

Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust

Accounts for the Year Ended

31 March 2025

*Woodford Norman Accounting Ltd
7 Kevern Close
Wigston
Leicester
LE18 2GR*

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Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust
(Charity Registration No. 233476)

Trustees Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Reference and Administrative Information

Trustees:

The Rt Revd Martyn Snow, Bishop of Leicester (President)
Mrs J C Arthur MBE (Chair)
Mr M K Dunkley
Mr C D Entwistle
The Revd Canon J Hopewell
Mr D J Knowles DL (retired 12.11.2024)
Mr J M Malam
Mr R Sulley
Mr M Taylor
Professor E C Tingle
Mr N A Crutchley

Officials:

The Rt Revd Martyn Snow, Bishop of Leicester (President)
The Revd Canon Helen Cameron, Methodist Church
The Revd Mark Clay, Regional Minister Team Leader, East Midlands Baptist Association (Vice President)
Mrs J C Arthur MBE (Chair)
Mr J M Malam (Treasurer)
Mr M Taylor (Minutes Secretary)
Mr R J Stevenson (Grants Administrator)
Mr R Gill (Local History Adviser)
Mr S Dudley (Social Media & Ride+Stride)

Registered Office Address:

Mr J M Malam
9 Sunset Drive
Asfordby
Melton Mowbray
Leicester LE14 3XW

Administration and Main Contact Address:

Mrs J C Arthur MBE (Chair)
20 Gumley Road
Smeeton Westerby
Leicester LE8 0LT

Bankers:

CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue
West Mallory
ME19 4TA

Independent Examiner:

Mrs Y Woodford
Woodford Norman Accounting Ltd
7 Kevern Close
Wigston
Leicester LE18 2GR

Trustees Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRSSE) 2015

Structure, Governance and Management:

The Trust was constituted by Deed of Trust dated 31 January 1964 and is governed under the terms of that Deed. The Trust is managed by a Board of Trustees who are responsible for the strategic direction of the Trust and establishing policy. The Board of Trustees meets 3 times a year or on any other occasion as Trust matters require.

The Trustees hold the Trust Fund to apply the income and capital thereof in such manner as they shall in their absolute discretion think fit for all or any of the following purposes:-

The preservation, repair, maintenance, improvement, upkeep, beautification and re-construction of churches in the United Kingdom and of monuments, fittings, fixtures, stained glass, furniture, ornaments and chattels in such churches, and of the churchyard belonging to such churches.

Public Benefit:

Trustees are aware of the requirement placed upon them by the Charities Act 2011 to demonstrate compliance with Section 4 dealing with "public benefit". The Trust's aim falls within two definitions of charitable activity, the advancement of religion and the advancement of heritage. On each count, the Trust provides benefits to the public generally. The direct beneficiaries of the Trust's support are the parishes and congregations that are responsible for churches, chapels and meeting houses in Leicestershire or the Diocese of Leicester. The Trust raises money for the restoration and improvement of churches, chapels and meeting houses which are used for Christian worship and makes no discrimination between denominations. Applications for grants are supported by written applications using a standard online form and are evaluated by the Grants Administrator before consideration in detail at a meeting of the Trustees. Applications are sometimes reviewed during visits to the scene of the proposed works. It is clear that the work of the Trust benefits those members of the public that make use of these places of worship, either for worship or to enjoy and admire the buildings, the majority of which are of historic and architectural significance. Or to attend a community event in the buildings.

Achievements and Performance:

The main fund raising each year is a sponsored Ride + Stride event which raised £43,818 inclusive of Gift Aid (2024- £36,455). Some income generated for Ride + Stride, made via Just Giving, may have included donations in memory of Graham Wright or for the 60th Anniversary.

Grants, gifts and donations received during the year amounted to £9,834 (2024 - £12,319). Grants allocated to churches during the year amounted to £51,500 (2024 - £23,250).

Reserves Policy:

The Trustees keep an uncommitted reserve of around £40,000, which amount is reviewed annually and deposited in a separate account with CCLA.

Trustees Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Grant Making Policy:

Trustees meet to consider grant applications in Spring and Autumn each year. Trustees accept grant applications for projects costing at least £5,000 (including fees and all VAT) from churches, chapels and meeting houses in Leicester and Leicestershire that

- (a) are used for regular public worship
- (b) belong to the Church of England or any other Christian religious body
- (c) were built more than 50 years ago
- (d) were built more recently than 50 years ago and are listed buildings

1. The Trust contributes towards work to repair, restore or preserve the fabric and aims to support such work as generously as its funds allow.
2. The Trust can consider applications for: roof alarms; the repair or renewal of heating systems where improved heating will benefit the fabric of the building; disabled access; toilet facilities; re-ordering projects which will improve the use of the church by the community, including AV improvements; and essential electrical works.
3. The Trust can consider applications for the repair of fittings, fixtures, stained glass, monuments, furniture, clocks, ornaments and chattels of churches and chapels, and of churchyards (so long as the churchyard is visually part of the setting of the church and under the responsibility of the Church/Chapel Council, and also open for burials).
4. The Trust does not consider applications for redecorating (except where this is necessary following repairs), or for school or other ancillary buildings. The Trust does not normally support improvements that require an extension.

Risk Management:

The Trustees are required under the Charities SORP 2015 to confirm as part of its report that they have reviewed and taken steps to mitigate the major risks to the Trust and an annual review of risk so as to ensure that the measures taken are adequate.

Trustees Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Trustees' Responsibilities in relation to the financial statements:

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practice and:

- * Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- * Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- * Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- * State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and;
- * Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ascertain the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. The Trustees are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on 6 NOVEMBER 2025
Signed on their behalf by:



Mrs J C Arthur MBE
Chair

Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust
(Charity Registration No. 233476)

Trustees Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Statement of Financial Activities

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
<u>Voluntary Income</u>				
<u>Planned giving</u>				
Friend/Parish Friends	90		250	
		90		250
<u>Other voluntary income</u>				
Individuals/Societies	2,244		2,069	
Trusts	7,500		10,000	
		9,744		12,069
<u>Investment income</u>				
CAF interest	703		559	
COIF interest	3,809		3,565	
		4,512		4,124
<u>Income from fund raising</u>				
Ride + Stride	39,219		33,129	
Less: share to churches	- 16,424		- 14,237	
Gift aid	4,599		3,326	
		27,394		22,218
<u>Other income</u>				
Churches tour and lectures	287		334	
		287		334
<u>Total incoming resources</u>		<u>42,027</u>		<u>38,995</u>

Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust
(Charity Registration No. 233476)

Trustees Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Statement of Financial Activities

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
<u>Charitable Activities</u>				
Grants allocated		51,500		23,250
Increase/(decrease) in value of COIF fixed interest fund	-	1	-	3
<u>Administration</u>				
Accountancy	450		450	
Bank charges	336		336	
Ride + Stride administration	1,006		1,130	
Insurance	264		264	
Printing & Stationery (including new brochure)	389		131	
Subscriptions - ICO	64		40	
Website costs	228		1,136	
Ride + Stride Organiser	3,225		2,250	
		5,962		5,737
<u>Total resources expended</u>		<u>57,461</u>		<u>28,984</u>
<u>Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year</u>		<u>- 15,434</u>		<u>10,011</u>

Trustees Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Statement of Financial Activities

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
<u>STATEMENT OF ASSETS</u>				
As at 31 March 2025				
General Fund				
<u>Monetary Assets</u>				
NatWest current account		211		201
CAF current accounts		4,908		8,092
CAF gold account		29,841		23,160
		<u>34,960</u>		<u>31,453</u>
<u>Investment Assets</u>				
<u>COIF Charity Funds:</u>				
Uncommitted reserve	40,000		40,000	
General account	40,665		36,857	
Fixed interest fund	63		62	
		<u>80,728</u>		<u>76,919</u>
<u>Current Assets of the Trust</u>		<u>115,688</u>		<u>108,372</u>
Allchurches (Benefact Trust) Roof alarms grant		-		-
Other grants awarded but not yet paid (see notes under resources expended on page 8)		48,250		25,500
Accrued Expenses		-		-
<u>Current Liabilities of the Trust</u>		<u>48,250</u>		<u>25,500</u>
<u>Net Assets</u>		<u>67,438</u>		<u>82,872</u>
<u>Represented by:</u>				
Reserves B/Fwd		82,872		72,861
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	-	15,434		10,011
		<u>67,438</u>		<u>82,872</u>

Trustees Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Notes

(Forming part of the financial statements)

Accounting policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the Trust's financial statements.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention, modified by the revaluation of investments. They follow applicable standards and the recommendations in Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRSSE) 2015.

Incoming Resources

Collections, donations and grants are accounted for when they are received or committed; investment income is accounted for on due dates of payment. Other income is accounted for having regard to any accruals.

Resources expended

Resources expended are included in the statement of financial activities on an accruals basis. The cost of grants that have been awarded but not yet paid for are accrued in the accounts. Churches have up to 3 years to claim a grant.

Investments

Investments are stated at the market value at the Balance Sheet date.

Trustees Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust (the trust) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed 

14 July 2025

Mrs Y Woodford
Woodford Norman Accounting Ltd
7 Kevern Close
Wigston
Leicester LE18 2GR