

Charity registration number: 1189807

The Devon Historic Churches Trust

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2025



WESTCOTT S

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
& BUSINESS ADVISERS

The Devon Historic Churches Trust

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The Devon Historic Churches Trust

Reference and Administrative Details

Chairman	Lady Burnell-Nugent
Trustees	Rev. Canon N P Fennemore (appointed 15 July 2024) Mr H Harrison Mr C Hutchings Prof R J P Kain (appointed 15 July 2024) Rev. Dr D J Keep (resigned 20 January 2025) Mr A R G King (appointed 15 July 2024) Mrs L A Martin Rt Rev N McKinnel Lt. Col. D Michie Mrs C Plumstead Ven. J Rawlings Ven. N S Shutt (appointed 15 July 2024) Mr P Tuckett DL Mr H Vollers Lady A Boles (resigned 15 July 2024)
Charity Registration Number	1189807
Principal Office	The Old Farmhouse Hele Farm Hennock Road Bovey Tracey TQ13 9PP
Independent Examiner	Stuart Carrington FCA Westcotts (SW) LLP Timberly South Street Axminster Devon EX13 5AD

The Devon Historic Churches Trust

Trustees' Report

The Trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The Trustees may apply the income and capital of the charity in such manner as they shall in their absolute discretion think fit for all or any of the following charitable purposes; the preservation, repair, maintenance, improvement and upkeep of churches in the County of Devon and the Diocese of Exeter.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Grant making policies

Application for grants which must fall within the objects of the charity as outlined above are considered by the Trustees who take account of the detailed work proposals and the financial situation of the organisation requesting grant aid. In addition the Trustees also have regard to the funds available to the charity for distribution.

Achievements and performance

The new website was commissioned in 2024/2025. Apart from looking much more modern and up-to-date it is more user friendly and easier for visitors to navigate. Parishes can now complete grant applications online.

The annual Devon Historic Churches Day raised £30,092 (2024: £30,040). £11,469 of the sponsorship money raised from the Devon Historic Churches Day (incorporating the national Ride & Stride) was returned to the churches and chapels nominated by the participants (2024: £10,747). The Trustees are very grateful to the volunteers who worked so hard to generate these valuable funds.

The Devon Historic Churches Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

Financial review

The financial statements and the accounting policies used in their preparation comply with all of the current statutory requirements and with the governing document.

The Statement of Financial Activities shows that the charity had incoming resources of £84,825 (2024: £93,282). Charitable expenditure was £114,077 (2024: £97,059).

The value of the investment portfolio had fallen to £1,328,905 (2024: £1,396,164) by the year end.

Net current assets amounted to £39,509 (2024: £77,038). The balance of net assets was held primarily as cash on deposit so that funds are readily available to meet actual and anticipated grant requirements whilst still earning interest.

Grants awarded amounted to £87,500, compared with £76,050 in the previous year. These consisted of 30 main grants totalling £70,500 and 14 small and emergency grants totalling £17,500. A number of payments were made for grants pledged in the previous year, and a number of grants were not paid by the year end. A full analysis is provided at note 8 to show the split of items paid and unpaid.

Support costs amounted to £14,899 (2024: £12,432) and governance costs were £3,178 (2024: £3,968).

Policy on reserves

The fund was established by the Trustees in 1995 with the aim of raising a capital sum the target of the initial appeal being £1million. Significant legacies are generally used to augment the capital of the fund. The income of the fund is available for furthering the aims of the charity.

At 31 March 2025 cash at bank was £111,683 (2024: £122,136). Outstanding grants awarded stood at £69,000 (2024: £42,030)

Investment policy and objectives

DHCT seeks to produce the best financial return within an acceptable level of risk. The investment objective is to generate a return in excess of inflation over the long term. The DHCT adopts a total return approach to investment, generating the investment return from income and capital gains or losses. It is expected that if in any one year the income return is insufficient to meet the budgeted expenditure, in the long term the real value of the investments will still be maintained in accordance with the investment objective above. The fund is split into two pooled funds. Both funds incorporate environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The Devon Historic Churches Trust was originally established by a trust deed dated 1 January 1973. On 1 April 2021 the original charity 265594 was converted into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered charity number 1189807, with the transfer of assets to the new CIO also taking place on that date.

The Devon Historic Churches Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

Following an open and transparent advertisement and selection process four new Trustees have joined the DHCT this year. This has significantly strengthened and widened the scope of the Trustee board of the DHCT. The power of appointing new Trustees is exercised by the existing Trustees. New Trustees are required to sign a declaration that the appointee accepts the position of Trustee and undertakes to act in accordance with the CIO constitution as varied by all legal modifications.

Lady Anne Boles DL retired from the Trust in July 2024. She had been a supporter since inauguration in 1972, and served as Chairman for some 15 years. Leading with great strength, humour and knowledge, Anne inspired and initiated many good things including DHCT participating in the annual "Ride and Stride" fund raising event. Her enthusiasm and energy were infectious. At her retirement, Lady Anne said that she had been proud to have been part of a charity that had helped so many parish communities in Devon to modernise, improve and maintain their historic church buildings. The Trustees thanked her for her many years of service to the Trust and presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

Representatives of the Trust attended the funeral of The Reverend Dr David Keep in January 2025. David was invited to be a Representative for Aylesbeare Deanery and Assessor of bids for grant funding. He was appointed a Trustee in 2007 representing the Free Churches. A devout Methodist, David lectured about the Trust throughout Devon on more than 100 occasions, presenting his extensive collection of photographic slides illustrating the architecture of Devon churches and the fascinating treasures that they contain. He continued to preach on the Methodist circuit until Parkinson's took away his voice in 2019. David continued to attend and contribute to Trust meetings with courage, commitment and an intellectual mind until late 2024.

After her year end, Lady Burnell-Nugent gave notice of her intention to resign following her move out of the county. Canon Nick Fenneore agreed to accept the role of Vice Chairman, and advertising for her successor has begun.

Organisational structure

The Trustees meet quarterly to receive reports from officers and committees and to consider grant applications. A General Purposes Committee meets regularly to decide upon small or emergency grants and deal with other business as it arises.

Major risks and management of those risks

The Trustees have given consideration to the risks to which the charity may be exposed, and they consider that the systems that have been established are suitable for the minimisation of such risks, for safeguarding of the assets of the charity, and for the prevention and detection of fraud.

The Devon Historic Churches Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The annual report was approved by the Trustees of the charity on 13/10/25 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr H Vollers
Trustee

The Devon Historic Churches Trust

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Devon Historic Churches Trust

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Devon Historic Churches Trust for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity Trustees of The Devon Historic Churches Trust 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 The Devon Historic Churches Trust'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 material 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 Devon Historic Churches Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting 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 this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Stuart Carrington FCA
Westcotts (SW) LLP
Timberly
South Street
Axminster
Devon
EX13 5AD

Date: 16.11.2025

The Devon Historic Churches Trust

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies		7,728	7,728	17,429
Other trading activities		30,092	30,092	30,040
Investment income	4	<u>47,005</u>	<u>47,005</u>	<u>45,813</u>
Total income		<u>84,825</u>	<u>84,825</u>	<u>93,282</u>
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	5	(7,500)	(7,500)	(6,916)
Charitable activities	6	<u>(114,077)</u>	<u>(114,077)</u>	<u>(97,059)</u>
Total expenditure		(121,577)	(121,577)	(103,975)
Gains/losses on investment assets		<u>(67,259)</u>	<u>(67,259)</u>	<u>95,568</u>
Net (expenditure)/income		<u>(104,011)</u>	<u>(104,011)</u>	<u>84,875</u>
Net movement in funds		(104,011)	(104,011)	84,875
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>1,476,327</u>	<u>1,476,327</u>	<u>1,391,452</u>
Total funds carried forward	17	<u><u>1,372,316</u></u>	<u><u>1,372,316</u></u>	<u><u>1,476,327</u></u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2024 is shown in note 17.

The Devon Historic Churches Trust

(Registration number: 1189807)

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	3,902	3,125
Investments	14	<u>1,328,905</u>	<u>1,396,164</u>
		<u>1,332,807</u>	<u>1,399,289</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	15	369	362
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>111,683</u>	<u>122,136</u>
		112,052	122,498
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>(72,543)</u>	<u>(45,460)</u>
Net current assets		<u>39,509</u>	<u>77,038</u>
Net assets		<u>1,372,316</u>	<u>1,476,327</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>1,372,316</u>	<u>1,476,327</u>
Total funds	17	<u>1,372,316</u>	<u>1,476,327</u>

The financial statements on pages 7 to 17 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 13/10/25 and signed on their behalf by:



Mr H Vollers
Trustee

The Devon Historic Churches Trust

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

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

The Devon Historic Churches Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

Going concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income and endowments

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

The Devon Historic Churches Trust

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

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Grant provisions

Provisions for grants are made when the intention to make a grant has been communicated to the recipient but there is uncertainty about either the timing of the grant or the amount of grant payable.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	20% straight line

Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments, other than programme related investments, are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities based on the market value at the year end.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

The Devon Historic Churches Trust

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

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the Trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Financial instruments

Classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

The Devon Historic Churches Trust

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

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Donations from individuals	3,624	3,624	6,698
Legacies	-	-	1,802
Grants, including capital grants; Grants from other charities	-	-	5,000
Subscriptions	4,104	4,104	3,929
	<u>7,728</u>	<u>7,728</u>	<u>17,429</u>

3 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £	Total 2024 £
Devon Historic Churches Day	30,092	30,092	30,040
	<u>30,092</u>	<u>30,092</u>	<u>30,040</u>

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Bank interest receivable	2,754	2,754	2,150
Income from listed investments	44,251	44,251	43,663
	<u>47,005</u>	<u>47,005</u>	<u>45,813</u>

The Devon Historic Churches Trust

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

5 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Wages and salaries	6,918	6,918	6,436
Advertising	582	582	480
	<u>7,500</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>6,916</u>

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Grant funding of activities	99,178	99,178	84,627
Support costs	14,899	14,899	12,432
	<u>114,077</u>	<u>114,077</u>	<u>97,059</u>

The Devon Historic Churches Trust

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

7 Analysis of support costs

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Staff costs	5,415	5,415	5,051
Communications and IT	312	312	312
Governance costs	3,178	3,178	3,968
General office costs	5,994	5,994	3,089
Bank charges	-	-	12
	<u>14,899</u>	<u>14,899</u>	<u>12,432</u>

8 Grant-making

Analysis of grants

	2025 £	2024 £
Analysis		
Unpaid amounts brought forward	(42,030)	(23,150)
Sums paid in the year	43,798	43,000
Small grants paid	16,250	12,000
Unpaid amounts carried forward	69,000	42,030
Devon Historic Churches Day payments to churches	<u>11,469</u>	<u>10,747</u>
	<u>98,487</u>	<u>84,627</u>

9 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net outgoing resources for the year include:

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation of fixed assets	<u>1,248</u>	<u>843</u>

10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No Trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year (2024: Nil).

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses from the charity during the year (2024: Nil).

The Devon Historic Churches Trust

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

11 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	12,333	11,487

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2025 No	2024 No
Average headcount	1	1

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year (2024: Nil)

12 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2025 £	2024 £
Fees payable to the independent examiner for:		
Independent examination of the financial statements	817	677

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings, equipment & software £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2024	4,214	4,214
Additions	2,025	2,025
At 31 March 2025	6,239	6,239
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2024	1,089	1,089
Charge for the year	1,248	1,248
At 31 March 2025	2,337	2,337
Net book value		
At 31 March 2025	3,902	3,902
At 31 March 2024	3,125	3,125

The Devon Historic Churches Trust

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

14 Fixed asset investments

	Other investments £	Total £
Cost or Valuation		
At 1 April 2024	1,396,164	1,396,164
Unrealised loss on investments	<u>(67,259)</u>	<u>(67,259)</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>1,328,905</u>	<u>1,328,905</u>
Net book value		
At 31 March 2025	<u>1,328,905</u>	<u>1,328,905</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,396,164</u>	<u>1,396,164</u>

15 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Prepayments	<u>369</u>	<u>362</u>

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Other creditors	69,000	42,030
Accruals	<u>3,543</u>	<u>3,430</u>
	<u>72,543</u>	<u>45,460</u>

The Devon Historic Churches Trust

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

17 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
General Funds	<u>1,476,327</u>	<u>84,825</u>	<u>(121,577)</u>	<u>(67,259)</u>	<u>1,372,316</u>
	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
General Funds	<u>1,391,452</u>	<u>93,282</u>	<u>(103,975)</u>	<u>95,568</u>	<u>1,476,327</u>

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds at 31 March 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	3,902	3,902
Fixed asset investments	1,328,905	1,328,905
Current assets	112,052	112,052
Current liabilities	<u>(72,543)</u>	<u>(72,543)</u>
Total net assets	<u>1,372,316</u>	<u>1,372,316</u>
	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds at 31 March 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	3,125	3,125
Fixed asset investments	1,396,164	1,396,164
Current assets	122,498	122,498
Current liabilities	<u>(45,460)</u>	<u>(45,460)</u>
Total net assets	<u>1,476,327</u>	<u>1,476,327</u>

19 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year (2024: Nil).

