

ANNUAL STATUTORY REPORT

2025

Friends of Bristol Cathedral

Registered Charity No 274399

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LEGAL & ADMINISTRATION

Registered Charity Number:	274399 (England and Wales)
Registered Address	BRISTOL Cathedral, College Green Bristol BS1 5TJ
Executive Committee	
Chairman	The Revd. Rachel Barrett (Retired 13 th July 2025)
Chairman	Dr Penelope Starns (Appointed 13 th July 2025)
Hon. Secretary	Patricia Morris (Retired 13 th July 2025)
Hon Secretary	Susan Stevens (Appointed 13 th July 2025)
Hon. Treasurer	Margaret Taylor
Trustee	The Revd. Paul Barrett (Retired 13 th July 2025)
Trustee	Mary Opie (Retired 13 th July 2025)
Trustee	Penelope Parsons
Trustee	Sally Morris
Trustee	Oliver Hibbert
Trustee	(Richard) Alexander McComas (Appointed 13 th July 2025)
Chapter Representative	Canon Neil Patterson
Bankers	Barclays 55 Broadmead Bristol BS1 3EA
Independent Examiner	Lorraine Dorrington ACA FCCA CTA

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE 12 MONTHS TO 31 DECEMBER 2025

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice known as FRS 102 (SORP) introduced in January 2015.

Structure, Governance and Management

The company is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee.

The Friends of Bristol Cathedral is run by an Executive Committee of Trustees. The Committee normally meets every 3 months.

Vision and Mission

The objectives of the Friends are:

- To further the religious and other charitable work of Bristol Cathedral and
- To assist and promote the restoration, maintenance and repair of the fabric, fittings, ornaments, vestments and other contents of Bristol Cathedral

Values and Strategic Aims

- To work together with the Cathedral Chapter to fund projects which beautify the Cathedral, care for its fabric and enrich its worship.
- To support the worship and music of the Cathedral
- To support the educational work of the cathedral
- To raise and invest money to further the objectives of the Friends.
- To arrange activities which further these aims and promote fellowship among members of the Friends.

Achievements and Performance in 2025

- **Council of Friends:** The Council met five times in 2025.

- **AGM:** The 2025 AGM was held in July. Penny Starns was elected as Chair. Sue Stevens was welcomed as Trustee and elected as Secretary, and Alex McCormas was welcomed as Trustee. Margaret Taylor kindly agreed to continue her role as Honorary Treasurer.

- **Social Events**

On February 27th Dr Penny Starns gave an illustrated presentation which highlighted the importance of Bristol Cathedral and Diocese during the Bristol Blitz of the Second World War. In particular, the crucial leadership provided by Bishop Clifford Woodward MC, and Dean Harry Blackburne DSO, MC. During a period when all Bristolians faced extreme adversity, they provided shelter, hope, inspiration and a palpable, living Christian community. The talk was attended by 70 members and guests.

On July 10th the Friends enjoyed a sunny social evening in the Cathedral's award-winning garden. Head gardener Bill gave the Friends a guided tour introducing many of the plants and explaining some of the seasonal tasks associated with maintaining the beauty of this area throughout the year. Refreshments were provided and the event was well attended.

During our September coffee morning Friends were asked to make suggestions regarding future events. Following this social gathering Ben Silvey and Chris Jones walked members through the Cathedral areas designated for future reconstruction and fundamental to the 'Access for All' project. Friends were able to visualize these changes more clearly because of this guidance, and to ask pertinent questions.

November 20th the Friends celebrated the completion of the Cathedral café in the company of Dean Mandy Ford who gave a warm and welcoming speech thanking the Friends for their generous support. Free coffee and cake were enjoyed by all.

On December 7th Friends gathered for lunchtime Advent drinks, kindly hosted by two of our members.

- **Projects:**

Friends gave £50,000 to the 'Access for All project.' This is a major ongoing project, which involves the moving of some monuments, installing a lift, relocating the vergers' small office, and raising the cloister floor to provide access to areas of the Cathedral.

A new set of green vestments was bought, courtesy of the Prudence Cotterell legacy. Additionally funding was provided to purchase equipment for sustainable floristry.

Friends also contributed to the costs of a Beer & Carols event which was a joint venture between Bristol Cathedral and St Nicholas Church.

- **Future Plans:**

To provide a varied programme of events and fundraising activities to enable us to achieve our aims.

Dr Penelope Starns
Chair



Financial Review

Income for the period totaled £87,200. (2024 £19,697) from member subscriptions, donations, events, income from investments and a generous legacy of £71,995 from the estate of Angela Harris. This was transferred to the Barclays deposit account in readiness to pay, later in the year, the grant of £50,000, agreed at the AGM in July. A grant to the Cathedral towards the 'Access for All' project.

Expenditure was £65,884 (2024 £5,728) including grants of £64,590 (2024 £3,089).

The grants to Bristol Cathedral were £13,240 for new vestments. £10,000 of which was from the Prudence Cotterell legacy. £1,350 for prayer books and materials for the heritage sewing group. Lastly, £50,000 for the 'Access for All' project.

Administration costs of £1,294 included a donation of £150 towards the Bristol branch of Cats Protection as requested by Lorraine Dorrington in lieu of a charge for the Independent Examination of the Annual Report. £420 was paid to have the Friends book repaired. The remainder is for small amounts; mostly costs associated with Friends events.

The resultant operating surplus was £21,316 in the year, (2024 operating surplus £13,969)

Financial Assets are held with the CBF Church of England Funds, in line with the Diocese and National standards. The majority is held in equity funds which showed a decrease in value of £13,488, giving a 4% loss on the year. However, £11,000 of dividend payments were paid directly into the current bank account instead of increasing the investment values.

At the end of the year, the charity had reserves of £410,472. (2024 £402,644). Although there was a resulting increase of £7,828 it was mainly due to the generous legacy of nearly £72,000, less the grants of £64,590 and the poor performance of the investments resulting in a £13,488 loss of the investments. There was also an increase in dividends and bank interest of £7,000.

Trustees' Responsibilities in relation to the Financial Statements

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the new FRS 102 (SOFA) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Trustees are also responsible for the safeguarding of the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Reference and Administration

The financial statements comply with the current statutory requirements, the charity's governing document and the SORP 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities'.

On behalf of the Trustees

Dr Penelope Starns Chair



Report of the Independent Examiner

I report on the accounts of the charity for the 12 months to 31 December 2025, set out on the following pages:

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. You consider that the audit requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply.

It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charities Commission under s145(5)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of 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:

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

Lorraine Dorrington ACA FCCA CTA



Friends of Bristol Cathedral

Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income					
Individual and Corporate subscriptions		2181	-	2181	2144
Donations		950	-	950	182
Legacies		71995	-	71995	10000
Commissions and Events		315	-	315	2615
Interest and Investment Income	2	11759		11759	4756
Total Resources		87200	-	87200	19697
Grants		64590	-	64590	3089
Operating costs		1294	-	1294	2639
Total resources expended	3	65884	-	65884	5728
Net Incoming/(outgoing) resources		21316	-	21316	13969
Other unrealised Gains and Losses		(13488)	-	(13488)	14435
Net Movement of Funds		7828	-	7828	28404
Funds brought forward at 1 January 2025		242785	159859	402644	402644
Funds c/fwd at 31 December 2024		410472	-	410472	402644

The statement of Financial Activities has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations. The Charity has no gains or losses other than dealt with in the Statement of Financial Activities. The notes on pages 11 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2025

	Note	£ 2025	£ 2024
Fixed Assets			
Investments	4	378223	391711
Current Assets			
Debtors	5	-	-
Cash at Bank		32249	10933
Total Current Assets		32249	10933
Total Assets		410472	402644
Liabilities			
Creditors - Amounts falling due within 1 year		-	-
Net Assets		410472	402644
The Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted Funds		410472	242785
Restricted funds	6	-	159859
Total Charity Funds		410472	402644

The notes on the following pages form part of these financial statements

Dr Penelope Starns



Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 December 2025

Cash Flow from Operating Activities	2025	2024
	£	£
Net movement of funds per SOFA	7828	28404
Adjustments for		
Decrease in Debtors	-	-
Purchase of Fixed Assets	-	-
Net cash provided by operating activities	7828	28404
Changes in cash/cash equivalents in the operating period	£	£
Cash/cash equivalents as at 31 December 2024	402644	374240
Net cash provided as above	7828	28404
Cash/cash equivalents as at 31 December 2025	410472	402644

Notes to the Financial Statements as at 31 December 2025

1. Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention, with the exception of investments, which are included at fair value following the recommendations of the Statement of Recommended Practice known as FRS 102 (SORP) introduced in 2014 covering charities with a year end after January 2015

2 Accounting Policies

a) Income

All income is accounted for on a cash basis. Incoming receipts from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA on receipt of funds.

b) Fixed Assets

The friends have no fixed assets.

c) Recognition of Liabilities

These financial statements recognise all liabilities that the charity has responsibility for. The charity is not aware of any contingent liabilities

3 Resources Expended

3.1	Expenditure for raising funds	2025	2024
		£	£
	Direct fundraising expense	-	-
3.2	Direct Charitable Expenditure	2025	2024
		£	£
	Grants	64590	3089
	Administrative costs	1294	2639
	Total Direct Charitable Expense	65884	5728

The Trustees received no remuneration or expenses for trustee activities in the year.

4. Investments

The Trustees have arranged the following Investments with UK Registered Financial Institutions

	£
CBF General funds deposit a/c	389
CBF Lilian Simmons Trust Deposit a/c	21493
CBF Lilian Simmons fixed interest income shares	20616
CBF Lilian Simmons Income shares	113516
CBF Church of England Investment fund	222209

Year-end investments are valued in total at £ 378223. (2024 £391711)

5. Debtors - £NIL**6. Restricted Funds**

	Balance 31.12.24 £	Additions in year £	Charge in year £	Balance 31.12.25 £
Lilian Simmons fund	-	-	-	-

At the AGM in July 2024, it was voted that the Lilian Simmons funds will no longer be restricted due to a re-reading of the will. Therefore, from 1st January 2025 these funds will no longer be shown as restricted.

7. Analysis of group net assets between funds

Funds at 31.12.25 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Bank accounts	32249	-	32249
Investments	378223	-	378223
Total	410472	-	410472

8. Commitments

There are no other commitments that are not recorded in the financial statements.
