THE TEMPLAR PILGRIMAGE TRUST OLJ
(Registered Charity 1191505)

Trustees' Annnual Report
01 January – 31 December 2025

Reference and administration details
Patron Alistair McCabe
President The Grand Prior of the Order of Knights Templar in the United Kingdom

Trustees
Sorin Ionut Balaban*
Anthony Cuthbert*
Cicelyn Hinds (Hon. Secretary)
Mavis Jacobs*
Jeremy Lee (Hon. Treasurer)
George MacLean* (Chair)
Rev. Canon Philip Norwood*
Tracy Williams
(* indicates member of the Grand Priory)

Charity number: 1191505
Contact address: 28 Clifford Road, South Norwood, London SE25 5JS

It gives me great pleasure to present this year's Temple Pilgrimage Trust Annual Report and Accounts.

The Trust
The object of the Trust is the advancement of the Christian religion by helping people make journeys of pilgrimage to recognised Christian shrines and helping young people make educational visits to recognised places of Christian worship or learning. The shrines and places of worship may be in this country or overseas.

The Trust is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation ('CIO') whose only voting members are its charity trustees. The Trust's governing document is a CIO Foundation Constitution, registered on 28 September 2020.

The Trust succeeded the Templar Pilgrimage Trust (OTJ), charity number 326561, which was established in 1984 under a deed of trust. That charity was closed in November 2021; its funds being transferred to the Trust to enable the continuation of its charitable work.

The Trust was originally founded in the 1980s by members of the Knights Templar and current donors include Members of the Grand Priory of Knights Templar in the United Kingdom ('the Grand Priory' / 'GPUK'). The Trustees, therefore, consider it appropriate to maintain links with the Grand Priory and a Memorandum of Understanding dated 20 July 2021 sets out the basis on which the two organisations aim to work together.

The Trustees
The Trust is managed by a board of eight trustees. Currently, five Trustees are Members of the Grand Priory and three are independent of the Grand Priory. The Trustees come from different Christian denominations: the board includes members of the Church of England, the Romanian Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church.

The Trustees' names are set out on page 1. The Trustees whose names are marked with an asterisk are Members of the Grand Priory.

The Trustees met regularly during 2025, and in each meeting and applications for funding either from individuals or pilgrimage groups were considered.

The Trustees also maintained contact by e-mail between meetings.

The Trust's Activities

The Trust's main activity is making grants to groups and individuals planning to make pilgrimages. Without the Trust's financial support, it would be difficult, if not impossible, for them to do so. The Trust encourages applications from pilgrimage from youth groups, such as schools and churches, as Trustees believe a pilgrimage experience will have life-long benefits.

During the year, the Trust which amounted to £4105 (2024: £4100). The Trustees were pleased to note that there was a wider range of applicants, all of whom made initial enquiries through the Trust's website.

The Trust's finances are covered in more detail on page 4.

At their regular meetings, the Trustees reviewed reports and updates on the Trust's finances, grants and marketing activity. They also reviewed the Trust's governance and its marketing generally, as well as its Safeguarding and Data Protection Policies.

They recognised that the Charity Commission expects charities to identify and manage safeguarding risks to which it may be exposed. It does not meet applicants face-to-face but communicates with them in writing. Applicants make their own arrangements (for example, whether to travel alone or in a group, whether to use a tour company) so that the Trust does not recommend or select any tour or travel companies.

The Trust's work does not involve caring for or supervising children or adults at risk.

Nevertheless, the Trustees have concluded it was appropriate for applicants to provide assurance that organisations arranging pilgrimages had considered safeguarding risks and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks. They reviewed the existing policy, which required confirmation from organisations should be provided before a grant was paid.

Trustees have decided that pilgrims travelling alone should assume responsibility for managing their own safeguarding risks and that pilgrims under 18 would not be given grants unless they were travelling in a group, because of the significantly increased risks that under 18s would assume by travelling alone.

The Trustees confirm they referred to the guidance from the Charity Commission on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's governance, as well as when considering its activities, aims and objectives.

Finances
The Income and Expenditure Account for 2025 is attached as an appendix to this Report. At the beginning of the year, the General Fund stood at £20636. At the end of the year, it stood at £17833.

Grants agreed amounted to £4105 (2023: £4100). Trustees have agreed modest withdrawals from our two investment funds during the year so that we could maintain the funding level achieved in 2024. Trustees are aware that this level of financial withdrawal cannot be maintained long term and are actively seeking donations. Trustees believe that the need for pilgrim support is now more important than ever and hope to see donations rise in the years ahead.

The Trustees set a grants budget at the beginning of each year, and due to the size of the Trust, rigorous financial control is exercise to ensure the ling term viability of the Trust and the important donation activity it makes.

There were no returned grants (grants returned to the Trust for whatever reason) during the period under review, (2024 - £NIL).

Trustees noted that whilst the traditional destination for pilgrimages, the Holy Land, is still too dangerous for travellers, alternative European destinations are becoming more popular. In addition to Rome, applicants have applied for assistance to travel to Assisi, Salamanca and of course Lourdes. Home pilgrimages to Canterbury and Walsingham remain firm favourites with youth groups.

The Trustees wish once again to record their thanks for continuing donations from Members of the Order and from friends of the Order. They wish to thank donors who have covered costs relating to the operation of the Trust. They also take this opportunity to confirm that Trustees do not receive any remuneration from the Trust.

Trustees have managed funds in accordance with the rules good governance issued by the Charities Commission once again and have maintained a favourable number of grants this year.

Financial pressures are increasing on small charities like ours, as there is increasing demand on sources of funds. Trustees are keenly aware that they are stewards of the current Trust, and must manage finances and expectations prudently.

George MacLean
Chair

THE TEMPLAR PILGRIMAGE TRUST (Registered Charity 1191505)
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

Income

			2024
Donations received	**991**		1085
Gift Aid Reclaimed	**203**		196
Interest on Investment account	**397**		516
Accumulation Fund increase in value	**-204**		504
	1387		2301

Expenditure

Insurance	**56**		96
Website & Domain Protection	**29**		29
Grants	**4105**		4100
	4190		4225

Excess of Expenditure over Income	**2803**		1924

Assets

	31.12.25		31.12.24
LLOYDS Current Accounts	**820**		1252
COIF Deposit Fund	**7855**		9958
COIF Ethical Investment Fund	**9156**		9360
PayPal	**1**		66
	17833		20636