

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

Annual trustees' report and accounts

31 December 2025

**Trustees**  
**(at time of reporting)**

Timothy Wright (Chair)  
Rev Joanna Burke  
Jonathan Mark Jenkin  
Carol Gibson  
Gregory Parsons  
Sarah Parsons  
Jack Reyland  
Janet Bowie  
Samantha Davis (appointed 05 March 2025)

**Registered address**

Wilton Cottage, River Hill  
Flamstead  
St. Albans  
Hertfordshire AL3 8BY

**Charity registration number**

1074485

**Website**

[www.friendsofstleonards.org](http://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 2025.

### **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 2025 FoSL continued with its fundraising activities. Events included a village supper and the Flamstead Scarecrow Festival, the latter raising a surplus of just under £14,000 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.

£36,116 was paid to the PCC in 2025 which included £10,071 contribution to heating and gas safety, £6,190 on the extension and tree safety at God's Acre (village cemetery), £3,660 Remembrance Garden amenity, £3,606 on churchyard tree safety and maintenance, £5,923 maintenance and security of the church building and £6,665 final payment of the major works conducted during 2020 and 2021.

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 2024 were prepared on an accruals basis and, although the revenue was less than the threshold for YE 2025, the decision was made to continue preparing the accounts on an accruals basis.

FoSL's incoming resources in the year totalled £67,144 slightly up from 2024 (2024: £64,313) due mainly to interest received on Bank deposit accounts. Resources expended for the charity's purposes totalled £47,428 (2024: £20,438). This has resulted in a net surplus of incoming resources of £19,716 (2024: surplus of £43,876).

Amounts paid out in the year included grants approved to the PCC of £36,116 (2024: £53,646). Liabilities for grants approved but not yet paid were £3,828 (2024: £11,984). The loans totalling £79,802 advanced to the PCC prior to 2022 to fund works on the church prior to the receipt of were repaid during the year.

### **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 outlook is positive at present, the Trustees are aware of several 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. The Trustees are comfortable that FoSL's finances are in a sustainable position, but will continue to monitor income and outgoing regularly and act as appropriate.

At 31 December 2025, the reserves represented by bank balances, debtors and creditors were £892,532 (2024: £872,816). 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, £478,389 designated for an annual drawdown into the unrestricted funds which stands at £314,143. The Reserved Fund and the annual drawdown from the Designated Fund into the Unrestricted Fund will be increased in 2026 in line with the Consumer Price Index following agreement reached by the Trustees in November 2025.

In order to reduce the risk of banks in financial difficulty and to secure better rates of interest, £812,345 is placed into a deposit platform operated by Flagstone on behalf of CAF Bank, the monies then being distributed amongst several banks within the £120,000 limit of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (£85,000 to 30 November 2025).

The Trustees have considered the erosion of the capital value of monies held on deposit due to inflation exceeding the rate of interest receivable on bank deposits. A long-term view has been taken of the capital held and the Trustees are considering in detail investing a proportion of funds currently held on deposit. Any investments would be with a fund manager specialising in charities connected to the churches in the UK with a view to investing in an ethical way. It is considered that over a period of not less than five years this would provide better protection of capital. Reserves will be held at a level such that unexpected costs and eventualities can be met.

## **Post 31 December 2025 and future plans**

In 2026, 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 Report (QR), produced following a major inspection of St Leonard's in March 2024 the requirement for significant repairs to buttresses, the vestry roof and tower masonry. Costs associated with these repairs as well as general maintenance is likely to be significant.

Plans are in hand to run another Flamstead Scarecrow Festival in August 2026, 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 2026.

## **Trustees**

The following trustees served during the year ending 31 December 2025.

Jonathan Mark Jenkin

Timothy Wright (Chair)

Reverend Joanna Burke

Carol Gibson

Gregory Parsons

Sarah Parsons

Jack Reyland

Janet Bowie

Samantha Davis (appointed as Trustee 5 March 2025)

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 2026.

"Thank you."

Signed on behalf of the trustees:



Tim Wright  
Chair

Date: 12 March 2026

## **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 2025 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**

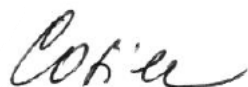
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe in any material respect:

- 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:

09/02/2026



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 2025

	Year Ended 31 December 2025				TOTAL		Year Ended 31st December 2024				TOTAL
	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Reserved Funds		2025		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds		2024
	£	£	£		£		£	£	£		£
<b>Incoming resources</b>											
Subscriptions	3,229	-	-		<b>3,229</b>		4,243	-	-		<b>4,243</b>
Donations	13,516	-	-		<b>13,516</b>		12,717	-	-		<b>12,717</b>
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising events	11,763	-	-		<b>11,763</b>		9,146	-	-		<b>9,146</b>
Income from investment	38,636	-	-		<b>38,636</b>		31,944	-	-		<b>31,944</b>
Gift Aid recovery due											-
VAT reclaimed by PCC offset	-	-	-	-	-		6,263				<b>6,263</b>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>67,144</b>				<b>67,144</b>		<b>64,313</b>	-	-		<b>64,313</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>											
Grants made for church repairs and improvements	27,210	-	-		<b>27,210</b>		3,474	-	-		<b>3,474</b>
Costs of fundraising events	18,868	-	-		<b>18,868</b>		14,925	-	-		<b>14,925</b>
Other	939	-	-		<b>939</b>		1,705	-	-		<b>1,705</b>
Accountancy expenses	250	-	-		<b>250</b>		250	-	-		<b>250</b>
Events	161	-	-		<b>161</b>		83				<b>83</b>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>47,428</b>	-	-		<b>47,428</b>		<b>20,438</b>	-	-		<b>20,438</b>
					-						-
					-						-
<b>Net incoming resources before transfers</b>	<b>19,716</b>	-	-		<b>19,716</b>		<b>43,876</b>	-	-		<b>43,876</b>
					-						-
Tranfers between funds	21,560	(21,560)	-		-		20,831	(20,831)	-		-
					-						-
<b>Net increase (decrease) in funds</b>	<b>41,277</b>	<b>(21,560)</b>	-		<b>19,716</b>		<b>64,707</b>	<b>(20,831)</b>			<b>43,876</b>
					-						-
<b>Fund balances at 1 January</b>	<b>272,867</b>	<b>499,949</b>	<b>100,000</b>		<b>872,816</b>		<b>208,160</b>	<b>520,780</b>	<b>100,000</b>		<b>828,940</b>
					-						-
<b>Fund balances at 31 December</b>	<b>314,143</b>	<b>478,389</b>	<b>100,000</b>		<b>892,532</b>		<b>272,867</b>	<b>499,949</b>	<b>100,000</b>		<b>872,816</b>

# The Friends of St Leonard's, Flamstead

## Balance Sheet at 31 December 2025

		As at 31st December 2025			TOTAL			As at 31st December 2024			TOTAL
		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Reserved Funds	2025			Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	2024
		£	£	£	£			£	£	£	£
Current assets											
Cash at bank and in hand											
	NatWest Current account	5,413	-	-	5,413		20,610	-	-	-	20,610
	NatWest Reserve account	445	-	-	445		440	-	-	-	440
	Cash	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-
	CAF Bank Cash	17,233	-	-	17,233		6,476	-	-	-	6,476
	CAF Bank Gold	44,629	-	-	44,629		93,391	-	-	-	93,391
	Flagstone Holding Account	234,141	478,389	100,000	812,530		78,988	499,949	100,000	-	678,937
		301,861	478,389	100,000	880,250		199,907	499,949	100,000	-	799,856
Debtors due within one year											
	Loan to the PCC	-	-	-	-		79,802	-	-	-	79,802
	Accrued interest	13,725	-	-	13,725						
	HMRC Gift Aid repayment	2,635	-	-	2,635		5,392	-	-	-	5,392
		318,221	478,389	100,000	896,610		285,101	499,949	100,000	-	885,050
Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year											
	Grants approved but not yet paid	(3,828)	-	-	(3,828)		(11,984)	-	-	-	(11,984)
	Accountancy accruals	(250)	-	-	(250)		(250)	-	-	-	(500)
	SCF 2024 accruals		-	-	-			-	-	-	-
Net current assets		314,143	478,389	100,000	892,532		272,867	499,949	100,000	-	872,816
Net assets		314,143	478,389	100,000	892,532		272,867	499,949	100,000	-	872,816
Funds at 31 December		314,143	478,389	100,000	892,532		272,867	499,949	100,000	-	872,816

Approved by the trustees on 04 March 2026 and signed on their behalf

Trustee



Tim Wright

Trustee



Jack Reyland



## The Friends of St Leonard's, Flamstead

### Notes to the financial statements

<b>Accounting policies</b>	
	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.