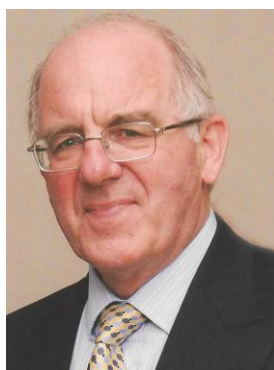


CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

October 2024– September 2025



'Continuity and Change' seems to be a familiar cliché, as well as the title of a history textbook we used to inflict on sixth form pupils. It is a useful, if rather bland, phrase with which to introduce this annual report. But when, we might well ask, has there been a year in the life of the Friends of Bath Abbey for which this description has been completely inapplicable? A change of Honorary Secretary as well as the departure of a Rector, let alone of Abbey Missioner, quite recently, seems to indicate its particular validity for the FOBA reporting year October 2024 to September 2025. What follows should bear this out.

Jeremy Key-Pugh – Our retiring Honorary Secretary

Jeremy Key-Pugh, our indefatigable Honorary Secretary, stepped down from this vital role in the months following the 2025 AGM. He has served the Friends of Bath Abbey in this voluntary capacity with great competence, enormous dedication, warm enthusiasm and sense of humour since 2014. He has devoted his organisational diligence, his remarkable knowledge of the building, his understanding of its history, and his interest in individual members, to us and to our association. Thankfully, his wisdom and deep knowledge of the Abbey will still be available as a member of the Executive Committee, as he was appointed by the PCC.

We are immensely grateful to him and to the support the Friends have also received from Ros Key-Pugh alongside him. She herself served as our Honorary Secretary from 2005-2012. He was therefore, not quite in direct 'apostolic succession' from her, but demonstrated throughout the same competence, diligence, and devotion to the work of enhancing, caring for and cherishing our beautiful Abbey.

In addition to the considerable duties of his Honorary Secretaryship, as a long-serving Lay Reader, Jeremy has played a central part in the preaching, worship and pastoral ministry of the Abbey. We bear in mind that all this has been in addition - over time - to his service as a church warden, PCC member, Lay Chair of the Deanery Synod, member of the Bishop's Council, and his representative participation in the appointment of Bishop Michael Beasley – and much more. To mix metaphors, Jeremy's vocal and choral musicianship has been yet another accomplished string to his bow. Others could doubtless supplement this remarkable list.

Along with our President and Rector, Guy Bridgewater, we were unanimous in expressing our warm gratitude to Jeremy after his outstanding lecture in late September on John of Tours, the first Bishop of Bath. We trust that the individually designed and inscribed Bath Aqua glass vase presented to him that evening, along with a significant cheque, will serve as reminder and

acknowledgement of his outstanding decade-plus of service. The level of generosity of so many Friends spoke volumes for the esteem in which Jeremy is held. The engraved calligraphy reads as follows and The Friends logo is engraved on the reverse side:

JEREMY KEY-PUGH.

Secretary, The Friends of Bath Abbey 2014 - 2025.

To Jeremy, in continuing friendship and with heartfelt thanks.

John15:15



Penny Cracknell – Our new Honorary Secretary

Penny Cracknell already knows the Abbey well, having served regularly as a Steward for four years, welcoming visitors on Tuesday mornings and answering their questions. She is also a volunteer at the Holburne Museum, where she has been involved with a variety of additional museum programmes. Penny now lives near the centre of Bath but is currently a churchwarden at St Stephen's Lansdown. This has involved updating their IT and communications processes, and church building matters. She also edits their weekly online newsletter.

Her professional career included working in London, Sydney and New York. She has also fund-raised for charitable organisations. Before moving to Bath, Penny was a churchwarden for some years in her Kent village, ran a small business, edited a community magazine, and organised local events.

We have already welcomed Penny warmly as she embarked on this role from the spring of 2025 with great energy and capability. We thank her warmly for being willing to serve us in this voluntary capacity. She is full of enterprising and worthwhile ideas and has already embarked on a major review of our communications, IT processes, and publications. Penny is proving both highly efficient and administratively proficient on our behalf. Like her predecessor, she is undertaking her duties with sensitivity, a listening ear, and a delightful touch of humour. Please do not hesitate to contact Penny about any matter relating to the Friends.

Annual General Meeting and Events

The well-attended AGM on Saturday 1st February was introduced by some supportive words from our President, the Revd. Guy Bridgewater, before he handed over to the Chairman and Secretary.

Gratitude was expressed for the companionable support and conscientious commitment of each member of the Executive Committee, especially our

Honorary Secretary, Jeremy Key-Pugh, and Brian Webber our Honorary Treasurer and Membership Secretary. Jeremy had given notice of his intention to retire from this post in the months ahead. We also thanked Jeff Jupp (a former Chairman) for his on-going and exemplary work editing and producing our annual report. We welcomed into committee membership those recently or newly elected: John Barnes, Clare Alexander-Jupp and Patricia Shuttleworth.

It is so reassuring to have Chris Johnson as our Vice Chairman. He chaired the working group examining ways of improving our administrative processes, especially in relation to electronic communication and data storage. The need to enable more efficient and less paper-reliant contact with all our members, and also to keep up to date with the requirements of the Charity Commission was underlined. John Barnes had made some very helpful recommendations, and he had also overseen the attractive redesign of the Friends' information board and leaflets. An invitation to encourage more of our Abbey congregation to join us was planned.

To have churchwarden Andrew Bragg on board with his wide knowledge of our beautiful building and detailed grasp of - and great patience with - matters of process and compliance is a further bonus. We benefit from his extensive professional experience, deep sense of service and the unseen range of work that he undertakes so unobtrusively on behalf of the Abbey.

Particular, but inadequate, words of gratitude were expressed to Ursula Turrell, who for many years had worked with great dedication and efficiency as our Events Administrator. This had been a largely unseen but greatly appreciated task that involved a close and happy working partnership with our outgoing Hon. Sec. She and he had stepped down 'in tandem' at the same moment.

The formal and routine part of the meeting was followed by a fully illustrated presentation by the Chairman entitled "The Fan Vaulting Phenomenon". He explained that this uniquely English architectural development - mainly confined to the years between c.1450 and c.1530 - emerged first, and a little earlier, at low level in chantry chapels and cloisters in the abbeys of Tewkesbury and Gloucester. The first high level fan vaults constructed were the outstandingly beautiful ones in the chancel and later the nave at Sherborne Abbey. Fan vaulting was adopted fully in a very small handful of major churches, notably King's College Chapel Cambridge, St George's Windsor and Bath Abbey, each with an early Tudor royal connection. It can also be seen beneath the towers of Canterbury and Wells cathedrals and spotted there in a limited number of mainly West Country churches. Experts have observed that Tudor Gothic Bath Abbey is unique in being the only aisled and cruciform church that is completely fan vaulted, chancel and nave, chantry chapel, transepts, side aisles, and tower crossing – even though the nave fan vault is a 19th century copy.

This talk followed from the publication by the Friends in November 2024 of *The Architecture of Bath Abbey*, a much revised and colour illustrated edition of the earlier book by David Price. Alan Morley participated in the editing and photographic illustration of both publications and was vital to the project. A notable inclusion were the skillful architectural drawings by a sixth form pupil at

King Edward's School. Over 200 copies were sold in the Abbey shop in the first six months.

Following tea in the Learning Centre, the service of Choral Evensong included a special feature in the form of the World Premiere performance of *Deus Misereatur* (Psalm 67) by Francis Grier, commissioned to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Boys and Lay Clerks Choir, established in 1875.

A brief report of our main events follows. Our Spring Lunch, which was again held in the familiar and welcoming atmosphere of the Bath & County Club, was well-attended. The pianistic entertainment over coffee was provided by the shortly to depart and highly talented Dewi Rees, our Assistant Organist.



In a move to restore the former tradition of celebrating the Abbey's Patronal Festival of St Peter and St Paul, a festal service of Choral Evensong sung beautifully by our choir was held on Sunday 29th June, after which there was a reception with refreshments. We continue to be grateful to Victoria Dudley and her husband Graham for their efficient organisation and serving of refreshments at this and other events during the year.

Our visit in June to Forde Abbey, a former Cistercian monastery converted by Edmund Prideaux into an impressive private home with outstanding gardens in the beautiful countryside of the Somerset-Dorset border, was well-attended. Few had visited Forde before and there was a unanimous degree of surprised delight. It proved to be an interesting, sunny and most enjoyable day (See separate article). The Committee continues to reflect on and wrestle with the sharply increased cost of coach hire, and also of entry fees and meal prices. Hence there has only been one 'coach trip' this year.

JOHN OF TOURS – AUTUMN LECTURE BY JEREMY KEY-PUGH

This keynote illustrated, open lecture was given in the Abbey on 25th September by the now Secretary Emeritus, Jeremy Key-Pugh. His subject was '*John of Tours - the first Bishop of Bath*'. The Friends (and others), who turned out in considerable numbers know what to expect when Jeremy is at the lectern. This was no exception, and perhaps his finest tour de force (if the pun is forgivable).

This beautifully delivered lecture was again the fruit of thorough research and was illustrated by an engaging range of excerpts from medieval manuscripts, sculptured images, along with other accompanying visual material from the archives. It was fascinating, illuminating, skillfully sustained, clearly expressed, and seasoned with touches of humour – in all a masterclass both in content and delivery.

It seemed entirely appropriate that such a well-supported and enjoyable evening should be rounded off by our Rector with grateful words about Jeremy's enormous contribution to the Friends, along with a remarkably extensive list covering the range, breadth and length of his many other roles in Christian service at Bath Abbey. There could be no better way than a final reference to this significant moment to conclude this review of a year of 'continuity and change'.

Peter LeRoy

Registered Charity Number: 0205082

THE FRIENDS OF BATH ABBEY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

THE FRIENDS OF BATH ABBEY
INDEX TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

1	Trustees' report
2	Independent examiner's report
3	Statement of financial activities
4	Balance sheet
5	Notes to the accounts

**THE FRIENDS OF BATH ABBEY
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025**

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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) (effective 1 January 2019).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number
0205082

Principal address
9 Kingston Buildings
Bath BA1 1LT

Trustees

The trustees who served during the year are contained within the published Annual Report sent to all members of The Friends.

Independent Examiner
Berkeley Hall Marshall Limited
6 Charlotte Street
Bath BA1 2NE

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The unincorporated charity is governed by its constitution, as adopted at the Annual General Meeting on 26 January 2013.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Reserves

All the funds of the charity are unrestricted and are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the charity's objects.

Trustees

New trustees are appointed with regard to the constitution of the charity and guidance published by the charity commission.

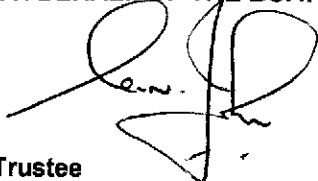
OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Promotion of interest in the history, fabric and ornaments of Bath Abbey, and collection of monies by subscription, donations, legacies, and events to enable grants to be made towards the cost of building works, refurbishments, replacements and additions, as approved by the Parochial Church Council and all with due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The charity's activities are described in the published Annual Report. The charity's reserves continue to grow in readiness for assisting the Abbey with the follow-up to the Footprint project.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD



Trustee

16 March 2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRIENDS OF BATH ABBEY

I report to the charity's trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2025, which are set out on the [following] pages.

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 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 to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Matthew Small FCA
Berkeley Hall Marshall Limited
Chartered Accountants
6 Charlotte Street, Bath BA1 2NE

THE FRIENDS OF BATH ABBEY

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025**

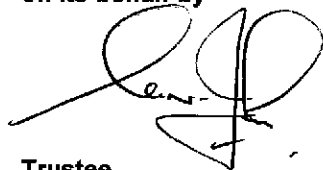
Incoming resources	2025 (£)	2024 (£)
Subscriptions	3,338	2,245
Donations	5,064	2,108
Collection box	1,602	1,145
Sales of book (The Architecture of Bath Abbey)	1,398	-
Investment income	11,665	9,373
Tax refund	1,742	1,186
Surplus on social events	499	844
Legacies	<u>118,514</u>	<u>81,500</u>
Total incoming resources	<u>143,822</u>	<u>98,401</u>
Resources expended		
Direct charitable expenditure (note 3)	43,371	37,500
Administration (note 4)	<u>6,853</u>	<u>2,704</u>
Total resources expended	<u>50,224</u>	<u>40,204</u>
Net incoming resources for the year	93,598	58,197
Loss on investments (gain in 2024)	<u>(843)</u>	<u>2,085</u>
Net movement in funds	92,755	60,282
Unrestricted fund brought forward	<u>279,185</u>	<u>218,903</u>
Unrestricted fund carried forward	<u>371,940</u>	<u>279,185</u>

THE FRIENDS OF BATH ABBEY

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

	2025 (£)	2024 (£)
Accumulated unrestricted fund	<u>371,940</u>	<u>279,185</u>
Represented by:		
CBF Church of England Investment Fund Income Units brought forward	23,190	21,105
Unrealised loss (gain in 2024)	<u>(843)</u>	<u>2,085</u>
Balance carried forward	22,347	23,190
CBF Church of England Deposit Fund	275,824	145,881
Bank Reserve Account	65,540	104,483
Bank Current Accounts	4,791	4,233
Cash	198	188
Debtors	<u>3,240</u>	<u>1,210</u>
	<u>371,940</u>	<u>279,185</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 16 March 2026 and signed on its behalf by



Trustee

THE FRIENDS OF BATH ABBEY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Entities, the Charities Act 2011 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on income and gains to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No liability has arisen in the year.

Accumulated fund

The whole of the Accumulated Fund is unrestricted and can be used in accordance with the charity's objects at the discretion of the trustees.

2. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

There was no trustee remuneration paid or other benefits for the year ended 30 September 2025 (2024 - nil)

No trustee expenses were reimbursed during the year ended 30 September 2025 (2024 - nil).

3. DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

	2025 (£)	2024 (£)
New blower for organ tuba stop	-	17,500
Furniture for chancel (initial instalment)	-	20,000
Architect's fees for roof project	10,570	-
Contribution for new Alphege Chapel window	20,000	-
Music Desks for choir	12,801	-
	<u>43,371</u>	<u>37,500</u>

4. ADMINISTRATION

Printing of book (The Architecture of Bath Abbey)	4,146	-
Other printing and stationery	1,198	1,164
Postage	452	344
Insurance	476	449
Independent examiner's fee	462	462
Other expenses	119	285
	<u>6,853</u>	<u>2,704</u>

Registered Charity Number: 0205082

THE FRIENDS OF BATH ABBEY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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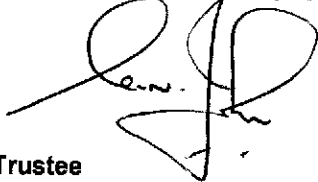
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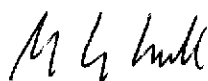
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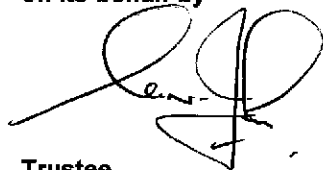
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