

The Friends of Gloucester Cathedral

REPORT OF COUNCIL

The Council of the Friends of Gloucester Cathedral CIO presents its report with the Financial Statements of The Friends of Gloucester Cathedral for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name:	The Friends of Gloucester Cathedral CIO ('the Friends')
Charity Number:	1199707
Registered Office:	The Friends of Gloucester Cathedral 12 College Green, Gloucester GL1 2LX
Telephone:	01452 528095
Email:	office.administrator@fogc.co.uk
Patron:	His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester
President:	The Hon Hugh Tollemache
Chair:	Antony Wilton-Steer BA (Oxon)
Honorary Secretary:	Robert Ingram MA (Oxon)
Honorary Treasurer:	Tim Watkins FCA
Office Administrator:	Claire Saunders BA
Cathedral Architect:	Antony Feltham-King RIBA, GradDiplConsAA, AABC
Independent Examiner:	Andrew Harris, Hazlewoods, Windsor House, Bayshill Road, Cheltenham, GL50 3AT
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank, 19 Eastgate Street, Gloucester GL1 1NU
Investment Managers:	JM Finn and Co, Stockbrokers, St Brandons House, 31 Great George St, Bristol BS1 5QD

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The management and operation of the Friends are governed by a Constitution. A copy of the Constitution and supporting policies is on the Friends' website or available from the Friends' Office. The governance of The Friends of Gloucester Cathedral CIO is vested in the Council, which exercises general control and management of the administration of the Charity.

Trustees and Members of Council

The full list of Members of Council and Trustees of the CIO as at 28th April 2025 are:

- Antony Wilton-Steer ***Chair***
- Matthew Clayton
- Ally Hardy
- Robert Ingram
- Sinclair Johnston
- Felicity Read
- Timothy Watkins

Ex-officio members of Council and also Charity Trustees:

- The Very Reverend Andrew Zihni ***Dean of Gloucester***
- The Reverend Canon Craig Huxley-Jones ***Nominated member of Chapter***

The following may be invited to attend Council Meetings but are not Council Members/Trustees:

- Barry McMaster ***Chief Operating Officer***
- Chloe Bridgen ***Head of Development***
- Claire Saunders ***Office Administrator***
- Antony Feltham-King ***Cathedral Architect***

Objects and Activities

The objects of the Friends of Gloucester Cathedral CIO are set out in its Constitution approved by the Charity Commission in 2022.

The Chapter of Gloucester Cathedral identifies particular financial needs and applies to the Friends for grants. The Council considers grant applications and makes grants which accord with the charitable objects.

Statement on Public Benefit

The Trustees are aware of the Public Benefit provisions of the Charities Act 2011 and of the relevant guidance provided by the Charity Commission from time to time. The Trustees are not aware of any Trustee receiving private benefit from the Charity's activities. The provision of public benefit is achieved by providing financial and other support and assistance to ensure the material well-being and to extend the spiritual influence of Gloucester Cathedral with a particular focus on fabric and music. The building and the music are accessible to all members of the public. Admission to the Cathedral is free.

Gift Aid

We are grateful to all Friends who have signed Gift Aid declarations. We have been able to reclaim £6,006 from HMRC in 2024 (£7,023 in 2023). Once a gift aid declaration has been signed, there is no need to prepare a fresh one, unless there is a change of address. This is an important source of income for the Friends, and we would encourage all tax-paying members to participate. It would be a considerable loss if the Friends were denied gift aid reclaims. If you cease to be eligible for gift aid, please let us know.

Further information and advice can be obtained from the office (01452 528095) or office.administrator@fogc.co.uk.

Legacies

Over the years legacies have been a vital and significant source of income for the Friends. They have contributed significantly to the grants we have been able to make to the Cathedral.

We would be very grateful if you could consider leaving a legacy to the Friends in your will. You will wish to consult your solicitor about your will, but further information can be obtained from the Friends' office.

We are extremely grateful to members who have remembered the Friends in their wills. In 2024 we received legacies totalling £16,550 from:

- Carolyn, Lady Elwes
- Miss Marjorie Sumsion
- Audrey Workman

Legacies make a tremendous difference to the work the Friends can do and we very much appreciate all these gifts, which we will put to very good effect.

FINANCIAL REVIEW, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Results for the Year

The general economic and geopolitical environment remained uncertain in 2024 with the election of Donald Trump, the change of government in the UK and the continued conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East. Despite these worries global markets remained relatively stable with the UK FTSE100 index gaining by just over 5% in the year. Inflation continued to run at a relatively high, if more modest, level meaning that costs across the board continued to rise. As has been previously noted, the Cathedral's costs are dominated by three areas: salaries, building costs and energy prices and these areas continued to be a challenge in 2024 not least as the Cathedral has little control over these expenditures which are either set at national level or at the mercy of global market prices. The Cathedral's general income has continued to grow in 2024 but has not kept pace with the rising general cost base. Encouragingly, whilst visitor numbers have dropped to 297,000 in 2024 from 309,000 in 2023, the Cathedral continues to outperform most of our peers in our sector in this regard. Pleasingly, the average donation per visitor is up from £1.43 in 2023 to £1.67 in 2024 which is industry-leading and has been led by a 10% increase in donations at the Welcome Desk. It is at times like these that the Friends can truly be the Cathedral's "Best Friend". In 2024 we paid a £56,000 grant to renew the Cathedral's fire alarm system and also the second £50,000 tranche of our commitment to support the *In Tune* organ and music campaign. We paid out our usual music grant, this year just over £40,000, to support the Friends' girl and boy choristers. During the year we also paid a total of £150,000 in general support grants.

After a more stable year in 2023, the stock market experienced some decent gains in 2024. This resulted in a net gain on the Friends' investments of £8,171 and we were also able to

generate investment income of £14,491 from our savings. Our net expenditure, of course mainly on grants, for 2024 was very similar to 2023 £156,148 (2023 £156,637). Please bear in mind that this number may include grants that were pledged in 2024 and therefore needed to be included in our Grants and Donations number for the 2024 accounts might not be paid out until future years.

Donations of £1,328 were received in 2024 (£13,435 in 2023) and we are very grateful for the generosity of our donors. Legacy income in 2024 totalled £16,550 compared with £69,625 in 2023. We are extremely thankful to those who have left the Friends a legacy and also to their families for whom, by definition, dealing with a legacy comes at a difficult time. These figures can fluctuate significantly from year to year.

Subscriptions (excluding gift aid) decreased from £29,497 in 2023 to £28,114 in 2024. Some life memberships can make a big difference to these figures.

Events and Excursions generated a surplus of £3,572 in 2024 compared with £3,594 in 2023. We are especially grateful to the Cathedral Guides and staff who have worked with us on events.

General expenditure on office support and governance showed a reduction in costs to £15,456 in 2024, compared with £17,821 in 2023.

Grants paid or committed to the Cathedral in 2024 as follows, totalling £296,600 (£158,235 in 2023).

	2024
Music grant	£40,200
Fire alarm system	£56,400
Organ	£50,000
General support grants	£150,000

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have set a Reserves Policy which requires that reserves be maintained at a level which ensures that the Friends' core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty for the Cathedral, and that a proportion of reserves be maintained in readily realisable form. The Trustees have adopted the following policy which was last reviewed in April 2024:

"To distribute all amounts received as general grants and donations to the Cathedral. The Charity relies and depends on the Chapter to advise on projects and specific needs that meet the objects of the Charity and that require funding. In the event of there being no projects to support then surplus funds will be carried forward to be used for future grants. As the Charity selects the projects it wishes to support there may be occasions where levels of reserves are held with a view to supporting a future need and these will be noted at the time. A sum of £350,000 should be established as a strategic reserve and £25,000 should be considered as an operating reserve. These amounts shall be reviewed annually."

In addition, Council has reviewed the Friends' cash position in view of the global situation and potential stock market volatility. At the meeting on 31 January 2022 Council resolved to hold a cash contingency fund of £50,000 over and above the amount needed to meet known liabilities, to enable the Friends to assist with future Cathedral emergencies.

Investment Policy

The Trustees have adopted the following policy which was last reviewed in May 2024:

"To invest in the stock market funds which are not likely to be required in the near future for grant purposes, bearing in mind that equities are less liquid than cash and there is a cost involved in buying and selling equities. The investment of any sum in excess of £25,000 shall be referred to Council, except placing monies in the Friends' deposit account."

The Friends follows ethical investment policies promulgated by the Church of England and engages J. M. Finn & Co. as stockbrokers. All policies of the Friends are reviewed triennially.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Honorary Treasurer maintains an overview of the financial affairs of the Charity, ensuring its financial viability and is responsible for maintaining proper books and procedures, with the assistance of the office administrator, for the preparation of income and expenditure accounts and a balance sheet. Proper books are such records as are necessary to give a true and fair view of the state of the Friends' financial affairs and to explain transactions. The Trustees are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Friends and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law; United Kingdom Accounting Standards and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. The Trustees have considered the major risks to which the Charity is exposed. In their opinion the existing systems are sufficient to mitigate those risks.

Independent Examiner

John Cartwright, Hazlewoods, Windsor House, Bayshill Road, Cheltenham, GL50 3AT was reappointed at the AGM on 12 July 2024. He has now retired. We are very grateful to him for undertaking this work over a number of years at a substantially discounted fee. Andrew Harris, also of Hazlewoods, has taken over the role of our Independent Examiner.

On behalf of the council:

Tony Wilton-Steer

Chair

28th April 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRIENDS OF GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL CIO

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 7 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).

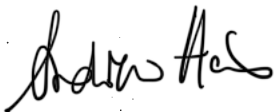
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 charity 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 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 Harris
Partner

Hazlewoods LLP, Windsor House, Bayshill Road, Cheltenham, GL50 3AT

Date: 3 June 2025

THE FRIENDS OF GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL CIO

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
INCOME FROM			
Donations and legacies	3	51998	119580
Other trading activities		7263	8053
Investment income	4	14491	22624
Other		<u>116</u>	<u>872</u>
TOTAL		<u>73868</u>	<u>151129</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	5	6525	8089
Charitable activities			
Grants and donations	6	216206	314682
Other costs of charitable activities	7	<u>15456</u>	<u>17821</u>
TOTAL		<u>238187</u>	<u>340592</u>
Net gains/(loss) on Investments	8	<u>8171</u>	<u>32826</u>
NET INCOME/ (NET EXPENDITURE)		(156148)	(156637)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:			
Funds brought forward		<u>577973</u>	<u>734610</u>
FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>421825</u>	<u>577973</u>

The notes set out on pages 9 to 12 form part of these accounts

THE FRIENDS OF GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL CIO

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	£	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS	9		-	-
INVESTMENTS	10		366092	<u>564461</u>
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors and prepayments	11	29973		43191
Cash at bank and in hand				
Deposit accounts		88177		112620
Current accounts		<u>15659</u>		<u>17536</u>
		133809		173347
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Creditors and accruals	12	<u>78076</u>		<u>159835</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>55733</u>	<u>13512</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			<u>421825</u>	<u>577973</u>
FUNDS				
Unrestricted income fund			<u>421825</u>	<u>577973</u>

Approved by the Council on: 28 APRIL 2025

and signed on its behalf by;

ANTHONY WILTON-STEER

TIM WATKINS

The notes set out on pages 9 to 12 form part of these accounts

THE FRIENDS OF GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL CIO

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. Status

On 1 January 2023 The Friends of Gloucester Cathedral changed its status to that of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

2. Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with 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) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

b) Going concern

After making enquiries, the trustees are not aware of any material uncertainties that cast doubt on going concern and have a reasonable expectation that the CIO will be able to continue its activities for the foreseeable future, and at least twelve months from the date of approval of these accounts. Accordingly, they have continued to adopt the going concern basis in the financial statements.

c) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds.

Monetary donations and gifts are included in the period in which the CIO is entitled to receipt and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty. Income is deferred only when the CIO has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in a future period.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the CIO is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution.

d) Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as resources expended as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the CIO to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs (including irrecoverable VAT) related to the category.

Costs of generating funds include all costs associated with generating voluntary income including investment manager's fees.

Charitable activities include all grants made, support costs and governance costs, being costs incurred in fulfilling the Friends' objectives.

THE FRIENDS OF GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL CIO

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

e) Funds structure

Unrestricted funds are funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the CIO. Within this fund the CIO has designated an Events and Excursions Fund.

f) Fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at a rate of 50% in order to write off computer equipment over its useful life using the straight line method. The computer equipment has been fully depreciated so there is no charge in these accounts.

g) Investments

Investments are shown at market value at the year end.

h) Grants payable

Grants payable are payments made to the Cathedral in the furtherance of the charitable objectives of the CIO. The grants are accounted for when approved by the Council. Any grants unpaid at the year end have been included as liabilities.

3. <u>Donations and legacies</u>	2024	2023
	£	£
Subscriptions	28114	29497
Gift Aid tax refund	6006	7023
Donations	1328	13435
Legacies	<u>16550</u>	<u>69625</u>
	<u>51998</u>	<u>119580</u>
4. <u>Investment income</u>	2024	2023
	£	£
Quoted investments	11932	19193
Interest receivable	<u>2559</u>	<u>3431</u>
	<u>14491</u>	<u>22624</u>
5. <u>Raising funds</u>	2024	2023
	£	£
Event and excursions	3691	4459
Investment manager's fees	<u>2834</u>	<u>3630</u>
	<u>6525</u>	<u>8089</u>

THE FRIENDS OF GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL CIO

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

6. <u>Grants payable</u>	2024	2023
	£	£
Choral Scholarships	40206	43235
Boiler and Fire Suppressant System	-	65000
Fabric and maintenance	150000	-
Fire alarm	-	56447
North Nave	26000	-
Organ repairs	-	150000
	<u>216206</u>	<u>314682</u>
7. <u>Other costs of charitable activities</u>		
	2024	2023
	£	£
<u>Support costs</u>		
Bank charges	195	134
Insurance	780	737
Newsletters	2750	2792
Office expenses	938	2069
Rates	<u>32</u>	<u>125</u>
	<u>4695</u>	<u>5857</u>
<u>Governance costs</u>		
Administrative assistance	8570	9331
Annual report and meeting	1627	2081
Independent Examination fee	<u>564</u>	<u>552</u>
	<u>10761</u>	<u>11964</u>
Total	<u>15456</u>	<u>17821</u>

No members of the Council or Executive Committee or any person connected with them has received or is due to receive any remuneration for the year directly or indirectly from the CIO's funds.

8. <u>Net gains on investments</u>	2024	2023
	£	£
Profit/(loss) on disposal of investment assets	(4039)	13255
Unrealised profit/(loss) on revaluation of investment assets	<u>12210</u>	<u>19571</u>
	<u>8171</u>	<u>32826</u>

THE FRIENDS OF GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL CIO

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

9. Fixed Assets

	<u>Computer</u> £
Cost	
As at 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2024	<u>3565</u>
Depreciation	
As at 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2024	<u>3565</u>
Net Book Value	
As at 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2024	<u>NIL</u>

10. Investments

	2024 £	2023 £
Market value at start of year	564461	576659
Additions	33986	81103
Disposals	(244565)	(112872)
Net unrealised investment gain (loss)	<u>12210</u>	<u>19571</u>
Market value at end of year	<u>366092</u>	<u>564461</u>

Investments listed on UK Stock Exchange

	2024	%	2023	%
Fixed interest and Bonds	59870	16	106690	19
Equities and Funds	<u>306222</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>457771</u>	<u>81</u>
	<u>366092</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>564461</u>	<u>100</u>

11. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Taxation	2015	4415
Legacies due	23000	34000
Other debtors	<u>4958</u>	<u>4776</u>
	<u>29973</u>	<u>43191</u>

12. Creditors and accruals

	2024 £	2023 £
Grants payable	76000	156447
Accruals	<u>2076</u>	<u>3388</u>
	<u>78076</u>	<u>159835</u>

