



**Charitable Incorporated Organisation**

**Trustees Annual Report and  
Financial Statements Year:  
06 Apr 2023 - 05 Apr 2024**

**Charity number:1169219**



Trustees annual report for the period							
From	Period Start Date			To	Period End Date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	06	04	2023		05	04	2024

## Reference and administration details

Charity name **Avon Buddhists**

Other names charity is known by **None**

Registered charity number **1169219**

Charity's principal address **35 Coronation Road**  
**Downend**  
**Bristol**

Postcode **BS16 5SN**

## Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office	Dates		Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee
			From	To	
1	Mr Ashok Mali	Chairperson	20/02/2015	To Date	Trustees Appointed
2	Mr Stephen Holley	Treasurer	20/02/2015	To Date	Trustees Appointed
3	Mr Scott Pomery	Secretary	20/02/2015	To Date	Trustees Appointed
4	Mr Chris Hill	Trustee	20/02/2015	To Date	Trustees Appointed
5					

## Name of any senior staff members

**Dr Mark Fahey**

## Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).
How the charity is constituted	An association consisting of everyone who uses the Avon Buddhists or volunteers their time.
Trustee selection methods	Trustees are appointed or reappointed annually at the Annual General Meeting held in October.

### Additional governance issues

All trustees and staff give their time voluntary and received no remuneration or other benefits.

## Objectives and activities

Avon Buddhist Group was set up with the primary purpose to preserve and maintain the Mahayana Tradition of Tibetan Buddhism and make the teachings available to the wider public. Our central tenet is to offer the teachings as a clear path for the future well being and happiness of our community and the wider public. Paramount to this is to provide the right conditions for our spiritual guide, Ven Geshe Lobsang Thinley to teach and give advice. Around him, a small group of dedicated students have gathered in order to bring about some of our objectives. As follows:

(i) To provide accommodation for the teacher and his day-to-day needs. In the beginning, this was offered by students on a six-monthly basis, but eventually, it was decided that he needed to be independent and so rented accommodation was acquired. The present accommodation above is the principal address of the charity.

(ii) Provide suitable venues for the teachings to be held. Rented spaces were made available in the local area which gave us the opportunity to advertise

our events to the public. These were on a weekly basis where a talk was given by the Geshe and then a discussion would follow. Weekend courses were also offered on particular topics every two or three months.

(iii) Social events were organised on special days/celebrations. This gave us the chance to fund-raise and get the message out regarding our purposes to a wider audience.

(iv) Business models. Discussion amongst the group on how we can generate a more sustained and stable income rather than relying on donations as our main source. As part of our ethos, we wish to provide not just spiritual/emotional nourishment but physical nourishment/comfort too. The cafe and a social gathering place ideas were discussed and how these could be realised.

(v) Following on from this point the need for a more substantial space/property is still the next priority: the aim is to bring together all of the above under one roof and thus we hope it would become an integral part of the community and to give us the opportunity to expand our aims into other areas of service.

#### **Additional details of objectives and activities**

After the problems experienced with lockdowns due to Covid 19 and rises in the overall cost of living, our plans in the coming year will attempt to find further means of income and find a space/property as an Avon Buddhist Centre.

The Avon Buddhist Group had great difficulties providing its core purpose as there appears less interest after the covid restrictions and the increase in the overall cost of living. We will continue to offer Buddhist teachings to the general public. These remain on a weekly basis by our resident teacher Ven. Geshe Lobsang Thinley. The general programme begins with offering prayers chanted in Tibetan (although an English translation is there for those who wish to read it), followed by the main topic of the evening. A discussion amongst the group follows. Emphasis is always placed on making the teachings relevant to our everyday experiences with a particular focus on strategies enhancing wellbeing and reducing problems. Similarly, weekend courses are held to give students a more in-depth study of the Buddhist Path by focusing on particular topics in the Canon. These are generally well attended.

Furthermore, our outreach program will be extended to include groups outside the Bristol area. Links to other communities are encouraged who might share common interests. In the past invitations have come from local schools for our teacher to talk about Buddhism to the students as part of their studies on Comparative Religions. Also encouragement in the learning of mindfulness and stress relief techniques to help with their studies and enhance their general health and happiness.

We will continue to organise social events so we can keep in touch with our extended associate members who are unable to attend regularly. The core group meet fairly often to discuss current needs, progress reports and future projections. Special events to commemorate Losar or Tibetan New Year and to celebrate the birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama are organised. Thanks go to the volunteers who give their time and make it all possible.

During this annual report, the Charity Commission requested the removal of a Trustee under section 178 of the Charities Act 2011.

Concerns over our finances have been in review for some time. The need to reduce our overall costs has meant we have had to consider where our priorities lie. Our primary outgoing has been the rent on Geshe Thinley's residence. It has also become apparent that his situation has become difficult and inappropriate for his status as a monk and so the need for him to move to more suitable accommodation has become absolutely necessary. In due course, placement has been found and while not ideal ie. it is smaller, a single room with shared facilities, it is a temporary solution. However, it is more affordable and nearer his place of work.

Inquiries concerning finding Geshe Thinley a council accommodation have been successful. However, due to the smallness of his current accommodation, we cannot hold our weekly classes there and have had to look for alternative venues. Fortunately one of our core members has access to a Community Room in the block of flats where she lives. As a resident, she is entitled to hire the room at no cost and so this is at present where we hold our meetings. It is a large space with an adjacent kitchen facility so ideal for our purposes. Advertising this and other functions are now on our web page.

Dr Mark Fahey will pay all internet and administration expenses until our financial situation improves.

Since our last review, the organization has continued to function due to the generosity of our donors and volunteers. However, regular donations generated from our teaching programme have fluctuated from month to month making forward planning difficult. For this reason, many of our projects have been put on hold for the time being. We hope to bring some of these to fruition shortly; to this end, we are looking for sponsors.

Further financial review details:

Mail-shots with publicity materials, fundraising events etc at some cost and effort to the volunteers and active members have not generated enough in the past. We continue to inform by email and on our web page about our activities.

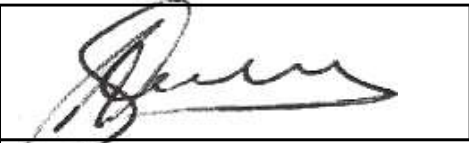
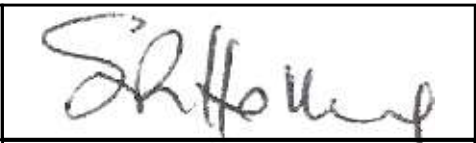
However our catchment is small, relatively speaking, and so it has been decided to spread the net wider, literally on the Net by opening our Facebook and Twitter pages. Posting various Buddhist related topics, articles, teachings etc along with who we are and what we are trying to achieve we hopefully are broadening our appeal.

Recognising the situation as it has been, our teacher Ven Geshe Thinley took the unprecedented decision to find work in order to help supplement our costs. An excellent cook learnt from his time in his monastery he took courses to up his skills in preparation for the world of work. This while still teaching and carrying on his own personal studies. While it was never our intention for this to happen, his practical solution to all things has stabilised, for the moment at least the drain on the finances. His subsequent move to his present address again has shown his willingness to help lift the financial burden and secure a future for Avon Buddhists.

Other optional information

Please find statements relating to the relevant financial periods in the appendices of cc16a.

Declaration

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Mr Ashok Mali	Mr Stephen Holley
Position	Chairperson	Treasurer
Date	01/11/2024	



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity	No
Avon Buddhists	1169219

CC16a


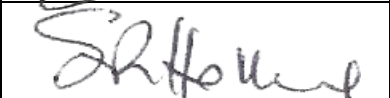
## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 06/04/2023	To	Period end date 05/04/2024
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### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations	13	-	-	13	5
PayPal Donations	59	-	-	59	63
Cash at PayPal Account	-	-	-	-	287
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b> (Gross income for AR)	72	-	-	72	365
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	72	-	-	72	365
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Rent for Spiritual Teacher	-	-	-	-	-
Administration	-	-	-	-	-
Room Rent	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	72	-	-	72	68
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>					
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	3,722	-	-	3,722	3,654
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	3,794	-	-	3,794	3,722

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Cash at Bank	3,449	-	-
	Cash at PayPal	345	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>3,794</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees				
Signature		Print Name	Date of approval	
		<b>Mr Ashok Mali</b>	01/11/2024	
		<b>Mr Stephen Holley</b>	01/11/2024	

**Appendix (I):**  
**Avon Buddhists Barclay's Account (73323595)**  
**06/04/2023 - 05/04/2024**

# Avon Buddhists Statements

06/04/2023 Through 05/04/2024 (in U.K. Pounds Sterling)

Date	Account	Num	Description	Memo	Category	Amount
<b>BALANCE 05/04/2023</b>						<b>3,435.29</b>
19/05/2023	Avon Buddhi...		Direct Credit From Amazon Europe	Ref:- 6577638589667777699664	Other Income:Gifts Received	13.41
<b>TOTAL 06/04/2023 - 05/04/2024</b>						<b>13.41</b>
<b>BALANCE 05/04/2024</b>						<b>3,448.70</b>
<b>TOTAL INFLOWS</b>						<b>13.41</b>
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</b>						<b>0.00</b>
<b>NET TOTAL</b>						<b>13.41</b>

**Appendix (II):  
Avon Buddhists PayPal Account  
06/04/2023-05/04/2024**

21/10/2024

**Avon Buddhists PayPal Statment**  
06/04/2023 Through 05/04/2024 (in U.K. Pounds Sterling)

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Date	Account	Description	Memo	Category	Amount
<b>BALANCE 05/04/2023</b>					<b>286.71</b>
29/04/2023	AB PayPal	PayPal	5JU05863JL996925P	Account Hold for Open Authorisati...	-2.06
29/04/2023	AB PayPal	eBay Commerce U...	76P68107D9020972G	Express Checkout Payment	-2.06
29/04/2023	AB PayPal	PayPal	5TB54362LR469682J	Reversal of General Account Hold	2.06
03/05/2023	AB PayPal	Dental Sky Wholes...	7N535322CX331013M	Error:Wrong PayPal account Use...	-59.87
03/05/2023	AB PayPal	Tanya Liddiatt	0K914403PH7241920	Donation Payment	9.66
07/05/2023	AB PayPal	Dental Sky Wholes...	17K82781F5100121Y	Error:Wrong PayPal account Use...	-58.32
10/06/2023	AB PayPal	Mark Fahey	2KT741276Y327391E	Error Correction	116.34
10/06/2023	AB PayPal	Mark Fahey	71B88789FP316990S Split	Error Correction	1.85
10/06/2023	AB PayPal	Mark Fahey	71B88789FP316990S Split	Donation Payment	2.88
25/06/2023	AB PayPal	Tanya Liddiatt	42S88360V02891811	Donation Payment	9.66
25/08/2023	AB PayPal	Tanya Liddiatt	3H024666UL314903B	Donation Payment	4.73
26/08/2023	AB PayPal	Tanya Liddiatt	1KN8353687746952K	Donation Payment	9.66
01/11/2023	AB PayPal	Tanya Liddiatt	6TH49241R12633105	Donation Payment	14.59
02/02/2024	AB PayPal	Tanya Liddiatt	2FC24040EN604012B	Donation Payment	9.66
<b>TOTAL 06/04/2023 - 05/04/2024</b>					<b>58.78</b>
<b>BALANCE 05/04/2024</b>					<b>345.49</b>
<b>TOTAL INFLOWS</b>					<b>181.09</b>
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</b>					<b>-122.31</b>
<b>NET TOTAL</b>					<b>58.78</b>
<b>TOTAL DONATION</b>					<b>58.78</b>