued to be able to access this support via our online classes and events, providing a valuable community network to overcome the isolation and separation faced by people.

Summary of the main achievements during the period

Events

Retreats (both in person pre March 2020 and online since then) – 2 in person weekend retreats and 2 online retreats were held this year, as well as 4 day retreat or weekend events with guests from different sanghas.

The Buddhist centre runs regular classes for sangha members and also introductory classes for newcomers. Due to the lockdown in March 2020, all activities of the Buddhist centre moved from being in-person, to online activities. The activities at the Buddhist centre this year have been;

- Sangha Night (weekly), where all Nottingham Buddhist centre community members can attend and practice together;
- Drop in meditations (they were 3x a week this year, but numbers dropped significantly due to being online classes [Youtube] and so a plan was made and a new drop in format designed to begin in 2021);
- Study sessions (there are now six study groups – 4 women's and 2 men's);
- Puja nights (there were 3 in person in 2020 before lockdown, then they restarted fortnightly online in April 2020);
- Open Doors (3);
- Meditation mornings (3 in person, 2 online);
- Introduction to Buddhism and meditation courses (2 in person. 1 online);
- Follow on courses (one moved online, one cancelled due to the pandemic, one online in November).
- Poetry/arts kula (3);
- Men/women gatherings (2 of each and a women's day retreat);

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)

- A Blake pilgrimage;
- Some additional winter period offerings;
- Sub35 Buddhist activities (with a growing team and momentum).
- We have continued to celebrate the main Buddhist festivals and link with the worldwide Triratna community online (1 festival day in person pre lockdown and 2 online – both local and global celebrations).
- Yoga – Bodhiyoga is now a regular part of the Buddhist centre offerings, on a donation basis. The classes have been successful and have increased through the year. Three classes per week are now offered.

There have been no school visits or rental of space this year due to Covid.

Donations.

Donations have continued to maintain and even increase levels due to the generosity of our sangha during this time. Despite initial concerns as to the impact of lockdown we ended the year with a surplus that exceeded what we had anticipated.

There were plans for a fundraising appeal in September 2020 but this was put on hold due to a number of changes in personnel and the process around recruiting a new Chair (Kusaladevi) which took time and resources away from planning a fundraising appeal.

Online Activities.

We very successfully transitioned to offering our activities online when the lockdown came into place due to the Covid 19 pandemic. People who would not have been able to attend classes at the centre have been able to access online teaching which is an unexpected positive. Online donations have made it easier for people to give and we have been able to invest in additional equipment to enable better quality sound and pictures. We have improved and increased our advertising via social media platforms and this is encouraging a broader take up than traditional methods had.

Maintenance

There has been a significant amount of maintenance and decoration undertaken during the closedown of the building. Including repairing windows and façade downstairs which were in need of attention.

CIO

We have been transferring our charitable status to a CIO status as recommended by Triratna's central body as this protects the trustees from personal liability. This work will continue in 2021 as we transfer assets and accounts to the new legal entity.

New Developments

Diversity group – a group of volunteers and some employees began forming this to explore how best we can make our centre and its activities/events more welcoming and accessible for all.

Interfaith -- Saccanama made some good connections with the Nottingham Interfaith group and through that group made other connections, for example, the organisation

Tiratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)

One Nottingham, consisting of members from various sectors in Nottingham, i.e. health, education, the police etc. This responsibility was handed over to Kusaladevi and Rachel. Kusaladevi attended a Black Lives' Matter seminar organised by One Nottingham and Rachel attended a faith leaders meeting. We expect we will make some good connections and these meetings will be an excellent opportunity for networking and becoming more integrated in the community in Nottingham more broadly.

Communication team - In June 2020 a team was brought together to focus on online communications, having seen that this would be a significant channel for the Buddhist centre moving forward. There is a plan to put a more thorough communications strategy in place, but in the meantime the team have been joining up more of the centre's communication between the website and social media. As well as work on the Youtube Channel, an example of this is the Meditation Toolkit playlist on Youtube. The website was also updated and refreshed and a new website launched in January 2021.

Employee Changes

Saccanama left in September and Kusaladevi started as Chair in October. Gareth became Centre Manager and increased his hours to full time in October. We now have three full time supported Order Members (one Chair and two Mitra Convenors), a full time Centre Manager and a part time salaried bookkeeper. This increase in personnel hours has been possible due to a growth in the Buddhist centre community and donations and shows our wish to respond to and encourage a continued growing and thriving Buddhist Centre.

Financial Review

We concluded 2020 with a reasonable surplus of just over £6,900. We view this as a reflection of the successful transition to online events during lockdown as well as the generosity of our community. We made the decision last year to increase the number of people we employed which also increased our staffing expenses, this has been balanced by reductions in training costs resulting in our costs being close to 2019's levels. Our income from rental of the centre also ceased during lockdown. Therefore, while the surplus is less than 2019's (£7,000) it represents a significant increase in income from donations and gift aid. The recurring income is especially valuable as it gives us a more stable cash-flow from month to month.

Financial risks

The main financial risk to the centre is the general uncertainty the economy is facing. A general recession and increase in joblessness due to the effect of the pandemic could see a reduction in our income after the Government support for employer's ceases as we are largely dependent on donations. We are confident that our community is growing and that the centre is valued and supported by many people but a general downturn remains a risk. We also occupy an ageing building and there may be unexpected maintenance costs (roof replacement/repair), for that reason we intend to increase our reserves as explained below.

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)

The charity's policy on reserves

We aim to increase the reserves we hold in our deposit account to around £40,000, double their current level of £20,000. During 2020 we suspended transfers to our deposit account so that we could be prepared for the changes to our income during lockdown. Now that the situation has stabilised we will be resuming these transfers and plan to increase our reserve again in 2021.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed _____ Date _____
Lucy Jane Spence (Kusaladevi), Trustee

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of
Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
for the year ended 31 December 2020**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham) (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed _____ Date _____
John O'Brien MSc, FCCA, FCIE
Employee of Community Accounting Plus

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
Receipts & payments account
for the year ended 31 December 2020

2019		2020
£	Note	£
	Receipts	
5561	Activities contributions	1163
86	Bank interest	81
7454	Gift Aid reclaim	7113
39040	Grants & donations	48916
17140	Rent	17405
3184	Sales	1202
<u>72465</u>	Total receipts	<u>75880</u>
	Payments	
1111	Consumable items	241
1179	Donations paid	898
1813	Equipment, repairs & renewals	1590
416	Fundraising & publicity	805
600	Independent examination fee	612
1916	Insurance	1974
703	Payroll & professional service	882
7360	Premises	8226
96	Printing & stationery	89
3446	Shop purchases	449
317	Sundry payments	733
40160	Support costs	48029
569	Telephone & postage	617
5730	Training, accommodation & retreat expenses	3776
<u>65416</u>	Total payments	<u>68921</u>
7049	Net receipts/(payments)	6959
<u>22321</u>	Cash funds at start of this period	<u>29370</u>
<u>29370</u>	Cash funds at end of this period	<u>36329</u>

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
Statement of assets and liabilities
at 31 December 2020

2019		Note	2020
£	Cash assets		£
29313	Bank accounts		36321
<u>57</u>	Cash in hand		<u>8</u>
<u>29370</u>			<u>36329</u>
	Other monetary assets		
922	Debtors & prepayments	4	2062
<u>9141</u>	Stock		<u>8403</u>
<u>10063</u>			<u>10465</u>
	Assets retained for the charity's own use		
	Land & building purchased in 1995, cost £135,000		
	General equipment retained for use by the charity.		
	Liabilities		
<u>(685)</u>	Creditors	5	<u>(2000)</u>
<u>(685)</u>			<u>(2000)</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed _____ Dated _____
 Rachel Woodburn, Trustee

Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham)
Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2020

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

2. Grants & donations

	£
Sundry grants & donations	48916
	<u>48916</u>

3. Premises

	£
Council tax	2111
Utilities & servicing	4238
Maintenance & repairs	1877
	<u>8226</u>

4. Debtors & prepayments

	£
Support costs	1230
Bank interest	9
Prepayment - Insurance	823
	<u>2062</u>

5. Creditors

	£
Support costs	1388
Independent examination fee	612
	<u>2000</u>

6. Premises & staff

The premises are owned by the Triratna Buddhist Community (Nottingham). The cost of the property in 1995 was £135,000; the property is valued at approximately £350,000

7. Trustees' remuneration

Three trustees are ordained Buddhists and they received financial support, in the form of a salary totalling £26,682. Another trustee is also an employee who received a salary of £7,215 from the charity during the year.

8. Glossary of terms

Creditors: These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

Debtors: These are amounts owed to the charity, but not received in the accounting period.

Prepayments: These are services that the charity has paid for in advance, but not used during the accounting period.