

The Friends of St Leonard's, Flamstead
(charity no – 1074485)

Annual trustees' report and accounts

31 December 2024

Trustees (at time of reporting)	Timothy Wright (Chair) Rev Joanna Burke Jonathan Mark Jenkin Carol Gibson Gregory Parsons Sarah Parsons Jack Reyland Janet Bowie
Registered address	Wilton Cottage, River Hill Flamstead St. Albans Hertfordshire AL3 8BY
Charity registration number	1074485
Website	www.friendsofstleonards.org

Trustees' Report

The trustees of the Friends of St Leonard's, Flamstead (FoSL) present their report with the accounts of FoSL for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Objectives and activities

FoSL is an unincorporated body, registered with the Charity Commission. It was established by a trust deed dated 5 February 1999.

The trust deed decrees that the trustees make available the funds, whether capital or income, including contributions and subscriptions from time to time in their absolute discretion for the preservation, restoration, improvement and ornamentation of the parish church of St Leonard's, Flamstead, Hertfordshire. St Leonard's is an ancient Grade I listed church that has stood at the heart of the village of Flamstead in Hertfordshire for over 900 years.

Applications for funds from the Flamstead Parochial Church Council (the PCC), which has ultimate responsibility for the maintenance of the structure and the fabric of St Leonard's, Flamstead, are considered and decided in accordance with the provisions of the trust deed.

In order to raise funds and awareness, FoSL seeks to arrange and participate in a number of fundraising activities, including the Flamstead Scarecrow Festival, fundraising dinners and evening events in conjunction with the PCC to raise awareness of the historical church and funding required to ensure the future of the church and grounds. FoSL also raises funds from supporters' subscriptions, donations and legacies.

The trustees are of the view that, through these activities, a public benefit is provided with due regard to guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission.

Achievements and performance

In 2024 FoSL continued with its fundraising activities. Events included a village supper and the Flamstead Scarecrow Festival, the latter raising a surplus of just over £10,000 which was divided between FoSL and other charitable organisations in Flamstead in recognition of the assistance provided by villagers and those organisations in making the festival a success.

Almost £54,000 was paid to the PCC in 2024 which included £16,655 contribution to heating and gas safety from when the church reopened in 2021, £6,530 on North Aisle exhibition area, £1,176 to North Porch slab works, £500 on churchyard tree, hedge and wall works, £3,100 on tree and hedge works at God's Acre (churchyard extension) and £23,619 as the final instalment for a major restoration and repair of the bells. This amount was less than originally provided due to VAT recovery and an outside grant.

The contribution to heating was agreed by the Trustees at 2/3 of the total gas usage.

These payments have enabled St Leonard's to remain fully open for both religious and secular events and to meet the obligations to the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Financial review

Results for the year

The accounts for YE 2023 were prepared on an accruals basis following the basis for YE 2022 when the revenue threshold necessitating such accounting had been exceeded. Although the revenue was less than the threshold for YE 2024, the decision was made to continue preparing the accounts on an accruals basis.

FoSL's incoming resources in the year totalled £64,313 slightly up from 2023 (2023 £45,205) due mainly to interest received on Bank deposit accounts. Resources expended for the charity's purposes totalled £20,438 (2023: £124,227). This has resulted in a net surplus of incoming resources of £43,626 (2023: deficit of £79,021).

Amounts paid out in the year included grants approved to the PCC of £53,646 (2023: £70,997). Liabilities for grants approved but not yet paid were £11,984 (2023: £62,156). Loans totalling £79,802 advanced to the PCC prior to 2022 to fund works on the church prior to the receipt of funding have yet to be repaid. This is because there has been an agreement to cover "cash-flow" for expenditure on the Heritage Project by the PCC, given that grants from the National Lottery Heritage Fund are paid 6-monthly in arrears. The project ended in 2024 and repayment of the loan has been made in 2025.

Reserves policy and financial position

It is the policy of the trustees to ensure that FoSL maintains maximum reserves to be able to support the needs of St Leonard's when requested. These needs continue to be very significant both in the short term and the longer term. Although the financial position looks very positive at present, the Trustees are aware of a number of items of significant expenditure in coming years and consequently, a 25-year strategic review of income and expenditure was undertaken in 2023 resulting in the resolution passed by the Trustees on 29 Nov 2023.

At 31 December 2024, the reserves represented by bank balances, debtors and creditors were £872,816 (2023: £828,940). Of these reserves, following the resolution passed by the Trustees on 29 November 2023 and documented in the report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023, £100,000 is reserved for unexpected emergencies, £499,949 designated for an annual drawdown of £20,831 into the unrestricted funds which stands at £272,867.

In order to reduce the risk of banks in financial difficulty and to secure better rates of interest, £677,000 was placed into a deposit platform operated by Flagstone on behalf of CAF Bank, the monies then being distributed amongst several banks within the £85,000 limit of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

Post 31 December 2024 and future plans

In 2025, FoSL is continuing with its grant-giving to assist the PCC with capital works. This includes works to improve and enlarge the cemetery in Flamstead known as God's Acre, payment of 2/3rds of the gas usage bill reflecting the requirement to maintain a constant temperature and humidity in St Leonard's for the preservation and stabilisation of the medieval wall paintings, as well as ongoing maintenance. The Trustees have agreed to meet 50% of the church buildings insurance.

A Quinquennial Inspection Report (QIR), a major inspection carried out for all Church of England churches every 5 years, was carried out for St Leonard's in March 2024 and resulted in

identification of significant repairs as well as maintenance in 2025 and 2026. Moreover, some of the works planned after the last QIR in 2019 are yet to be carried out as a consequence of Covid and the major roof works. Repair and restoration of the vestry roof is likely to be a significant cost in 2025.

Plans are in hand to run another Flamstead Scarecrow Festival in August 2025, the net proceeds to be shared with other Flamstead-based non-commercial local groups and charities. A Village Supper is proposed to be held in October 2025.

Trustees

The following trustees served during the year ending 31 December 2024.

Jonathan Mark Jenkin

Timothy Wright (Chair)

Reverend Joanna Burke

Carol Gibson

Gregory Parsons

Sarah Parsons

Jack Reyland

Janet Bowie (appointed as Trustee 17 January 2024)

As ever, we are hugely grateful for the financial support and support by way of time and ideas that are given so generously by our supporters. We very much look forward to drawing on that again in the rest of 2025.

"Thank you."

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Wright', written in a cursive style.

Tim Wright
Chair

Date: 15 September 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Friends of St Leonard's Flamstead (FoSL)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of FoSL for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are attached on pages 7 - 9.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

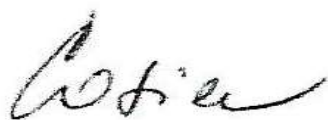
I report in respect of my examination of FoSL's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in respect of FoSL as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Date: 11 February 2025

Vladimira Cosier ACCA
13 Dammersey Close
Markyate AL3 8JS

The Friends of St Leonard's, Flamstead
Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Year Ended 31 December 2024				TOTAL	Year Ended 31st December 2023				TOTAL
	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Reserved Funds		2024	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds		2023
	£	£	£		£	£	£	£		£
Incoming resources										
Subscriptions	4,243	-	-		4,243	5,628	-	-		5,628
Donations	12,717	-	-		12,717	8,024	-	-		8,024
Legacies	-	-	-		-	8,713	-	-		8,713
Fundraising events	9,146	-	-		9,146	9,589	-	-		9,589
Income from investment	31,944	-	-		31,944	13,251	-	-		13,251
	-				-					
VAT reclaimed by PCC offset	6,263				6,263					
Total incoming resources	64,313				64,313	45,205	-	-		45,205
Resources expended										
Grants made for church repairs and improvements	3,474	-	-		3,474	110,813	-	-		110,813
Costs of fundraising events	14,925	-	-		14,925	12,244	-	-		12,244
Other	1,705	-	-		1,705	920	-	-		920
Accountancy expenses	250	-	-		250	250	-	-		250
Events	83				83					
Total resources expended	20,438	-	-		20,438	124,227	-	-		124,227
					-					-
Net incoming resources before transfers	43,876	-	-		43,876	(79,021)	-	-		(79,021)
					-					-
Transfers between funds	20,831	(20,831)			-	-620,780.00	520,780	100,000		-
					-					-
Net increase (decrease) in funds	64,707	(20,831)	-		43,876	(699,801)	520,780	100,000		(79,021)
					-					-
Fund balances at 1 January	208,160	520,780	100,000		828,940	907,961	-	-		907,961
					-					-
Fund balances at 31 December	272,867	499,949	100,000		872,816	208,160	520,780	100,000		828,940

The Friends of St Leonard's, Flamstead Balance Sheet at 31 December 2024

Approved by the trustees on 7th May 2025 and signed on their behalf:

	As at 31st December 2024				TOTAL	As at 31st December 2023				TOTAL
	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Reserved Funds		2024	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds		2023
	£	£	£		£	£	£	£		£
Current assets										
Cash at bank and in hand										
NatWest Current account	20,610	-	-		20,610	16,770	-	-		16,770
NatWest Reserve account	440	-	-		440	434	-	-		434
Paypal	(0)	-	-		(0)	546	-	-		546
CAF Bank Cash	6,476	-	-		6,476	52,849	-	-		52,849
CAF Bank Gold	93,391	-	-		93,391	91,125	-	-		91,125
Flagstone Holding Account	78,988	499,949	100,000		678,937	29,220	520,780	100,000		650,000
	199,907	499,949	100,000		799,856	190,944	520,780	100,000		811,724
Debtors due within one year										
Loan to the PCC	79,802	-	-		79,802	79,802	-	-		79,802
HMRC Gift Aid repayment	5,392				5,392					
	285,101	499,949	100,000		885,050	270,746	520,780	100,000		891,526
Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year										-
Grants approved but not yet paid	(11,984)	-	-		(11,984)	(62,156)	-	-		(62,156)
Accountancy accruals	(250)	-	-		(250)	(250)	-	-		(250)
SCF 2024 accruals		-	-		-	(180)	-	-		(180)
Net current assets	272,867	499,949	100,000		872,816	208,160	520,780	100,000		828,940
Net assets	272,867	499,949	100,000		872,816	208,160	520,780	100,000		828,940
Funds at 31 December	272,867	499,949	100,000		872,816	208,160	520,780	100,000		828,940

Trustee



Tim Wright

Trustee



Jack Reyland

The Friends of St Leonard's, Flamstead

The Friends of St Leonard's, Flamstead

Notes to the financial statements

Accounting policies	
	The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these accounts were as follows:
a)	<i>Basis of preparation</i>
	The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis, under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (the Charities SORP).
	The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.
	The accounts are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest pound.
b)	<i>Fund accounting</i>
	Restricted funds comprise monies raised for, or their use restricted to, a specific purpose, or contributions subject to donor imposed conditions.
	Unrestricted funds represent those monies which are freely available for application towards achieving any charitable purpose that falls within the charity's charitable objects.
	Designated funds represent those monies set aside from unrestricted funds by the trustees for a specific purpose.
c)	<i>Income recognition</i>
	Income is recognised in the period in which the charity has entitlement to the income, the amount of income can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.
d)	<i>Expenditure recognition</i>
	Expenditure is recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.