**ANNUAL REPORT – 2025 to 2026**
**Presented at the AGM on 3rd October 2026 – Sobell House. Oxford**

Welcome to the AGM for Palliative Care Works. Founded in 2008 and registered as a CIO in 2015, PCW continues to follow its vision – to support the training and mentoring of palliative care teams. We focus on the development of palliative care in hospital, hospice and home-based settings in developing countries and resource- limited situations. We use a 3-step approach based on the 'Palliative Care toolkit' – basic skills, train the trainer and supportive mentoring.

It has been an honour to follow in the footsteps of George Smerdon and colleagues as Chair of the Board of Trustees.

As was so ably described by Ben Simms at last year's conference, the global challenges – geopolitical, financial and societal – are everpresent – and impact on all work, but especially that supporting colleagues working in low and middle income countries.

Yet the issues of palliative and end of life care are also ever present – societal attitudes to dying and death remain diverse, equity of access to services and available education patchy and the need for basic core skills for holistic assessment by all health and social care workers and support for ongoing needs for patients [adults and children] and families vital.

The current WHO public health model for palliative care development – the house retains 'education and training' as one of the 2 pillars supporting the roof of 'provision of palliative care' – standing alongside 'use of essential medicines' .

The global atlases of palliative care development aligned to this model are a testament to the commitment of palliative care focussed workers worldwide – and PCW is proud to be part of that movement.

**It has been a year of development.**
Following the stepping down of George Smerdon and Ruth Wooldridge, we have welcomed 3 new Trustees to the Board since our last AGM – Sara Stevenson- Baker, Felicity Hearns and Simon Pennell. They bring skills and experience from nursing, social work and medicine to the Board and diverse experience of palliative care in different settings.

After a long period of financial oversight, our accounts lead Isobel O Connor retired from her role and Trustee Charles Campion Smith stepped down from the Treasurer role – this has been filled by Ruth Alderton – and many thanks to Ruth for taking up the mantle. Thanks as always to our independent auditor of accounts Philip Brough.

**Our Associates** who are representatives working in and from a number of LMI countries have welcomed new Associates Neil Deuchar, Joan Marston and Rose Glennerster. The now established WhatsApp group community has been very active – successfully sharing ideas, achievements and clinical experience together. This has definitely been a collaborative enterprise, the discussions informing practice in all countries including the UK and we owe a debt of gratitude to George Smerdon for setting the group up and to Trustees Grace and Simon for being the link with the Board. We are looking forward to cocreating resources together [ more of this in a moment.]

**Our Linked in** profile is attracting attention – currently 324 connections. We use the profile at the moment to highlight our own work and to share posts, new publications of relevance and information from colleagues including organisations such as the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care, APCA and the Indian Association of Palliative Care among others. If you are on Linked in and have not joined with us yet, please come and find us!

**The website** continues to be managed by Mark Ewing – thankyou as always.

**Let us talk about our ongoing projects**

**Kingdom of Lesotho**

Supporting the team in the Kingdom of Lesotho has remained a priority – Zoom support through the year as the services develop while the final part of the training –is hoped to take place in 2027. Gillian, Stephen and Simon continue to be involved thus far

**Bethlehem**

We have been approached by our Associates and former team in Bethlehem to support a new collaboration which we are working on – and look forward to updating everyone on these activities this time next year. Thank you to Simon for leading on this.

**Training videos**

Stephen is leading on a project to share knowledge on teaching skills which has collected over the last 16 years and links with the previous project supported by a grant from the Halley Stewart Trust which led to the teaching videos available on the website. We are currently seeking funding for this next step. [ and anyone who might be able to lend us additional media skills, please come and say hello!]

**Fact sheets**

2 fact sheets have been published so far, based on the toolkit –

- morphine for pain relief
- you can talk about difficult issues

a third on breathlessness is in production and we are again grateful to our Associates as their feedback and input is vital for co-production. Thanks to Charles for leading the first 2 and to Grace for leading on the current version.

**The Associates Survey.** Trustees Grace and Simon are currently reviewing the responses to a survey within the Associates group – which will inform our future workstreams. We'll hear a brief overview today at the conference and more over the year. Thank you to all who have participated.

**The conference** which follows today continues our aim to bring people together once a year for updates on current issues in palliative care and to have the opportunity to network together. Thank you to the team – Sara, Gillian, Grace and Ruth. We are honoured that Sobell House is able to include us and grateful as always to Karen, Mary Miller and to Michael McCulloch for his tech support.

Our 2025 conference on 25 October last year – 'palliative care – past present and future – what CAN we do? brought Ben Simms from Global Health Partnerships and Bob Heath a music therapist as external speakers to start the day – reminding us of the need for global health meaning equity for all [which needs us all to be working together] and the power of the person – using the arts, in this case music, to create meaning for each individual as life is ebbing. Bob's song still has the power to make me cry. This was followed by accounts from Pakistan, the 2025 APCA conference at which PCW presented posters and facilitated workshops, and reports from Associates working in Lesotho, and Tanzania. A very interactive discussion forum ensued. The power of palliative care to be innovative, creative and resourceful was demonstrated spectacularly during this afternoon.

**The toolkit**

The Palliative Care toolkit and trainer's manual remain the basis for our work, and we were awed to hear from WHPCA that up until their web provider changed – at the end of the financial year 2024 there had been 70,600 downloads. That data is no longer collected unfortunately so we are keen to find a way to establish impact more robustly. The manuals have been translated into 9 languages. These resources have the potential to enable palliative care knowledge to be shared and disseminated widely. The Board is looking at co-producing an update with our Associates over the coming years and to continuing to expand its reach. As always – thanks

to Trustee Charlie Bond and former Trustees Ruth Wooldridge and Vicky Lavy.

**So, what lies ahead?**
After our recent years of change, the Board is establishing itself – and looking forward to an externally facilitated away day in November to review mission and build workstreams. The message from Ben last year of co-creation and coproduction has always been PCW's aim – working with teams – learning together – with the aim of establishing sustainable resilient teams to help in-country palliative care development and provision.

Technology can help us – although understanding its constraints continues to be really important . Finances remain a major challenge in this sector – and we continue to return to the message of the toolkit – what CAN we do? We are deeply appreciative of the donations that we have received and acknowledge each one. We continue to seek grants or funds to support our work. We are always keen to hear about possible avenues of funding.

This would not be possible without the tireless work of the Board, thank you, and our awesome administrator – Sue Lakie who keeps us together and focussed.

Let me conclude by saying again – thankyou to all who support our work. The Foundations of PCW are a strong base on which to build for the future.

Fiona Rawlinson
Chair of Board of Trustees – Palliative Care Works
3 10 2026

Website: https://palliativecareworks.org

Linked in: www.linkedin.com/in/palliative-care-works-09a040346

# Palliative Care Works

Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

## 1. Organisation Details

| Organisation name | Palliative Care Works |
|---|---|
| **Registered address** | Little Frith, Knapp Lane, Ledbury HR8 1JD |
| **Financial year** | 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025 |
| **Legal status** | Registered Charity |
| **Registration number** | Charity No: 1161919 |
| **Governing document** | Constitution – March 2015 (latest review June 2024) |
| **Trustees** | Dr George Smerdon – Chair (retired from the Chair 25 Oct 2025)<br>Ruth Alderton<br>Dr Charlie Bond<br>Dr Charles Campion-Smith<br>Stephen Chowns<br>Dr Gillian Chowns<br>Dr Fiona Rawlinson - (Chair with effect from 25 Oct 2025)<br>Dr Grace Rowley (joined the Trustees in June 2025)<br>Ruth Wooldridge (retired Oct 2025) |
| **Bank** | The Co-operative Bank |

## 2. Purpose and Activities

Palliative Care Works is a UK based consortium focusing upon the development of palliative care in hospital, hospice and home-based settings in developing countries and resource-limited situations.

Palliative Care Works was formed in March 2015 since when it has led a variety of face-to-face teaching in low-middle income countries, mainly Africa, based around a PCW Palliative Care Toolkit and Training Manual.

## 3. Achievements and Performance in 2025

- Conference 2025 – a hybrid conference with ~30 delegates online and ~30 in person
- A successful two-week course was run in February 2025 in Lesotho which had excellent feedback.
- One Trustee spent two weeks in Pakistan teaching and exploring the concepts of palliative care in Pakistan.

- A one-page Information Sheet about morphine was published with more planned for the future.
- Attendance by two Trustees at the APCA Conference in Botswana where two posters were accepted and a successful workshop entitled "Spiritual Care – Everybody's Business" presented.

## 4. Structure, Governance and Management

The Executive Committee consists of a Chair and 8 Trustees.

Administrative support is provided pro bono.

## 5. Financial Overview

During the year, the organisation received small donations and funding for teaching in Lesotho. Despite submitting applications, it received no other grants. Strict financial controls remain in place to minimise unnecessary expenditure.

## 6. Receipts and Payments Account

| Receipts | 2025 |
|---|---|
| **PCW General Account** | |
| **THET grant (final)** | £329.10 |
| **Charities Aid Foundation** | £288.00 |
| **Much Loved donations** | £251.46 |
| **Teaching in Lesotho in March** | £4000.00 |
| **Starlight Oasis – Lesotho teaching** | £1393.92 |
| **Refund re flights (Lesotho)** | £316.00 |
| **Conference 2025 – lunches** | £270.00 |
| **Total income** | **£6848.48** |
| | |
| **PCW SSCF Account** | |
| **PROBUS** | £48.00 |
| **NNC Fellowship (final audit)** | £329.10 |
| **Charities Aid Foundation** | £153.60 |
| **Total income** | **£530.70** |
| | |
| **Payments** | **2025** |
| **PCW General Account** | |
| **General** | £623.09 |
| **Secretarial services** | £0.00 |
| **Gifts** | £45.75 |
| **Conference** | £430.00 |
| **Board meeting expenses** | £30.40 |
| **Teaching in Lesotho** | £8881.02 |
| **Total expenditure** | **£10010.26** |

| PCW SSCF Account | |
|---|---|
| **CAF donations** | £288.00 |
| **Reimbursement (transfer to TEC)** | £358.11 |
| | **£646.11** |
| **Total expenditure** | **£10656.37** |
| **NET** | **£4659.75** |
| | |
| **Cash and bank at start of year – General Account** | **£7672.53** |
| **Cash and bank at start of year – SSCF Account** | **£264.41** |
| **Cash and bank at end of year – General Account** | **£4510.75** |
| **Cash and bank at end of year – SSCF Account** | **£149.00** |
| **Total balance** | **£4659.75** |

# 7. Statement of Assets and Liabilities

| Item | Current year (£) |
|---|---|
| **Bank accounts** | £4659.75 |
| **Cash in hand** | £0.00 |
| **Amounts owed to the organisation** | £0.00 |
| **Amounts owed by the organisation** | £0.00 |
| **Net assets represented by funds** | £0.00 |

# 8. Notes to the Accounts

1. **Basis of preparation.** These accounts have been prepared on a receipts-and-payments basis from the organisation's cash records.

2. **Grants and restricted income:** £5393.92 received for teaching and travel in Lesotho

3. **Assets:** None

4. **Liabilities and commitments:** None

5. **Related-party transactions:** None

# 9. Plans for the Coming Year

- To hold a facilitator-led PCW Strategy Day to review our aims and objectives and develop a medium- to long-term plan.
- To pursue a collaboration with Bethlehem Hospice to support palliative care training.
- To complete the series of training in Lesotho with a "Train the Trainer" course.

# 10. Approval

The committee members or trustees approve this Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

Signed: 

Name: Philip J Brough ACIB

Date: 28 September 2026