

**DORSET HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST**

**REGISTERED CHARITY NO 282790**

**ACCOUNTS**

**For the year 31.12 2025**

**DORSET HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST**

**REGISTERED CHARITY NO 282790**

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## **DORSET HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST**

### **Trust Information**

REGISTERED CHARITY NO:	282790
PRESIDENT:	H M Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset
VICE-PRESIDENTS:	The Lord Bishop of Salisbury The Bishop of Sherborne G A L-F Pitt-Rivers OBE The Archdeacon of Dorset The Archdeacon of Sherborne Mrs V L-F Pitt-Rivers CVO The Viscount Hood R D Allan Major General J O C Alexander CB,OBE P F Moule
CHAIRMAN:	His Honour D E B Grant
TRUSTEES:	Mrs S-A Barrett R B Blaber Dr T P P Connor Mrs L Jones His Honour D E B Grant J Turnbull S D Norman J A M A Selfe J T Smith Sir Andrew Graham Bt, CB, CBE T Sweet-Escott M W M Warren The Reverend Canon A J W Rowland Mrs D Priddy Mrs S Diment Mrs C F Springett
HON SECRETARY:	J A M A Selfe
HON TREASURER:	R B Blaber
BANKERS:	Lloyds Bank PLC 1-2 High West St Dorchester Dorset DT1 1UG  Central Finance Board CCLA Investments Senator House 85 Queen Victoria Street London EC4V 4ET
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:	PKF Francis Clark Chartered Accountants Towngate House 2-8 Parkstone Road Poole Dorset BH15 2PW

## **DORSET HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST**

### **Trustees' Report for the year ended 31.12.2025**

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

The Dorset Historic Churches Trust is constituted by Deed of Trust dated 1 March 1960 as varied by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 21 January 2004 and by a Deed of Amendment dated 30 May 2007, and is a registered charity number 282790. Its registered address is Suite 1, Mey House, Bridport Road, Poundbury, Dorset, DT1 3QY. The power to appoint Trustees is in the Trustees themselves with reserve powers in the President. A list of the current Trustees is shown on page 1.

#### **Objectives and Activities**

The object of the Trust is to assist financially with the preservation, repair, maintenance, improvement, upkeep, beautification and reconstruction of churches in the administrative county of Dorset and of monuments, fittings, fixtures, stained glass, furniture, ornaments and chattels in such churches and of the churchyard belonging to any such churches. The Trustees decide as a matter of policy from time to time, published on their website, which of those things shall be aided by grants made by them.

The Trustees are the governing body (of at least 4 but no more than 20 people) who meet at least 3 times a year and are responsible for deciding which churches should receive grants and how much these should amount to.

Applications for grants are handled in the first instance at Deanery Area level and each Deanery Area has a representative. The Deanery Area Representatives also help to distribute the paperwork essential to the administration of an annual Sponsored Ride + Stride. An administrator initiates and supervises this fund-raising event.

#### **Preparation of accounts**

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention modified to include the revaluation of investments and in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2019).

#### **Achievement and Performance**

Grants totalling £183,800 have been approved for the repair of 30 churches. 22 grants totalling £119,608 have been paid in the year. £42,000 being the 50% return from Ride + Stride has been paid back to parishes. Some churches and other donors elect to remit all 100% of their funds raised under Ride + Stride to the Trust.

The annual Ride + Stride Cycle Ride raised a total of £100,000 of which, on receipt and if requested, half, excluding Gift Aid is donated to the participating churches for their own direct use. A claim for Gift Aid recoverable from HM Revenue & Customs has been submitted in 2025 bringing the total raised to £112,000.

The Charity has no endowments or restricted funds and the whole income and capital of the Trust Fund is available to be applied by the Trustees in their absolute discretion on the charitable purposes of the Trust.

In accordance with the provisions of the Charities Act and Accounting Regulations the Investments of the Trust are shown in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities at market value.

The Trustees have wide investment powers under the Deed. The majority of investment funds are held by CCLA Investment Management Ltd, One Angel Lane London EC4 R 3AB, in COIF and CBF Church of England funds.

The Trust's assets are invested in a diversified portfolio of funds and cash deposits.

#### **Income**

The Trust has again been fortunate to have received some sizeable donations and legacies in 2025 totalling £46,000 and continues to achieve outstanding returns from the annual Ride + Stride Event. The sums raised continue to provide a significant contribution to the Trust's funds. We are extremely grateful to all the parishes putting so much effort into making this such a success. Investments managed by CCLA, were overall 5% up on 2024.

## DORSET HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

### Trustees' Report on the year ended 31 December 2025- continued

#### Expenditure

Grants approved are again up from the previous year. 40% from 2024 (£184,000 v £131,000) .

#### Reserves Policy

The Trustees' aim to maintain a reserve in the region of at least £350,000, previously £300,000. The Trustees believe that, in general, the Trust's funds should be directed to awarding grants to fulfil its objectives, rather than being accumulated. To maintain some assurance of continued ability to meet the demand for grant payments the annual budget has been increased by £50,000 to £175,000 per annum, with the potential to support unexpected and urgent major projects. The present level of reserves will continue to be kept under review by the Trustees.

#### Risk Assessment

The Trustees are responsible for considering the risks which may impact upon the Charity. The position was again reviewed in detail by the Finance Review Group and the outcome reported to the Trustees in 2025. A risk register is in place and reviewed thrice yearly.

#### Public Benefit

The object of the Trust is set out above and a list of grants approved in the year as set out in the notes to the accounts. As required by section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 the Trustees have considered the guidance published by the Charity Commission in respect of public benefit. They believe that the Charity's object, as set out above, falls within the definitions of charitable purposes in the Act and that the activities as set out above contribute to meeting that object.

#### Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). 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 state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- 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
- 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 proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and 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. They 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.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by :

R Blaber  
Trustee

Date: 07 March 2026

## **DORSET HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST**

### **Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees**

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

#### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented within those records. It also includes consideration of 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 for an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

#### **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:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.

Adrian Way FCA FCCA (a director of)  
PKF Francis Clark  
Chartered Accountants  
Towngate House  
2-8 Parkstone Road  
Poole  
Dorset  
BH15 2PW  
Date: 09 March 2026



DORSET HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT  
for the 12 months to 31st December 2025

	2025		2024	
RECEIPTS	£	£	£	£
<b>Voluntary Income</b>				
Donations & Legacies	46,098		50,427	
Friends Subscriptions	8,525		8,480	
Parochial Church Councils	520		730	
		55,143		59,637
<b>Activities For Generating Funds</b>				
Ride & Stride Previous Year	650		1,223	
Ride & Stride Current Year	100,219		89,658	
50% Return To Churches	-42,192		-41,055	
		58,677		49,826
Gift Aid		16,137		15,553
Friends Events	3,825		5,095	
Friends Events Expenditure	-2,202		-2,196	
		1,623		2,899
Sales of notecards		123		310
Investment Income		10,042		11,410
Bank & Deposit Account Interest		10,677		7,845
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>£152,422</b>		<b>£147,480</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
<b>Ride &amp; Stride</b>				
Honoraria	1,350		1,800	
Brochures, Publicity & Friends Annual Events	304		1,888	
Printing and Postage	1,557		356	
Administration	1,618		-	
Bookkeeping	1,523		663	
Presentation	120			
		6,472		4,707
Anniversary Event	5,511			
Anniversary Event Sponsorship	-3,850			
		1,661		-
<b>Grants</b>				
Grants paid in the year		119,608		113,722
<b>Support Costs</b>				
Annual Report	1,998		1,359	
Postage, Stationery and Travel	166		528	
Marketing & Website	500		438	
Insurance	450		450	
Just Giving Fees	552		515	
Bank Charges	313		343	
Bookkeeping	740		942	
Meetings	172		795	
		4,891		5,370
<b>Governance</b>				
Independent Examiners		2,100		1,674
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>£134,732</b>		<b>£125,473</b>
<b>Net movement in cash funds</b>		17,690		22,007
<b>Purchase and Sale of Investments</b>		-		60,000
<b>Cash funds last year end</b>		293,224		211,217
<b>CASH FUNDS THIS PERIOD END</b>		<b>£310,914</b>		<b>£293,224</b>

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	As at 31 Dec 2025	As at 31 Dec 2024
<b>Cash Funds</b>		
Lloyds Bank Main Account	16,770	48,217
Lloyds Bank Ride & Stride	62,147	3,093
CBF Deposit Account	231,997	241,814
Nationwide Building Society	-	100
	310,914	293,224
<b>Investment Assets</b>		
CBF Investment Fund	268,635	279,821
COIF Charities Global Equities Fund	88,409	93,558
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>£667,958</b>	<b>£666,603</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Grants Awarded But Not Drawn	189,300	158,328
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES</b>	<b>£478,658</b>	<b>£508,275</b>

## GRANTS

Church	Outstanding at 31.12.2024	Approved in period £	Paid in year £	Written back in period £	Outstanding at 31.12.2025 £	Year Granted
Corsham St Mary	5,000				5,000	2019
Gussage St Michael	12,000			12,000	-	2020
Wimborne St John	4,500		4,500		-	2020
Lychett Minster	7,000			7,000	-	2022
Radipole St Aldhem	5,000		5,000		-	2022
Pimperne St Peter	9,000			9,000	-	2022
Steeple St Michael	15,000				15,000	2023
Chaldon Herring St Nicholas	11,278		7,778		3,500	2023
Broadway St Nicolas	10,000				10,000	2023
Owermoigne	8,000				8,000	2024
Okeford Fitzpaine	5,000		5,000		-	2024
Alderholt St James	5,000		5,000		-	2024
Ibberton St Eustace	5,000		5,000		-	2024
Kinson St Andrew	5,000				5,000	2024
Melbury Abbas St Thomas	6,000		6,000		-	2024
Salway Ash Holy Trinity	7,000		6,780	220	-	2024
Tolpuddle St John the Evangelist	6,000		6,000		-	2024
Chickerell Christian Worship	5,000		5,000		-	2024
Allington St Swithun	12,000		12,000		-	2024
Caundle Marsh St Peter & St Paul	750		750		-	2024
Cheselbourne St Martin	2,500		2,500		-	2024
Church Knowle St Peter	4,000		4,000		-	2024
Powerstock St Mary	3,300		3,300		-	2024
Sydling St Nicholas	5,000				5,000	2024
Holy Trinity RC Dorchester		5,000			5,000	2025
South Perrott St Mary		6,000	4,200		1,800	2025
Tarrant Monkton All Saints		6,500	6,500		-	2025
Ibberton St Eustace		5,000		5,000	-	2025
Spetisbury St John the Baptist		10,000			10,000	2025
Wareham URC		3,500	3,500		-	2025
Langton Long		6,500	6,500		-	2025
Radipole St Aldhelms		5,000			5,000	2025
Poole Skinner Street		5,000	5,000		-	2025
Stalbridge St Mary		5,000			5,000	2025
Enmore Green St Johns		8,000			8,000	2025
Parkstone		6,000			6,000	2025
Silton St Nicholas		5,300	5,300		-	2025
Sturminster Newton St Mary's		12,500			12,500	2025
Todber St Andrew		5,500			5,500	2025
Fontmell Magna		10,000	10,000		-	2025
Beer Hackett St Michaels		10,000			10,000	2025
Bradford Abbas St Mary		3,500			3,500	2025
Buckland Newton Holy Rood		6,000			6,000	2025
Cattistock St Peter and St Paul		6,000			6,000	2025
Corfe Castle St Edward		500			500	2025
Corfe Mullen St Hubert		3,000			3,000	2025
Hilton and Ansty, All Saints		6,000			6,000	2025
Ibberton St Eustace		10,000			10,000	2025
Margaret Marsh, St Margaret		4,000			4,000	2025
Minterne Magna, St Andrew		6,000			6,000	2025
Pimperne St Peters		9,000			9,000	2025
Sturminster Marshall, St Mary		6,000			6,000	2025
West Orchard St Luke		3,000			3,000	2025
Wyke Regis All Saints		6,000			6,000	2025
	<b>£158,328</b>	<b>£183,800</b>	<b>£119,608</b>	<b>£33,220</b>	<b>£189,300</b>	