Charity Registration No 272899

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Draft

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

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THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

President	Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Vice President	Father Slawomir Witoń
Trustees **as at 31 December 2024**	Andrew Hollingsworth(Chairman) Simon Johnson (Vice-Chairman) Elizabeth Gibson (Treasurer) John Green Monica Mbanefo Cliona Howell Evan McNamara (Co-ordinator from May 2025) Peter Sheppard Monica Whyte
Co-ordinator	Joseph Allen till 2 May 2025
Charity number	272899
Principal address	42 Francis Street London SW1P 1QW
Independent Examiner	Gibson Appleby 1-3 Ship Street Shoreham - by–sea West Sussex BN43 5DH

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THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The trustees present their report together with the accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 December 2025 which have been prepared in accordance with the Society's governing document, Statute and Statements of Recommended Practice.

Objects of the charity

Constitution: The Society's governing document is contained in the Objects and Rules, which were most recently updated in September 2021. The Society is registered under the Charities Act 1993, number 272899.

Objects of the Society: The principal object of the Society is to support the activities of Westminster Cathedral. Funds are raised to further this objective from membership subscriptions, donations, legacies and by means of a number of events approved and monitored by members of the Council, all of whom give their services on a voluntary basis.

Trustees: The Trustees, who are members of the Council, are listed below. The Society in Annual General Meeting (AGM) elects, from its members, Officers to hold the positions of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Honorary Treasurer, except if the administrator of the Cathedral is elected as Chairman he then has the right to appoint the vice chairman rather than that office being elected. The other members of the Council are also elected at the AGM. One third of the number of the Council, excluding the Officers and co-opted members, retire from office at each AGM. The members to retire are those who have been longest in office.

Review of activities

2025 saw the Friends run nine events in addition to the AGM. The year started quietly with quizzes held in March and May. In June we welcomed Fr Gerard Skinner to give a talk about the venerable Ignatius Spencer.

With the benefit of slightly more advanced planning we held six events between September and Christmas. We held three quizzes in September, November and December. On 29 September we hosted Orion Symphony Orchestra to perform Beethoven String Quartet No. 6 B Flat Major, Debussy String Quartet in G Minor. On 22 November we followed the Jubilee walk from English Martyrs Tower Hill to Westminster Cathedral. On 27 November we had a pre-Christmas party man events mainly in Clergy House library but with Carols by candlelight in the Lady Chapel.

An events committee was assembled under the chairmanship of Peter Sheppard. Advanced planning for 2026 resulted in eleven events being organised for the period from January to July 2026 which will be reported in the 2026 annual report and accounts with many more events to come between September and December.

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Fundraising

Our major fundraising activity of the year was through the Big Give. We carried out three Big Give appeals in 2025. At Easter and Christmas we appealed for funds to refurbish the windows in Westminster Cathedral Hall raising £98,710 towards this vital renovation. In July 2025 we raised £35,920 towards the cost of a new external candle store.

Trustees

The trustees, who are members of the Council, are listed below: -

Elizabeth Gibson
Andrew Hollingsworth
Cliona Howell
John Green
Benedict Jennings (resigned 2 July 2025)
Simon Johnson
Sandra McNally (resigned 2 July 2025)
Evan McNamara (appointed 2 July 2025)
Monica Nkechi Mbanefo
Peter Sheppard
Monica Whyte (appointed 2 July 2025)

Review of the financial position

During the year the Society generated income of £160,800 (2024-£202,192) and have incurred expenses of £10,065 (2024 - £19,660), thus generating £150,735 (2024 - £182,532) from operations in the year to support the work of Westminster Cathedral. Grants falling due in the year amounted to £166,363 (2024-£99,579) resulting in a net decrease in funds of £15,628 (2024-£ 82,953 increase). The accumulated fund has increased by £11,563 (2024 -£666 decrease) to stand at £65,169 (2024 - £53,606). The Society is successful in raising funds for specific projects within the Cathedral; raising funds to meet its own running costs has proved more difficult. The position has been balanced by reducing expenditure in particular replacing the part time paid coordinator with voluntary effort. Although the trustees consider the present position to be satisfactory, they continue to look at fundraising and measures to increase the membership of the Society to increase the unrestricted income.

Reserves

In order to continue to meet the running costs of the Society the trustees have set a policy of maintaining the accumulated fund at more than 12 months of administrative expenditure. At 31 December 2024 the accumulated fund of £65,169 represented 6 years of administrative expenditure. However, additional costs may be incurred as we enter the 50th year of the Friends. We cannot be certain that we will continue to manage without paid help and additional reserves of approximately £20,000 would cover replacing the part time paid co-ordinator for one year.

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Public benefit statement

The trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty under section 17 of The Charities Act 2011 to have regard to public benefit guidance published by The Charity Commission. The Council has referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and has planned The Friends' activities to avoid the granting of any private benefit other than a private benefit which is purely incidental to carrying out The Friend's objectives. The Council believes it has followed the Charity Commission's guidance in this area.

Westminster Cathedral is a very popular building attracting large numbers of visitors every day. Although its primary purpose is as the Cathedral for Westminster Diocese and as a busy city centre parish, many people from further afield and from other Christian denominations, other faith communities and of no faith use the Cathedral. It is an oasis of prayer, calm and spirituality in our busy city as well as an attraction due to the art and architecture of the building and the quality of its music. In supporting Westminster Cathedral the Friends help to provide a valued facility to the wider public.

Key management personnel

The trustees consider themselves as trustees and the director to comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating The Friends on a day to day basis. All trustees give of their time freely and no trustee received remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in the year.

The pay of the employee is reviewed annually and normally increased in accordance with the cost of living increases awarded to employees of the Archdiocese of Westminster.

Risk factors

The trustees have considered the major risks to which the Charity is exposed. These include a reduction in income, a drop in membership and the loss of records. The concerns are being addressed by fundraising, the programme of events, the campaign to recruit new members and procedures to back up computerised records. There is a particular risk of breach of data protection laws particularly with the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). The trustees consider they have adequately assessed this risk and taken the necessary steps to protect data and obtain consent to use data where the use is not justified by legitimate commercial interest.

Going Concern

The trustees have considered the future of the operation of the Friends. By the very nature of the operations most of the income of the Friends is raised from fresh initiatives each year. However, the trustees believe that all definite funding commitments are covered by designated and restricted funds held at 31 December 2024, On that basis the trustees have concluded that the Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral is a going concern.

A final thank you

I should like to conclude with my personal thanks to all those volunteers who make the work of the Society a success, to those members of the Council who now retire by rotation and to all Council members for the contribution they have made to the work of the Society.

On behalf of the trustees

Trustee Andrew Hollingsworth
Dated July 2025

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

STATEMENT OF TRUSTES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the society and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the society for that year.

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and,
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the accounts 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 charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 7 to 15.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

(1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or

(2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or

(3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Sarah Johnson FCCA ACA

Gibson Appleby
Chartered Accountants
1-3 Ship Street
Shoreham by Sea
West Sussex
BN43 5DH

Date: July 2025

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds Accumulated £	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Donations received	2	2,482	-	110,000	112,482	163,092
Interest receivable		652	-	2,878	3,530	3,720
		3,134	-	112,878	116,012	166,812
Incoming resources from charitable activity	3	20,149	-	24,639	44,788	35,380
Total incoming resources		23,283	-	137,517	160,800	202,192
Resources expended						
Cost of generating funds						
Cost of generating donations and legacies		35	-	-	35	35
		35	-	-	35	35
Net incoming resources available		23,248	-	137,517	160,765	202,157
Charitable activities						
Operating costs		6,578	-	-	6,578	13,819
Grants to Westminster Cathedral		1,655	-	164,708	166,363	99,579
Total charitable expenditure		8,233	-			113,398
Governance costs		3,452	-	-	3,452	5,806
Total resources expended	4	11,720	-	164,708	176,428	119,239
Net income for the year		11,563	-	(27,191)	(15,628)	82,953
Net movement in funds						
Fund balances at 1 January 2024		53,606	17,078	312,675	383,359	300,406
Fund balances at 31 December 2024		£65,169	£17,078	£285,484	£367,731	£383,359

An analysis of the above individual fund columns with prior year comparatives is provided in note 16

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Current assets					
Stock	9	**962**		962	
Debtors	10	**91,648**		102,915	
Cash at bank and in hand		**279,921**		286,461	
		372,531		390,338	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	**(4,800)**		(6,979)	
Net current assets					
Total net assets			**£367,731**		£383,359
Representing:-					
Restricted funds	12		**285,484**		312,675
Unrestricted funds	13				
Accumulated fund		**65,169**		53,606	
Designated fund		**17,078**		17,078	
			82,247		70,684
			£367,731		£383,359

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on July 2025

Trustee **Trustee**

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THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 Accounting policies

1.1 **Basis of preparation**
The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention.
The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued by the Charity Commission Charities SORP (FRS 102)), (October 2019 (2nd edition)) and the Charities Act 2011.

1.2 **Stock**
Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

1.3 **Life subscriptions**
Life subscriptions are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in seven equal annual instalments.

1.4 **Unrestricted funds**
Unrestricted funds comprise:-

1.4.a *Accumulated fund*
Being subscriptions and other income generated for the objects of the Society and are available as general funds.

1.4.b *Designated funds*
being amounts set aside and designated for specific purposes.

1.5 **Restricted funds**
being amounts received from donors or raised for specific purposes, where the restriction is legally binding on the society.

2 Donations received

	Unrestricted funds	**Restricted funds**	**Total 2024**	Total 2023
	£	**£**	**£**	£
Donations and gifts	**2,482**	**110,000**	**112,482**	120.853
Legacies receivable	**-**	**-**	**-**	42,239
	2,482	**110,000**	**112,482**	163,092

3 Incoming resources from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Subscriptions	**10,421**	**-**	**10,421**	10,806
Net income from events	**8,728**	**-**	**8,728**	3,221
Income tax recoverable	**1,000**	**24,639**	**25,639**	21,353
	20,144	**24,639**	**44,788**	35,380

4 Total resources expended

	Staff costs £	Other costs £	Grant funding £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Cost of generating funds					
Cost of generating donations and legacies	**-**	**35**	**-**	**35**	35
	-	**35**	**-**	**35**	35
Charitable activities					
Operating costs					
Support costs	**4,925**	**1,833**	**-**	**6,578**	13,819
Grants to the Cathedral					
Grant funding of activities	**-**		**166,363**	**166,363**	99,579
					113,398
Governance costs Support costs	**1,642**	**1,810**	**-**	**3,452**	5,806
	6,567	**3,643**	**166,363**	**176,573**	119,204
Total 2023	15,762	3,863	99,579	119,204	

Management and administration costs includes payments to the accountants of £1,200 (2024 - £1,200) for independent examination.

5 Grants approved and paid or due

	Total 2025	Total 2024
Grants to institutions Westminster Cathedral	£	£
Cathedral Hall window refurbishment	64,378	
Mosaic St Augustine	-	17,753
Cathedral Floor Refurbishment	100,330	26,406
Lighting Cathedral Sanctuary	-	300,000
Refurbishment Cathedral Hall Kitchen	1,655	55,420
	166,363	99,579

6 Support costs

	Charitable Activities	Governance	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Other operating costs	1.833	610	2,443	2,663
Independent examination	-	1,200	1,200	1,200
Staff costs	4,925	1,642	6,567	15,762
	6,758	3,452	10,210	19,625

7 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or expenses during the year.

8 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Co-ordinator	0	1
	0	1

Employment costs	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	6,567	15,762

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

9 Stock

	2025	2024
	£	£
Commemorative Silver Eagles	531	531
Broach on sale in Cathedral Bookshop	185	185
Prize for future raffle	25	25
Wine glasses	194	194
Drinks for use at future events	26	26
	961	961

10 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Income tax recoverable	58,239	61,617
Other debtors	33,409	41,298
	91,648	102,915

11 Creditors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Life Subscriptions creditor	-	100
Accruals and deferred income	4,800	6,879
	4,800	6,241

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12 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include the following restricted fund, representing donations given for a specific purpose which have not been spent by the end of the year:

		Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 January 2025	Donations received & fundraising	(Utilised)/ Realised	Transfers In / (Out)	Interest Allocation	Balance at 31 December 2025
	£	£	£		£	£
Mosaics Fund						
General appeal fund	62,257	-			573	**62,830**
St Patrick's Chapel	57,008	-			525	**57,533**
	119,265	-			1,098	**120,363**
Winter Night Shelter	1,031	-			9	**1.040**
Cathedral Fabric Appeal	1,635	-			15	**1,650**
Cathedral Communications	23,848	-			219	**24,067**
Cathedral Floor Refurbishment	113,281		(100,330)		1,043	**35,919**
Barry Lock Legacy Fund	42,239				389	**42,628**
Cathedral Hall Windows		98,720	(64,378)		-	**34,342**
External Candle Store		35,919			-	**35,919**
Memorial funds						
Altar Frontals	11,376	-			105	**11,481**
	312,675	134,639	(164,708)		2,878	**285,494**

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13 Unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2025	Movement in funds: Increase in funds during the year	Movement in funds: Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2025
	£	£	£	£
Accumulated fund	53,606	11,563	-	**65,169**
Designated funds				
Cathedral Lighting	17,078	-	-	**17,078**
	70,684	11,563	-	**82,247**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Fund balances at 31 December 2025 are represented by			
Current assets	87,047	285,484	**372,531**
Creditors amounts falling due within one year	(4,800)	-	**(4,800)**
	82,247	285,484	**367,731**

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THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONCLUDUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

16 Statement of Financial Activities Prior Year Comparatives by individual type of fund

	Unrestricted funds				Restricted funds	
	Accumulated		Designated			
	2024	2024	**2025**	2024	**2025**	2024
	£	£	**£**	£	**£**	£
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Donations received	**2,482**	1,519	**-**	-	**110,000**	161,573
Interest receivable	**652**	2,448	**-**	-	**2,878**	1,272
	3,134	3,967	**-**	-	**112,878**	162,845
Incoming resources from charitable activity	**20,149**	15,027	**-**	-	**24,639**	20,353
Total incoming resources	**23,283**	18,944	**-**	-	**137,517**	183,198
Resources expended						
Cost of generating funds						
Cost of generating donations and legacies	**35**	35	**-**	-	**-**	-
	35	35	**-**	-	**-**	-
Net incoming resources available	**23,248**	18,909	**-**	-	**137,517**	183,198
Charitable activities						
Operating costs	**6,578**	13,819	**-**	-	**-**	-
Grants to Westminster Cathedral	**1,655**	-	**-**	(132,922)	**164,708**	99,579
Total charitable expenditure	**8,233**	13,819	**-**	(132,922)	**164,708**	99,579
Governance costs	**3,452**	5,806	**-**	-	**-**	-
Total resources expended	**11,720**	19,660	**-**	(132,922)	**164,708**	99,579
Net income for the year	**11,563**	(666)	**-**	-	**(27,191)**	83,619
Net movement in funds						
Transfer	**-**	-	**-**	-	**-**	-
Fund balances at 1 January 2025	**53,606**	54,272	**17,078**	17,078	**312,675**	229,056
Fund balances at 31 December 2025	**£65,169**	53,606	**£17,078**	£17,078	**£285,484**	£312,675

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	31 December 2025	31 December 2024
	£	£
Cost of generating funds		
General fundraising	**35**	35
	£35	£35
Support and governance costs		
Salaries	**6,567**	15,762
Postage	**330**	320
Printing & Stationary	**1,005**	1,195
Telephone	**410**	448
Independent examination and accountancy	**1,200**	1,200
Insurance	**500**	487
Bank charges	**198**	213
	10,210	19,625

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