

Charity Registration No. 254285

Whitchurch Canonorum Church Lands Charity

Trustees' Report And Financial Statements

For The Year Ended 31 December 2025

Whitchurch Canonorum Church Lands Charity

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Whitchurch Canonorum Church Lands Charity

Legal and Administrative Information

Trustees	Rev Virginia Lockett (Chair) Richard Colby (Treasurer) Ann Bartlett Susan Johnson
Charity registered number	254285
Registered office	Abbotts Wootton Cottage Wootton Fitzpaine Bridport Dorset DT6 6NL
Bankers	TSB Bank 9 West Street Bridport Dorset DT6 3QL
Independent Examiner	Mr. M. J. Cridland B.A. (Hons) F.C.A. Scott Vevers Ltd Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors 65 East Street Bridport Dorset DT6 3LB

Whitchurch Canonorum Church Lands Charity
Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2025

Objectives

The Charity objectives are in the furtherance of religious and other charitable work of the Church of England in the Parish of Whitchurch Canonorum with Stanton St Gabriel and Fishpond.

Main activities

The Charity has been supporting the work of the church by paying for the maintenance of the fabric at St Candida and Holy Cross including the tower, the floor, and improvements to enhance use of the building for services e.g., the kitchen facilities, so that refreshments after services, concerts and fund raising events can be better provided.

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

Achievements and performance

The Trustees met twice in 2025 with Rev Virginia Luckett as Chair.

The first meeting was held in March 2025 and took the form of an open meeting with local parishioners invited to attend. A presentation by Rev Luckett outlined the structure of the Charity, the funds available and the grant giving arrangements. Ten parishioners attended the meeting and took part in a question-and-answer session at the end of the presentation.

As well as describing some of the grants provided by the Charity in the past year, the presentation also included details of the new grant fund for local organisations to apply to for projects that met the charities' objective of 'Furthering the religious and other charitable work of the Church of England in the Parish'.

During the year the Charity continued to use income from its investments and the rental of two small fields in Whitchurch to make grants to churches within the Parish of St Candida and Holy Cross, Whitchurch Canonorum with St Gabriels, Morcombelake and St John, Fishpond.

There was a high demand for grant funding from St Candida during 2025 due to some urgent building projects and grants of nearly £14,000 were provided to replace a collapsing retaining wall adjacent to the church car park access and footpath to the church. This expenditure plus grants of over £10,000 towards various structural works to the church building resulted in the Charity exceeding the budget available in the dedicated Emergency Repair Fund for St Candida. The grants were covered by drawing on resources that had been accumulated in previous years when grant funding had been less than the income generated.

In addition to supporting St Candida, the Charity was able to provide a grant of £10,000 for new facilities at St John Fishpond and also cover the insurance costs for all three churches, but the Charities' available funds were significantly depleted by the end of the year.

Following the opening of a second new income generating account in 2023 the Charity has been able to reserve funds for its objective of 'Furthering the religious and other charitable work of the Church of England in the Parish' with a focus on the following criteria.

- Alleviating isolation and loneliness
- Supporting young people aged 10 to 16 to flourish
- Celebrating and promoting St Candida and Holy Cross as a site of pilgrimage

After the successful public meeting in March, application forms for the new fund were issued to two local organisations before the end of the year and it is hoped that the first grant from this fund will be made in early 2026.

Whitchurch Canonorum Church Lands Charity
Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2025

Financial review

As a result of the high building repair costs during the year, there was a deficit of £18,715 (2024: surplus of £16,422). The unrestricted funds on 31 December 2025 were £16,720 (2024: £35,435)

The endowment funds amounted to £1,184,568 on 31 December 2025, a decrease of £51,114 on the opening balance of £1,235,682.

Reserves

The Charity aims to protect its reserves and only use the income derived from investment of the capital reserves (interest and dividends etc) to fund requests for grants.

Structure, governance and management

The governing document is a scheme dated 19 August 1986 amended by resolution dated 9 April 2012 and amended by scheme dated 30 September 2013.

The Trustees consist of the Vicar and Churchwardens by virtue of their offices and two persons appointed by the Whitchurch Parochial Church Council from amongst its members who shall serve for a term of three years or for so long as they are members of the council whichever is shorter. The Trustees will be eligible for reappointment at the end of their term.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Board of Trustees is responsible for preparing the report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

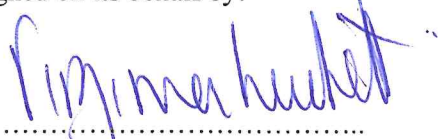
The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Board of Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its income and expenditure for that period.

In preparing these financial statements the Board is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material 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 business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the constitution. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The annual report was approved by the Trustees of the charity on and signed on its behalf by:


.....
Rev Virginia Lockett
Chair of Trustees

Whitchurch Canonorum Church Lands Charity

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Whitchurch Canonorum Church Lands Charity

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 5 to 6.

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

Mr. M. J. Cridland B.A. (Hons) F.C.A.
Scott Vevers Ltd
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
65 East Street
Bridport
Dorset
DT6 3LB

Date: 



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM CHURCH
LANDS CHARITY

No (if any)
254285

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2025	To	Period end date 31/12/2025
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CC16a

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Rent	130	-	-	130	130
Dividends	-	-	26,256	26,256	25,780
Interest	567	-	-	567	803
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</i>	697	-	26,256	26,953	26,713
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Total receipts</i>	697	-	26,256	26,953	26,713
A3 Payments					
Building repairs	36,063	-	-	36,063	3,470
Insurance	8,630	-	-	8,630	6,287
Organ repairs	950	-	-	950	-
Accountancy	-	-	-	-	534
Hall fee	25	-	-	25	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	45,668	-	-	45,668	10,291
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Total payments</i>	45,668	-	-	45,668	10,291
<i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i>	(44,971)	-	26,256	(18,715)	16,422
A5 Transfers between funds	26,256	-	(26,256)	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	35,435	-	-	35,435	19,013
<i>Cash funds this year end</i>	16,720	-	-	16,720	35,435

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 £
B1 Cash funds	Bank	16,720	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	16,720	-	-
		OK	OK	OK

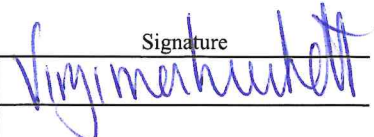
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Investment	Restricted	-	927,288
	Investment	Endowment	-	257,280
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Accountancy	Unrestricted	1,080	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Rev Virginia Luckett	11 May 2026