

Company Registration Number **CE026901**

Charity Registration Number **1196156**

B-LESS

CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

B-LESS

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B-LESS

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31 August 2025.

Reference and Administration details

Registered charity name	B-Less
Charity registration number	1196156
Company registration number	CE026901
Principal office and registered office	11 Holywell Street Oxford OX1 3SA
Trustees	George Diwakar John-Mark Teeuwen Nicolas Wu Andrew Young
Independent Examiner	Andrew P Crossley FCA Baldwin Cox Limited Chartered Accountants 15 Foster Avenue Beeston Nottingham NG9 1AE

Objectives and Activities

B-Less exists to advance the Christian Faith among students in universities, theological colleges, training colleges, technical colleges and other similar institutions throughout Great Britain through the provision of scholarships to graduate students to support and mentor Christian undergraduate students.

In pursuit of these objectives, during the foreshortened 2024-25 reporting year, the charity has recruited, trained, and deployed Christian masters and doctoral students to serve as encouragers, mentors, and evangelists in a variety of higher educational contexts. In the 2024-25 academic year, the number of scholars has expanded from eleven to fifteen, including our first scholar based at Durham University and one serving in an augmented part-time role as a B-Less Associate. Fourteen of the scholars were pursuing degrees at Oxford University, consolidating our position as a major supporter of the Oxford Inter-Collegiate Christian Union. Initiatives supported by B-Less scholars included:

- Theology Network – A local faculty-based group convened by the Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship (UCCF) in Oxford.
- The Search – A weekly outreach event organised by Oxford Intercollegiate Christian Union in Oxford.
- The student ministries of Oxford Presbyterian Church (OPC) and St Ebbe's Church.
- Other faculty network groups based in Oxford focusing on History and STEM subjects.
- The running of the OICCU 'Events Week' through the provision of college helpers.
- A nascent Theology Network initiative based in Durham.

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

Objectives and Activities (continued)

The scholarship scheme has received warm support from students, churches, and other para-church organisations with whom we work in partnership, while, behind the scenes, the administration and management of the charity has developed, culminating in the recruitment of a part-time Charity Manager beginning from September 2025.

In their oversight of these developments, the Trustees of B-Less have been guided by a focus on public benefit as laid out in the charitable objects registered with the Charity Commission.

B-Less scholars are volunteers, recruited through a rigorous process involving public advertisement of the opportunity, submission of application and self-disclosure forms, soliciting of references, interviews, DBS checks, and safeguarding training. Scholarships are regulated by a signed, time-limited volunteer contracts. The B-Less associateship is a part-time staff position, subject to the same rigorous recruitment process, but regulated through a contract of employment.

Achievements and Performance

Following a year of consolidation in 2023-24, 2024-25 was a year of strengthening existing areas of support while successfully expanding into new areas. Scholars continued to provide important supporting roles at Theology Network and The Search, supporting evangelical undergraduates with the challenges faced by studying secular academic theology and taking part in the Christian Union's outreach respectively. Table leaders at The Search, in particular, were able to use the opportunities afforded by their status as graduate students to present a credible case for the plausibility of evangelical faith in an academic context, and also build close relationships with regular groups of students on their tables.

The establishment of new initiatives in some areas brought challenges, especially with regards to gathering students in faculty groups, however, scholars showed impressive flexibility to make the most of the opportunities they were given to reach students within the CU. The introduction of a large number of incoming scholars meant that some failed to initially grasp the collaborative nature of the B-Less project, but this improved over the year, especially following the mid-year scholarship reviews.

The introduction of one scholar in Durham was a resounding success, with a large and keen Theology Network group being quickly formed. The comparative size of the Durham CU and less intense work environment within the University means that there are many opportunities for expansion of the scholarship network in Durham, reflected in a large number of applications to the programme for the 2025-26 academic year with several potential new initiatives.

Increasing the pool of scholars in Oxford has consolidated the position of B-Less as an important source of support for the CU, and integrating UCCF Staff Workers in the bi-weekly colloquia has assisted lines of communication between B-Less and OICCU. B-Less scholars played an important role during the Events Week, serving as college helpers and assisting with first contact outreach, providing essential numerical reinforcement to the CU and local churches. Scholars serving as long-term, year-round supporters of college CUs struggled to gain a foothold, however, suggesting that more needs to be done to persuade individual CU members of the benefits of graduate support.

Consolidation in Oxford and expansion in Durham has begun to show the importance of B-Less on a national scale, and conversations have begun to further develop partnerships with UCCF and other organisations at other Universities. One outflow of this is the recruitment of our first scholar based in Cambridge for the 2025-26 academic year, to fill a gap in support for Theology Network there.

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

Financial Review

B-Less has ended the financial year in a healthy state, with the reserves policy of holding funds sufficient to cover three months operating expenses consistently met. B-Less continues to receive support from US- and UK-based donors. The ratio of local contributions has continued to increase as the work becomes more established, and we have also been excited to add several new supporting churches in the US through our growing Presbyterian connections.

Working in consultation with the Board of Trustees, the Director and the incoming Charity Manager decided to foreshorten the 2024-25 financial year and shift to a September-August annual accounting pattern. This better reflects the rhythm of income and expenditure for the charity, as our activities are largely structured around the academic year with a new cohort of scholars coming onboard each September.

Structure, Governance and Management

B-Less is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission in the United Kingdom. Eligibility for trusteeship and procedures for appointing trustees are set out in detail in our charity constitution. It is our policy that new trustees can be appointed, and existing trustees reappointed, for a maximum term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees and that no trustee may serve for longer than three consecutive terms.

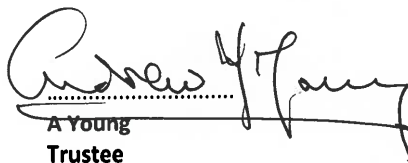
Following constructive feedback from potential institutional funders, B-Less implemented a series of restructuring proposals in January 2025 designed to reflect the growing maturity of the charity. Our Director and founder, Neil Martin, reduced his weekly contracted hours from 25 to 20, mirroring the increasing scale of his commitment to Oxford Presbyterian Church where he also serves as part time Associate Minister. The church also took on responsibility for the tenancy of Neil's home in central Oxford, and its associated allowable expenses, reflecting its increasing use for church-related activities. Our accountants, Baldwin Cox, provided valuable advice on the correct treatment of benefits in kind. To assist with the management of the charity and to reflect the growing size and scope of the work, B-Less has taken on a part-time Charity Manager, from September 2025. This appointment will enable B-Less to more adequately support its growing scholarship programme, whilst also freeing Neil up to invest in his work as a minister and as an academic.

All trustees and staff receive safeguarding training provided by our partner organisation, ThirtyOne:Eight.

B-Less works closely in partnership with the Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship (UCCF) who convene and supervise many of the groups and events in which B-Less scholars and associates serve. Local and national UCCF staff are represented on B-Less selection panels and placement supervision is undertaken with input from local UCCF leaders.

Prepared by and signed on behalf of the Trustees on23/2/26.....


N Wu
Trustee


A Young
Trustee

B-LESS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF B-LESS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the period ended 31 August 2025, which are set out on pages 6 to 12.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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 this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



**Andrew P Crossley FCA
Baldwin Cox Limited
Chartered Accountants
15 Foster Avenue
Beeston
Nottingham
NG9 1AE**

..... 23/2/26

B-LESS**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

		Period Ended 31 August 2025 £	Year Ended 31 October 2024 £
	Notes		
Incoming resources			
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	3	102,159	155,590
Investments	3	378	316
Total		102,537	155,906
Resources expended			
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	4	26,780	36,763
Other	4	50,330	106,333
Total		77,109	143,096
Net (expenditure)/income		25,428	12,810
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward		27,425	14,615
Total funds carried forward	10	52,853	27,425

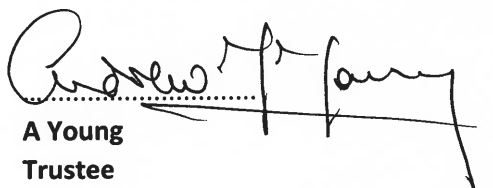
B-LESS**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025**

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	7	4,570	1,611
Current Assets			
Debtors	8	13,785	14,437
Cash at bank and in hand		36,054	13,481
Total current assets		49,839	27,918
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(1,556)	(2,104)
Net Current Assets		48,283	25,814
Total Net Assets		52,853	27,425
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted funds	10	52,853	27,425

The financial statements on pages 6 to 12 were approved by the trustees on 23/2/26 and signed on their behalf by:



N Wu
Trustee



A Young
Trustee

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, and with the Charities Act 2011.

2 Accounting policies

Recognition of income

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity becomes entitled to the resources, it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources, and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

IT equipment	25% on cost
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Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and accordingly is exempt from taxation on its income and gains where they are applied for charitable purposes.

Accounting period

The accounts cover the period from 1 November 2024 to 31 August 2025. The comparatives cover the year to 31 October 2024.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

3 Analysis of income

	2025	2024
	£	£
Donations and legacies		
Donations and gifts	102,159	155,590
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Investments		
Bank interest	378	316
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

All income received in the period was unrestricted.

4 Analysis of expenditure

	2025	2024
	£	£
Charitable activities		
Books	818	1,421
Payments to scholars	25,962	34,816
Training	-	-
DBS checks	-	526
Contracts for scholars	-	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	26,780	36,763
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Other		
General manager remuneration	31,167	50,000
Rent	5,333	31,917
Other property costs	125	6,416
Computer costs	2,261	1,830
Travelling costs	589	4,992
Subscriptions	166	976
Legal and professional fees	480	-
Accountancy	2,135	2,390
Bank charges	240	103
Transfer charges	943	1,689
Insurance	608	844
Postage, printing and stationery	2,342	1,963
Telephone costs	150	180
Sundry expenses	1,191	1,823
Depreciation	2,600	1,210
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	50,330	106,333
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

5 Staff costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries and wages	39,436	62,900
Social security costs	626	1,258
Pension costs	1,058	2,059
	<u>41,120</u>	<u>66,217</u>

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000.

The total amount paid to key management personnel (including trustees and senior management) for their services to the charity for the year was £31,167 (2024: £50,000).

The average monthly number of persons employed by the company during the year was:

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
Total	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

6 Defined contribution pension scheme costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amount of contributions recognised in the SOFA as an expense	<u>1,058</u>	<u>2,059</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

7 Tangible fixed assets

	IT equipment £
Cost	
At 1 November 2024	4,839
Additions	5,559
At 31 August 2025	<u>10,398</u>
Depreciation and impairments	
At 1 November 2024	3,228
Depreciation charged in the year	2,600
At 31 August 2025	<u>5,828</u>
Net book value	
At 31 August 2025	<u><u>4,570</u></u>
At 31 October 2024	<u><u>1,611</u></u>

8 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Donations pending transfer to UK	6,918	13,604
Prepayments	225	833
Other debtor	6,642	-
	<u>13,785</u>	<u>14,437</u>

9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Accruals	1,556	1,640
Other creditors	-	464
	<u>1,556</u>	<u>2,104</u>

B-LESS**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

10 Analysis of charitable funds**Unrestricted funds**

	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 August 2025 £
General funds	27,425	102,537	(77,109)	52,853