

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

The Trustees present their Report together with the Income and Expenditure Accounts of the College of Preachers for the year ended 31 December 2024

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The College of Preachers Trust - Charity No. 220764

Trustees during the year

Mr Graham Pearcey

The Revd Canon Roger Spiller (Chair)

The Revd Canon Christopher Stone

Director of Training The Revd Dr. Jennifer Brown

Treasurer Mr David Barlow

Editor of The Preacher The Revd Canon Dr. Christopher Burkett

Registered office 13a Hellesdon Park Road, Norwich, NR6 5DR

Independent Examiner Mrs Gill Taylor AMCA

Bankers Barclays Bank, Leicester, LE87 2BB

Investment Managers CCLA Investment Management Limited, , One Angel Lane, London, EC4R 3AB

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The College was established by Trust Deed dated 15 March 1962, supplemented by a Deed of Variation of Trust dated 27 November 1968 and with further variations to the Deed of Trust in 2011 and 2018.

Trustees

The College is managed by the Trustees of the Charity, sitting as an Executive Committee. The Executive can also vote on to the Committee other Members as they see fit. All other members of the Executive except the Treasurer are Trustees.

Organisation

The Executive Committee met regularly in 2024, by Zoom on most occasions with the Director of Training. The members of the Committee are, if necessary, consulted by email on major issues.

Within the policy set by the Executive Committee the responsibility for the day-to-day training activities is delegated to the Director of Training. The administration of the College continues to be handled by the Trustees together with the Treasurer as a co-opted member.

Members of the Executive Committee are a strategic body with individuals taking responsibility for specific projects and reporting back to the Committee.

We are thankful for the services of our Director of Training who continues to contribute significantly to the work of the College.

Related Parties

Since January 2018 Hymns Ancient and Modern have published "The Preacher" magazine, paying a commission to the College to do so.

Risk Management

The Trustees regularly review the risks that the College might face, which normally relate to the level of membership and the finances of the College. They consider that arrangements have been set up to mitigate such risks as have been identified. No major risks have been identified at this stage and the review of risks is now an on-going task in accordance with the advice of the Charity Commission.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives

The primary object of the College is the advancement and promotion of religion generally and in particular by the provision of religious education and training. The College is ecumenical and covers all Christian denominations. Subsidiary purposes contained in the original Trust Deed include: the establishment and maintenance of a college to assist those who are engaged in preaching and teaching the word of God; and the organisation of courses of lectures and the provision of individual tuition to those engaged in preaching.

Activities

The Activities employed to achieve the College's objectives include:

- publishing a quarterly journal (The Preacher) with articles on preaching, outline sermons relating to the lectionaries in general use and other material relevant to preachers,
- holding short courses on various aspects of preaching, either at the request of particular religious groups or on an open basis,
- holding occasional major residential conferences and other events on preaching,
- maintaining a website (www.collegeofpreachers.co.uk) aimed at supporting preachers,
- providing advice and support to persons engaged in preaching and those training preachers.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. They consider that the College is of public benefit by, inter alia, encouraging the proclamation of the Christian religion; encouraging ecumenical cooperation between different strands of Christianity; and providing unrestricted education in skills and methods of public speaking.

REPORT ON THE COLLEGE AND ON ITS ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2024.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The financial results for the year were again satisfactory, resulting in an operating surplus for the year of £1,157 (2023 £2,615), which was increased, by the increase in the value of investments, to £2,715 (2023 £8,466).

In 2024 the College's incoming resources were £22,564 slightly down on 2023 of £23,115. With expenditure of £21,407, (2023 £20,500) this led to the modest operating surplus of £1,157 (2023 £2,615). However, £2,758 has been paid as a non-refundable deposit for the 2025 conference.

Commission from subscriptions to the Preacher magazine continues to be the main source of income at £13,814 (2023 £14,370) although this was lower due to one off investment in the website. Subscriptions for 2024 were some 1074 (2023: 1016).

The value of the investments at the year-end was £69,596 (2023: £68,038). This together with the modest surplus has resulted in a balance of funds carried forward at the end of the year of £106,145 (2023 £103,430).

Reserves

To enable the College to maintain its core activities, the Trustees consider that liquid reserves equivalent to at least twelve months regular operating expenditure are required. As will be seen from the details in the accounts, whilst more than this is held at present, the Trustees consider the finances to be satisfactory, given challenges in the future.

Report on the Editorial Board 2024

'The Preacher' is the quarterly journal of The College of Preachers. It contains complete sermons for every Sunday or red-letter day in the quarter in question – a practical resource to refer to every week. It also contains book reviews; news of training opportunities from the College and Festivals of Preaching; and feature articles – which focus on a different theme for each edition. The four themes featured in 2024 were 'Learning preaching', 'Preaching as a performance', 'Novels and preaching' and 'Eschatology'. Future themes in the planning stages include 'The Epistles', 'Reaching Generation Z', 'Racial justice' and 'Preaching stars (learning from the past)'.

Subscriptions for the journal have continued to increase steadily, reaching approximately 1,100 by the end of the year.

Responsibility for putting the journal and its accompanying website together rested this year with Heather Smith of Hymns Ancient and Modern ('Hymns') – the Managing Editor – and Emily Noyce, also from Hymns, the Marketing Executive. On the College side they were joined by Matt Allen, Reviews and Resources Editor; Duncan Macpherson, Features Editor; and Graham Pearcey, Rob Esdaile and Catherine Williams, Commissioning Editors for sermons from Nonconformist, Roman Catholic and Anglican preachers. Last but not least the role of Editor transitioned seamlessly during the course of 2024 from Christopher Burkett, who'd carried out this role for an amazing eleven years, to Jo Logan, the Director of Reader Training at St Hild College, Mirfield.

The Editorial Board are particularly proud not only of their own ecumenical makeup but also of the diversity of authors who submitted articles, reviews and sermons – which this year included lay and ordained preachers and academics from Catholic, Greek, Anglican, Methodist, United Reformed, Baptist, Church of Scotland, Nazarene, Salvation Army, Congregational Federation, and a wide range of Black majority traditions.

Preacher Training 2024

Activities

There were a wide-ranging programme of workshops in 2024. We held eleven on-line workshops, and two in-person workshops. On-line workshops averaged 23 bookings per workshop and each of the in-person workshops had approximately 10 bookings. We provided two bespoke training events in 2024, one for Bristol Diocese and one that involved providing 3 tutors to create training materials for Oxford Diocese.

We joined BlueSky and continue to have accounts on Instagram and Threads and left Twitter in December 2024. Posts have mainly been to promote workshops and have primarily been done by the Director of Training. In Advent, the Director did a daily post of a 'thought for the day' reflection to all our social media accounts. Although the number of followers we have on these platforms is still relatively small, we continue to gain new followers.

Mailings about workshops and other events were managed by Hymns and mailings for workshops were sent by the Director to Church of England and Roman Catholic dioceses, other denominations, TEIs and other theological colleges.

Preachers' Forum and other Resources

The Preachers' Forum is a monthly online meeting in which preachers have a space to discuss together a particular topic relevant to preaching, a theme for preaching, or select biblical passages. This does not include any 'top-down' input from a tutor or other expert but is instead an opportunity for peer-to-peer learning, sharing of experience and good practice, and mutual encouragement. Attendance varies but is generally between 15 and 20 people.

We now have seven videos available for people to view on the website. These cover a range of subjects, from the webinars that we recorded during lockdown in 2020, the panel discussion on intercultural preaching, recorded in 2021, to interviews on preaching about farmed animal welfare, about money, about the importance of the Old Testament for preaching, and preaching about safeguarding.

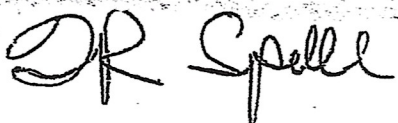
Future Projects

The conference initially planned for 2024 had to be postponed to 2025 because of a clash with Hymns Ancient & Modern's Festival of Preaching. The new dates are 9–11 September 2025. The theme of the conference is 'The Wonder of Words'. Dr Margaret Cooling, author and lay preacher, will be the keynote speaker. There will be a range of workshops on the use of words in preaching.

Thank You

The Trustees would like to put on record their appreciation to the Director of Training, The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown, and to our Treasurer Mr David Barlow. In particular the Trustees thank the retiring Editor of The Preacher, Christopher Burkett, for his commitment to the Preacher over the years.

For and on behalf of the Trustees



The Revd Canon Roger Spiller

Chair of the Trustees 4 July 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to The Trustees of the College of Preachers, for the year ended 31 December 2024

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My examination has been undertaken so that I might state to the Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose.

Respective responsibilities of trustee and examiner

As the members of The College of Preachers, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, and you consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

1. examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
2. to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
3. to state whether particular matters have come to my attention of a material nature.

Basis of independent examiner's report

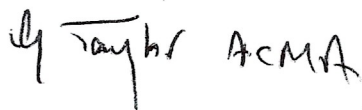
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under S145(5) (b) of the Act. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 1. to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act, and
 2. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act; have not been met; or
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: Gill Taylor ACMA



Dated: 6 February 2025

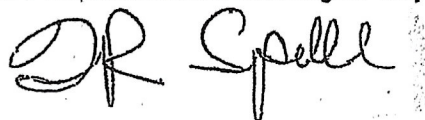
THE COLLEGE OF PREACHERS
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	FUNDS 2024 £	FUNDS 2023 £
Income from charitable activities					
Voluntary income	2a	1,851	0	1,851	2,140
Activities for generating funds	2b	13,814	0	13,814	14,370
Investment income	2c	3,243	0	3,243	2,875
Income from charitable activities	2d	3,656	0	3,656	3,730
		<u>22,564</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>22,564</u>	<u>23,115</u>
Expenditure					
Costs of generating voluntary income	3a	0	0	0	0
Fund-raising trading costs	3b	0	0	0	0
Charitable activities	3c	21,307	0	21,307	20,310
Governance costs	3d	100	0	100	190
Total resources expended		<u>21,407</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>21,407</u>	<u>20,500</u>
Excess of Income over Expenditure		1,157	0	1,157	2,615
Increase (Decrease) in value of Investments		1,558	0	1,558	5,851
Increase (decrease) in Funds		<u>2,715</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,715</u>	<u>8,466</u>
Transfers between Funds		0	0	0	0
Funds brought forward 1 January 2024		103,430	0	103,430	94,964
Funds carried forward 31 December 2024	4	<u>106,145</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>106,145</u>	<u>103,430</u>

THE COLLEGE OF PREACHERS
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2024 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2023 £
<u>Investment assets</u>					
Church of England Investment Fund Income Units - 2332.57 shares		69,596	0	69,596	68,038
<u>Bank deposits</u>					
Barclays Secretary Account		5,301	0	5,301	6,566
Church of England Deposit Account		27,700	0	27,700	24,782
		<u>102,597</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>102,597</u>	<u>99,386</u>
Other Assets		3,648	0	3,648	4,143
Less Creditors		- 100	0	-100	-100
Total Assets	4	<u>106,145</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>106,145</u>	<u>103,429</u>
Represented by					
Unrestricted Funds				106,145	103,429
				<u>106,145</u>	<u>103,429</u>

Approved by the Trustees of the College of Preachers at their meeting on July 4 2025 and signed on their behalf
The Rev'd Canon Roger Spiller Chair



The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

THE COLLEGE OF PREACHERS
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared using the Accruals basis.

The accounts include all monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the Trust is responsible in law.

Funds

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for the Trust's ordinary purposes.

Restricted funds represent (a) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the Trust for a specific object, and (b) income from trusts and endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust of bequest. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. There are currently no restricted funds.

The following assets are recognised and a monetary value given as part of the description in the Balance Sheet: Bank and deposit accounts; Amounts owing from HMRC where a formal claim has been made; Investment assets.

Liabilities are recognised and a monetary value given in the Balance Sheet where the supply had been received by 31 December.

THE COLLEGE OF PREACHERS
 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 2 RECEIPTS

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2024 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2023 £
Voluntary income				
Sundry donations	1,785	0	1,785	2,067
Gift aid recovered	66	0	66	73
	<u>1,851</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,851</u>	<u>2,140</u>
Activities for generating funds				
Magazine income	13,814	0	13,814	14,370
Investment income				
Dividends and interest	3,243	0	3,243	2,875
Income from Charitable Activities				
Training and conference	3,656	0	3,656	3,730
Total receipts	<u>22,564</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>22,564</u>	<u>23,115</u>

THE COLLEGE OF PREACHERS
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3. PAYMENTS

Charitable Activities

Director of Training	17,084	0	17,084	15,249
Training and Seminars	1,898	0	1,898	619
Conference 2025 Deposit	742	0	742	2,016
Tutor Costs	891	0	891	939
Printing and stationery	44	0	44	140
Insurance	465	0	465	465
General management costs	182	0	182	882

	<u>21,307</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>21,307</u>	<u>20,310</u>
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The College has paid an unrefundable deposit for the 2025 Conference of £2,758

Independent examination fee	100	0	100	100
Bookkeeping services	0	0	0	0
Executive meeting expenses	0	0	0	90
	<u>100</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>190</u>

Total payments	<u>21,407</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>21,407</u>	<u>20,500</u>
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Executive meeting expenses mainly comprise Trustee Expenses £Nil (2023 £90).

THE COLLEGE OF PREACHERS
 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4. STATEMENT OF BANK DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

	At 1 Jan 2024 £	Income £	Transfer & Expenditure £	Gains and Losses £	At 31 Dec 2024 £
Unrestricted Funds - undesignated	103,430	22,564	-21,407	1,558	106,145
	<u>103,430</u>	<u>22,564</u>	<u>(21,407)</u>	<u>1,558</u>	<u>106,145</u>

Total bank and current accounts

The Unrestricted Reserves are available for day to day income and expenses. Its assets are held in a Barclays Current Account and CCLA Investment and Deposit Accounts.