Company no. 07900649
Charity no. 1149956

Dorset & South Wiltshire Area Quaker Meeting

Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

31 December 2025

Dorset & South Wiltshire Area Quaker Meeting

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Dorset & South Wiltshire Area Quaker Meeting

Reference and administrative details

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Company number	07900649
Charity number	1149956
Registered office and operational address	The Dorchester Quaker Meeting House 8 Holloway Road Fordington Dorchester DT1 1LF
Trustees	Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Margaret Barker	Appointed 8 April 2025
Fritha Costain	Appointed 1 January 2025
Marilyn Derricott	
Mark Kibblewhite	Appointed 1 January 2026
Kenneth Smith	Appointed 1 January 2025

Company secretary	Chris Lord
Bankers	Charities Aid Foundation Ltd West Malling Kent ME19 4TA
	Triodos Bank Deanery Road Bristol BS1 5AS
	Lloyds Bank Dorchester Birmingham OSC Ariel House 2138 Coventry Road B26 3JW
Independent examiners	Godfrey Wilson Limited Chartered accountants and statutory auditors 2nd Floor - South One Castle Park Tower Hill Bristol BS2 0JA

Dorset & South Wiltshire Area Quaker Meeting

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 December 2025

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

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities (effective from January 2019).

Objects and Activities of the Area Meeting as a Charity
The charity's objects are the furtherance of the general religious and charitable purposes of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain.

The principal activity is the regular holding of meetings for worship in the constituent Local Meetings (LMs). The Area Meeting (AM) in 2025 had a total membership of 128 with an additional 135 regular attenders not in membership. Some LMs continue to hold 'blended' meetings at which some Friends meet in person and some via Zoom. This has enabled some Friends with disability or living at a distance to attend.

Each LM has a Meeting for Worship for Business at least 4 times a year, feeding any matters relating to the whole AM to AM's Meetings for Business. The AM sent members to serve on Meeting for Sufferings, the executive body of Britain Yearly Meeting, and on the Quaker Life Committee.

Properties
The titles to all the properties owned by the AM are held by Friends Trusts Limited, as nominee. There are Quaker Meeting Houses (MHs) in Dorchester, Salisbury, Shaftesbury and Bridport, all owned by the AM. All were re-surveyed in 2025 totalling £3,770,000 + VAT for all the buildings, not including the Caretakers Cottage and Burial Ground walls in Bridport.

Meeting Houses
Dorchester MH - the upstairs flat is now being let commercially, the income being paid into AM funds. Towards the end of 2025, with completion in 2026, the riverside land and garages opposite the meeting house were sold at auction for £50,000 gross(£42,726.90 net).

Salisbury MH is a Grade 2 Listed building formerly known as Kennet Lodge. In 2010, after renovation, re-styling and modernisation it was renamed Quaker Meeting House. A flat above the Meeting House is commercially let and the income is paid into general AM funds. The Meeting House is taken care of by a part time non-resident caretaker and a Lettings Officer. The gardens are maintained by a part-time gardener and Salisbury Friends. The rear garden is affiliated to the Quiet Garden Trust.

Shaftesbury MH is a mid-20th century bungalow in good condition and its Quaker garden has won awards. It is taken care of by a group of local Friends. A new heating system was installed in 2023 and solar panels were fitted in 2024.

Bridport MH is a 400-year-old is a Grade 2 Listed building. The burial ground walls, also listed, are being repaired as necessary – an expensive exercise because of the requirement to use traditional materials. Part of the land alongside the burial ground is let at a peppercorn rent to a neighbour as an allotment.

Burial Grounds

1. Shaftesbury is owned by the AM and is covered by a Charity Commission Scheme. Half of the Shaftesbury Burial ground forms the garden of a small, privately owned cottage. The lease allowing this is for a term of 75 years. The lease provides the AM with full burial rights on the ground and allows for access by the AM to inspect and maintain the gravestones.

2. Ashgrove (near Shaftesbury) is also owned by the AM and is also covered by a Charity Commission Scheme. We have rights of access, and regular visits are made to demonstrate these rights.

Opportunities and Risks

The statement made in this report for the last four years still holds, that balancing the needs of an ageing membership with the encouragement and liveliness needed to ensure a steady flow of new members is both an opportunity and a risk – and at times a challenge. It is noticeably more successful in those Meetings with a range of opportunities for discussion, social activities and learning, which varies according to the life and energy of each Meeting.

Challenges

Meeting legal requirements - health and safety, employment legislation, public liability and preventing fraud to our finances or harm to our people and hirers, is demanding on the trustees and requires constant vigilance to ensure that it is all taken seriously by members. The trustees consider that this AM does achieve an adequate level of risk management and readily seeks professional advice on matters for which there are no suitably skilled members of the AM. The AM employs a part-time administrator and bookkeeper, uses a firm of accountants (Godfrey Wilson) to manage the accounts, and has engaged an HR company to advise on employment matters. This has enabled us to provide more in-house financial support to our treasurers and has thereby eased the burden on trustees, the clerk, the AM treasurer and other Quakers involved in administration.

Buildings: the 4 buildings owned by AM are old, and some are listed. This presents a challenge in terms of upkeep, repair and maintenance and results in financial expense as well as significant demands on individuals' time. This will naturally increase as the buildings age further. The programme of quinquennial surveys will give us insight regarding the works that may need acting on. Even so, unexpected problems arise and need attention, sometimes urgently and often professionally, placing responsibility on just a few Friends at the LM and AM level.

Safeguarding

Until recently this has been mostly about keeping our children safe, but at the present time, LMs have few children but an increasing number of very elderly and vulnerable adults. The prevalence of dementia in the population creates its own problems where Meetings for Worship are mostly silent and depend on the involvement and understanding of everyone present. AM has in place a safeguarding representative in each Local Meeting and an AM Safeguarding Coordinator, who arranges specific safeguarding training for individuals within LMs.

Opportunities
There are potential opportunities to increase our outreach and to attract new members amongst those seeking a spiritual path who may find a natural home with Quakers. However, our ability to take advantage of these opportunities depends on the energy and resources of our Local Meetings and the Area Meeting.

The introduction by Quakers nationally of Local Development Workers affected this AM for the first time during 2023, when a new appointment of such a worker was shared across several AMs in this central southern part of the country. The weakness of this system is that such workers are not necessarily themselves Quakers and the potential strength is that this could open up new ideas, activities and interests – it is still too early to say yet what the local effect of this opportunity might be.

Some Friends from the AM attended the Future of British Quakerism conference in October 2024; the AM is discussing some of the ideas which came from that.

Public Benefit
Quakerism is a way of life, not a religion for Sundays. In accordance with our testimonies, our members and attenders contribute to a wide range of activity in each local community, in local and national organisations and in the world-wide sphere. Quakers are relatively few in numbers but our values are quite widely known and we are often able to achieve influence well beyond what our small size would suggest.

The Religious Society of Friends is part of Churches Together in England and each LM takes part in and contributes to its local Churches Together group, where these are still active. Some of these are in Dorset and Wiltshire but others, at the borders of these counties, are in Somerset and Devon and a couple of them have disbanded after the Covid pandemic. However, where they are strong, as is currently the case in Dorchester, Bridport and Shaftesbury, for example, they enable a solid basis for working together or speaking out on local, national and international issues.

In planning activities for the year, the trustees have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

Employment
The AM is the employer of four staff members. One is a part-time administrator/bookkeeper who is responsible for the bookkeeping and for general administrative support and reports to the Convenor of the trustees. Two are part-time staff for Salisbury Local Meeting (also members of this meeting), who are responsible for room hirings, and for meeting house maintenance, and one is the caretaker at Dorchester Local Meeting. Their line-management is managed by their Local Meetings. Shaftesbury Meeting employs a cleaner on a self-employed basis.

The AM endeavours to be a good employer, and staff pay is reviewed each year in line with inflation.

Hirings
Our Meeting Houses are open again for hirings for local groups. Income from hirings is still rather variable across the AM. Increased heating costs can be difficult to recoup.

Some of the groups who are pleased to hire meeting houses would find it hard to be accommodated in other halls because they include people working with issues (for example) of addiction. The charges are kept modest to enable such groups to have access and many groups comment on the peace and calm they feel in our Meeting Houses. The wear and tear on each building and the workload for those looking after the buildings are of course increased.

Outreach
Each LM aims to undertake some outreach action, often in Quaker Week in October, to ensure that our voice is heard and that local people have opportunities to know where and what we are.

Work is ongoing in individual LMs on matters of international concern, many carrying our Peace Testimony into action. During 2025 work has continued with former Syrian refugees, Ukrainian refugees and support for the people of Gaza. The Area Meeting has supported a respite weekend for asylum-seeker families at the Othona Community.

Amongst the concerns taken forward across the LMs are the Palestine/Israel situation, support for Christian Aid, poverty and homelessness in this country, foodbanks and immigration/refugee matters.

Quaker Prison Ministers: A member of Shaftesbury LM visits Guys Marsh prison regularly, despite the restrictions that were imposed last year. Some Quakers in Dorchester are training as prison visitors, and one as a prison chaplain.

Achievements
Our AM membership during 2025 has declined from 131 members to 128. The increase in the correct 2024 figure is probably due to a failure to update the membership register when members leave or die; work is in hand to correct this over 2026.

There is a growing interest in exploring a spiritual journey by many people in their middle years and some seek this in the non-credal setting of a Quaker Meeting. Many such enquirers attend only for a matter of weeks or months but some, supported by discussion and teaching groups within our LMs, continue with their explorations of Quakerism and some eventually apply for membership.

New Quaker Courses have been offered by Woodbrooke under the heading of ‘Woodbrooke Where You Are’. Quaker educational experience is open to young and old and there is more work to be done so that such opportunities are taken up, whether online or face-to-face, during 2025. Some LMs have arranged discussion meetings to help newcomers find out more about Quakerism.

Sustainability
Sustainable transport is encouraged: including the use of public transport to travel to meetings/training courses etc. Local and Area Meetings are often attended by individuals who either walk/cycle or use public transport, where possible. The increase of virtual/blended meetings for business and worship over recent years has significantly reduced our carbon footprint with less need to travel.

DSWAQM intends to further encourage all means of reducing our carbon footprint, in particular by arranging energy assessments of Local Meeting Houses, and acting on them. We aim to facilitate energy saving and use of green energy sources by Meeting Houses and individual Friends. Bridport intend to change from gas to electric when the current gas boilers reach the end of their useful life. Local Meetings encourage the reduction of the use of plastics, and promote the three pillars of “reduce, re-use and recycle”.

Dorchester, Salisbury and Shaftesbury Meeting Houses have photovoltaic solar panels installed on the roof.

Finance and Accounting Principles
All Local Meetings have their own treasurer and (except Bridport – whose funds are held in the AM bank account) bank accounts. Financial decisions are taken at the LM for business in accordance with Quaker principles and following the relevant guidance in Quaker Faith and Practice.

There is a Memorandum of Understanding between AM and LMs which sets out the principles of the relationship, including financial delegation. The LM accounts are collated with those of the AM to form the complete picture of the financial position of the whole AM. This is a somewhat complicated process but is the historic practice in Quaker Area Meetings. The AM accountants together with the AM treasurer and our bookkeeper support the trustees in ensuring that these historic practices are managed, that the AM's annual accounts are correctly prepared and that the process of financial management is adequately addressed throughout the year.

Investments
All investments of the AM are managed by Investing Ethically Ltd. The AM disinvested in fossil fuel extraction, as far as is possible for a small organisation, during 2016, achieving a 95% withdrawal from any fund that in any way supports fossil fuel extraction. This has not had a major deleterious effect on the income achieved from investments.

Our AM treasurer and trustees have regular engagement with our financial planner at Investing Ethically Ltd, which has given us the opportunity to revisit our objectives and plans. Given the continual changes in current investment and political environments, it has been useful to reflect how changes might influence our own plans for the future. Under the guidance and advice of our Investment Advisor, trustees have taken the view that our current investment strategy remains appropriate to our risk appetite and needs, and no substantive changes have been made.

Income
The main sources of income are from individual members' donations, from room hirings, and from investment income. This income is used to carry out our objectives, supporting Quaker work locally, nationally and internationally. Our properties require significant sums to be spent on maintenance, a cost shared by the LM and AM funds.

Separate collections are made in some LMs for charities whose work is in sympathy with Quaker values and testimonies.

Total income for the year amounted to £152,309 (2024: £131,161), including £7,357 restricted funds (2024: £6,269). The statement of financial activities shows a surplus of £4,975 (2024: £31,725 deficit).

Reserves
An updated Reserves Policy was prepared during 2016. As part of this, the trustees considered that they should maintain free reserves of 12 months' normal expenditure, which equates to circa £187,000. At 31 December 2025, total reserves amounted to £2,334,807 (2024: £2,329,832), with free reserves of £491,220 (2024: £444,960). We recognise that our free reserves are some way higher than our reserves policy would recommend, so aim to work during 2025 on a rational statement about how we will manage our reserves from now on. The total reserves are made up as follows:

Dorset & South Wiltshire Area Quaker Meeting

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Endowment funds	340,161	322,738
Restricted funds	356,971	359,571
Unrestricted funds:		
Invested in freehold property	688,088	744,196
Invested in investment property	410,000	410,000
Other designated funds	48,367	48,367
Free reserves	491,220	444,960
Total	**2,334,807**	**2,329,832**

Use of Surplus Funds

Supporting Quaker Work through Britain Yearly Meeting

In 2025 donations totalling £13,098 (2024: £14,199) were made to support the work of Britain Yearly Meeting. These funds contribute to the work of BYM including Quaker Peace and Social Witness, Quaker Life, Quaker Stewardship and other central work. This means that we are able to look beyond our Local and Area Meetings and engage with Quaker work nationally and internationally. This is something that our members value highly and that also contributes to our influence on local issues and outreach in our local communities.

Building Reserve / Support for Quaker Housing Trust (QHT)

The Area Meeting has held since 2016 a Treasurer's Reserve account with Triodos Bank, the income from which has been used to support the work of the Quaker Housing Trust, reflecting our AM concern to support social housing. The funds in this account, currently totalling £87,067, can be added to or withdrawn at any time needed by the AM. In 2019 the Area Meeting agreed to regard the funds deposited in this account as a buildings reserve to be used to support major works which may arise in respect of our buildings. Meanwhile any interest continues to be allocated, by a decision taken each year by the AM, to the Quaker Housing Trust.

Future Plans

These have been referred to throughout this report. With the ageing membership of the Area Meeting, allowance has to be made for the loss of income as older members, many of whom are the most generous contributors to the Meeting, die. Legacy income cannot be relied on and may have restricted purposes: no legacies were received in 2025. It is not wise for the AM to have expensive plans for the future but we are exhorted 'to be open to new light, from whatever source it may come'. In this spirit we will endeavour to be adventurous with our available funds.

There is an increasing urgency to work towards Simpler Meetings, and it is the aim of BYM that this should be achieved across the country. In 2025 we encouraged any suggestions put forward by LMs and AM towards achieving some reduction in number of posts and simplification of our business administration and some of this has enabled work to continue. However, we recognise that we are still dependent on just a few very hard-working and aging members who need to be allowed to lay down some of their responsibilities.

Dorset & South Wiltshire Area Quaker Meeting

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Structure, Governance and Management

The Area Meeting (AM) is a registered charity, number 1149956. The Area Meeting is the administrative body for 6 Local Meetings (LMs), consisting of Shaftesbury, Salisbury, Dorchester, Bridport, Lyme Regis and Weymouth & Portland, of whom all but the last 2 have their own Meeting Houses. Meeting Houses are owned by the Area Meeting.

The Area Meeting was registered as a company limited by guarantee, number 07900649 on 6 January 2012. Its financial year is aligned to the calendar year, which for Quakers is also the financial year.

The company's trustees/directors (referred to as simply 'trustees') are each appointed by the Area Meeting for a triennium, in the Quaker tradition. All trustees are eligible for re-appointment up to a maximum consecutive service of 9 years and the Articles of Association are based on the standard Quaker constitution for a charity. All our Meetings for Worship and Business are held in the manner of Friends, as described in the book 'Quaker Faith and Practice'. The trustees meet quarterly and the AM meets 4-6 times a year, online and at rotating LM venues, keeping all Friends informed of its business and agreeing together its strategy and policy. The trustees present a report with a copy of their minutes at each meeting.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been in existence since 2014, setting out the respective roles of AM and LMs in order to ensure good governance and financial management.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees (who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law 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 income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing those 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 accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards and statements of recommended practice 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 operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping 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 Companies Act 2006. 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.

Dorset & South Wiltshire Area Quaker Meeting

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 December 2025

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

Independent examiners
Godfrey Wilson Limited were re-appointed as independent examiners to the charitable company during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

Approved by the trustees on 2 September 2026 and signed on their behalf by

Marilyn Derricott

Marilyn Derricott - Trustee

Fritha Costain - Trustee

Independent examiner's report

To the trustees of

Dorset & South Wiltshire Area Quaker Meeting

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Dorset & South Wiltshire Area Quaker Meeting (the charitable company) for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 11 to 31.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the trustees of the charitable company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charitable company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
Godfrey Wilson Limited also provides ad hoc bookkeeping, payroll and consultancy services to the charitable company. I confirm that as a member of the ICAEW I am subject to the FRC's Revised Ethical Standard 2024, which I have applied with respect to this engagement.

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 charitable company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
(2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
(3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
(4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.

Dougal Howard

Date: 2 September 2026
Dougal Howard ACA
Member of the ICAEW
Godfrey Wilson Limited
Chartered accountants and statutory auditors
2nd Floor - South
One Castle Park
Tower Hill
Bristol
BS2 0JA

Dorset & South Wiltshire Area Quaker Meeting

Statement of financial activities *(incorporating an income and expenditure account)*

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	Endowment £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	**2025 Total £**	Restated 2024 Total £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	3	-	-	39,739	**39,739**	40,355
Other trading activities	4	-	-	88,096	**88,096**	76,090
Investments	5	-	7,357	8,482	**15,839**	14,716
Other income	6	-	-	8,635	**8,635**	-
Total income		-	7,357	144,952	**152,309**	131,161
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		-	-	6,915	**6,915**	6,960
Charitable activities		2,594	13,919	155,136	**171,649**	175,459
Total expenditure	7	2,594	13,919	162,051	**178,564**	182,419
Net gains on investments	13	20,017	3,962	7,251	**31,230**	19,533
Net income / (expenditure) and movement in funds	8	17,423	(2,600)	(9,848)	**4,975**	(31,725)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		322,738	359,571	1,647,523	**2,329,832**	2,361,557
Total funds carried forward		340,161	356,971	1,637,675	**2,334,807**	2,329,832

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 17 to the accounts.

Prior period expenditure has been reclassified to reflect the requirements of the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and to be comparable with the current year. The restatements are disclosed in note 20.

Dorset & South Wiltshire Area Quaker Meeting

Balance sheet

As at 31 December 2025

	Note	£	2025 £	Restated 2024 £
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets	11		**1,017,688**	1,080,196
Investment property	12		**410,000**	410,000
Financial investments	13		**503,852**	476,447
			1,931,540	1,966,643
Current assets				
Debtors	14	**61,663**		13,325
Cash at bank and in hand		**355,116**		360,854
		416,779		374,179
Liabilities				
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	15	**(13,512)**		(10,990)
Net current assets			**403,267**	363,189
Net assets	16		**2,334,807**	2,329,832
Funds	17			
Endowment funds			**340,161**	322,738
Restricted funds			**356,971**	359,571
Unrestricted funds				
Designated funds			**1,146,455**	1,202,563
General funds			**491,220**	444,960
Total charity funds			**2,334,807**	2,329,832

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to the audit of the financial statements for the year by virtue of section 477, and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

(i) ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act; and

(ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

Dorset & South Wiltshire Area Quaker Meeting

Balance sheet (continued)

As at 31 December 2025

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the trustees on 2 September 2026 and signed on their behalf by

Marilyn Derricott

Marilyn Derricott - Trustee

Fritha Costain - Trustee

1. Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation and general information

Dorset & South Wiltshire Area Quaker Meeting is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. The registered office address is The Dorchester Quaker Meeting House, 8 Holloway Road, Fordington, Dorchester, DT1 1LF.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Dorset & South Wiltshire Area Quaker Meeting meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b) Going concern basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the charity is able to continue as a going concern, which the trustees consider appropriate having regard to the current level of unrestricted reserves. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

c) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from the government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

d) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity: this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

e) Funds accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity. Where restricted donations are capital in nature, they are included in endowment funds.

f) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

g) Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity, including the costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements and any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated in full to charitable activities.

h) Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Freehold property (buildings)	50 years straight line
Land	Not depreciated

Buildings are assumed to have a £nil residual value. Residual land values have been estimated based on insurance rebuild costing surveys and Land Registry value guides. These estimates are updated with reference to quinquennial building surveys. There was no change in 2025.

i) Investment property

Investment property is property (land or a building, or both) held to earn rentals or for capital appreciation or both.

Investment property is initially measured at cost when purchased. Investment property is subsequently measured at fair value at the reporting date. This method of valuation applies to all the Charity's investment properties.

Gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of investment property are included in net profit or loss on the face of the Statement of Financial Activities for the period in which they arise.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

j) Investments

Listed investments traded on a recognised stock exchange are stated at fair value at the reporting date, which is deemed to be their market value. Any gain or loss, whether realised or unrealised, is taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

k) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

l) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

m) Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

n) Financial instruments

The charitable company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently recognised at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

o) Accounting estimates and key judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The key source of estimation uncertainty that has a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements is depreciation as described in note 1 (h) above.

2. Prior period comparatives: statement of financial activities

	Endowment £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 Total £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	-	-	40,355	40,355
Other trading activities	-	-	76,090	76,090
Investments	-	6,269	8,447	14,716
Total income	-	6,269	124,892	131,161
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	-	-	6,960	6,960
Charitable activities	2,525	21,973	155,482	179,980
Total expenditure	2,525	21,973	162,442	186,940
Net gains on investments	13,418	2,180	3,935	19,533
Net income / (expenditure) and net movement in funds	10,893	(13,524)	(33,615)	(36,246)

3. Income from donations and legacies

	2025 £	2024 £
Donations and gift aid	**39,739**	35,048
Legacies	**-**	5,307
Total donations and legacies	**39,739**	40,355

All income from donations and legacies in the current and prior year was unrestricted.

4. Income from other trading activities

	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Meeting house hirings	**67,096**	56,970
Dorchester flat lettings	**11,400**	7,600
Salisbury flat lettings	**9,600**	9,000
Other income	-	2,520
Total other trading activities	**88,096**	76,090

All income from other trading activities in the current and prior year was unrestricted.

5. Income from investments

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	**2025 Total £**
Interest and dividends	7,357	8,482	**15,839**

Prior period comparative:

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 Total £
Interest and dividends	6,269	8,447	14,716

6. Other income

	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Profit on disposal of fixed assets	**8,635**	-

All other income in the current year was unrestricted.

7. Total expenditure

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Governance costs £	Support costs £	**2025 Total** **£**
BYM contribution	-	13,098	-	-	**13,098**
Other donations	-	15,781	-	-	**15,781**
Meeting support costs	-	9,388	-	-	**9,388**
Meeting house costs:					
Insurance	-	-	-	5,920	**5,920**
Survey costs	-	-	-	2,820	**2,820**
Repairs, maintenance and garden	-	-	-	39,415	**39,415**
Rent, rates and utilities	-	-	-	21,266	**21,266**
Depreciation	-	-	-	21,143	**21,143**
Staff costs (note 9)	-	-	-	26,816	**26,816**
Fundraising costs	74	-	-	-	**74**
Letting agents fees	3,016	-	-	-	**3,016**
Investment management costs	3,825	-	-	-	**3,825**
Legal fees	-	-	-	2,328	**2,328**
Independent examination	-	-	4,020	-	**4,020**
Bookkeeping fees	-	-	3,512	-	**3,512**
Administration costs	-	-	-	6,142	**6,142**
Sub-total	6,915	38,267	7,532	125,850	**178,564**
Allocation of support and governance costs	-	133,382	(7,532)	(125,850)	-
Total expenditure	**6,915**	**171,649**	**-**	**-**	**178,564**

7. Total expenditure - prior period comparative

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Governance costs £	Support costs £	Restated 2024 Total £
BYM contribution	-	14,199	-	-	14,199
Other donations	-	4,388	-	-	4,388
Meeting support costs	-	5,462	-	-	5,462
Meeting house costs:					
Insurance	-	-	-	6,366	6,366
Survey costs	-	-	-	72	72
Repairs, maintenance and garden	-	-	-	56,233	56,233
Rent, rates and utilities	-	-	-	32,154	32,154
Depreciation	-	-	-	21,143	21,143
Staff costs (note 9)	-	-	-	26,140	26,140
Fundraising costs	161	-	-	-	161
Letting agents fees	3,072	-	-	-	3,072
Investment management costs	3,727	-	-	-	3,727
Legal fees	-	-	-	961	961
Independent examination	-	-	3,900	-	3,900
Bookkeeping fees	-	-	1,593	-	1,593
Administration costs	-	-	2,848	-	2,848
Sub-total	6,960	24,049	8,341	143,069	182,419
Allocation of support and governance costs	-	151,410	(8,341)	(143,069)	-
Total expenditure	6,960	175,459	-	-	182,419

8. Net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

	2025	Restated 2024
	£	£
Depreciation	**21,143**	25,664
Trustees' reimbursed expenses	**2,126**	226
Trustees' remuneration	**Nil**	Nil
Independent examiner's remuneration:		
▪ Independent examination (excluding VAT)	**3,350**	3,250
▪ Other services (excluding VAT)	**1,730**	1,340

Trustees' reimbursed expenses represent payments to 3 trustees (2024: 2 trustees) for administrative costs relating directly to the charity in the year.

In common with other charities of our size and nature we use our independent examiners to assist with the preparation of the financial statements. Our independent examiners have also provided bookkeeping and payroll services to the charity during the year.

9. Staff costs and numbers

Staff costs were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries and wages	**26,525**	26,000
Pension costs	**291**	140
	26,816	26,140

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the current or prior year. The key management personnel of the charity are deemed to be the trustees and the administrator, none of whom were remunerated.

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
Average head count	**4**	3

10. Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property (meeting houses)				
	Bridport	Dorchester	Salisbury	Shaftesbury	**Total**
	£	£	£	£	**£**
Cost					
At 1 January 2025 - restated	400,000	41,365	683,566	182,087	**1,307,018**
Disposals	-	(41,365)	-	-	**(41,365)**
At 31 December 2025	400,000	-	683,566	182,087	**1,265,653**
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2025 - restated	64,000	-	132,631	30,191	**226,822**
Charge for the year	6,400	-	12,071	2,672	**21,143**
At 31 December 2025	70,400	-	144,702	32,863	**247,965**
Net book value					
At 31 December 2025	**329,600**	**-**	**538,864**	**149,224**	**1,017,688**
At 30 December 2024 - restated	336,000	41,365	550,935	151,896	1,080,196

12. Investment property

	2025	Restated 2024
	£	£
Valuation		
At 1 January and 31 December	**410,000**	410,000

The investment property comprises property held at Salisbury and Dorchester meeting houses, let out a market rental rates. The fair value is deemed to be the estimated market value of the buildings and the land.

13. Investments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Listed investments:		
Market value at 1 January 2025	**476,447**	460,640
Net gains	**31,230**	19,534
Investment manager fees	**(3,825)**	(3,727)
Market value at 31 December 2025	**503,852**	476,447

14. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	**4,331**	3,156
Prepayments	**4,009**	5,055
Accrued income	**3,323**	4,786
Other debtors	**50,000**	328
	61,663	13,325

15. Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	**1,866**	1,734
Accruals	**6,808**	5,262
Other creditors	**4,838**	3,994
	13,512	10,990

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Endowment funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	General funds	**Total funds**
	£	£	£	£	**£**
Tangible fixed assets	-	329,600	688,088	-	**1,017,688**
Investment property	-	-	410,000	-	**410,000**
Investments	340,161	168	48,367	115,156	**503,852**
Current assets	-	27,203	-	389,576	**416,779**
Current liabilities	-	-	-	(13,512)	**(13,512)**
Net assets at 31 December 2025	**340,161**	**356,971**	**1,146,455**	**491,220**	**2,334,807**

Prior period comparative restated	Endowment funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	General funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	336,000	744,196	-	1,080,196
Investment property	-	-	410,000	-	410,000
Investments	322,738	-	48,367	105,342	476,447
Current assets	-	23,571	-	350,608	374,179
Current liabilities	-	-	-	(10,990)	(10,990)
Net assets at 31 December 2024	322,738	359,571	1,202,563	444,960	2,329,832

17. Movements in funds

	At 1 January 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	Investment gains £	**At 31 December 2025 £**
Endowment funds						
Poor funds - capital	5,261	-	(43)	-	384	**5,602**
George Inn - capital	260,714	-	(2,091)	-	15,321	**273,944**
Educational fund - capital	22,967	-	(186)	-	1,930	**24,711**
Shaftesbury burial ground - capital	14,273	-	(116)	-	844	**15,001**
Marnhull burial ground - capital	3,337	-	(27)	-	243	**3,553**
Dunster Trust - capital	16,186	-	(131)	-	1,295	**17,350**
Total endowment funds	322,738	-	(2,594)	-	20,017	**340,161**
Restricted funds						
George Inn - income	21,193	6,148	(3,238)	-	-	**24,103**
Educational fund - income	1,452	517	-	-	-	**1,969**
Dunster Trust meeting house	336,000	-	(6,400)	-	-	**329,600**
Dunster Trust general funds	-	452	(4,246)	-	3,962	**168**
Monies donated to BYM	35	-	(35)	-	-	**-**
Ann Dannatt's fund	58	-	-	-	-	**58**
Poor funds - income	81	-	-	-	-	**81**
Marnhull burial ground - income	752	240	-	-	-	**992**
Total restricted funds	359,571	7,357	(13,919)	-	3,962	**356,971**

17. Movements in funds (continued)

	At 1 January 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	Investment gains £	**At 31 December 2025 £**
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds:						
Meeting houses	1,154,196	-	(14,743)	(41,365)	-	**1,098,088**
Meeting houses major works fund	48,367	-	-	-	-	**48,367**
Total designated funds	1,202,563	-	(14,743)	(41,365)	-	**1,146,455**
General funds	444,960	144,952	(147,308)	41,365	7,251	**491,220**
Total unrestricted funds	1,647,523	144,952	(162,051)	-	7,251	**1,637,675**
Total funds	**2,329,832**	**152,309**	**(178,564)**	**-**	**31,230**	**2,334,807**

17. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of endowment funds

Poor funds - an amalgamation of five historic trusts which became a permanent endowment under the respective Charity Commission scheme. The income is restricted (see below).

George Inn fund - the capital originally arises from a gift from William Scott dated 28 July 1693. It has been enhanced by the increase in value of investments, especially the sale of 27 St. George Street, Sherborne in 2011. The income is restricted (see below).

Educational fund - (formerly Somerset Friends) - the fund was created on the dissolution of the Friends Somerset Charities in 2010. The income is restricted (see below).

Shaftesbury Burial Ground - the capital was raised from the granting of a lease of half of the burial ground. The income is unrestricted, though by decision of the Area Meeting the first call on this income is the needs of the burial ground.

Marnhull Burial Ground - a permanent endowment derived from the sale of a historical Quaker burial ground. The income is restricted (see below).

Dunster Trust - the Dunster Trust formerly owned the Meeting House in Bridport. The Meeting House and supporting investments were subsequently taken over by the Area Meeting. The investments comprised a permanent endowment element and an element of available restricted funds (see below).

17. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of restricted funds

George Inn fund - income may be used for the maintenance of meeting houses and burial grounds. Surplus income may be paid to the Poor Fund.

Educational fund - (formerly Somerset Friends) - income may be used for the relief of poverty, provision of educational and travel costs and the service of truth without limitation.

Dunster Trust (Meeting House and general funds) - the income from the permanent endowment and the available (restricted) funds may be spent on the upkeep and maintenance of Bridport Meeting House, and for educational purposes.

Monies donated to BYM - ad-hoc donations from Friends to be allocated to BYM contributions from Local Meetings.

Ann Dannatt's fund - legacy of £10,000 donated in 2020 for all premises spending for Shaftesbury Local Meeting House and burial ground.

Poor funds - income may be used for the relief of poverty among Friends within the Area Meeting.

Marnhull Burial Ground - the income from the permanent endowment may be used for the upkeep of Meeting Houses within the Area Meeting.

Purposes of designated funds

The net book value of meeting houses, both tangible fixed assets and investment properties, not funded from restricted funds is shown as a separate designated fund to distinguish them from the free reserves of the charity. The trustees have set aside funds as a reserve towards major works required on meeting houses.

17. Movements in funds (continued)

Prior period comparative - restated

	At 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	Investment gains £	At 31 December 2024 £
Endowment funds						
Poor funds - capital	5,092	-	(42)	-	211	5,261
George Inn - capital	251,719	-	(2,053)	-	11,048	260,714
Educational fund - capital	22,174	-	(181)	-	974	22,967
Shaftesbury burial ground - capital	13,887	-	(113)	-	499	14,273
Marnhull burial ground - capital	3,229	-	(26)	-	134	3,337
Dunster Trust - capital	15,744	-	(110)	-	552	16,186
Total endowment funds	311,845	-	(2,525)	-	13,418	322,738
Restricted funds						
George Inn - income	16,020	5,173	-	-	-	21,193
Educational fund - income	1,003	449	-	-	-	1,452
Dunster Trust meeting house	342,400	-	(6,400)	-	-	336,000
Dunster Trust general funds	12,831	405	(15,416)	-	2,180	-
Monies donated to BYM	35	-	-	-	-	35
Ann Dannatt's fund	215	-	(157)	-	-	58
Poor funds - income	81	-	-	-	-	81
Marnhull burial ground - income	510	242	-	-	-	752
Total restricted funds	373,095	6,269	(21,973)	-	2,180	359,571

17. Movements in funds (continued)
Prior period comparative - restated (continued)

	At 1 January 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	Investment gains	At 31 December 2024
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds:						
Meeting houses	1,151,932	-	(14,743)	17,007	-	1,154,196
Meeting houses major works fund	48,367	-	-	-	-	48,367
Total designated funds	1,200,299	-	(14,743)	17,007	-	1,202,563
General funds	476,318	124,892	(143,178)	(17,007)	3,935	444,960
Total unrestricted funds	1,676,617	124,892	(157,921)	-	3,935	1,647,523
Total funds	2,361,557	131,161	(182,419)	-	19,533	2,329,832

18. Financial instruments at fair value

	2025	2024
	£	£
Financial assets measured at fair value	**913,852**	886,447

Financial assets measured at fair value comprise listed investments and investment properties.

19. Related party transactions

Total aggregate unrestricted donations from trustees in the year were £955 (2024: £408). There were no other related party transactions in the current or prior period.

20. Restatement of prior year balances

Comparative balances have been restated to reclassify two properties previously included within tangible fixed assets as investment properties. This reclassification has been made to reflect the nature and use of the properties more accurately.

Investment property fair value at 1 January and 31 December	2024
	£
As originally stated	-
Reclassified investment properties	410,000
As restated	410,000

Tangible fixed assets net book value at 31 December 2024	2024
	£
As originally stated	1,240,081
Cost related to reclassified investment property	(226,058)
Recalculate accumulated depreciation to 31 December 2023	61,652
Reduction in depreciation charge in 2024	4,521
As restated	1,080,196

Support and governance costs	2024
	£
As originally stated	147,590
Reduction in depreciation charge in 2024	(4,521)
As restated	143,069

20. Restatement of prior year balances (continued)

Funds

The adjustments impact the 'Meeting houses' designated fund as detailed in note 17. The effect of the adjustments on designated and total funds are shown below:

	Designated funds £	Total funds £
As originally stated at 1 January 2024	954,705	2,115,963
Cost related to reclassified investment property	(226,058)	(226,058)
Recognise fair value of investment properties	410,000	410,000
Recalculate accumulated depreciation to 31 December 2023	61,652	61,652
As restated at 1 January 2024	1,200,299	2,361,557
Movement in funds as originally stated	(2,257)	(36,246)
Adjustments relating to 2024	4,521	4,521
As restated at 31 December 2024	1,202,563	2,329,832