

# THE MOST HONOURABLE ORDER OF THE BATH

## Trustees' Annual Report 1st April 2024 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

Charity registration number: 257501

### **Principal Office:**

Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood  
St James's Palace  
London  
SW1A 1BH

### **Objective**

The main purpose of the charity is to meet the costs of Ceremonies connected with the Most Honourable Order of The Bath.

### **Achievements and Performance**

Throughout the year, memorial and other Christian services are held in Westminster Abbey to which a large number of the public are invited to attend.

Significant services during the year:

- Weddings - 2
- Baptisms - 2
- Memorials - 1

Every four years the Order holds a Ceremonial Service in Westminster Abbey. To coincide with the Order's 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, it was agreed to bring the Ceremonial Service forward by one year and it took place, along with a reception, on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025. His Majesty The King, HRH The Prince of Wales, the Officers, members of the Order and their guests, were in attendance. The next Ceremonial Service is scheduled for 2030.

The Order provided funds to support the Westminster Abbey Heating Project in the Chapel of the Order, which is open to members of the Order and Abbey visitors. The project was completed in 2025.

The Trustees have regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on Public Benefit.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The Trust is a registered charity, number 257501. Trustees are selected by all the listed trustees and are subject to approval by His Majesty The King. Certain trustees are appointed *ex officio*, for example the Secretary of the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood is the Deputy Secretary and the Dean of Westminster Abbey is the Dean of the Order. The others are notable holders of the Order of the Bath.

The charity is constituted by its governing document, a declaration of trust, dated 31<sup>st</sup> July 1914.

*Clause 2 of the declaration of trust: "The trust fund shall be held for the purpose of meeting the cost of Ceremonies connected with the said Most Honourable Order of the Bath and shall be administered by a Committee consisting of the persons who from time to time shall be the officers of the Order viz: the*

*Dean, the King of Arms, the Registrar and Secretary, the Genealogist and the Gentleman Usher of the Scarlet Rod."*

### **Trustees**

<b>Dean</b>	<b>The Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle KCVO MBE</b>
<b>King of Arms</b>	<b>Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Dalton GCB ADC</b>
<b>Registrar and Secretary</b>	<b>Major General James Gordon CB CBE</b>
<b>Deputy Secretary</b>	<b>Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Segrave</b>
<b>Lady Usher of the Scarlet Rod</b>	<b>Major General Susan Ridge CB</b>
<b>Genealogist</b>	<b>David White Esq</b>

### **Risk Management:**

Periodically, a review of the major risks that may affect the stability and successful operation of the Charity is carried out. An action plan is implemented to minimise or mitigate any highlighted risks.

### **Financial Review**

The major source of funding for the Order is from donations made by the Order's members, the tax rebates from these donations, and dividends from the Order's investments.

The total receipts for 2024-2025 is £46,859, while the total operating expenses is £264,197, resulting to a surplus of expenditure over income of £217,338. A total grant of £258,609 was released to Westminster Abbey for the Heating Project, which comprises 98% of the Order's total outflow for the period.

The cash held at Coutts totals £80,537. The Trustees regularly assess the amount of reserves that are required to be able to support the Order's services and charitable contributions.

The market value of the investments in BlackRock as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 is £1,055,147. The Trustees review the performance of the Investment Manager on a regular basis.

General funds are unrestricted funds that are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity.

### **Independent Examiner**

G J Lowe Ltd, Pennyweights, 168 Welcomes Road, Kenley, Surrey CR8 5HB

### **Banker**

Coutts & Co. Villiers Office, 440 Strand, London WC2R OQS

### **Investment Manager**

BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited, 12 Throgmorton Avenue, London, EC2N 2D

### **Declarations**

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' report above during the Officers' meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2025.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees:

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**Major General Jamie Gordon CB CBE**  
Registrar and Secretary

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**Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Segrave**  
Deputy Secretary

THE MOST HONOURABLE ORDER OF THE BATH  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS OF  
THE CHAPEL MAINTENANCE FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025

2024	RECEIPTS	2025	PAYMENTS	2025	2024
£5,757.80	SUBSCRIPTIONS & DONATIONS	£5,677.80	AT HOME	£3,984.25	£3,500.29
			WESTMINSTER ABBEY HEATING PROJECT	£258,609.01	£0.00
	DIVIDENDS & INTEREST		INSURANCE	£867.54	£979.92
	Coutts Money Market Interest	£3,903.64			
	Coutts 90 Day Notice Account Int	£967.10			
	BLK Charities UK Bond Fund	£6,262.02	POSTAGE & CARRIAGE	£298.17	£299.64
£38,866.55	BLK Charities UK Equity Fund/CGI	£29,140.12	ACCOUNTANCY FEE	£492.00	£480.00
			NET STALL FURNISHINGS	-£342.28	-£2,958.44
	INCOME TAX REBATE		ORDER OF BATH - BOOK UPDATE	£287.95	£438.83
	2024-2025	£908.28			
983.08	2023-2024				
<u>£45,607.43</u>		<u>£46,858.96</u>		<u>£264,196.64</u>	<u>£2,740.24</u>
			SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		£42,867.19
			<b>SURPLUS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME</b>	<b>-£217,337.68</b>	
<u>£45,607.43</u>		<u>£46,858.96</u>		<u>£46,858.96</u>	<u>£45,607.43</u>

BALANCE SHEET AT 31st MARCH 2025

LIABILITIES		ASSETS			
FUNDS		SHARES - MARKET VALUE @ 31/03/25			
£1,858,040.29	Funds as at 31/03/24	£1,913,914.64	BLK Charities UK Bond Fund	£	168,619.53
£13,007.16	Change in Value of Assets	-£36,930.64	BLK Charities UK Equity Fund/CGI	£	886,527.55
£42,867.19	Income surplus				£1,055,147.08
	Expenditure surplus	-£217,337.68			£1,056,675.58
			PROPERTY		
			Mantles	£	10.00
			Property at Westminster	£	481,620.00
					£481,630.00
			FUNDS AT BANK (COUTTS)		
			Bank Current Account	£	60.00
			Chapel Money Market Account	£	52,798.05
			Chapel 90 Day Notice Account	£	27,679.39
					£80,537.44
			£364,487.78		
			BOOK STOCK		
			The Order of the Bath Book		£10,138.20
					£10,138.20
			GIFT AID		£908.28
					£983.08
			300 ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION AND SERVICE		
			Reception tickets		-£12,944.00
			Service and Reception deposit		£44,229.32
£1,913,914.64		£1,659,646.32		£1,659,646.32	£1,913,914.64

The above accounts have been examined and  
in my opinion are true and fair

Recommended for Approval

Accountant, G J Lowe FCCA

King of Arms, Bath Chapel Committee

Approved

Secretary, Bath Chapel Committee

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Officers of The Order of The Bath**

We report on the accounts of the Order for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on the attached sheet.

### **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 Order's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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



Gary Lowe FCCA

G J Lowe Limited  
Chartered Certified Accountants

Pennyweights  
Welcomes Road  
Kenley  
Surrey  
CR8 5HB

29 July 2025