Charity number: 1207822

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL CHAPTER

CHAPTER'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

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Accountants, Business & Financial Advisers

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL CHAPTER

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BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL CHAPTER

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CATHEDRAL, ITS CHAPTER AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The Chapter:	The Very Revd. P Howell-Jones, The Dean of Blackburn Revd. Canon J Gaffin, Residentiary Canon Revd. Canon J Lawrence, Residentiary Canon Canon DP Gascoigne FCA Mrs. M McClintock Mr. K Roberts FCA Revd. Canon A S Horsfall (appointed interim 16 July 2025) Mrs. J Thomas OBE, Senior Non Executive Member of Chapter Ms. N Hurst (appointed 16 July 2025) Ms. J Jenks (appointed 16 July 2025)
Charity number:	1207822
Principal office	Cathedral Office Cathedral Close Blackburn BB1 5AA
Full Name :	The Cathedral Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, Blackburn
Address:	Cathedral Office Cathedral Close Blackburn BB1 5AA
Chapter Clerk:	Mr. I White
Chief Operating Officer:	Mr. I White
Director of Music:	Mr. J Robinson
Minutes Secretary:	Mrs. P Rowe
Finance Comittee:	Mr. D. Gascoigne FCA (Chair) The Very Revd. P Howell-Jones Mr. D Kay Mrs. M Wood (resigned March 2024) Mr. K Roberts FCA

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL CHAPTER

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CATHEDRAL,ITS CHAPTER AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Fabric Advisory Comittee:	Mrs. E Birkett (Chair) Mr. C. O Flaherty Mr. I. Wilson Mr. T. Comer Ms. K. Shuttleworth The Dean The Precentor
Cathedral Architect:	Ms. L Priestman Shaw & Jagger Architects 1 Candale Park Beckwith Head Road Harrogate North Yorkshire HG3 1RY
Cathedral Archaeologist:	Mr. G Keevill
Bankers:	National Westminster Bank plc PO Box No. 33 35 King William Street Blackburn BB1 7DL
Auditors:	Armstrong Watson Audit Limited James Watson House Montgomery Way Rosehill Carlisle CA1 2UU
Investment Manager:	CCLA Senator House 85 Queen Victoria Street London EC4V 4ET

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL CHAPTER

THE INTERIM DEAN'S REVIEW
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The Interim Dean presents his statement for the year.

As I reflect on the year that has been, I do so with a complex and honest mixture of feelings: gratitude for the faithfulness of so many people who give so much to the life of this Cathedral; humility before the seriousness of the challenges we have faced and are still facing; and genuine hope for what lies ahead as we press forward together in God's service.

2025 has been, in many respects, a demanding year in the recent life of Blackburn Cathedral. It has also been, a year of extraordinary vitality, creativity, and grace.

A Year of Transition in Leadership
It would not be honest to begin anywhere other than with the significant change in leadership that occurred in the summer. Following the suspension of the Dean in late June, Bishop Philip asked me to serve as Interim Dean, and I took up that role in July. I am deeply grateful to the Bishop and particularly to the Cathedral Chapter, staff, volunteers, and congregation for the warmth and generosity with which they received me into this role.

I came to Blackburn Cathedral knowing it well, having served for twenty years as Chaplain and Head of Chaplaincy at East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust, and as Area Dean of Blackburn with Darwen. I was also part of the Cathedral staff in a part-time capacity as Canon Pastor from 2016 to 2020, and that earlier experience of the Cathedral's life and ministry has proved an invaluable foundation for the work of this year.

But stepping into the day-to-day leadership of this remarkable place has given me an even deeper appreciation of the dedication of every person who serves here, whether in a paid capacity or as a volunteer.

To all of you: thank you.

Facing the Truth on Safeguarding
The most pressing work of this year has been our response to the INEQE Independent Safeguarding Audit, the findings of which were published earlier in the year. The audit, commissioned by the Archbishop's Council, involved a comprehensive review of nearly five hundred key documents, seven focus groups, over four hundred survey responses, and interviews with a wide range of stakeholders.

Its conclusion regarding the Cathedral was unambiguous: our approach to safeguarding required urgent improvement, with twenty-eight specific recommendations covering leadership, governance, case management, recruitment, communications, and culture.

We have accepted those recommendations in full.

Alongside our worship, mission and ministry; safeguarding must take high priority. Since the publication of the report, we have worked on the most urgent recommendations: partnering with the Diocese for the management of safeguarding casework; appointing two new members of Chapter with safeguarding expertise; establishing an independent Safeguarding Improvement Board; transferring case records to the National Safeguarding Case Management System; and proactively developing partnerships with statutory agencies.

I want to say with complete sincerity to all who have been hurt, let down, or failed by our previous safeguarding arrangements: I am deeply sorry. The Cathedral exists to be a place of safety, sanctuary, and welcome for every person. Where we have fallen short of that calling, we must acknowledge it honestly and commit to doing better.

The work of safeguarding reform is not a burden we bear reluctantly; it is the right and necessary expression of our care for one another and for all who come through our doors. I am grateful for the courage of survivors and others who participated in the audit process.

Gaia: A Cathedral Transformed
Amid the challenges of the year, it was also a privilege to welcome an extraordinary event. From October to November, Luke Jerram's stunning installation Gaia, a 7 metre, high-resolution NASA image of the Earth suspended within the Cathedral, drew visitors from across Lancashire and beyond.

THE INTERIM DEAN'S REVIEW (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The installation transformed the interior of the building into something that many described as numinous: a space in which the fragile beauty of our planet was held within this place of prayer, inviting contemplation, wonder, and a renewed sense of our responsibility to creation.

The programme surrounding Gaia embraced worship and theological reflection, the arts, music, wellbeing, and community celebration, drawing the broadest possible cross-section of people through our doors.

A photography competition on the theme of 'Life on Earth' drew entries from across the country, with shortlisted images exhibited alongside the installation throughout its six-week run, extending the invitation to engage with creation still further. Together, these experiences demonstrated something important about what a Cathedral can be: not only a place of prayer, but a space that opens people to experiences they might struggle to find elsewhere. I am grateful to all who worked so hard to make it happen.

Music and Worship at the Heart of Our Life
Whatever the upheavals of the institutional year, the daily rhythm of prayer, worship, and choral music has continued with faithfulness and beauty. Our choristers and choir have maintained their valued ministry, filling the Cathedral with sound that speaks, as music always does, of things beyond words. The lunchtime concert series brought live music to all who came, and the Choral Evensong and Eucharist services have continued to gather worshippers week by week.

In November, the Cathedral hosted the Collation of the new Archdeacon of Blackburn, the Venerable Jane Atkinson, an occasion of joy and celebration for the wider Diocese, with civic representatives from across Lancashire gathering alongside clergy, parishioners, and members of the public. It was a reminder that the Cathedral serves not only as the spiritual heart of Blackburn but as the mother church of the whole Diocese: a place where the wider life of God's people in Lancashire is marked and celebrated.

Our Remembrance season also brought the community together, with the annual Remembrance Concert, held in partnership with Blackburn with Darwen Council and raising funds for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, drawing on the generous talents of local choirs, the Salvation Army Brass Band, Blackburn Junior Sea Cadets, and Blackburn People's Choir.

These civic moments of shared remembrance and gratitude matter deeply, and the Cathedral is honoured to hold them.

Community, Partnership, and Belonging
Throughout the year, the Cathedral has continued its work as a centre for the religious, artistic, and cultural life of our community: not only in Blackburn, but across Lancashire. The summer community barbecue in the Cloister Garth, the Community Carol Service in partnership with Blackburn with Darwen Council, the Bank Holiday celebrity organ concerts, and the regular midweek services all point to a community that finds its purpose not in grand occasions alone, but in the steady, loving, open welcome extended day after day.

The Sixteen's Choral Pilgrimage 2025: Angel of Peace brought stunning choral music to the Cathedral in the spring, with Hildegard of Bingen, Arvo Pärt, and a new work by Anna Clyne among the offerings, reminding us that in a fractured world, beauty and tranquillity are not luxuries but necessities.

Looking Ahead with Hope
As I write these words, I am conscious that the Cathedral stands at a threshold. 2026 marks not only one hundred years since the establishment of a new diocese in Lancashire, celebrated across the region under the title 'All for Jesus', but the Cathedral's own Centenary: a double cause for celebration and renewal.

As the Diocese looks ahead, it is also renewing its Vision statement, discerning afresh how God is calling his Church in Lancashire to live and serve. That process of renewal is one in which the Cathedral has a central and joyful part to play. The work of safeguarding reform, of leadership transformation and of institutional rebuilding is real and demanding, but it is being carried out by people of genuine faith, goodwill, and dedication. What we are about is the faithful renovation of a house of prayer and place of hospitality.

THE INTERIM DEAN'S REVIEW (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

I am grateful beyond words for the community I serve: for the staff who come to work each day with professionalism and heart; for the volunteers who give their time and energy with such generosity; for the congregation who worship, pray, and persevere; for the many thousands of visitors who cross our threshold each year, often carrying things we know nothing of and hoping, perhaps, to encounter something of the grace of God.

To all of you, and to this Cathedral, I offer my commitment: to serve as Interim Dean for as long as needed, to lead with honesty, to serve with humility, and to hold fast, always, to the hope that is in us.



.....

The Revd. Canon Andrew Horsfall
Interim Dean of Blackburn
Date: 16/09/2026

CHAPTER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Mission and Discipleship

Despite many challenges, both institutional and personal, 2025 was a year of steady endurance, missional fruit by God's grace, and much costly institutional work.

As the Cathedral made progress in many areas, its plans for the centenary in 2026 offered a welcome vehicle for shaping a sustainable and strong institution for the future.

A substantial portion of ministry led by the Canon Missioner was directed towards stabilising the Cathedral; upholding the life of payer and worship, giving pastoral care to staff including at times of conflict and distress, and keeping together a praying community when trust was frayed. Several mission and discipleship developments stand out against that background.

Discipleship continued to show fruit, including an Alpha course that resulted in four adults going forward for baptism and/or confirmation.

Cathedral community life was strengthened through shared social rhythms, including the annual barbeque and visits to Whalley Abbey, and a Weekend Away in June led by the Revd. Canon Dr Leah Vasey-Saunders, then Vicar of Lancaster and now Bishop of Doncaster. These renewed gatherings help to rebuild congregational confidence.

Meetings were arranged, attended by as many Chapter members as possible, at which information was shared and questions answered. Such meetings are a practical way of mending fragmented communication and giving a voice to members of the congregation.

The Cathedral's witness continued to grow through public theology and liturgy. Two major conferences were hosted: one to mark the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, in partnership with Churches Together in Lancashire; and the other an eco-church conference during the Gaia period, featuring Canon Dr Ruth Valerio.

Gaia, Luke Jerram's Earth artwork that came to the Cathedral in October to November and attracted 25,000 guests including a thousand schoolchildren, offered themes around which could be built Creation Care. These events demonstrate the Cathedral's ability to convene, teach and offer a public Christian framing for pressing questions; not merely hosting culture but interpreting it within worship and discipleship.

Education and work with schools remained one of the Cathedral's most consistent missional front doors. Mrs Siân Howell-Jones remained committed to the delivery of inspiring visits and the communication of the Cathedral's purposes.

She and a small volunteer team delivered high quality, faith-based visits, tailoring provision and developing bespoke workshops for pilgrimage visits, seasonal, Nativity and Easter drama visits, and special Gaia events. There continues to be concern for the under-resourcing of this key area of the Cathedral mission.

Chaplaincy ministry at Blackburn College continued and grew, and relationships with staff and students were deepened. The Canon Missioner was again invited to lead Easter and Christmas services at the College, in partnership with St Luke's Church, and to provide an inter-faith week in partnership with the interfaith forum and the Muslim chaplain.

Diocesan ministry continued and expanded. The Canon Missioner led a curate training day, and worship for a clergy study day, chaired the Inspiring Children and Youth Committee, and served on the healing group steering committee and the Bearing Witness project board.

The INEQE safeguarding audit and report proved it necessary to shape the practical priorities for the year, leading to urgent repair and strengthening of the Cathedral's safeguarding practices and culture. The Canon Missioner and Mrs Julie Eatwell continued to work on the volunteer database, alongside the Safeguarding Hub, as a means of maintaining training and safer recruitment pathway that aligns with current safeguarding policy and expectations.

(CONTINUED)
CHAPTER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Worship

The regular liturgical pattern was followed during the year and included a special Evensong on 11 May to commemorate Victory in Europe Day, attended by the Lord Lieutenant.

A farewell service took place on 6 April for the outgoing Archdeacon of Blackburn, the Venerable Mark Ireland, and the Revd. Jane Atkinson was collated to that position at an Evensong held on 23 November.

In October the Cathedral received a visit from the Archbishop of York as part of his 'Faith in the North' Lord's Prayer Tour. The Music Department experienced a year of considerable changes in personnel. Ms Gill Broom was warmly welcomed as Music Administrator and is communicating strongly with stakeholders and building external relationships. Some outstanding services took place, especially the Nine Lessons and Carols in December.

It was good to collaborate with other cathedrals, particularly Liverpool, where two visits to sing with them were made. There were good results in ABRSM singing examinations and high levels of entry by choristers to university and music school places.

The department was sorry to lose the Resident Organist, Mr John Hosking, who resigned in December. The organ appeal faced health and safety concerns around access, and these difficulties are being worked through with a team that includes an adviser, William McVicar. Meanwhile, the Wednesday lunchtime recitals continue with very loyal and dedicated attendance.

The junior choral scholars have benefited from the regular rehearsal schedule and sound increasingly assured. The Youth Choir has continued to sing on Sundays at 9am, under the direction of Ms Helen Davies, and the voluntary St Paul's Voices cover when the Cathedral choir is unavailable.

The Director of Music has identified the critically important need to re-launch Lantern Voices, the children's choir, that involves people from the outstanding "Let's Go Sing" organisation.

The Cathedral's bellringing team said goodbye to two members during the year, but were encouraged by the gain of six new ringers. The team rang for 49 out of 52 Sunday Eucharists, with ten or more ringers on thirteen occasions, and also supported St Jude's on the second Sunday of each month. Thursday practices have been well attended and five quarter peals were rung for special occasions during the year.

Governance

The Chapter met for both scheduled and additional meetings arranged ad hoc when pressing business made this necessary, and attendance was good.

We were glad to welcome Ms Naomi Healey and Ms Jayne Jenks as new trustees in July. Both come from professional educational backgrounds, and both have agreed to act as safeguarding leads for the Chapter.

The clergy team came under exceptional pressure, and at the year end important issues remained, awaiting resolution during 2026. Legal advice has been taken where appropriate and the Chapter has ensured that its reporting obligations to the Charity Commission have been fulfilled throughout, including an online meeting on 17 September 2026 to discuss a Serious Incident Report submitted by the Cathedral.

The Chapter has taken seriously the exceptional pressures on the Cathedral community - its staff, volunteers, congregations and visitors - and taken formal and informal steps to address and where possible alleviate these difficulties.

The Bishop of Blackburn in late December 2024 commissioned a Bishop's Review, as provided for in Section 9(6) of the Cathedrals Measure 2021. The terms of reference covered governance, culture, and safeguarding, and it was led by the Rt. Revd. Julie Conalty, Bishop of Birkenhead. Interviews with stakeholders, including Chapter members and staff of the Cathedral, took place early in the new year.
The findings of the review were presented to the Chapter at Bishop's House on 2 May, for discussion and action by the Chapter. These are ongoing, and included a Chapter meeting with the Bishop on 19 November to review progress.

The Dean, the Very Revd. Peter Howell-Jones, following complaints about leadership and inconclusive discussions about a possible mutually acceptable solution to his position, was suspended by the Bishop of Lancaster on 27 June, while retaining his residence in the Deanery.

The Bishop of Blackburn, in consultation with the Chapter, appointed the Revd. Canon Andrew Horsfall as Interim Dean from 16 July onwards, on a part-time secondment from his post with the National Health Service.

On 18 December a sole candidate was interviewed for the full-time post of Residentiary Canon, Canon Pastor and Vice Dean, and the Revd. Canon Andrew Horsfall was appointed with effect from 1 February 2026. Canon Horsfall retains the title of Interim Dean. The Revd. Canon Dr Jenny Gaffin, Canon Precentor, was absent from the Cathedral at periods approved by the Bishop of Blackburn during the year. In December, with the support of the Interim Dean, she asked the Bishop if she could spend some time supporting parish ministry within the Diocese after Christmas.

The Canon Missioner, Revd. Canon James Lawrence, additionally carried the duties of Canon Precentor for significant periods of 2025.The Chapter wishes to put on record its deep appreciation of their commitment to the Cathedral and its mission by both Canon Horsfall and Canon Lawrence.

Safeguarding

The INEQE audit of safeguarding at the Diocese and the Cathedral took place in the week beginning 3 February.

An Interim Report about the findings for the Cathedral was issued the following week, the Draft Report on 11 April, and the final text (available to view at blackburncathedral.com/ineqe) on 2 July.

The Chapter agreed to accept in full all 28 recommendations in the report relating to the Cathedral, and the matching recommendations relating to safeguarding in the Bishop's Review.

Additional resources have been made available from the Church Commissioners and the Diocese to help the Cathedral meet its legal and procedural obligations, and the following specific actions up to the end of December included the following:

- A Safeguarding Action Plan has been drawn up that shows progress on required actions, and this is reviewed on a regular basis by the Chapter. Early attention has been given to improvements in record keeping, safer recruitment, communications and training, together with externally-based support for individual members of staff.

- A Safeguarding Improvement Board has been set up, chaired by Ms Barbara Peacock, and includes the Interim Dean, the SNEM and the relevant professional community of interest. Terms of reference were agreed with the Chapter, to provide challenge and support for the aims of the Cathedral’s improvement journey over an anticipated period of twelve months.

- A Service Level Agreement has been approved between the Diocese and the Cathedral that includes resourcing issues and lines of communication.

- Provision is made at all Chapter meetings for discussion of safeguarding, supported by the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, Ms Catherine Smith, being in attendance.

- A part-time Cathedral Safeguarding Adviser, Ms Lesley Hurst, was appointed in November and reports to Ms Smith.

- A safeguarding operations group meets on a regular basis and reports to the Chapter.

Education

Although provision was somewhat reduced during the year because of capacity issues, with the assistance of a competent volunteer team, the highly effective offer to schools has continued.

Forty schools made visits from across the Diocese, with trails that included workshop visits being the most popular. Gaia offered the opportunity for theme-based workshops and visits focussing on Nations of the Earth proved to be particularly attractive.

Visits from two local mosques took place through the year, in line with a protocol drawn up between the institutions. Record keeping and administrative processes were further developed and income of over £9,000 achieved. Careful bespoke preparation for every visit takes place, and evaluation forms issued. Of the 49% form return rate during the year, all expressed satisfaction with the organisation of the visits.

Particular mention was made of how the needs of the visitors had been met and how much pupils had learned. The issue of capacity remains a concern for the Chapter.

Finance

The Cathedral’s finances were stable with a small operating surplus.

Grant support was received for safeguarding from the Church Commissioners and the Diocese, and funding from the Cathedral Sustainability Fund covered several posts, including the centenary and fundraisers together with support for Blackburn Cathedral Enterprises.

Good housekeeping enabled operating costs to be kept to a minimum despite significant rises in employment costs and utility prices.

Blackburn Cathedral Enterprises continued to expand despite challenges of staff turnover and rising costs, contributing to the Cathedral’s mission of hospitality and supporting special events.

Major growth has been achieved through the expansion of events including showpiece exhibitions and art installations and once again being a host venue for the National Festival of Making and the British Textile Biennial.

Candlelight concerts continued to be extremely popular, generating a secure level of income and consolidating the Cathedral’s position as a major cultural venue for Lancashire.

Checks & Greys, the Cathedral café served a dedicated clientele enjoying home cooked food in a family atmosphere. Addition revenue was achieved through the growth of online ordering for off-site delivery.

The John Booth Foundation generously converted a loan of £150,000 into a gift, and some private legacies were received for specific purposes.

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CHAPTER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Fabric

The year for the Fabric Advisory Committee, chaired by Ms Emma Birkett, has been one of stability for its work, largely due to the professional guidance and expertise of the Cathedral Architect, Ms Louise Priestman.

The committee regretfully accepted the resignation of Mr Ivan Wilson, and the recruitment process for his replacement has begun, to make the committee quorate and to complete its skills and experience set. Through the CFCE Mr James Traynor, who has been able to offer support on the decarbonisation agenda, has been welcomed to the committee.

Significant work took place during the year. The contractual position of Clergy Court was finally concluded, the quinquennial inspection of the Cathedral completed, and CFCE approval for the Cathedral lighting scheme obtained.

A reception office at the entrance was set up, and health safety and fire improvements made to the Undercroft. These included improvements to the archive space with good quality storage facilities, led by Ms Sue Hall.

A major refurbishment of the Crypt took place, transforming the space for active use, including a Changing Places facility, an upgraded servery and a new community space, together with improved lighting and acoustic installation. Discussions around the future use of Church House continued, with various options being tested, while plans to clean and rebuild the organ met with delays about safe access to its higher levels.

Ambitious plans are in place for further works during 2026, including the refurbishment of the West Doors. These rely on fundraising and approvals being in place, and it is a pleasure to note that two externally financed fundraisers are currently in post.

Blackburn Cathedral Partners

Blackburn Cathedral Trust

The Trust exists to support the Cathedral to ensure it continues to provide an outstanding environment, not only for worship, but also for hosting a range of diverse activities.

The Trust raises funds in a variety of ways and holds a lively programme of events throughout the year including literary lunches, garden parties, talks and a popular annual golf day, held at Clitheroe Golf Club.

The introduction of the Cathedral’s new fundraising team has provided an opportunity for the Trust to renew and re-energise their fundraising strategy.

The focus during the Cathedral’s forthcoming centenary year will be on raising funds for the new West Doors and interior lighting.

(CONTINUED)
CHAPTER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The Friends of Blackburn Cathedral

Membership at the end of the year stood at 167, with 20 associate members, and with the aim during the centenary year of adding another 100. Mr David Thornton stood down from the chair in May, after seven years of exceptional service, and his place was taken by Mr Paul Mason.

A fruitful day at Whalley Abbey, facilitated by Mr Andy Pratt, resulted in a new strategic plan, a new Facebook page and signage in the Cathedral.

Discussions with the Chapter led to revised protocols around Friends' gifts to the Cathedral. Since 2012 the Friends have contributed over £160,000 to projects that enhance the Cathedral, with more promised during the centenary year.

Thanks are due to the Council and trustees of the Friends, and to Mr Ian White for his continuing support.

We hold a genuine hope for what lies ahead as we press forward together in God's service.

Chapter Members:

The Very Revd. Peter Howell-Jones
The Revd. Canon Andrew Horsfall
The Revd. Dr Canon Jenny Gaffin
The Revd. Canon James Lawrence
Janet Thomas, OBE
Canon David Gascoigne
Naomi Hurst (from 16 July)
Jayne Jenks (from 16 July)
Marion McClintock, MBE
Keith Roberts
Ian White - Chapter Clerk

Disclosure of Information to Auditor

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable group's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable group's auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Chapter and signed on their behalf by:

.....

Revd. Canon A S Horsfall
Interim Dean of Blackburn
Date: 16/09/2026

David P Gascoigne
David P Gascoigne (Sep 16, 2026 16:51:56 GMT+1)

.....

Canon DP Gascoigne FCA
Trustee
16/09/2026

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL CHAPTER

STATEMENT OF CHAPTER'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The Chapter are responsible for preparing the Chapter's 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 & Wales requires the Chapter to prepare financial statements for each financial which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and the Charity and of their incoming resources and application of resources, including their income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Chapter are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) 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 Group will continue in business.

The Chapter are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Group and the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and 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 Group and the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Chapter and signed on its behalf by:



.....

Revd. Canon A S Horsfall
Interim Dean of Blackburn
Date: 16/09/2026



.....

Canon DP Gascoigne FCA
Trustee
16/09/2026

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL CHAPTER

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Blackburn Cathedral Chapter (the 'parent charity') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 December 2025 which comprise the Consolidated statement of financial activities, the Consolidated balance sheet, the Charity balance sheet, the Consolidated statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is 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).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Group's and of the parent charity's affairs as at 31 December 2025 and of the Group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Chapter's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Group's or the parent charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Chapter with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL CHAPTER (CONTINUED)

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' report thereon. The Chapter are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Chapter's report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- the parent Charity has not kept sufficient accounting records; or
- the parent Charity financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Chapter's responsibilities statement, the Chapter are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Chapter determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Chapter are responsible for assessing the Group's and the parent charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Chapter either intend to liquidate the Group or the parent charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL CHAPTER (CONTINUED)

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:
Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations, such as the Cathedrals Measure 2021 and the Charities Act 2011;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the Cathedral through discussions with Trustees and other management;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the Cathedral's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures as a risk assessment tool to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- tested the operating effectiveness of key controls over key transaction cycles such as income, purchases and wages; and
- reviewed the application of accounting policies including the application of capitalisation of tangible assets.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation; and
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

Due to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing fraud or noncompliance with laws and regulations and cannot be expected to detect all fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL CHAPTER (CONTINUED)

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Cathedral's Chapter, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Cathedral's Chapter those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Cathedral and its Chapter, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

ArmstrongWatson Audit Limited
ArmstrongWatson Audit Limited (Sep 29, 2026 14:51:33 GMT+1)

Armstrong Watson Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Carlisle

Date: 29/09/2026

Armstrong Watson Audit Limited are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Endowment funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	*Total funds 2024 £*
Income and endowments from:						
Grants, donations and legacies	2	**162,083**	**903,874**	**150,000**	**1,215,957**	*949,897*
Charitable activities	3	**61,670**	**133**	**-**	**61,803**	*65,157*
Other trading activities	4	**557,481**	**-**	**-**	**557,481**	*521,904*
Investments	5	**165,654**	**5,036**	**-**	**170,690**	*148,146*
Other income	6	**3,588**	**-**	**-**	**3,588**	*11,018*
Total income and endowments		**950,476**	**909,043**	**150,000**	**2,009,519**	*1,696,122*
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	**524,428**	**22,313**	**-**	**546,741**	*493,096*
Charitable activities	8	**551,236**	**636,907**	**-**	**1,188,143**	*940,948*
Total expenditure		**1,075,664**	**659,220**	**-**	**1,734,884**	*1,434,044*
Net (expenditure)/income before net (losses)/gains on investments		**(125,188)**	**249,823**	**150,000**	**274,635**	*262,078*
Net (losses)/gains on investments		**(7,588)**	**(7,484)**	**98,706**	**83,634**	*9,945*
Net (expenditure)/income		**(132,776)**	**242,339**	**248,706**	**358,269**	*272,023*
Transfers between funds	21	**325,738**	**(175,738)**	**(150,000)**	**-**	*-*
Net movement in funds		**192,962**	**66,601**	**98,706**	**358,269**	*272,023*
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		**1,281,067**	**368,314**	**3,362,174**	**5,011,555**	*4,739,532*
Net movement in funds		**192,962**	**66,601**	**98,706**	**358,269**	*272,023*
Total funds carried forward		**1,474,029**	**434,915**	**3,460,880**	**5,369,824**	*5,011,555*

The Consolidated statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 21 to 51 form part of these financial statements.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL CHAPTER

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note		2025 £		*2024* *£*
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		**3,809,996**		*3,612,582*
Investments	15		**1,004,440**		*1,058,148*
Investment property	14		**483,400**		*483,400*
			5,297,836		*5,154,130*
Current assets					
Stocks	17	**25,138**		*53,182*	
Debtors	18	**172,513**		*148,415*	
Cash at bank and in hand		**348,550**		*183,838*	
		546,201		*385,435*	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	**(382,417)**		*(528,010)*	
Net current assets / liabilities			**163,784**		*(142,575)*
Total assets less current liabilities			**5,461,620**		*5,011,555*
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	20		**(91,796)**		-
Total net assets			**5,369,824**		*5,011,555*
Charity funds					
Endowment funds	21		**3,460,880**		*3,362,174*
Restricted funds	21		**434,915**		*368,314*
Unrestricted funds	21		**1,474,029**		*1,281,067*
Total funds			**5,369,824**		*5,011,555*

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Chapter and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Revd. Canon A S Horsfall
Trustee
Date: 16/09/2026

David P Gascoigne
David P Gascoigne (Sep 16, 2026 16:51:56 GMT+1)
.....
Canon DP Gascoigne FCA
Trustee
16/09/2026

The notes on pages 21 to 51 form part of these financial statements.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL CHAPTER

CHARITY BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note		2025 £		*2024* *£*
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		**3,780,352**		*3,595,693*
Investments	15		**1,004,440**		*1,058,148*
Investment property	14		**483,400**		*483,400*
			5,268,192		*5,137,241*
Current assets					
Stocks	17	**3,156**		*3,373*	
Debtors	18	**189,004**		*201,526*	
Cash at bank and in hand		**300,722**		*95,808*	
		492,882		*300,707*	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	**(328,986)**		*(413,064)*	
Net current assets / liabilities			**163,896**		*(112,357)*
Total assets less current liabilities			**5,432,088**		*5,024,884*
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	20		**(91,796)**		-
Total net assets			**5,340,292**		*5,024,884*
Charity funds					
Endowment funds	21		**3,460,880**		*3,362,174*
Restricted funds	21		**434,916**		*310,693*
Unrestricted funds	21		**1,444,496**		*1,352,017*
Total funds			**5,340,292**		*5,024,884*

The Charity's net movement in funds for the year was £315,408 *(2024 - £224,222)*.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Chapter and signed on their behalf by:

.....

Revd. Canon A S Horsfall
Trustee
Date: 16/09/2026

David P Gascoigne
David P Gascoigne (Sep 16, 2026 16:51:56 GMT+1)

.....

Canon DP Gascoigne FCA
Trustee
16/09/2026

The notes on pages 21 to 51 form part of these financial statements.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025 £	*2024* *£*
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net cash from operating activities	**507,731**	*69,855*
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	**(295,445)**	*(463,632)*
Proceeds from sale of investments	**194,192**	*62,146*
Purchase of investments	**(63,813)**	*(90,575)*
Rents received	**(112,245)**	*94,096*
Investment income received	**(58,445)**	*49,131*
Interest received	**3,588**	*4,919*
Net cash used in investing activities	**(332,168)**	**(343,915)**
Cash flows from financing activities		
Interest paid	**(10,851)**	*(20,644)*
Net cash used in financing activities	**(10,851)**	**(20,644)**
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	**164,712**	**(294,704)**
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	**183,838**	*478,542*
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	**348,550**	*183,838*

The notes on pages 21 to 51 form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Blackburn Cathedral Chapter 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.

The Consolidated statement of financial activities (SOFA) and Consolidated balance sheet consolidate the financial statements of the Charity and its subsidiary undertakings. The results of the subsidiaries are consolidated on a line by line basis.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the Chapter have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for at least the next 12 months. Thus the Chapter continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

1.3 Income

All income is recognised once the Cathedral has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Cathedral has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Cathedral, can be reliably measured.

Grants are included in the Consolidated statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Group to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Group's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Group; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

1.6 Taxation

The Cathedral Chapter is a statutory exempt charity under the Charities Act 2011 and, as such, is entitled to claim exemption from the charge to tax on income and capital gains as stated in section 258 TCGA 1992. Accordingly, with the exception of Value Added Tax and Employer's National Insurance, no liability to taxation arises.

Income is shown net of value added tax. Input value added tax is reclaimable on a percentage basis subject to partial exemption rules. All irrecoverable value added tax is included under the appropriate classification of expenditure, irrecoverable VAT on fixed asset purchases is capitalised within the cost of the asset.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation (continued)

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	- Not depreciated
Office equipment	- 20%
Computer equipment	- 33%
Other fixed assets	- 10% - 20%

1.8 Heritage assets

The Cathedral holds a number of heritage assets with historic and artistic value. The nature and scale of the collection and inventory belonging to the Chapter of Blackburn include:

- The Medieval Pax
- Blackburn Cathedral Archives
- Blackburn Cathedral wall monuments
- Blackburn Cathedral 20th Century Art works
- Mark Jalland's 'The Healing of the Nations'
- The Whalley Seals and Misericords
- Other artefacts, including the Saxon Hammer and ancient manuscripts
  management, and disposal of heritage assets are described in Section 24(1) of the Care of Cathedrals Measure 2011.

Note 16 of these financial statements gives further details regarding the age and history of the Cathedral, together with the insured value of the Cathedral buildings and its content.

The Cathedral inventory comprises of purchased and donated items over several centuries and these are retained by the Cathedral for religious, architectural, archaeological, artistic, and historic interest.

Valuation of the Cathedral Inventory is not deemed necessary for the day-to-day operation of the Cathedral. The quantity of items and the diverse nature of the collection would make valuation prohibitively expensive compared with the additional benefits derived by the Cathedral and users of the financial statements. As a result, no value is reported for these assets in the Balance Sheet.

Expenditure which is required to preserve or prevent further deterioration of individual items, is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when it is incurred.

1.9 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as ‘Gains/(Losses) on investments’ in the Consolidated statement of financial activities.

1.10 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.11 Debtors

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

1.12 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and 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.

1.13 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Cathedral anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Consolidated statement of financial activities as a finance cost.

1.14 Financial instruments

The Group 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 measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.15 Pensions

The Chapter contributes to a pension scheme for the clergy staff administered by the Church of England Pension Scheme. This scheme operates as an occupational pension scheme and contributions, at a rate determined having regard to actuarial advice, are paid into a separate fund in the trusteeship of the Church of England Pensions Board. Benefits arising from pensionable service are provided from that fund. The contributions to the fund by the Cathedral are charged to the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities as incurred, as the scheme is a multi-employer scheme, and it is not possible to identify the assets and liabilities relating to the Cathedral. These contributions are funded by a grant from The Church of England Church Commissioners.

The Chapter also contributes to personal pension schemes for selected employees, these costs are charged to the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

From 1 January 2016 Chapter operated an auto-enrolment pension scheme, in addition to those previously mentioned, for all eligible employees. The costs of this scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.16 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Chapter in furtherance of the general objectives of the Group and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Chapter for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Group for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

2. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	**Restricted funds 2025 £**	**Endowment funds 2025 £**	**Total funds 2025 £**
Donations	117,036	18,666	150,000	**285,702**
Legacies	5,777	76,000	-	**81,777**
Grants	29,037	809,208	-	**838,245**
Tax recoverable under Gift Aid	10,233	-	-	**10,233**
	162,083	903,874	150,000	**1,215,957**

	As restated Unrestricted funds 2024 £	*As restated Restricted funds 2024 £*	*As restated Total funds 2024 £*
Donations	*118,275*	-	*118,275*
Legacies	*40,000*	-	*40,000*
Grants	*63,362*	*715,151*	*778,513*
Tax recoverable under Gift Aid	*13,109*	-	*13,109*
	234,746	*715,151*	*949,897*

2. Income from donations and legacies (continued)

Grants in support of mission

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Endowment funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Church Commissioners' grants	-	557,019	-	557,019
Other revenue and capital grants	29,037	252,189	-	281,226
	29,037	809,208	-	838,245

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	*Restricted funds 2024 £*	*Endowment funds 2024 £*	*Total funds 2024 £*
Church Commissioners' grants	-	*463,167*	-	*463,167*
Other revenue and capital grants	*63,362*	*251,984*	-	*315,346*
	63,362	*715,151*	-	*778,513*

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Educational visits	9,164	-	**9,164**
Facility and other fees	41,465	-	**41,465**
Income from Blackburn Cathedral Trust	4,500	-	**4,500**
Other income	6,541	133	**6,674**
	61,670	133	**61,803**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	*Restricted funds 2024 £*	*Total funds 2024 £*
Educational visits	*10,666*	-	*10,666*
Facility and other fees	*35,837*	*31*	*35,868*
Income from Blackburn Cathedral Trust	*4,500*	-	*4,500*
Other income	*14,113*	*10*	*14,123*
	65,116	*41*	*65,157*

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

4. Income from other trading activities

Income from non charitable trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Catering income	1,341	**1,341**
Enterprise income	555,755	**555,755**
Trading income	385	**385**
	557,481	**557,481**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	*Total funds 2024 £*
Catering income	*1,504*	*1,504*
Enterprise income	*520,400*	*520,400*
	521,904	*521,904*

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Rental income from investment property	112,245	-	**112,245**
Income from other investments	47,789	5,036	**52,825**
Car park income	5,620	-	**5,620**
	165,654	5,036	**170,690**

5. Investment income (continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	*Restricted funds 2024 £*	*Total funds 2024 £*
Rental income from investment property	*94,096*	*-*	*94,096*
Income from other investments	*42,431*	*4,919*	*47,350*
Car park income	*6,700*	*-*	*6,700*
	143,227	*4,919*	*148,146*

6. Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	**Total funds 2025 £**
Other income	3,588	**3,588**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	*Total funds 2024 £*
Other income	*11,018*	*11,018*

7. Expenditure on raising funds

Fundraising trading expenses

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	**Restricted funds 2025 £**	**Total funds 2025 £**
Enterprise expenditure excluding wages and depreciation	268,106	9,563	**277,669**
Enterprise expenditure - wages and salaries	233,604	10,333	**243,937**
Enterprise expenditure - NI	15,337	1,750	**17,087**
Enterprise expenditure - pension costs	2,548	667	**3,215**
Enterprise expenditure - depreciation	4,833	-	**4,833**
	524,428	22,313	**546,741**

7. Expenditure on raising funds (continued)

	As restated Unrestricted funds 2024 £	*As restated Restricted funds 2024 £*	*As restated Total funds 2024 £*
Enterprise expenditure excluding wages and depreciation	*259,342*	*4,500*	*263,842*
Enterprise expenditure - wages and salaries	*194,951*	*19,046*	*213,997*
Enterprise expenditure - NI	*7,429*	*3,225*	*10,654*
Enterprise expenditure - pension costs	*1,575*	*1,229*	*2,804*
Enterprise expenditure - depreciation	*1,799*	-	*1,799*
	465,096	*28,000*	*493,096*

8. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	**Restricted funds 2025 £**	**Total 2025 £**
Ministry	61,866	502,333	**564,199**
Cathedral and precincts upkeep	227,521	35,330	**262,851**
Community, parish and congregation	18,939	-	**18,939**
Other expenditure	242,910	99,244	**342,154**
	551,236	636,907	**1,188,143**

8. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities (continued)

Summary by fund type (continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	*Restricted funds 2024 £*	*Total 2024 £*
Ministry	*42,180*	*411,120*	*453,300*
Cathedral and precincts upkeep	*198,987*	*36,155*	*235,142*
Education and outreach	*-*	*17,626*	*17,626*
Community, parish and congregation	*13,190*	*39*	*13,229*
Other expenditure	*197,384*	*24,267*	*221,651*
	451,741	*489,207*	*940,948*

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2025 £	**Support costs 2025 £**	**Total funds 2025 £**
Ministry	536,642	27,557	**564,199**
Cathedral and precincts upkeep	157,601	105,249	**262,850**
Community, parish and congregation	897	18,041	**18,938**
Other expenditure	5,450	336,706	**342,156**
	700,590	487,553	**1,188,143**

	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £	*Support costs 2024 £*	*Total funds 2024 £*
Ministry	*423,592*	*29,708*	*453,300*
Cathedral and precincts upkeep	*146,274*	*88,868*	*235,142*
Education and outreach	*17,626*	*-*	*17,626*
Community, parish and congregation	*654*	*12,575*	*13,229*
Other expenditure	*-*	*221,651*	*221,651*
	588,146	*352,802*	*940,948*

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Ministry 2025 £	Cathedral and precincts upkeep 2025 £	Education and outreach 2025 £	Community, parish and congregat'n 2025 £
Staff costs	453,644	-	-	-
Travel & entertainment	17,693	-	-	-
Repairs & maintenance	-	112,635	-	-
Musician fees	28,051	-	-	-
Cathedral insurance	-	44,966	-	-
Utility expenses	7,502	-	-	-
Music outreach project	-	-	-	897
Redundancy costs	29,752	-	-	-
	536,642	157,601	-	897

	Other expenditure 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Staff costs	5,450	**459,094**
Travel & entertainment	-	**17,693**
Repairs & maintenance	-	**112,635**
Professional fees	-	**28,051**
Cathedral Insurance	-	**44,966**
Utility expenses	-	**7,502**
Music outreach project	-	**897**
Bad debts	-	**29,752**
	5,450	**700,590**

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs (continued)

	Ministry 2024 £	*Cathedral and precincts upkeep 2024 £*	*Education and outreach 2024 £*	*Community, parish and congregation 2024 £*
Staff costs	*374,459*	-	*17,626*	-
Travel & entertainment	*20,131*	-	-	-
Repairs & maintenance	-	*90,697*	-	-
Musician fees	*29,002*	-	-	-
Cathedral insurance	-	*55,577*	-	-
Music outreach project	-	-	-	*654*
	423,592	*146,274*	*17,626*	*654*

	Other expenditure 2024 £	*Total funds 2024 £*
Staff costs	-	*392,085*
Travel & entertainment	-	*20,131*
Repairs & maintenance	-	*90,697*
Professional fees	-	*29,002*
Cathedral Insurance	-	*55,577*
Music outreach project	-	*654*
	-	*588,146*

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Ministry 2025 £	Cathedral and precincts upkeep 2025 £	Community, parish and congregat'n 2025 £	Other expenditure 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Depreciation	-	-	-	91,238	**91,238**
Advertising	3,203	-	-	-	**3,203**
Printing, stationery & postage	21,534	-	-	676	**22,210**
Telephone	-	-	-	8,345	**8,345**
Repairs & maintenance	2,535	-	-	-	**2,535**
Legal fees	-	-	-	16,866	**16,866**
Licences and permits	-	-	18,041	-	**18,041**
Utility expenses	-	94,648	-	-	**94,648**
Rates	-	10,601	-	-	**10,601**
Sundry expenses	285	-	-	17,445	**17,730**
Interest and similar charges payable	-	-	-	13,162	**13,162**
Computer expenses	-	-	-	16,184	**16,184**
Subscriptions	-	-	-	2,114	**2,114**
Investment costs	-	-	-	5,239	**5,239**
Accounting and audit fees	-	-	-	48,931	**48,931**
Consultancy fees	-	-	-	116,506	**116,506**
	27,557	105,249	18,041	336,706	**487,553**

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs (continued)

	Ministry 2024 £	*Cathedral and precincts upkeep 2024 £*	*Community, parish and congregat'n 2024 £*	*Other expenditure 2024 £*	*Total funds 2024 £*
Depreciation	-	-	-	*79,456*	*79,456*
Advertising	*7,647*	-	-	-	*7,647*
Printing, stationery & postage	*19,610*	-	-	*3,632*	*23,242*
Telephone	-	-	-	*8,096*	*8,096*
Repairs & maintenance	*1,989*	-	-	-	*1,989*
Legal fees	-	-	-	*3,456*	*3,456*
Licences and permits	-	-	*12,575*	-	*12,575*
Utility expenses	-	*76,902*	-	-	*76,902*
Rates	-	*11,966*	-	-	*11,966*
Sundry expenses	*462*	-	-	*14,171*	*14,633*
Interest and similar charges payable	-	-	-	*14,229*	*14,229*
Computer expenses	-	-	-	*13,439*	*13,439*
Subscriptions	-	-	-	*1,771*	*1,771*
Investment costs	-	-	-	*6,418*	*6,418*
Accounting and audit fees	-	-	-	*42,857*	*42,857*
Consultancy fees	-	-	-	*34,126*	*34,126*
	29,708	*88,868*	*12,575*	*221,651*	*352,802*

10. Auditors' remuneration

	2025 £	*2024 £*
Fees payable to the Cathedral's auditor for the audit of the Cathedral's annual accounts	**23,250**	*21,950*
Fees payable to the Cathedral's auditor in respect of:		
All non-audit services not included above	**2,625**	*2,500*

11. Staff costs

	Group 2025 £	*Group 2024 £*	Charity 2025 £	*Charity 2024 £*
Wages and salaries	**642,201**	*561,764*	**398,263**	*347,767*
Social security costs	**52,404**	*37,476*	**35,317**	*26,822*
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	**28,728**	*20,300*	**25,513**	*17,496*
	723,333	*619,540*	**459,093**	*392,085*

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year was as follows:

	Group 2025 No.	*Group 2024 No.*	Charity 2025 No.	*Charity 2024 No.*
Clerical - full time	**3**	*3*	**3**	*3*
Lay - full time	**11**	*18*	**10**	*13*
Lay - part time	**30**	*15*	**4**	*5*
	44	*36*	**17**	*21*

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	Group 2025 No.	*Group 2024 No.*
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	**1**	-

During the year one employee received a settlement agreement amounting to £28,616 which incorporated accrued leave, termination payment and employer pension contributions.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

12. Chapter's remuneration and expenses

Three members of Chapter were remunerated for their services in 2025. As authorised by the Cathedrals Measure 1999 and the Cathedral constitution, the remuneration (including pension contributions are paid in accordance with scales laid down annually by the Church Commissioners and the Church of England Pensions Board).

The three members received emoluments during the year as follows:

		2025	2024
		£	£
Revd. P Howell-Jones	Remuneration	**43,303**	41,755
	Pension contributions paid	**8,006**	8,513
Revd. Canon J Gaffin	Remuneration	**32,648**	28,796
	Pension contributions paid	**6,405**	6,175
Canon J Lawrence	Remuneration	**32,648**	31,346
	Pension contributions paid	**6,405**	1,228

These stipends are not included in the income and expenditure of the Cathedral, as these are paid directly to the clergy from the Church Commissioners. In addition these members received reimbursed expenses of £1,949 (2024: £5,524).

13. Tangible fixed assets

Group

	Cathedral Use Property £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Cafe £	Crypt Development £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
At 1 January 2025	**3,050,600**	**357,887**	**409,865**	**313,104**	**4,131,456**
Additions	**-**	**94,791**	**2,069**	**198,585**	**295,445**
At 31 December 2025	**3,050,600**	**452,678**	**411,934**	**511,689**	**4,426,901**
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2025	**-**	**168,707**	**350,167**	**-**	**518,874**
Charge for the year	**-**	**56,958**	**41,073**	**-**	**98,031**
At 31 December 2025	**-**	**225,665**	**391,240**	**-**	**616,905**
Net book value					
At 31 December 2025	**3,050,600**	**227,013**	**20,694**	**511,689**	**3,809,996**
At 31 December 2024	*3,050,600*	*189,180*	*59,698*	*313,104*	*3,612,582*

13. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Charity

	Cathedral Use Property £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Cafe £	Crypt Development £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
At 1 January 2025	**3,050,600**	**336,201**	**408,345**	**313,104**	**4,108,250**
Additions	**-**	**77,313**	**-**	**198,585**	**275,898**
At 31 December 2025	**3,050,600**	**413,514**	**408,345**	**511,689**	**4,384,148**
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2025	**-**	**163,910**	**348,647**	**-**	**512,557**
Charge for the year	**-**	**50,403**	**40,836**	**-**	**91,239**
At 31 December 2025	**-**	**214,313**	**389,483**	**-**	**603,796**
Net book value					
At 31 December 2025	**3,050,600**	**199,201**	**18,862**	**511,689**	**3,780,352**
At 31 December 2024	*3,050,600*	*172,291*	*59,698*	*313,104*	*3,595,693*

14. Investment property

Group and Charity

	Freehold investment property £
Valuation	
At 1 January 2025	**483,400**
At 31 December 2025	**483,400**

Clergy Court was valued as at 31 December 2023 by Lea Haugh Chartered Surveyors. The trustees believe that the value has not materially changed as a result it remains at the same value as 31 December 2023.

15. Fixed asset investments

Group and Charity	Listed investments £	Unlisted investments £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2025	**541,579**	**516,569**	**1,058,148**
Additions	**63,813**	**-**	**63,813**
Disposals	**(64,192)**	**(130,000)**	**(194,192)**
Revaluations	**88,322**	**(11,651)**	**76,671**
At 31 December 2025	**629,522**	**374,918**	**1,004,440**
Net book value			
At 31 December 2025	**629,522**	**374,918**	**1,004,440**
At 31 December 2024	*541,579*	*516,569*	*1,058,148*

16. Cathedral building and Inventory

In accordance with the guidelines for Accounting and Reporting Regulations for English Anglican Cathedrals, the Cathedral building, and Inventory are not included in the financial statements.

The building dates from 1824 and was extended in the twentieth century.

Cathedral Court is included in the financial statements.

All Cathedral buildings (including those in fixed assets) and their contents have an insured value of £37,072,000 (2024: £37,072,000).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

17. Stocks

	Group 2025 £	*Group 2024 £*	Charity 2025 £	*Charity 2024 £*
Goods for sale in shop and catering	**25,138**	*53,182*	**3,156**	*3,373*

18. Debtors

	Group 2025 £	*Group 2024 £*	Charity 2025 £	*Charity 2024 £*
Due within one year				
Trade debtors	**94,583**	*22,880*	**79,634**	*14,577*
Amounts owed by group undertakings	**-**	*-*	**40,388**	*67,465*
Other debtors	**22,135**	*67,900*	**21,141**	*67,133*
Prepayments and accrued income	**55,795**	*57,635*	**47,841**	*52,351*
	172,513	*148,415*	**189,004**	*201,526*

19. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2025 £	*Group 2024 £*	Charity 2025 £	*Charity 2024 £*
Other loans	**-**	*241,796*	**-**	*241,796*
Trade creditors	**173,112**	*129,889*	**166,035**	*64,559*
Other taxation and social security	**12,215**	*11,420*	**10,424**	*8,547*
Other creditors	**32,112**	*48,211*	**5,038**	*12,863*
Accruals and deferred income	**164,978**	*96,694*	**147,489**	*85,299*
	382,417	*528,010*	**328,986**	*413,064*

Included within Other loans is an amount of £Nil (2024: £150,000) from the John Booth Foundation. In 2025 the loan was converted to a donation.

20. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	Group 2025 £	*Group 2024 £*	**Charity 2025 £**	*Charity 2024 £*
Other loans	**91,796**	-	**91,796**	-

The Church Commissioners value linked loan is repayable in June 2029, together with the entitlement of the Church Commissioners to 22.5% of the proceeds from the sale of the underlying property, the property having been disposed of in 2016 to facilitate the funding of the Cathedral Court. The sum repayable to the Church Commissioners will be the redemption sum as at the point of sale of the underlying property plus RPI from that time until the date of redemption. This loan is included in Other loans. Interest is charged on the loan at RPI.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

21. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2025 £
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds						
Designated Funds	**143,542**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**143,542**
General funds						
General Funds	**1,137,525**	**950,476**	**(1,075,664)**	**325,738**	**(7,588)**	**1,330,487**
Total Unrestricted funds	**1,281,067**	**950,476**	**(1,075,664)**	**325,738**	**(7,588)**	**1,474,029**
Endowment funds						
Property	**2,681,099**	**150,000**	**-**	**(150,000)**	**-**	**2,681,099**
HC Haworth	**67,883**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**8,101**	**75,984**
Chadwick Memorial	**481**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**481**
Choristers Endowment	**26,456**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**580**	**27,036**
St Paul's School	**1,299**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**27**	**1,326**
General Purposes	**27,770**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**269**	**28,039**
May Abbott Trust	**557,186**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**89,729**	**646,915**
	3,362,174	**150,000**	**-**	**(150,000)**	**98,706**	**3,460,880**

21. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 January 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2025 £
Restricted funds						
Cathedral Music Trust	**9,588**	**-**	**(8,437)**	**-**	**-**	**1,151**
Centenary Fund	**47,900**	**100,621**	**(63,239)**	**-**	**-**	**85,282**
Crypt Development	**-**	**170,695**	**-**	**(170,695)**	**-**	**-**
Repair Fund	**281,276**	**5,717**	**(55,574)**	**-**	**(5,589)**	**225,830**
Vestments Fund	**2,025**	**14,449**	**(14,400)**	**-**	**(71)**	**2,003**
Music Fund	**27,525**	**95,944**	**(34,500)**	**-**	**(1,586)**	**87,383**
Organ Appeal	**-**	**19,666**	**(2,023)**	**-**	**-**	**17,643**
Safeguarding Support	**-**	**53,986**	**(53,385)**	**(601)**	**-**	**-**
Fundraising Support	**-**	**24,270**	**(19,828)**	**(4,442)**	**-**	**-**
Capital Projects	**-**	**15,803**	**(6,488)**	**-**	**-**	**9,315**
Salaries and Sustainability Fund	**-**	**407,892**	**(401,346)**	**-**	**(238)**	**6,308**
	368,314	**909,043**	**(659,220)**	**(175,738)**	**(7,484)**	**434,915**
Total of funds	**5,011,555**	**2,009,519**	**(1,734,884)**	**-**	**83,634**	**5,369,824**

21. Statement of funds (continued)

Funds Carried Forward

The Music Fund is being applied towards various musical objectives, including the promotion and performance of music to the highest attainable standard.

The Repair Fund is being used for repairs to the cathedral building and fabrics, including some related professional fees.

The Vestments Fund is being used for the repair and replacement of clergy vestments.

The Centenary Fund is the Church Commissioners support towards staff and related expenditure for the 2026 celebrations.

Cathedral Music Trust has given funding for the employement of a music administrator for two years.

The Organ Appeal was launched in March 2025 to raise £250k to restore the Walker organ.

The Safeguarding Fund is the Church Commissioners' support to improve critical vulnerabilities demanding urgent and comprehensive action following the publication of the Ineqe report, which concerned the safeguarding arrangements at the Cathedral.

The Fundraising Fund is the Church Commissioners' support to improve the financial stability of the Cathedral in the long term.

Capital Projects Funds are to be used for capital projects following the grant received to support fundraising.

The Salaries and Sustainability Fund is support from the Church Comissioners' and Blackburn Diocese towards the Cathedral's salary costs.

Fully Utilised Funds

The Margaret Kay Gift is to be used for items contributing to the adornment of Blackburn Cathedral, particularly furniture. As part of this work a refurbishment of the Bromsgrove Guild War Memorial has been undertaken.

Digital media fund - This is a sustainability fund to support digital media costs for reputation management.

Pinnacles Funding - The repair of pinnacles on the Lantern Tower

PA Upgrade system - To improve the Cathedral's sound system.

Changing places - To install a "Changing Places" toilet facility.

May Abbott - To be used to support buildings, repairs and maintenance. This was consolidated with the Repair Fund in 2024.

Crypt Development - Grants received to refurbish the crypt into usable space. The refurbishment is complete and the crypt space is available for charitable activities. The criteria of the funs have been met and have therefore been transfered to the unrestricted fund.

Outdoor Play Area - To create a play area in Cathedral Square.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

21. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	*As restated Income £*	*As restated Expenditure £*	*Transfers in/out £*	*Gains/ (Losses) £*	*Balance at 31 December 2024 £*
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds						
Designated Funds	*143,542*	-	-	-	-	*143,542*
General funds						
General Funds	*926,773*	*976,011*	*(916,837)*	*147,087*	*4,491*	*1,137,525*
Total Unrestricted funds	*1,070,315*	*976,011*	*(916,837)*	*147,087*	*4,491*	*1,281,067*
Endowment funds						
Property	*2,456,002*	-	-	*225,097*	-	*2,681,099*
HC Haworth	*67,549*	-	-	-	*334*	*67,883*
Chadwick Memorial	*481*	-	-	-	-	*481*
Choristers Endowment	*26,307*	-	-	-	*149*	*26,456*
St Paul's School	*1,292*	-	-	-	*7*	*1,299*
General Purposes	*27,701*	-	-	-	*69*	*27,770*
May Abbott Trust	*556,479*	-	-	-	*707*	*557,186*
	3,135,811	-	-	*225,097*	*1,266*	*3,362,174*

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

21. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	*As restated Income* £	*As restated Expenditure* £	*Transfers in/out* £	*Gains/ (Losses)* £	*Balance at 31 December 2024* £
Restricted funds						
Margaret Kay Gift	*7,064*	*-*	*-*	*(7,064)*	*-*	*-*
Cathedral Music Trust	*21,602*	*-*	*(12,014)*	*-*	*-*	*9,588*
Centenary Fund	*(2,281)*	*103,800*	*(53,619)*	*-*	*-*	*47,900*
Digital media fund	*-*	*3,179*	*(3,179)*	*-*	*-*	*-*
Pinnacles Funding	*10,220*	*-*	*-*	*(10,220)*	*-*	*-*
PA Upgrade System	*18,147*	*-*	*(4,829)*	*(13,318)*	*-*	*-*
Changing Places	*62,000*	*4,520*	*(11,655)*	*(54,865)*	*-*	*-*
Other Restricted Funds	*57,983*	*369,493*	*(356,425)*	*(71,184)*	*133*	*-*
May Abbott	*146,932*	*-*	*-*	*(146,932)*	*-*	*-*
Crypt Development	*-*	*215,000*	*-*	*(215,000)*	*-*	*-*
Repair Fund	*143,214*	*3,794*	*(33,076)*	*164,216*	*3,128*	*281,276*
Vestments Fund	*1,938*	*48*	*-*	*-*	*39*	*2,025*
Music Fund	*43,981*	*20,277*	*(37,621)*	*-*	*888*	*27,525*
Outdoor Play Area	*22,606*	*-*	*(4,789)*	*(17,817)*	*-*	*-*
	533,406	*720,111*	*(517,207)*	*(372,184)*	*4,188*	*368,314*
Total of funds	*4,739,532*	*1,696,122*	*(1,434,044)*	*-*	*9,945*	*5,011,555*

22. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2025 £
Designated funds	**143,542**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**143,542**
General funds	**1,137,525**	**950,476**	**(1,075,664)**	**325,738**	**(7,588)**	**1,330,487**
Endowment funds	**3,362,174**	**150,000**	**-**	**(150,000)**	**98,706**	**3,460,880**
Restricted funds	**368,314**	**909,043**	**(659,220)**	**(175,738)**	**(7,484)**	**434,915**
	5,011,555	**2,009,519**	**(1,734,884)**	**-**	**83,634**	**5,369,824**

Summary of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	*As restated Income £*	*As restated Expenditure £*	*Transfers in/out £*	*Gains/ (Losses) £*	*Balance at 31 December 2024 £*
Designated funds	*143,542*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*143,542*
General funds	*926,773*	*976,011*	*(916,837)*	*147,087*	*4,491*	*1,137,525*
Endowment funds	*3,135,811*	*-*	*-*	*225,097*	*1,266*	*3,362,174*
Restricted funds	*533,406*	*720,111*	*(517,207)*	*(372,184)*	*4,188*	*368,314*
	4,739,532	*1,696,122*	*(1,434,044)*	*-*	*9,945*	*5,011,555*

23. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Endowment funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	745,705	13,691	3,050,600	**3,809,996**
Fixed asset investments	91,926	179,721	732,793	**1,004,440**
Investment property	-	-	483,400	**483,400**
Current assets	1,000,015	241,503	(695,317)	**546,201**
Creditors due within one year	(271,821)	-	(110,596)	**(382,417)**
Creditors due in more than one year	(91,796)	-	-	**(91,796)**
Total	1,474,029	434,915	3,460,880	**5,369,824**

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	*Restricted funds 2024 £*	*Endowment funds 2024 £*	*Total funds 2024 £*
Tangible fixed assets	*931,483*	*-*	*2,681,099*	*3,612,582*
Fixed asset investments	*228,268*	*187,205*	*642,675*	*1,058,148*
Investment property	*-*	*-*	*483,400*	*483,400*
Current assets	*407,530*	*181,109*	*(203,204)*	*385,435*
Creditors due within one year	*(286,214)*	*-*	*(241,796)*	*(528,010)*
Total	*1,281,067*	*368,314*	*3,362,174*	*5,011,555*

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

24. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	Group 2025 £	*Group 2024 £*
Net income for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	**358,269**	*272,023*
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	**98,031**	*83,214*
Investment income	**58,445**	*(54,050)*
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	**28,044**	*(10,036)*
Increase in debtors	**(24,098)**	*(43,648)*
Decrease in creditors	**(53,797)**	*(94,251)*
Income from property	**112,245**	*(94,096)*
Interest	**7,263**	*20,644*
(Gain)/loss on investment	**(76,671)**	*(9,945)*
Net cash provided by operating activities	**507,731**	*69,855*

25. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	Group 2025 £	*Group 2024 £*
Cash in hand	**348,550**	*183,838*
Total cash and cash equivalents	**348,550**	*183,838*

26. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 January 2025	Cash flows	At 31 December 2025
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	**183,838**	**164,712**	**348,550**
Debt due within 1 year	**(241,796)**	**241,796**	**-**
Debt due after 1 year	**-**	**(91,796)**	**(91,796)**
	(57,958)	**314,712**	**256,754**

27. Pension commitments

The group operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the group in an independently administered fund. Contributions payable by the group during the year amounted to £28,728 (2024: £20,300) and have been recognised in the statement of financial activities. As at the balance sheet date there were £476 accrued contributions due (2024: £543).

28. Related party transactions

Blackburn Cathedral Developments, a company limited by guarantee, is controlled by the Chapter. The results and balance sheet of the company are consolidated in these accounts. The company made a deficit of £nil (2024: £2) during the year and had net liabilities of £30,105 (2024: £30,105) at 31 December 2025. There was no income or expenditure between the two companies during 2025 and 2024. It was agreed that the intercompany balance due from Blackburn Cathedral Developments in Chapter's own accounts of £30,150 would be written off during 2025.

Blackburn Cathedral Enterprises Limited is a company limited by shares and is controlled by the Chapter. The results and balance sheet of the company are consolidated in these accounts. The company made a surplus of £31,709 (2024: £70,092) before a distribution of £19,000 (2024: £13,000) to Chapter under gift aid was made and had net assets of £29,486 (2024: £16,777) at 31 December 2025. The accounts of the company include income from the Cathedral of £2,967 (2024: £3,559), expenditure of £29,969 (2024: £24,919) and the distribution under gift aid noted above. Included within debtors on the Chapter's own balance sheet is £40,388 (2024: £48,506) owed from Blackburn Cathedral Enterprises Limited.

The Chapter also paid £14,435 to a company connected to a member of the Cathedral Chapter for accountancy services (2024: £13,692). There was a year end creditor of £Nil (2024: £720).

The Friends of Blackburn Cathedral and Blackburn Cathedral Trust operate independently of the Chapter but are wholly for the benefit of the Cathedral. Income receivable from these entities in the financial statements.

	Friends of Blackburn Cathedral		Blackburn Cathedral Trust	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Gross Income	7,823	8,322	27,438	97,306
Net income before payments to Cathedral	5,284	6,119	15,058	80,275
Paid to Cathedral	21,795	8,180	59,500	164,600
Gross assets	118,903	135,855	36,368	78,236
Net assets	118,903	135,855	32,141	76,583
Amounts owed (to)/from Blackburn Cathedral Chapter	-	-	-	-

The financial statements of the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral, from which these figures are extracted, are unaudited but did receive an independent examination. The examiner found no matters to which he wished to draw attention.

The financial statements of the Blackburn Cathedral Trust, from which these figures are extracted, are unaudited but did receive an independent examination in 2024. The examiner found no matters to which they wished to draw attention. The 2025 figures are extracted from draft accounts yet to be subject to Independent Examination.

The Lantern Music Trust (Registered Charity no. 1203918) exists to provide a long-term endowment to support the music foundation. The Trustees are The Canon Precentor, and the Director of Music. Funds held at the end of December 2025 are £32,031 (2024: £29,323).

A close family member of a Chapter member was paid salary costs of of £33,457 (Gross) (2024: £28,320) in year end 2025, this was partly funded by Blackburn Diocese grant £29,149 (2024: £13,000).

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Final Audit Report 2026-09-29

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