The Alister Hardy Trust

Report of the Trustees

31 December 2025

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The Alister Hardy Trust is a charitable incorporated organisation.

Registered address
St Mary's Centre, Llys Onnen, Abergwyngregyn LL33 0LD

Charity registration number 1164168

The Alister Hardy Trust

Report of the Trustees
for the year 1 January to 31 December 2025

1. Charitable Object

The stated object of The Alister Hardy Trust is 'to advance the education of the public in religious and spiritual experience, its nature, function, frequency and purport'. The Constitution identifies a specific power to promote research into religious and spiritual experience and to publish the useful results of such research for the public benefit.

2. Principal Activities

During the year the Trustees have continued to pursue two principal tasks:

- implementation of the five-year strategic plan for the period 2023–2027, intended to ensure the most effective and sustainable delivery of the charitable object, and
- the continuation of the major project intended to secure the Trust's principal assets for research and study, leading to the sharing of the outcomes for public benefit: the archive of accounts of religious and spiritual experiences and the complementary archive of the research and operation of the Religious Experience Research Unit/Centre and of the Trust as a whole, and the related database of the accounts of religious and spiritual experiences.

At the same time, the continuing programme of events and other outreach has continued. The Trustees have taken particular account of enhanced public benefit in shaping the strategic plan.

The public have continued to benefit directly from access to the resources of the Trust's website and that of the Religious Experience Research Centre at UWTSD (both giving access to publications available online), the Trust's library, housed at UWTSD's Lampeter Campus, two online conferences related to the study of religious and spiritual experience. The public has benefited indirectly from the outcomes of research undertaken internationally into religious and spiritual experience derived from investigation of the Trust's database of accounts of religious and spiritual experiences. The Trust has continued to seek to maximise the impact of its work on a sustainable basis, investing both funds and time in the long-term preservation of the unique body of archives which offer the main basis of future study and research.

3. Finance

The ongoing costs of operation and charitable activities are met from recurrent income, derived principally from membership subscriptions and income from investments. The Archive Conservation Project is currently the principal project. This is being funded from surplus recurrent income, cash reserves, donations and sale of investments, themselves largely built up from earlier member donations and legacies.

Recurrent income has amounted to £16,468, including investment income of £12,532. A further £1,000 has been received as a donation. Recurrent expenditure in the same period has amounted to £4,753. The Archive Conservation Project has cost £30,127; of this £11,715 has been funded from recurrent income.

The investment policy is to balance income generation and capital growth. The investments are managed by Sue White of Walker Crips. The value of the investments at the year-end was £288,717.

The detailed accounts for the period January to December 2025 have been prepared as a separate document, which follows this report (page 6).

The Trustees will ensure that the charity holds sufficient unrestricted funds in reserve to meet the costs of recurrent administration and activities for six months. Where there is a separately funded project in progress, unrestricted funds will also be held to meet the budgeted costs of any such project for six months, in order to allow the project to be completed or placed in a state where it can be moth-balled in readiness for completion at a later date.

4. Governance and Management

The Trust is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The Constitution (2016) is its governing document. Under the Constitution, the members appoint Trustees at the AGM.

The Trustees have managed the affairs of the Trust, assisted by Professor Bettina Schmidt, director of the Religious Experience Research Centre at UWTSD, and Professor Jeff Astley, World Religions Education Research Unit, Lincoln Bishop University. Planning and day-to-day affairs are undertaken by the chair, vice chair and current treasurer, acting as an interim executive for the Trustees. Dr Tom Farley is the honorary treasurer. The vice chair, acting as honorary archivist, has led the Archive Conservation Project.

5. Relationship with the University of Wales Trinity St David (UWTSD)

The Trust has had a formal agreement with UWTSD, last amended in 2013, and works in collaboration with the RERC based at the Lampeter Campus of UWTSD. UWTSD provides accommodation in the university library at Lampeter Campus for the Trust's archive and library, and its IT department hosts the database of accounts of religious and spiritual experiences. The Trust meets the costs of archive assistance and supports the production of the RERU's *Journal for the Study of Religious Experience* published online.

This year has, however, been a year of transition marked by the decision to close the Lampeter Campus of UWTSD as a centre for teaching and research with effect from 1 September 2025. The Trust has been adapting to this new situation, which was finalised at relatively short notice. Access to the Library, where the archive is housed, has been by appointment only since September 2025 (having been unavailable during July and August).

The books owned by the Trust but integrated within the main library collection and catalogue have been donated to the UWTSD, with exception of those directly related to the study of religious experience or written by authors with direct association with the Trust.

In spite of the constraints, the Archive conservation project has proceeded, and the process of making digital images of key documents within the Archive (notably the personal accounts of religious experience) began in December 2025.

6. Mission, Vision and Strategy

The mission of The Alister Hardy Trust is the exploration of religious and spiritual experiences. It fosters the research and study of personal accounts of individuals' own religious and spiritual experiences. The Trust shares the outcomes of such study to offer greater depth, richness and meaning to human life.

To fulfil this mission, the Trust seeks to

i. sustain a research archive of individuals' personal accounts of their own religious and spiritual experiences;
ii. maintain a research database of these accounts of religious and spiritual experiences to enable research and study;
iii. draw together a network of researchers concerned to undertake the investigation and analysis of personal religious and spiritual experiences;
iv. share the outcomes of research in order to encourage public engagement in the study of religious and spiritual experiences, and the enrichment of human life.

In June 2023 the Trustees approved a strategy with business plan to deliver the mission with aims attainable in the five-year period 2023–27, and which the Trust, as a small organisation, could sustain or further develop in the years that follow. This plan included a commitment to annual review. The interim executive reviewed the strategic plan over three days in August 2024, and the revised document was approved by the Trustees in October 2024. The changes at UWTSD (reported above in item 5) mean that the Trustees have needed to take account of their impact both on current activity and on future vision and strategy. This will be a major consideration in 2026.

The Trustees also considered and approved a vision statement in October 2024.

> Our vision is to be a charity which
>
> > promotes research and study of religious and spiritual experience,
> > building on the pioneering work of Sir Alister Hardy FRS;

fosters a broad range of educational opportunities,
both formal and informal,
through collaboration and provision of resources;

thereby enables fuller and richer understanding of being human.

To achieve this vision, we will

draw together a network of researchers
working within the parameters initiated by Sir Alister Hardy;

offer, through our archives and databases,
unique resources for research and advanced study;

provide high quality study materials and guides on our website;

remain focused and sustainably effective,
having an impact far in excess of our small size.

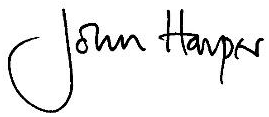
So far as possible, the Trustees have sustained this strategy, inevitably affected by the change in circumstances at UWTSD.

7. Trustees

The following served as Trustees during the year:

The Revd Dr Tania ap Siôn
Dr Tom Farley (treasurer)
The Revd Canon Professor Leslie Francis (chair)
Professor John Harper (vice chair)
Dr Mike Rush
The Revd Professor Andrew Village

This report and the accompanying accounts have been approved by the Trustees.



Professor John Harper
Vice Chair
On behalf of the Trustees of The Alister Hardy Trust

22 August 2026

The Alister Hardy Trust

Accounts

for the year 1 January to 31 December 2025

Charity registration number 1164168

The Alister Hardy Trust

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the accounting period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

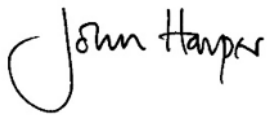
	Note	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Total funds Jan 25 - Dec 25	Total funds Aug 23 - Dec 24
		£	£	£	£
Income					
Income from Charitable Activities	4	3,903	-	3,903	6,457
Grants, donations and legacies		33	1,000	1,033	2,200
Investment income and interest		12,532	-	12,532	17,535
Total Income		**16,468**	**1,000**	**17,468**	**26,193**
Expenditure					
Recurring charitable expenditure	5	4,723	-	4,723	9,666
Special projects	6	30,127	-	30,127	52,325
Total Direct Charitable Expenditure		**34,850**	**-**	**34,850**	**61,990**
Costs of raising funds	7	1,878	-	1,878	4,242
Governance costs	8	30	-	30	1,874
Total Expenditure		**36,758**	**-**	**36,758**	**68,107**
Net Income / (Expenditure)		(20,291)	1,000	(19,291)	(41,914)
Revaluation of investment portfolio	9	17,263	-	17,263	27,640
Net Movement of Funds		**(3,028)**	**1,000**	**(2,028)**	**(14,275)**
Total Funds brought forward		297,519	2,000	299,519	313,794
Total Funds Carried Forward		**294,491**	**3,000**	**297,491**	**299,519**

The Alister Hardy Trust

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes		31 December 2025		31 December 2024
Fixed Assets					
Investment Portfolio	9		288,717		298,332
Current Assets					
Debtors		1,593		1,102	
Cash at bank and in hand		8,486		3,544	
Total Current Assets			10,079		4,646
Creditors due within one year			(1,305)		(3,459)
Net Current Assets			8,774		1,187
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities			**297,491**		**299,519**
Reserves					
Designated Funds		3,000			2,000
Unrestricted Funds		294,491			297,519
Total Funds			**297,491**		**299,519**

The Financial Statements on pages 7 and 8 were approved by the Trustees on 21 August 2026, and are signed on their behalf by



Professor John Harper
Vice Chair

22 August 2026

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 **Accounting Policies**

The accounts for January to December 2025 are for the new calendar-year period. The comparative figures for August 2023 to December 2024 (17 months) represent the transitional year as the Trust moved from a university year accounting period to a calendar year accounting period, which better represents its current pattern of operation.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 'Accounting & Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice', applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable (FRS 102, effective 1 January 2019 – Charities SORP (FRS 102)), and in accordance with applicable charity law. Accruals accounting is adopted, except for subscriptions, which are accounted for on

2 **Change of Accounting Policies**

Following the changes reported in the accounts for 2023-24, following professional advice, there has been no change in the Accounting Policies in the year ended 31 December 2025.

3 **Trustee Expenses**

Trustees are reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses incurred on behalf of the Trust. Professor John Harper was reimbursed £1,795 (2023-24, £2,279 for travel and subsistence costs incurred in managing the archive project.

		2025	**2023-24**
		£	**£**
4	**Income from charitable activities**		
	Subscriptions	3,395	5,118
	Gift Aid tax recovery	491	676
	Conferences	0	641
	Other	17	23
		3,903	**6,457**
5	**Recurring direct charitable expenditure**		
	Communications and website	133	1,025
	Publications	2,976	5,345
	Conferences	0	1,079
	Membership Administration	1,615	2,217
		4,723	**9,666**
6	**Special Projects**		
	Archive conservation and database	30,127	51,564
	Public dissemination and marketing	-	761
		30,127	**52,325**

Notes to the Accounts for the 12 Months Ended 31 December 2025 (continued)

		2025	2023-24
		£	£
7	**Costs of raising funds**		
	Investment management fees	**1,878**	**4,242**
8	**Governance costs**		
	Legal fees	-	408
	Strategic Consultancy	-	500
	Independent Examiner's fee	-	900
	Other accountancy costs	30	66
		30	**1,874**
9	**Investments Reconciliation**		
	Valuation Brought Forward	298,332	299,935
	Withdrawals (to fund archive project)	(25,000)	(25,000)
	Market movements and portfolio management	17,263	27,640
	Fees	(1,878)	(4,242)
	Valuation carried forward	**288,717**	**298,332**

10	**Analysis of Funds**	**Unrestricted funds**	**Designated funds**	**Total funds Jan 25 - Dec 25**	**Total funds Aug 23-Dec 24**
		£	**£**	**£**	**£**
	Movement of Funds				
	At beginning of period	297,519	2,000	299,519	313,794
	Net Incoming / (Outgoing) Resources	(3,028)	1,000	(2,028)	(14,275)
	Transfers	-	-	-	-
	At End of period	**294,491**	**3,000**	**297,491**	**299,519**
	Represented by				
	Fixed Asset Investments	288,717	-	288,717	298,332
	Cash at Bank and in Hand	5,486	3,000	8,486	3,544
	Other net current liabilities	288	-	288	(2,357)
		294,491	**3,000**	**297,491**	**299,519**