The Friends of Dorchester Abbey

Annual Report

and

Accounts

for the year ended
31 March 2026

Contents	Page
Trustees' Report	1-3
Statement of Financial Activities	4
Balance Sheet	5
Notes to the Accounts	6-8
Independent Examiner's Report	9

Registered Charity Number 275819

The Friends of Dorchester Abbey

Trustees Report for the year ended **31 March 2026**

Principal Office: Dorchester Abbey Rectory, Dorchester on Thames, Oxon

Objectives and Activities

The Trust was established in 1978 to raise funds for charitable purposes connected with Dorchester Abbey, including all associated buildings within the curtilage of the Abbey grounds. In particular, the Trust uses its income for all the restoration and repair of the Abbey furnishings, equipment, monuments, windows, organ, heating, electrical systems, lighting , ornaments and embellishments.

The Friends are neither a general funder of Abbey related activities nor a funder of last resort.

Anyone may become a Friend for a minimum subscription, currently £25 per annum or £350 for a Life membership. There is also a sub-group called the Beauforest Society. Beauforest members pay a minimum subscription of £140 per annum. Each subscription constitutes a donation to the Friends of Dorchester Abbey. The Friends meet periodically for social events and visits to places of historical interest.

Structure, Governance and Management

Trustees

The Trustees may be between five and twenty four in number. During the year the following served as Trustees:

Hon. President	The Rt. Revd Gavin Collins (Bishop of Dorchester)
Ex-Officio Trustees	Revd Jane Willis Mr Malcolm Lucas Mrs Catherine Paul (retired 4 May 2025) Mrs Jane Tudor (appointed 4 May 2025)
Trustees	Mr Richard Dick (Chairman) Mr John Taylor (Vice Chairman) Mr Stephen Dawson Mr Richard Farrant Mrs Stephanie Forman Mr Nick Jenkins Mrs Honor Juniper (Membership Secretary) Prof Ingrid Lunt (retired 22 May 2025) Mr Robert Plumb (Hon. Treasurer) Mrs Hilary Warburton (Hon. Secretary) Mrs Susie Williams

Achievements and Performance

The trustees thank Richard Dick's office for its secretarial during the year.
We are delighted to welcome Jane Tudor as an Ex -Officio support trustee. Mrs Catherine Paul retired as a trustee during the year and we thank her sincerely for her service.

During the course of the year the Trustees approved payments to the Dorchester Abbey PCC of £ 85,359
This unusually high level of expenditure supported among other projects leaded window light repairs, conservation work on the tower, guest house guttering, Abbey flooring as well as the upgrading the sound system.

Aided by a strong improvement in the Schroder Equity Fund Units investments appreciated by £ 2,053
during the course of the year.

Subscriptions rose 12% largely as a result of new life members.

General funds reduced as a result of the deficit of £54,492 for the year.
The designated funds for Emergency Fabric and the Edith Stedman endowment remained unaltered.

A well supported Beauforest service took place in November 2025.

Reserves Policy

The trustees have previously agreed to hold £50,000 as a designated Emergency Fund. The remaining funds are detailed as above.

Going Concern

The charity benefits from a regular income including from investments and subscriptions and having a strong capital base is well-placed to cover its expenditure. The trustees accordingly believe that the charity is a going concern for at least twelve months from the date of approving these accounts and for the foreseeable future.

Risk Management

Since the role of the charity is to raise funds for the restoration and repair of Dorchester Abbey the main risk is of a substantial decline in level of donations and income from investments.
The trustees aim to maintain a level of income consistent with the anticipated needs of the Abbey.

Public Benefit

In exercising their powers, the trustees continue to have due regard to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit published under section 17 of the Charities Act 2011. The trustees consider that, in helping to conserve the fabric of Dorchester Abbey, as laid out in paragraph one of Objectives and Activities, the Friends activities support the Abbey's ministry and therefore provide public benefit accessible to all.

Plans for Future Periods

The trustees intend to continue their present policies and practices in the period ahead.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

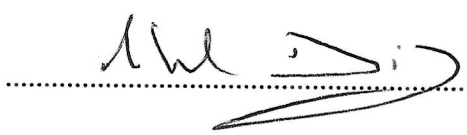
The charity's trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' Annual Report and Accounts in accordance with the applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees prepare the Accounts for each financial year. Under the law the trustees have elected to prepare the Accounts in accordance with Financial Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard' applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (FRS102) and the Charities SORP 2015.
The trustees must not approve the Account unless they are satisfied that they are a true and fair view of the state of charity and the income and expenditure of the charity for that period.

In preparing the Accounts the trustees are required to:

* select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
* observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2015
* make judgements and accounting estimated that are reasonable and prudent
* state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed
* prepare the accounts on a going concern basis

Approved and authorised for issue by the board of trustees and signed on its behalf



Date

Chairman

Friends of Dorchester Abbey
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended **31 March 2026**

		Unrestricted Funds				
			Designated Fund	Endowment Fund		
		General Fund	Emergency Fabric Fund	Edith Stedman	Total 2026	Total 2025
Income from:						
Grants and donations	2	197			197	4,344
Interest income	1	13,493			13,493	13,179
Investment income	1	3,948			3,948	3,555
Gift aid receipts		2,611			2,611	2,305
Subscriptions	3	11,153			11,153	9,898
Sale of goods	4	9			9	24
Total income		31,411	-	-	31,411	33,305
Expenditure on:						
Cost of generation funds						
Charitable activities	5	85,903			85,903	30,162
Total Expenditure		85,903	-	-	85,903	30,162
Net income before investment gains/losses		(54,492)	-	-	(54,492)	3,143
Net gain on investments	8	2,053			2,053	1,875
Net movement in funds		(52,439)			(52,439)	5,018
Funds brought forward 1st April		375,290	50,000	5,009	430,299	425,281
Funds carried forward 31st March		322,851	50,000	5,009	377,860	430,299

Friends of Dorchester Abbey
Balance sheet at 31 March 2026

	Note		2026		2025
Fixed Assets					
Investments	8		112,460		110,407
Current Assets					
Cash as bank		21,046		21,399	
Bank Deposits		242,053		296,193	
Debtors Gift Aid		2,300		2,300	
Net Current Assets			265,399		319,892
Net Assets			377,860		430,299
Charity Funds					
Unrestricted Funds:					
General Funds		322,851		375,290	
Designated Funds					
Emergency Fabric Funds		50,000		50,000	
			372,851		425,290
Restricted Funds					
Endowment Fund- Edith Stedman			5,009		5,009
Total Funds			377,860		430,299

These accounts were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Chairman

.....
Treasurer and Trustee

Dated 28 May 2026

Friends of Dorchester Abbey

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation of the Accounts

The Accounts 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 on 16 July 2014.

The Accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102 and the Charities Act 2011.

The Friends of Dorchester Abbey (former known as the Dorchester Abbey Preservation Trust) constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity

Designated funds are unrestricted earmarked by the Trustees for particular purposes

Restricted Funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure as specified by the donor through the terms of their fund raising initiative.

Endowment funds are funds given for permanent capital and are not spent for the purpose of running the charity.

Going concern

The charity benefits from a regular income including from investments and subscriptions and having a strong capital base is well placed to cover its expenditure. The Trustees accordingly believe that the charity is a going concern for at least twelve months from the date of approving these accounts and for the foreseeable future.

Income

All income is recognised in the statement of financial activities (SOFA) when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to specific categories of income:

a) Voluntary income received by way of grants, donations gifts and subscriptions included in full in The Statement of Financial Activities when receivable .
b) Income from investment funds is disclosed as investment income and included when received
c) Interest income due and paid from interest bearing deposits and bank account is included in the SOFA
d) Any resources from tax claims are included in the SOFA at the same time to which they relate
e) The value of any volunteer help is not included in the accounts

Legacy income

Legacies are included in the Statement of Financial Activity when receipt is probable, that is, when there has been grant of probate, the executors have established that there are sufficient and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliability. Expenditure is classified by activity. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered and is reported as the expenditure to which it relates.

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs of attracting volunteering income.

Charitable expenditure comprises grants made to Dorchester Abbey PCC furtherance of the charity's objectives.

Governance costs include those costs associated with the meeting of constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

Fixed Asset investments

Fixed assets investments are carried at market value at the balance sheet date. Revaluation gains or losses are recognised in The Statement of Financial Activities.

2 Income from grants and donations.

Grants and donations relate to the general donations given to support the work of The Friends and , if any, includes legacies. There were no legacies in the year (2025 £nil)

3 Subscriptions

The sums fluctuate and are treated on a "received" basis. In the current year subscriptions comprised

		2025
Beauforest Society	£ 6,265	£ 6,660
Friends	£ 4,888	£ 3,238
	£ 11,153	£ 9,898

4 Events and sale of goods

The sum comprises the net income from receipts from sales of books and John Piper and The Church catalogues. There were no events during the year.

5 Charitable activities

	2026	2025
Improvements and maintenance of the Abbey's facilities, ground and gardens	85,359	6,660
Insurance	544	3,238
	85,903	30,162

This expenditure is referred to in The Trustees' Report

6 Trustees' remuneration

No remuneration or expenses were paid to the Trustees during the year (2025 £nil)

7 Independent Examiner's Remuneration

No remuneration or expenses were paid to the Independent Examiner during the year (2025 £nil)

8 Investments

		Valuation		
	Cost	2026	2025	Change
CFB C of E Short Duration Bond Fund Units	27,501	29,487	29,074	413
CFB C of E Investment Fund Units	10,000	41,552	44,937	(3,385)
Schroder Equity Fund Units	10,000	41,421	36,396	5,025
	47,501	112,460	110,407	2,053

Friends of Dorchester Abbey

Independent Examiners Report to the trustees of The Friends of Dorchester Abbey ("the charit

I report to the charity's trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31 March 2026

As the charity's trustees, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 Act.

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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.

Signed .....

Peter Dragonetti ACA

Dated..... 2 July 2026 .....