



**MKBA**  
CHARITY

# TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

2023/2024

**MILTON KEYNES BUDDHIST  
ASSOCIATION**

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1204594

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# Milton Keynes Buddhist Association (UK)

## Trustees' Annual Report for The Period

From 05 September 2023 To 05 April 2024

### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

**Charity Name:** Milton Keynes Buddhist Association (UK)

**Charity is known by:** MKBA

**Registered Charity number:** 1204594

### NAMES OF THE CHARITY TRUSTEES WHO MANAGE THE CHARITY

Trustee Name	Office	Date acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
Yin Ning Pun	Chair	31.08.2023 to 04.06.2024	MKBA
Alan Siu	Chair	05.06.2024 to present	MKBA
Pui Ling Yuen	Secretary	31.08.2023 to 04.06.2024	MKBA
Judy Lam	Secretary	05.06.2024 to present	MKBA
Yeang Yee	Treasurer	31.08.2023 to 31.08.2024	MKBA
	Trustee	01.09.2024 to present	
Mei Wan	Treasurer	05.06.2024 to present	MKBA

### NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ADVISORS

Type of Advisor	Name	Address
Bank	The Co-operative Bank	P.O. Box 101, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester M60 4EP.
Accountant	Mr. Prasanth Ganguly	Luminous House, 300 South Row, Milton Keynes, MK9 2FR.
Insurance	Markel International Insurance Company Ltd	Markel (UK) Ltd, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Verity House, 6 Canal Wharf, Leeds, LS11 5AS.

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

**Type of governing document:** Constitution adopted 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

**How the charity is constituted:** Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose only voting members are its Charity Trustees

**Trustees selection methods:** Every Trustees must be appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the Charity Trustees.

In MKBA, trustees are volunteers and aren't paid for their role. Any other payment (if applicable) will require the permission of the Charity Commission.

MKBA's Trustees operate within two sets of formal rules:

1. The governing document. This may be called rules, constitution, or the trust deed
2. The law, particularly the acts which govern charity organisation. The Trustee Act 2000 (for unincorporated charities), Insolvency Acts, Companies Acts, and Charity Acts.

Trustees work collectively as a board and make decisions at formal board meetings. Once a decision has been collectively made all trustees are bound to support that decision.

All trustees must ensure that everything MKBA does helps (or is intended to help) to achieve the purposes for which it is set up, and no other purpose. All trustees should:

- understand the charity's purposes as set out in its governing document
- be able to explain how all of the charity's activities are intended to further or support its purposes
- understand how the charity benefits the public by carrying out its purposes

**The Chair:** The role of the chair is to lead meetings of the trustee board. Additional roles of the chair include:

- supporting and supervising the head of staff or chief executive and acting as a channel of communication between board and staff
- acting as a figurehead for the charity (for example, representing it at functions, meetings or in the press).
- leading on the development of the board and making sure that its decisions are carried out.
- taking urgent action (but not decision-making unless authorised) between board meetings when it isn't possible or practical to hold a meeting.

**The Treasurer:** Generally the treasurer helps trustees carry out their financial responsibilities. They might do this by:

- presenting financial reports to the board in a format that helps the board understand the charity's financial position
- advising the board on how to carry out its financial responsibilities
- working with professional advisors
- overseeing the preparation and scrutiny of annual accounts
- taking on some or all day-to-day financial duties, such as book-keeping, budgeting and preparation of reports.



**The Secretary:** The secretary's role is generally to make sure the charity follows company law.

- Common secretarial duties are organising and minuting board meetings to be undertaken by members.
- Take on a number of administrative duties to support the board – one of the most important being to take minutes of board meetings.
- May also produce legal documents for the charity as authorised by the board.

### **Additional Governance Issues**

All the events of the charity are open to everyone, regardless of their background or beliefs. The Trustees oversee the day to day running of the charity. The trustees seek the views of members and volunteers in deciding the activities to be run. All trustees give their time voluntarily and received no remuneration or other benefits.

We are grateful for the many hours volunteers including trustees, have spent effort and time working for the charity. Without this valuable contribution of time, energy and expertise we would not have been able to achieve so much.

### **Policies and procedures adopted**

1. Board of Trustees Policy
2. Risk Management
3. Safeguarding Policy and Procedures - Vulnerable beneficiaries – Children
4. Safeguarding Policy and Procedures – Adults
5. Conflicting Interests - Trustee Conflicts of Interest Policy and Procedures
6. Volunteer Management
7. Complaints Policy and Complaints Handling
8. Paying Staff Policy
9. Internal Charity Financial Controls Policy and Procedures
10. Financial Reserves Policy and Procedures
11. Serious Incident Reporting Policy
12. Trustee Expenses Policy and Procedures
13. Bullying and Harassment Policy and Procedures
14. Social Media Policy and Procedures
15. Privacy Notice and Data Retention Policy
16. Health and Safety

## OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

MKBA aims to promote and advance the Buddhist religion for the benefit of the public through any charitable means as the trustees may from time to time decide, which may include, but are not restricted to, the following:



### LONG-TERM VISION:

#### ESTABLISHING A TEMPLE AND A BUDDHIST LEARNING CENTRE

One of the primary and long-term goals of our charity is to establish a dedicated space that serves as a place for Buddhist worship, learning, and community engagement.

#### Purpose and Importance:

A dedicated place of worship will provide a serene environment for individuals to practice mindfulness, meditation, and prayer, fostering personal spiritual growth.

#### Progress Towards This Goal:

Significant steps have already been taken, including the establishment of a restricted fund dedicated solely to this project, which has received donations from our supporters.

Ongoing efforts are being made to identify suitable locations.

#### Commitment to Transparency:

MKBA trustees are committed to ensuring that all funds raised for this purpose are managed transparently and utilized effectively. All projects will be approached in a sustainable and phased manner to ensure alignment with the community's need.

**By working towards this ambitious goal, we aim to create a lasting legacy that reflects the values of Buddhism and serves as a source of inspiration and support for generations to come.**

## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

### Summary of Activities

MKBA was newly established in 2023 and in its first year the organisation focused on establishing a solid foundation for its operations, initiating its first programs, and building connections with key stakeholders to deliver meaningful impact.

### Foundation Building and Governance

1. MKBA's trustees prioritized creating a robust governance structure, including developing essential policies, frameworks, and procedures to ensure transparency, accountability, and compliance with relevant regulations.
2. A strategic plan was drafted, outlining the charity's short- and long-term goals, vision, and methods to measure success.
3. Recruitment of skilled and passionate individuals was undertaken to form a dedicated team of staff, volunteers, and advisors to drive the charity's objectives.

### Launching Initial Programs

After extensive consultations from Venerable Shanru and extensive preparations, MKBA implemented its first programs in May 2023.

### Resource Mobilization and Fundraising

To support its activities, the charity ran a few fundraising events throughout the year

Generous contributions from individual donors allowed the charity to fund its first-year programs.

### Evaluation, and Lessons Learned

Lessons from the first-year highlighted areas for improvement, which will guide planning for the coming year.

### Planning for the Future

Future activities will focus on building capacity, and securing sustainable funding streams.

### Our ongoing activities in summary:

1 | Buddhist Beginners' Course

2 | Buddhist Lectures and Repentance Ceremonies

3 | External Learning Visits

4 | MKBA Library

5 | Zoom Online Classes – led by Venerable Shanru

6 | MKBA Registered as a Charitable Organisation

7 | Social Gatherings

8 | Bi-Weekly Cultivation Group Sessions

9 | Charity Events Supporting Local Communities

10 | Online Fundraising Charity Sale

11 | Fundraising Stall at the Lunar New Year Event

12 | Seminars and Q&A Sessions



## 佛學入門班

日期: 5月30日至6月2日 (星期二至星期五)  
課程內容: 講解佛教基本概念。此課程適合對佛教有興趣的人參加。

時間: 上午10時至下午5時45分, 連續4天共15小時

流程:  
10:00 - 11:15am 佛學入門班 (第一節)  
11:30 - 12:15pm 午齋 (自備)  
1:00 - 2:15pm 佛學入門班 (第二節)  
2:30 - 3:45pm 佛學入門班 (第三節)  
4:00 - 5:00pm 晚課\*

\*學員可於下課後隨心參與當天晚課



May 2023

## Buddhist Beginners' Course

This introductory course provided a solid foundation for those new to Buddhism, attracting participants eager to learn about the basic principles and practices of the Dharma.



June 2023

## Buddhist Lectures and Repentance Ceremonies:

These events offered attendees opportunities to gain profound insights from Buddhist teachings and participate in the purifying practice of repentance.



拜訪彌陀精舍



June 2023

We were privileged to participate in a group cultivation session alongside the practitioners at **Amitabha Buddhist Sangha**. This shared practice deepened our understanding of Buddhist teachings and strengthened our collective commitment to the path of Dharma.



拜訪法雨禪寺



## A visit to Fa Yue Buddhist Temple

- This experience deepened our appreciation for the richness of Buddhist traditions and teachings, leaving a lasting impact on all who participated.

## 共修



July 2023

## Bi-Weekly Cultivation Practice Group Sessions:

A series of Dharma practice group sessions, providing a supportive and structured environment for participants to deepen their understanding of Buddhist teachings.

## MKBA Library

We are pleased to announce that we have recently established a small library that contains a collection of books and DVDs related to Buddhism. If you would like to borrow these books or media, please feel free to email us for the full library catalogue

[mkbuddhist@gmail.com](mailto:mkbuddhist@gmail.com)

This small library currently houses an expanding collection of books, DVDs, and other media covering a wide range of Buddhist topics.



## DHARMA ONLINE CLASSES 線上佛法課堂

August 2023



Dharma online classes were

conducted by

**Venerable Shanru** providing an accessible platform for Buddhist Dharma learning, guidance, and community engagement.



September 2023

MKBA is excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. We will continue to focus on offering quality educational programs, fostering a sense of community, and serving those in need.



November 2023

**Social Gatherings:** This special event brought together members, families, and friends to celebrate the spirit of community and gratitude during the festive season.



The Christmas lights donation to UnityMK and Walton Community brought warmth and joy to shared spaces, reminding everyone of **the power of collective goodwill**.

December 2023

## Charity Events Supporting Local Communities



**A food donation** to the Frank Moran Community Centre in West Bletchley reflects MKBA's commitment to fostering compassion, generosity, and solidarity within the Milton Keynes area. The food donation provided sustenance and comfort to vulnerable individuals.



January 2024

**A successful online charity sale** was launched to raise funds for the operation and development of our organisation. The event was designed to generate financial support for our activities, community services, and efforts to propagate Buddhist



February 2024

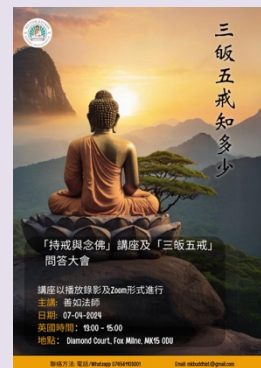
Through this fundraising activity, we aimed to extend our reach within the Milton Keynes community and beyond, **sharing the principles of compassion and wisdom.** This provided an opportunity to engage with individuals who were curious about Buddhism, encouraging meaningful conversations within the community.



April 2024

**“Understanding the Three Refuges and Five Precepts”**

featuring a combination of recorded teachings and a live Q&A session with Venerable Shanru. This event catered to both in-person and online participants, making it accessible to attendees from across the UK and beyond.



**“The Meaning of Life from a Buddhist Perspective”**

led by the esteemed Venerable Shanru, this insightful event brought together participants from diverse backgrounds to explore Buddhist teachings on life's profound questions.

The trustees are proud of the achievements made during the charity's first year of operation and express gratitude to all partners, supporters, and beneficiaries who contributed to its early successes. The organization remains committed to fulfilling its mission and delivering long-lasting change in the years to come.

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

### COMPLETION OF THE BEGINNER'S BUDDHIST STUDY COURSE

The Beginner's Buddhist Study Course was successfully concluded, marking a significant milestone in our efforts to promote understanding of Buddhist teachings within the community. Over the course of four days, participants engaged in insightful sessions that provided a strong foundation in Buddhism and deepened their appreciation of the Dharma's wisdom and compassion. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Venerable Shanru, whose profound teachings illuminated the principles of Buddhism for the attendees. Participants expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to gain invaluable knowledge, which has enriched their understanding of the Dharma and its application in daily life.



### 佛學入門班

日期：5月30日至6月2日（星期二至星期五）  
課程內容：講解佛教基本概念、此課程適合對佛教有興趣的人參加。

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\*學員可於下課後隨心參與當天晚課





南無奉師  
釋迦牟尼佛



佛學班初階班圓滿結束



### DHARMA ACTIVITIES

A series of Dharma lectures were held on Sundays in June to provide participants with an immersive experience in Buddhist teachings and practices.

#### Programme Highlights

- 1. Great Compassion Repentance Ceremony (10:00 AM – 11:15AM) :** The day began with a Great Compassion Repentance Ceremony - This sacred ceremony allowed participants to cultivate merit through prostrations, scripture chanting, and offerings.
- 2. Lunch Break (11:30 AM - 12:15 PM):** Participants enjoyed a wholesome vegetarian meal, emphasizing mindfulness even in daily activities such as eating.
- 3. Buddhist Lectures (1:00 PM - 2:30 PM):** Venerable Shanru has dedicated her time to conduct a series of insightful lectures explored various aspects of Buddhism, encouraging participants to deepen their understanding of themselves and their connection to Buddhist



principles. Topics included: Understanding Myself through Buddhism, Buddha's Heart; My Heart, Present-Moment Living and The Importance of Chanting

4. **Chanting Session (2:45 PM - 3:45 PM):** This segment allowed participants to engage in Buddha chanting and meditation practices, fostering mindfulness and inner peace.
5. **Evening Chant (4:00 PM - 5:00 PM):** The day concluded with an evening chanting session, providing a reflective and peaceful closure to the activities.

Participants gained a deeper comprehension of Buddhist teachings, laying a strong foundation for their spiritual journeys.

The course inspired a renewed interest in Buddhist practices, with many attendees expressing enthusiasm for future events

### Collaborative Efforts

The spirit of teamwork among the Buddhist community in Milton Keynes was truly inspiring. Despite being a relatively small community, the volunteers demonstrated exceptional cooperation and shared responsibility. Each individual contributed their unique skills and time to ensure the success of the events. Volunteers worked tirelessly in the weeks leading up to the events to ensure everything was in place.

**Key preparations included:** Organizing event necessities such as Great Compassion Water, Light Offerings, scripture stands, and other ceremonial items. Notably, the prayer mats used during the Great Compassion Dharma Assembly were handcrafted by volunteers.





## EXTERNAL LEARNING VISITS BY MKBA

This year marked a significant milestone for the MK Buddhist Association as we conducted two external learning visits.

Our journey began with a visit to Amitabha Buddhist Sangha Organisation, a place rich in history and spiritual significance, with over 30 years of dedication to promoting the teachings of Buddhism.

MKBA had the privilege of visiting Fa Yue Buddhist Temple, a significant milestone in our journey of Buddhist exploration and community building.

### Highlights of the Visits

#### ***Warm Reception and Shared Practice***

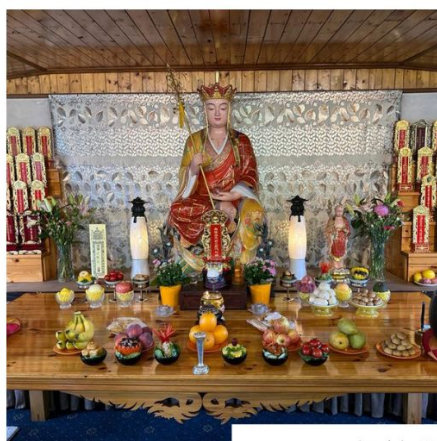
The members of Amitabha Buddhist Sangha Organisation extended a heartfelt and meticulous welcome to our tranquility and serenity that a Buddhist group. Their hospitality set the tone for a day filled with meaningful exchanges and spiritual enrichment.

We were privileged to participate in a group cultivation session alongside the practitioners at Amitabha Buddhist Sangha Organisation. This shared practice deepened our understanding of Buddhist teachings and strengthened our collective commitment to the path of Dharma. The visit included a delightful vegetarian lunch, lovingly prepared by the Amitabha Buddhist community. This meal was more than nourishment; it was an expression of compassion and mindfulness that underscored the values of Buddhist practice.

#### ***Community Connection***

This visit provided an opportunity to connect with the wider Buddhist community, fostering relationships that extend beyond geographical boundaries.

It was inspiring to witness the dedication and efforts of the practitioners at Amitabha Vihara in sustaining their temple and Dharma activities for over three decades.



拜訪彌陀精舍



## Cultural and Culinary Experience

Upon entering Fa Yue Buddhist Temple, we were immediately captivated by its solemn atmosphere and the abundant sense of Dharma joy. The temple provided a unique opportunity for MKBA members to immerse themselves in Buddhist culture and gain a firsthand experience of the tranquility and serenity that a Buddhist temple embodies.

This experience deepened our appreciation for the richness of Buddhist traditions and teachings, leaving a lasting impact on all who participated.



拜訪法雨禪寺



**Looking Ahead:** Strengthen our connection with Buddhist temples and organizations across the UK to learn from their experiences and develop actionable plans to establish a Buddhist learning centre in Milton Keynes, aligning our activities with the needs of our community.

*Thank you* to the members of Amitabha Buddhist Sangha for their generosity, kindness, and dedication. Their efforts created a welcoming and enriching experience that left a lasting impression on our group. We are deeply grateful to Venerable Tak Yu, who took time from her busy schedule to warmly welcome us and share the history and establishment process of the temple.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF MKBA LIBRARY

In an effort to provide more resources to our members and the local community, we are delighted to announce the establishment of a small Buddhist library. **Collection:** The library currently houses an expanding collection of books, DVDs, and other media covering a wide range of Buddhist topics. These include:

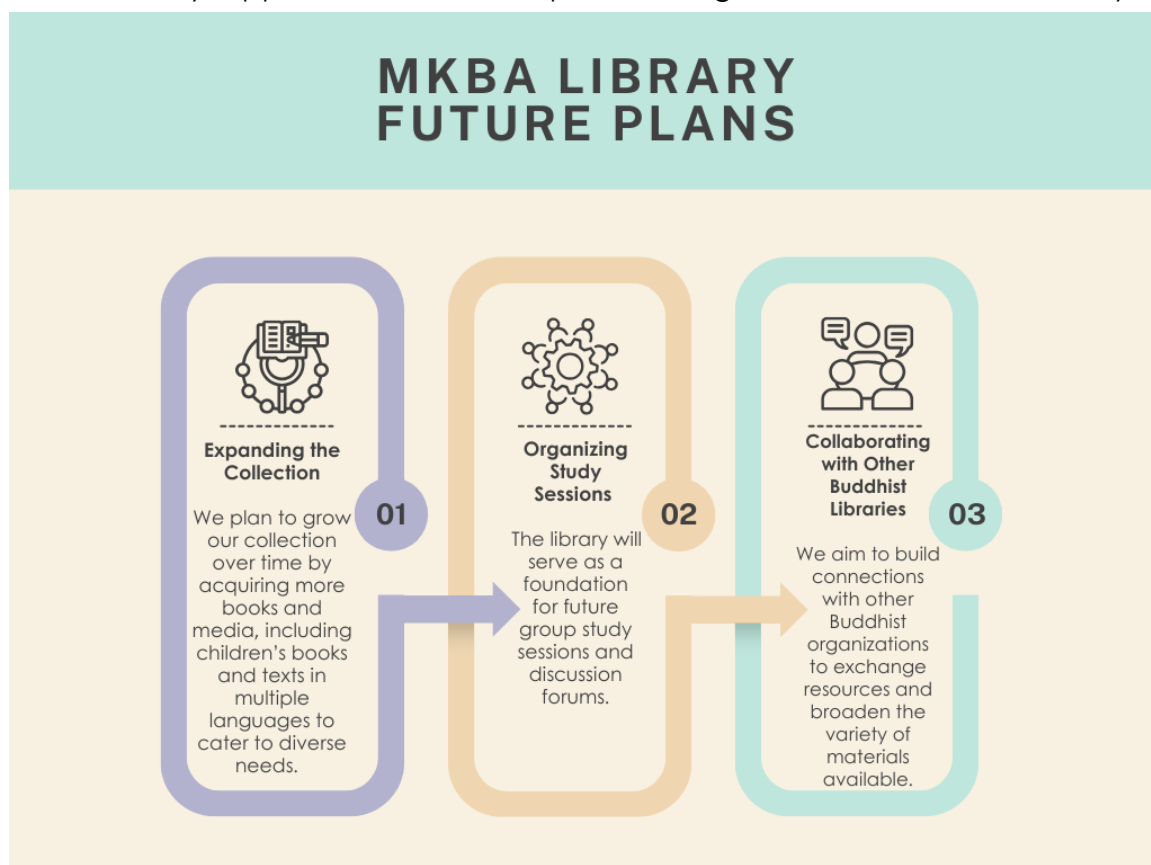
- Foundational Buddhist teachings
- Meditation and mindfulness practices
- Biographies of Buddhist masters
- Texts on philosophy, history, and culture

**Accessibility:** We have implemented an email-based borrowing system. Members and interested individuals can request the full catalogue of resources via email and borrow items at their convenience.

### Objectives and Benefits:

*Promoting Education:* The library is designed to deepen members' understanding of Buddhist teachings and philosophies, encouraging lifelong learning and spiritual growth.

*Fostering a Dharma Learning Environment:* By providing access to high-quality Buddhist literature and media, the library supports our mission to spread the light of Buddhism in Milton Keynes.



**Acknowledgment:** We would like to thank everyone who contributed to this project, including those who donated books and DVDs. Your generosity has helped us take another step toward creating a supportive environment for learning and practicing the Dharma.

**We encourage all members and community members to make use of this valuable resource.**



## BI-WEEKLY CULTIVATION PRACTICE GROUP SESSIONS

MKBA successfully organised a series of Dharma practice group sessions, providing a supportive and structured environment for participants to deepen their understanding of Buddhist teachings. The sessions were held twice a month. These biweekly sessions created a consistent rhythm for shared learning and spiritual growth.

### Programme Highlights

1. **Chanting Practice:** The group engaged in collective chanting, which served as a powerful method of focusing the mind, fostering unity, and invoking compassion.
2. **Dharma Discussions:** Participants explored key Buddhist concepts such as impermanence, the nature of suffering, and the Eightfold Path. The group encouraged questions and shared insights to deepen understanding.

### Impact and Reflections

The Dharma practice group sessions were highly valued by attendees, who appreciated the opportunity to gather in a supportive and compassionate community. Participants reported feeling more connected to their practice and inspired to continue their spiritual journey.



*Thank you!*

Our heartfelt thanks to the facilitators and volunteers who made these sessions possible and to all participants for their dedication and enthusiasm. Your commitment has enriched the MKBA community.



**Looking Ahead: Building on the success of these gatherings, MKBA plans to continue offering Dharma practice group sessions as a cornerstone of our activities**

## ZOOM ONLINE CLASSES LED BY VENERABLE SHANRU

Throughout the year, bi-weekly online Zoom classes were conducted by Venerable Shanru providing an accessible platform for Buddhist Dharma learning, guidance, and community engagement. These sessions enabled participants to deepen their understanding of Buddhist teachings and integrate mindfulness practices into their daily lives.

The online classes were structured to include:

- Lectures delivered by Venerable Shanru, offering clear insights into Buddhist philosophy and practice.
- Interactive Q&A segments, allowing participants to seek personalized guidance.
- Group discussions fostering deeper understanding and sharing of experiences.

The bi-weekly schedule and online format ensured consistent engagement while accommodating participants' varied schedules. This approach also eliminated geographical barriers, reaching individuals who might not have been able to attend in-person events to benefit from the teachings.



By offering these bi-weekly Zoom classes, MKBA successfully adapted to modern needs while upholding its mission of spreading Buddhist teachings and supporting spiritual development. This initiative reflects a meaningful step toward leveraging technology to maintain and expand the reach of traditional practices.

## MKBA OFFICIALLY REGISTERED AS A CHARITABLE ORGANISATION

Becoming a registered charity opens up many new opportunities for MKBA. It allows us to further our mission of spreading the Buddha's teachings and making a positive impact in the community.

### Our Goals and Future Plans

As a registered charity, MKBA is excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. We will continue to focus on offering quality educational programs, fostering a sense of community, and serving those in need. With the support of our members, volunteers, and partners, we look forward to expanding our impact and furthering the mission of Buddhism in the Milton Keynes area and beyond.



**Together, we will continue to work towards building a compassionate, harmonious society, grounded in the teachings of the Buddha.**

## WINTER SOLSTICE GATHERING

On 17th December, MKBA hosted a joyous Winter Solstice Gathering at Simpson Village Hall, Milton Keynes. The Winter Solstice Gathering highlighted the cultural and spiritual significance of this time of year. As one of the most meaningful festivals in many Asian cultures, the Winter Solstice represents family unity and the renewal of light and warmth.

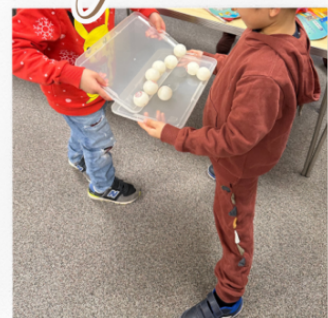
This special event brought together members, families, and friends to celebrate the spirit of community and gratitude during the festive season. The event began at noon, with volunteers arriving early to prepare the venue and create a warm and inviting atmosphere. Guests were welcomed to share a delightful potluck lunch, where each family contributed one or two vegetarian dishes. This collaborative approach not only ensured a wide variety of delicious foods but also reflected the Buddhist values of sharing and mindful eating.

*Thank you!*

Our heartfelt thanks to all participants for their contributions and enthusiasm. Your support and dedication were key to creating such a memorable experience.



*Winter Solstice Gathering*



We look forward to continuing this tradition and hosting similar events in the future to bring people together in celebration and gratitude, guided by the principles of Buddhism.



## CHARITY INITIATIVES

This year, MKBA expanded its community outreach through two impactful charity initiatives: a food donation to the Frank Moran Community Centre in West Bletchley and a Christmas lights donation to UnityMK and Walton Community. These activities reflect MKBA's commitment to fostering compassion, generosity, and solidarity within the Milton Keynes area.

### Food Donation to Frank Moran Community Centre

MKBA partnered with St Mary's Takeaway to provide much-needed food and supplies to the Frank Moran Community Centre, a vital resource for individuals and families in need in West Bletchley. This collaborative effort was made possible by the generous contributions of MKBA members and the dedication of volunteers. This event not only supported those facing challenges but also strengthened partnerships within the local area. It serves as a reminder of how collective effort can make a meaningful impact on people's lives.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT 社區支援工作



食物銀行捐贈

## Christmas Lights Donation

In the spirit of the holiday season, MKBA organised a Christmas lights donation campaign to bring festive cheer to the community. Members and supporters contributed their spare Christmas lights, which were collected and distributed to UnityMK and Walton Community. The donated lights have been used to brighten up community spaces, spreading joy and creating a welcoming atmosphere for everyone.

## Future plans

MKBA remains committed to organising similar charitable activities, striving to uplift those in need and bring the teachings of Buddhism into action for the benefit of all.

*Thank you*

to everyone who participated in these initiatives, whether through donations, volunteering, or logistical support. Your contributions have made a tangible difference in the lives of many and have strengthened MKBA's ties with the wider MK community.



## ONLINE FUNDRAISING CHARITY SALE

This year, MKBA launched a successful online charity sale to raise funds for the operation and development of our organisation. The event was designed to generate financial support for our activities, community services, and efforts to propagate Buddhist teachings. The charity sale not only raised much-needed funds for MKBA but also promoted sustainability by encouraging the reuse of pre-loved items.

The campaign began with a call for donations, inviting supporters to contribute items such as jackets, clothing, handbags, and other good-conditioned goods. These contributions, often items no longer in use, were transformed into valuable resources for the charity sale.



*Thank you*

to all who donated items and assisted in organising the event. Volunteers played a crucial role in collecting, sorting, and preparing the donated items for sale. Additionally, their efforts in promoting the event through social media and other channels ensured its success.



## FUNDRAISING STALL AT THE LUNAR NEW YEAR EVENT

This year, MKBA was proud to participate in the Lunar New Year celebrations by organising a fundraising stall. The event provided an excellent opportunity to connect with the local community, share our mission, and raise awareness about our ongoing efforts to propagate Buddhist teachings and support those in need. The funds raised during the event will be used to support MKBA's activities and community initiatives, helping us continue our mission of making a positive impact. The success of this event would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our MKBA volunteers, who played a vital role in planning, setting up, and managing the stall. Their tireless efforts ensured that the stall was welcoming and well-organised, attracting many visitors throughout the day.

### LUNAR NEW YEAR STALL 年宵攤位



*Thank you!* We are especially grateful to Venerable Shanru for her generosity in sending thoughtful gifts all the way from Hong Kong, which were featured at our stall. These unique items not only drew interest but also served as a meaningful representation of Buddhist values and practices.

We remain committed to working hard and creating meaningful opportunities for engagement and spiritual growth in the Milton Keynes community.

## "UNDERSTANDING THE THREE REFUGES AND FIVE PRECEPTS"

MKBA hosted a unique and interactive seminar titled "Understanding the Three Refuges and Five Precepts," featuring a combination of recorded teachings and a live Q&A session with Venerable Shanru. This event catered to both in-person and online participants, making it accessible to attendees from across the UK and beyond. The in-person gathering created a warm and welcoming atmosphere for community interaction, while the Zoom option enabled those unable to attend in person to join remotely and benefit from the teachings.

The session began with the screening of a recorded lecture by Venerable Shanru, titled "Observing Precepts and Chanting Buddha's Name." This lecture provided valuable insights into the significance of ethical precepts in Buddhism and the transformative practice of mindfulness through chanting. The teachings helped participants understand how the Three Refuges (Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha) and the Five Precepts serve as guiding principles for a virtuous and harmonious life.

Following the video presentation, attendees had the rare opportunity to engage directly with Venerable Shanru through a live Zoom Q&A session. Participants raised questions about the practical application of the precepts in daily life, the challenges of maintaining mindfulness, and the deeper meanings behind Buddhist practices. This event was well-received, with participants appreciating the hybrid format that allowed greater accessibility and inclusivity.

《三皈五戒》及《生命的意義》  
佛學講座圓滿舉行



感恩各位踴躍參與

The seminar aligns with MKBA's mission to promote Buddhist teachings and foster spiritual growth. By exploring the fundamental principles of Buddhism, this session provided participants with tools to navigate life's challenges with mindfulness, compassion, and ethical integrity.

We are grateful to Venerable Shanru for sharing her wisdom and to all attendees for their active participation.

This event demonstrated the power of combining traditional teachings with modern technology to connect people with the Dharma.

## "THE MEANING OF LIFE FROM A BUDDHIST PERSPECTIVE"

MKBA hosted a free seminar titled "The Meaning of Life from a Buddhist Perspective," led by the esteemed Venerable Shanru. This insightful event brought together participants from diverse backgrounds to explore Buddhist teachings on life's profound questions.

The seminar was not just an academic exploration of Buddhist principles but also a transformative experience for many. Attendees were inspired by Venerable Shanru's compassionate guidance and thought-provoking explanations.

Venerable Shanru shared the Buddhist perspective on the nature of life, offering deep insights into concepts such as birth, aging, illness, and death, karma, suffering, and the notions of self and non-self. The teachings encouraged attendees to reflect on these universal aspects of existence and provided practical wisdom for addressing life's challenges with greater clarity and resilience.

This seminar was designed to be accessible to everyone, regardless of their familiarity with Buddhism. Attendees ranged from those with longstanding Buddhist practice to individuals curious about Buddhist philosophy. The inclusive nature of the event ensured that all participants could benefit from the teachings, whether they were seeking deeper spiritual meaning or simply exploring new ideas.



Feedback from participants highlighted the seminar's impact in fostering greater self-awareness, cultivating mindfulness, and inspiring attendees to integrate Buddhist wisdom into their daily lives.

MKBA looks forward to hosting similar events in the future, continuing to build a strong and supportive Buddhist community.



## FINANCIAL REVIEW (SEPTEMBER 2023 – APRIL 2024)

Our main source of funds this year has been donations of the beneficiaries who attend the events. We use general funds to subsidise charity's activity costs.

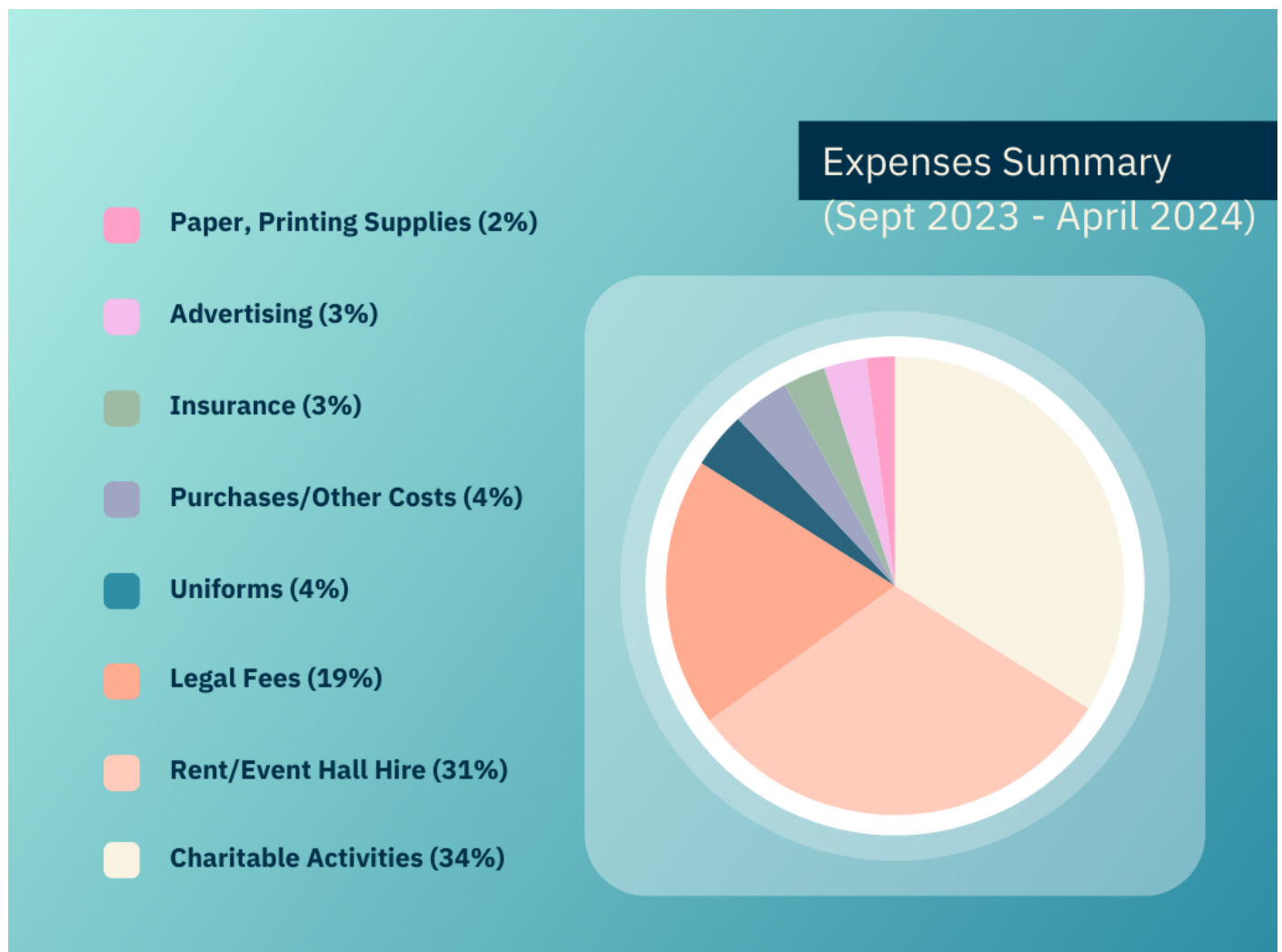
### DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

During the year, we received support through donations and legacies, which formed a crucial part of our funding. A significant contribution came from three families who kindly provided start-up funds to support our activities and initiatives.

**The Start-Up Funds:** (£10,000) were instrumental in laying the foundation for our projects and operations during the year. The generosity of these three families demonstrated a strong commitment to our mission and values, inspiring other members of the community to participate in our cause.

### PAYMENTS AND EXPENDITURES

During the financial year, payments were made to support both the establishment of the charity and its ongoing charitable activities.



**Charitable Work and Community Support:**

*Contribution to Venerable Shanru:* Funds were allocated to support the needs of Venerable Shanru during her stay in Milton Keynes.

*Food Bank Donations:* Donations were made to local food banks to address food insecurity and provide essential resources to those in need.

**Event Hall Hire:** Payments were made for hiring event halls to host various activities, including bi-weekly cultivation group sessions, community gatherings, workshops, and cultural events.

**Legal Fees for Charity Registration:**

Payments were made to cover legal and administrative fees required to set up and secure the charity's official status.

**Uniforms:**

Expenditures were made for uniforms to provide a cohesive and professional appearance for our volunteers and team members during events.

**Purchases of Equipment and Supplies:**

Various purchases were made to support the charity's operations and events, including essential equipment and supplies.

**Advertising and Promotions:**

Funds were utilized for advertising to raise awareness about our charity. This included printing postcards, flyers and banners.

**Insurance:**

Investments were made in securing appropriate insurance coverage (public liability insurance) to protect the charity, its members, and its activities.

**Printing and Paper Supplies:**

Payments covered the costs of printing and paper supplies required for operational and workshop purposes. This included producing informational materials, sutras, chanting procedures, reports, and other documentation essential to our work.

**In Summary:**

Each payment was made with careful consideration to ensure maximum impact and alignment with our charitable goals.

In summary, the payments made during the year reflect our efforts to establish the charity and carry out meaningful charitable work. They have enabled us to support the community effectively and create a solid platform for future initiatives.



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Milton Keynes Buddhist Association

1204594

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

05/09/2023

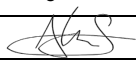
To

05/04/2024

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations and legacies	18,132	-	-	18,132	-
Interest Income	27	-	-	27	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>18,159</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,159</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>18,159</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,159</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Legal Fee	597	-	-	597	-
Charitable activities	1,058	-	-	1,058	-
Rent/Event hall hire	960	-	-	960	-
PPS	53	-	-	53	-
Advertising	56	-	-	56	-
Uniforms	131	-	-	131	-
Insurance	101	-	-	101	-
Purchases/Other cost	116	-	-	116	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>3,071</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,071</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>3,071</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,071</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>15,088</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,088</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>					
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>					
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>15,088</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,088</b>	<b>-</b>

## 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>	Main Funds (Bank)	8,060	-	-
	Main Funds (Cash)	7,028	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>15,088</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	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	
		Alan Siu	12/01/25	



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees**

**Milton Keynes  
Buddhist Association**

**On accounts for the  
year ended**

05/04/2024

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1204594

**Set out on pages**

1

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 05/04/2024

**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. 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.

**Signed:**

**Date:** 24/12/2024

**Name:**

Prasanth Ganguly

**Address:**

TaxAssist Accountants Milton Keynes

Luminous House, 300 South Row

Milton Keynes; MK9 2FR



## RESERVES POLICY

This reserves policy explains to existing and potential funders, donors, beneficiaries and other stakeholders why MKBA is holding a particular number of reserves. It gives confidence to stakeholders that MKBA's finances are being properly managed and will also provide an indicator of future funding needs and the charity's resilience.

This policy ensures that MKBA maintains adequate financial resources to support its mission of promoting the teachings of Buddhism and serving community needs of its beneficiaries.

The amount held in reserves will be monitored during the course of the year as part of MKBA's budgetary process and financial monitoring.

MKBA's approach to Reserves policy depends on the size, complexity of activities, legal structure and the nature of funds received and held by the charity. The process we use involves:

- Consideration of the nature of the funds received and held by the charity:
  - Are the funds unrestricted or restricted income?
  - Is an endowment an expendable endowment or permanent endowment?
- Understanding the nature of the funds allows trustees to identify unrestricted funds which can be spent on any purposes of our charity.
- Including future budgets and future projects or spending plans that cannot be met from the income of a single year, and uncertainties we may face in the future, such as the need to hold some reserves to meet an unexpected call on funds or opportunities that may present themselves.

### Level of Reserves

MKBA's target level of reserves may be expressed as a target figure or a target range and will be informed by:

- MKBA's forecasts for levels of income for the current and future years, taking into account the reliability of each source of income and the prospects for developing new income sources
- MKBA's forecasts for expenditure for the current and future years on the basis of planned activity
- Analysis of any future needs, opportunities, commitments or risks, where future income alone is likely to fall short of the amount of the anticipated costs

MKBA aims to maintain reserves equivalent to 6 months of operational expenditure. This level is sufficient to cover:

- Core operating costs, including staff salaries (if applicable) and facility maintenance
- Emergency situations, such as sudden reductions in donations or economic challenges.
- Contingencies for unexpected repairs or essential capital expenditures.

### Annual Reporting

MKBA will include the charity's policy on reserves in the annual report, stating the level of reserves held and why these are held.

We will ensure that our reporting of our reserves policy meets the requirements of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) (FRS 102) and the requirements of the Regulations.

### Current Reserves Position

As of 5<sup>th</sup> April 2024, MKBA holds £2,000 - £3,000 in reserves, which represents 12 months of operating expenditure. This is in line with the policy target and provides a stable financial foundation for the charity's activities.

### Use of Excess Reserves

Should reserves exceed the target level, the trustees will allocate the surplus to projects and activities that align with the charity's mission, such as expanding Buddhist teachings, enhancing community services, or improving facilities.

### Addressing Shortfalls

If reserves fall below the target level, the trustees will implement measures to rebuild reserves through cost management, fundraising initiatives, and other appropriate strategies.

### Approval

This policy was approved by the Board of Trustees on November 2024 and will be reviewed by the Board annually, as part of our financial planning cycle.

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

**Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities:** The trustees confirm that, to the best of their knowledge, they have met their responsibilities during the financial year.

**Trustees' Roles and Responsibilities:** The trustees are responsible for ensuring that the charity operates in compliance with its governing document and relevant laws. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and ensuring that these are used exclusively to further its charitable purposes.

The trustees are required to:

1. Prepare and approve an annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable laws and standards.
2. Maintain accurate and up-to-date financial records.
3. Ensure the charity remains financially sustainable and manages risks effectively.
4. Demonstrate how the charity delivers public benefit through its activities.

## DECLARATION

The trustees declare that they have approved this report on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and confirm that it complies with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Annual Trustees Report prepared by Yeang Yee

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



Name: Alan Siu

Date: 21/01/25

Role: Chair



**MKBA**

CHARITY

**MILTON KEYNES BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION**

Website: **[www.mkba.org.uk](http://www.mkba.org.uk)**

Email: **[mkbuddhist@gmail.com](mailto:mkbuddhist@gmail.com)**

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1204594



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Milton Keynes Buddhist Association

1204594

CC16a

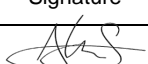
## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	05/09/2023	To	05/04/2024
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### Section A Receipts and payments

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	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	18,159	-	-	18,159	-
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
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Insurance	101	-	-	101	-
Purchases/Other cost	116	-	-	116	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	3,071	-	-	3,071	-
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	3,071	-	-	3,071	-
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	15,088	-	-	15,088	-
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>					
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	15,088	-	-	15,088	-

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	Main Funds (Cash)	7,028	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>15,088</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>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<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 liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
			Alan Siu	12/01/25