



**THE FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH OF ST JOHN, BAPTIST, HAGLEY**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND RECEIPTS, PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025**

<b>Reference and Administrative Details</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>Trustees Report</b>	<b>Page 3 – 4</b>
<b>Receipts and Payments Accounts and Statement of Assets</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>Notes to the Accounts</b>	<b>Page 6</b>

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity Commission Registered Number 1200446

### Principal Address

St Saviour's Church  
The Parish Office  
1 Park Road  
Hagley  
DY9 0NS

### President

Viscountess Cobham

Trustees	Appointment Date	Amended Date	Due Retirement Date
G A Battersby	1 August 2022	21 November 2024	20 November 2029
J D Cope	1 August 2022	21 November 2024	20 November 2028
H W Green	1 August 2022	21 November 2024	20 November 2027
M Bebbington	17 October 2023		16 October 2028
R E S Jones	17 October 2023		16 October 2028
Mrs W Jones	17 October 2023		16 October 2028
Mrs S R Priest	17 October 2023		16 October 2028
Mrs G P Richards	17 October 2023		16 October 2028
Viscount C C Cobham	17 October 2023		16 October 2028
Mrs J Whitehouse	17 October 2023		16 October 2028

### Ex Office Appointee

A M Smith – Churchwarden at St John's

## **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD EDNED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025**

The Trustees present their annual report for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

These reports have been prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission Guidelines and with consultation with the Charity's Accountants Crowe Uk LLP. Namely that the Friends Charity (CIO) is not a Company, and that the Charity's annual income is less than £25,000 thus allowing the preparation of Receipt and Payments Accounts without the need for external audit.

### **Structure and Recruitment of Trustees**

The Trustees are satisfied that the affairs of the Friends CIO are conducted in accordance with the Constitution. The First Trustees are Mr G A Battersby, Mr J D Cope and Mr H W Green.

Trustees are appointed initially for a period of five years. There must be at least two but not more than eleven elected Trustees and one ex officio Trustee – a churchwarden of St John's Church.

In the original Constitution dated 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022 it was noted that no end date was set for the First Trustees. Consequently, permission was sought from, and given by, the Charity Commissioners to amend this. The Friends Solicitors Higgs LLP kindly agreed to work on this amendment as a gesture of goodwill and a Special meeting of The Friends Members was arranged for the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024 at which approval was given by the Members for the amendment to go ahead.

The day to day management of the charity is led by Bill Green (Chair), Jeff Cope (Secretary), Judith Whitehouse (day to day keeping of financial records) and Tony Battersby (Finance and Investments).

### **Principal Activities and Objectives**

The charity's objectives are primarily to maintain, repair and enrich the fabric, furniture, and fittings of the Church of St John's, Hagley; and to preserve and enhance the beauty and fitness of the site and setting of the church; and to maintain and develop the music and other aspects of the worship and life of the church, and to maintain the preservation and maintenance of the churchyard.

The general policy adopted in furtherance of the objectives is to consider all requests for support from Hagley Parochial Church Council (PCC) who are responsible for the church, and in accordance with the above aims and objectives, there has been no change in policy during the year.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commissioners on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

### **Achievements and Performance**

In order to achieve their objective, The Friends collect subscriptions and receive legacies gifts and donations and administer their investments.

The Friends are not however involved in any trading activities. Neither the Trustees nor any third related parties receive payment in any kind for work done on behalf of the Charity.

### **Financial Review and Reserves Policy**

The charity is ready to help, within its own parameters, requests for financial assistance from the PCC. It maintains a reasonable reserve to meet unexpected contingencies. A significant proportion of funds are kept in liquid form in Building Societies and CCLA Investments which are subject to maximising income without sacrificing security. The Trustees are most keen to continue with this policy. The Friends carry Public Liability Insurance of £5M through Ecclesiastical Insurance Limited.

### **Trustees Report Year to Date**

The Trustees usually meet four times a year to discuss finance, fabric matters, and if necessary to deal with any requests received from the PCC.

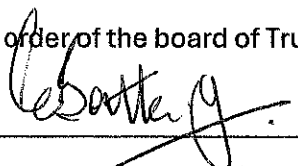
The ongoing fabric matters raised at the time of the 2020 Quinquennial Report, such as repairs to the sandstone have been addressed. We are happy to report that this contract commenced at the end of March 2025 and will cost approximately £30,000 and will be funded by 'The Friends'. All the contractual matters and liaison with the Diocese at Worcester has been handled on behalf of the PCC by Alan Smith, Churchwarden at St John's. Alan is their representative responsible for all fabric matters and automatically as a Trustee of 'The Friends'.

Following comments regarding the state of the car park during very wet weather, we have agreed to help the PCC, in conjunction with Hagley Hall Estates, to carry out some additional stoning to the car park and also the pathway between the Cricket Ground and the Lych Gate. This now provides a tarmac access to the Wychbury Room. These works were completed by the end of March at a cost of £9,540 including VAT. We would like to record our thanks to Hagley Hall Estates for the continuing ability to us the car parking area for church services and other related functions.

A grant of £1,200 was made to the PCC in respect of the heating and lighting for church services and to cover similar costs when musical events took place over the year.

During the past year we have to report the sad loss of Stewart Purton, a long standing Trustee and who was also Treasurer of both 'The Friends' and the PCC.

Approved by order of the board of Trustees on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April and signed on its behalf by G A Battersby:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
GEORGE A. BATTERSBY  
TRUSTEE  
22/04/2025.

## RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2025

<b>Receipts 31/03/25</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Receipts 31/03/24</b>	<b>£</b>
Subs & Donations	2,414	Subs & Donations	1,636
HMRC Gift Aid	891	HMRC Gift Aid	0
Investment Income	17,522	Investment Income	9,421
Dudley Building Soc	3,582	Dudley Building Soc	0
Legacies	0	Legacies	23,220
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£24,409</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£34,277</b>

<b>Payments 31/03/25</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Payments 31/03/24</b>	<b>£</b>
Accountancy (2024)	786	Accountancy (2023)	780
Bank Charges	63	Bank Charges	66
Print & Postage	122	Print & Postage	50
Solicitors Fees	0	Solicitors Fees	4,800
Stationery	0	Stationery	51
Ecclesiastical Insurance	189	Ecclesiastical Insurance	189
Grants to Hagley PCC	1,200	Grants to Hagley PCC	1,055
Hagley Community Ass	0	Hagley Community Assoc	36
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>£2,360</b>	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>£7,027</b>

### Notes:

1. Figures for 2024 and 2025 exclude movement of capital
2. All funds held by the Charity are unrestricted

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AT 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2025

<b>FUNDS</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>FUNDS</b>	<b>£</b>
CBF Deposit	130,022	63,115	CBF Deposit	66,907
CBF Property	71,505	1,038	CBF Property	70,467
CBF Short Dep	0	(36,123)	CBF Short Dep	36,123
COIF Property	54,086	752	COIF Property	53,334
M&G Charibond	8,394	(208)	M&G Charibond	8,602
M&G Charifund	109,891	4,503	M&G Charifund	105,388
HSBC	46,913	43,387	HSBC	3,526
Dudley BS	60,000	(46,565)	Dudley BS	106,565
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£480,811</b>	<b>£29,899</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£450,912</b>
		<b>MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

### **ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

#### **Legal Status of the Charity**

The Friends of the Church of St John, Baptist, Hagley is a constituted under the governing document as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, whose registered office and primary place of business St Savior's Church, The Parish Office, 1 Park Road, Hagley, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY9 0NS, United Kingdom. It has no share capital. Its principal activities are to maintain repair, and enrich fabric, furniture and fittings of the Church of St John, Hagley; and to preserve and enhance the beauty and fitness of the site and setting of the church: and to maintain and develop the music and other aspects of the worship and life of the church, and to maintain the preservation and maintenance of the churchyard.

#### **Income**

All income is recognised in receipts once the charity has received funds.

#### **Expenditure**

All payments are recognised in the payments accounts when it is paid.

#### **Taxation**

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

#### **Fund accounting.**

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

### **TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There were no Trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the period ended 31 March 2025.

