

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 05834539 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1114960

Trustees' Report and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025
for
The Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies

Chapman Robinson and Moore Limited
30 Bankside Court
Stationfields
Kidlington
Oxford
OX5 1JE

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for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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Trustees' Report
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: 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 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The purpose of the charity as set out in its governing document:

The objective of the Charity is to advance the education of the public by holding and administering funds for permanent and temporary teaching posts, and temporary research posts, in Buddhist Studies at Oxford University; by the administration of teaching and research activities in Buddhist Studies undertaken at Oxford University; and by agreeing arrangements for collaboration in respect of Buddhist Studies teaching and research with the University of Oxford (and Colleges, Faculties and Departments within it), and with other organisations involved in generating and diffusing academically sound information about the Buddhist Tradition.

The main activities undertaken in relation to those purposes during the year:

The Centre continues with its Access Initiatives, and continues with its innovative Pali Translation Project.

The Pali online courses programme provides a full learning pathway for potential students. It starts with a comprehensive introduction, which leaves students able to translate Pali texts themselves, with the help of study aids such as dictionaries. Levels 2 -3 build on this proficiency and Level 4 offers the chance to work in a more advanced way with Pali texts, and verse. The courses continue to prove popular and garner good reviews.

In this way, the Centre continues to provide a coherent learning pathway for those interested in Pali to progress from very little knowledge to an advanced level. This pathway is open to anyone who is interested, and has the time to follow their studies. It is built on the signature introductory course developed and taught by Professor Gombrich over a decade ago, which has been acclaimed for its ease of use.

The Pali Hub goes from strength to strength. This project is building a comprehensive bibliography of all scholarships related to Pali and Early Buddhism available on the web. It now stands at over 15,000 records and plans are in place for further development.

Professor Gombrich gives personal individual Pali teaching to interested students.

The Centre continues to publish its Journal annually, with a strong commitment towards intelligibility whilst preserving academic rigour. The Journal continues to have subscriptions from universities and institutions around the world.

This year the Centre launched its Pali Translation Project. This project aims to provide English translations for all previously untranslated texts of the Pali canon, with the results being hosted on Sutta Central. Work started on translation of the Sumangalavilasini and is due to be completed in Winter 2025.

A lecture series was held in Hilary Term 2025. Three lectures were given by different academics covering Philology, Gender Studies, and Textual lineages. These were held in conjunction with a fellow academic establishment, with which the Centre holds an MoU. The lectures were well attended and very well received. They are now available on YouTube and are free to watch.

The main activities undertaken during the year to further the charity's purpose for the public benefit:

Trustees' Report
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

The Centre has been continuing its strategic mission to enhance resources for online Buddhist Studies, and to make them available as freely as possible. It has developed, and continues to improve, an internet platform that includes teaching, research aids, translations, and lectures, that help people deepen their studies.

The Pali Translation Project in particular works to make more resources available online in Buddhist Studies, and work is now in progress on enhancing the role of AI in the field of Pali translation.

The Centre also continues its readiness to support Buddhist Studies at the University of Oxford.

The short term and longer term aims and objectives:

The long term aims of the charity are to establish the Centre in Buddhist Studies permanently. Teaching courses ensure the development of Pali scholarship in the West after a period of decline. The framework for study provided by the Centre provides interested parties with many resources to explore Buddhism. The Pali Translation Project adds an important new part to these resources, providing high quality translations of Pali texts previously unavailable in English. The current direction being developed is that of exploring the role of AI in this area.

In the short term, the continued success of the online on-demand courses generated a small income for the Centre. New courses with an even wider appeal, such as courses on the Buddha and early Buddhism, are being developed, and are expected to launch next year.

The charity's strategies for achieving its aims and objectives in the future:

The charity continues developing relationships with interested parties to ensure that its plans can be brought to fruition, including continuing an important collaboration agreement. The online on demand courses have raised the profile of the Centre, and the translation project is set to do so further.

How the activities undertaken during the year contributed to the achievement of the aims and objectives:

The continuation of the online on-demand courses is proving a very effective way to fulfil the Centre's aim of disseminating Buddhist scholarship to as large an audience as possible. The Pali Hub and Translation Project build on this, creating a growing community of people actively engaged in Pali studies. Proposed work on an AI tool to assist translation will be of great benefit to the field.

Resources used in the activities undertaken during the year:

The Centre has made extensive use of technology within the last year, exploring the simplest and most satisfactory ways to deliver teaching online. It has had great success with this, gaining praise for the setup of its resources. It continues to explore ways to ensure its outputs reach the widest possible audience, including freely available translations, and online tools.

The Centre has used a large part of its resources to employ two members of paid part-time staff: an Operations and Development Manager and a Financial Administrator.

Social investment policies and how these contributed to the achievement of charity's aims and objectives during the year:

Trustees' Report
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

The Centre has provided reductions in its course fees to students with reduced financial means who have shown an aptitude for the work, and for members of the sangha.

Lectures are provided free of charge on its website, and volumes of its Journal become open access after one year. The Pali Hub and Translation Project provides online resources in Early Buddhist scholarship which are completely open access. A proposed free access AI tool would greatly assist the lay person in translation activities.

The contribution of volunteers during the year:

The Centre's online ventures have been supported by voluntary input from both technical and teaching staff.

Grant making policies and how these contributed to the charity during the year:

There were no grants awarded this year.

The main achievements and performance of the charity during the year:

The Centre has held a schedule of online activities this year, furthering its goals in education, stimulating Pali Studies, and disseminating the fruits of scholarship to a wider public, as well as launching a new initiative in Pali translation. It has kept good financial reserves, is involved in detailed negotiations on future projects, and hopes to build a strong position for the future.

Fundraising activities during the year:

The Centre, having secured funding for the first stage of its Pali Translation Project, is involved with discussions on the next stage, to possibly include AI support of the project.

The difference the charity's performance during the year has made to the beneficiaries of the charity:

Thanks to the Centre's operation, students and members of the public have gained access to educational activities that would not otherwise been available. Important texts that have not been available in English translation are now being prepared for publication. This gives students both within Oxford University and abroad the chance to deepen their knowledge and pursue their academic interests.

Through the Journal, lecture series, teaching, translation and other activities, the Centre has contributed and supported advancement in the academic discussion of Buddhism in the modern world.

Trustees' Report
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The charity achieved a deficit for the year of £23,448 (2024 surplus £19,934) on its unrestricted fund income and £18,090 (2024 surplus £128,614) on its restricted funding income.

At the end of the year, the charity had cash and bank reserves of £156,483 (2024 £184,296). Of this, £127,302 was on restricted funds (2024 £139,392)

The trustees are confident of the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern in the foreseeable future.

The trustees have a policy of maintaining 50% of the annual expenditure as a reserve.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing documents, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. Its office in Oxford has shut and its registered address is as recorded below.

The procedures for the selection of trustees are set out in the governing document. All committee members are trustees and are elected at the Annual General Meeting.

Trustees' Report
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

05834539 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1114960

Registered office

John Eccles House
Robert Robinson Avenue
Oxford Science Park
Oxford
Oxfordshire
OX4 4GP

Trustees

Venerable Dr K Dhammasami Buddhist Monk
Professor D N Gellner University Professor
Professor R F Gombrich Retired Professor
Professor R B Kapadia Educational Consultant, Treasurer
Dr A J L Morris Book Publisher
Mr C Shaw Retired University Administrator, Chair of Trustees
Dr R Farmer Psychiatrist
Dr J B Katz Semi-Retired University Teacher
Dr J O Meiland Barrister & former University Teacher

Company Secretary

Mr S Egan

Independent Examiner

Alan P. Sowden FCCA, CTA
Chapman Robinson and Moore Limited
30 Bankside Court
Stationfields
Kidlington
Oxford
OX5 1JE

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 20th November 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mr C Shaw - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.

Alan P. Sowden FCCA, CTA

Chapman Robinson and Moore Limited
30 Bankside Court
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Date: 20th November 2025

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	31/3/25 Total funds £	31/3/24 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		2,818	16,600	19,418	147,774
Charitable activities					
Charitable activities		32,164	-	32,164	1,092
Pali		-	-	-	48,085
Pali Online Courses		7,900	-	7,900	8,815
Investment income	2	<u>41</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>139</u>
Total		<u>42,923</u>	<u>16,600</u>	<u>59,523</u>	<u>205,905</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Costs of running the charity	3	49,555	-	49,555	36,667
Charitable activities					
Charitable activities		10,231	34,690	44,921	11,202
Other		<u>6,585</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,585</u>	<u>9,488</u>
Total		<u>66,371</u>	<u>34,690</u>	<u>101,061</u>	<u>57,357</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(23,448)	(18,090)	(41,538)	148,548
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>45,255</u>	<u>139,392</u>	<u>184,647</u>	<u>36,099</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>21,807</u>	<u>121,302</u>	<u>143,109</u>	<u>184,647</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet

31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	31/3/25 Total funds £	31/3/24 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	8	-	-	-	232
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	306	-	306	3,270
Cash at bank		<u>29,181</u>	<u>127,302</u>	<u>156,483</u>	<u>184,296</u>
		29,487	127,302	156,789	187,566
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	10	(7,680)	(6,000)	(13,680)	(3,151)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>21,807</u>	<u>121,302</u>	<u>143,109</u>	<u>184,415</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>21,807</u>	<u>121,302</u>	<u>143,109</u>	<u>184,647</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>21,807</u>	<u>121,302</u>	<u>143,109</u>	<u>184,647</u>
FUNDS	11				
Unrestricted funds				21,807	45,255
Restricted funds				<u>121,302</u>	<u>139,392</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>143,109</u>	<u>184,647</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The notes form part of these financial statements

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 20th November 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mr C Shaw - Trustee

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: 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 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery	- 25% on reducing balance
Computer equipment	- 20% on reducing balance

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Restricted funds are made up of money used for Pali teaching - Diri Def, Student awards and Research into Buddhism.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31/3/25	31/3/24
	£	£
Bank interest receivable	<u>41</u>	<u>139</u>

3. COSTS OF RUNNING THE CHARITY

	31/3/25	31/3/24
	£	£
Costs of running the charity	<u>49,555</u>	<u>36,667</u>

4. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31/3/25	31/3/24
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>232</u>	<u>77</u>

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses for the year ended 31 March 2025. (2024 - £187)

6. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31/3/25	31/3/24
Administration	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

7. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	13,064	134,710	147,774
Charitable activities			
Charitable activities	1,092	-	1,092
Pali	47,244	841	48,085
Pali Online Courses	8,815	-	8,815
Investment income	<u>139</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>139</u>
Total	<u>70,354</u>	<u>135,551</u>	<u>205,905</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Costs of running the charity	32,995	3,672	36,667
Charitable activities			
Charitable activities	10,265	937	11,202
Other	<u>7,160</u>	<u>2,328</u>	<u>9,488</u>
Total	<u>50,420</u>	<u>6,937</u>	<u>57,357</u>
NET INCOME	19,934	128,614	148,548
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	<u>25,321</u>	<u>10,778</u>	<u>36,099</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>45,255</u>	<u>139,392</u>	<u>184,647</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	<u>3,456</u>	<u>596</u>	<u>4,052</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2024	3,346	474	3,820
Charge for year	<u>110</u>	<u>122</u>	<u>232</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>3,456</u>	<u>596</u>	<u>4,052</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>110</u>	<u>122</u>	<u>232</u>

9. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31/3/25 £	31/3/24 £
Other debtors	-	2,475
Prepayments	<u>306</u>	<u>795</u>
	<u>306</u>	<u>3,270</u>

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31/3/25 £	31/3/24 £
Trade creditors	9,580	-
Social security and other taxes	714	362
Pension liability	206	-
Accrued expenses	<u>3,180</u>	<u>2,789</u>
	<u>13,680</u>	<u>3,151</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/4/24 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/25 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	45,255	(23,448)	21,807
Restricted funds			
General Fund	139,392	(18,090)	121,302
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>184,647</u>	<u>(41,538)</u>	<u>143,109</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	42,923	(66,371)	(23,448)
Restricted funds			
General Fund	16,600	(34,690)	(18,090)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>59,523</u>	<u>(101,061)</u>	<u>(41,538)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/4/23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	25,321	19,934	45,255
Restricted funds			
General Fund	10,778	128,614	139,392
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>36,099</u>	<u>148,548</u>	<u>184,647</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	70,354	(50,420)	19,934
Restricted funds			
General Fund	135,551	(6,937)	128,614
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>205,905</u>	<u>(57,357)</u>	<u>148,548</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1/4/23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/25 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	25,321	(3,514)	21,807
Restricted funds			
General Fund	10,778	110,524	121,302
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>36,099</u>	<u>107,010</u>	<u>143,109</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	113,277	(116,791)	(3,514)
Restricted funds			
General Fund	152,151	(41,627)	110,524
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>265,428</u>	<u>(158,418)</u>	<u>107,010</u>

Details of restricted funds in the year are as follows:

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

	Opening 01/04/2024	Income	Expense	Closing 31/03/2025
Pali Teaching - DIRI DEF	-	£6,000	£6,000	-
Pali Hub-Greco/Bhanubandh	£7,640	-	£90	£7,550
Pali Canon Access Project	£579	-	-	£579
Chinese Contemporary Buddhism	£1,663	-	-	£1,663
Sanjukta's Fund	£1,300	-	-	£1,300
So-Wise Project	-	-	-	-
PTP Project	£128,210	£10,600	£28,600	£110,210
Total restricted funds	£139,392	£16,600	£34,690	£121,302

12. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2025.