# TRIRATNA BUDDHIST COMMUNITY IN BRISTOL

Charity registration Number – 900165

## Trustees' Report and Annual Accounts

## Year to 31 December 2025

# TRIRATNA BUDDHIST COMMUNITY IN BRISTOL

## Year to 31 December 2025

## Trustees' Report

**Legal and Administrative Information**

Charity registration Number – 900165

*Address* 162 Gloucester Road
Bishopston
Bristol BS7 8NT

*Trustees*
Trustees were in post for the whole year unless shown otherwise.

- Francis Self (Dharmachari Bhadra)
- David Zukas (Dharmachari Kulamitra)
- Sam Rawlings (Dharmacari Singhamanas)
- Christine Jackson (Dharmacharini Shraddhalochani)
- David Young (Dharmachari Simhanada)
- Will Elworthy (Dharmacari Kamalavajra

Full contact details are available on request.

*Bankers*

The Co-Operative Bank
PO Box 200
Skelmersdale,
Lancashire
WN8 6NY

Triodos Bank
Deanery Road,
Bristol
BS1 5AS

*Independent Examiner*

Clare Chapman FCA

Conscious Finance Limited
Fairways, Cole Road
Bruton Somerset BA10 0DD

# TRIRATNA BUDDHIST COMMUNITY IN BRISTOL

**Annual Report 2024**

**Introduction**

Bristol Buddhist Centre is run by the Bristol Triratna Buddhist Community. Our main activities are teaching the Dharma, or teachings of the Buddha at all levels and supporting around 140 Buddhists to deepen their practice. This report is about the spiritual community or sangha that meets and practices at the Bristol Buddhist Centre and what it has been doing during the last year.

During 2025 we ran a full programme of events, retreats and regular classes. We continued to offer meditation drop in classes for beginners and we ran introductory courses in Buddhism and Meditation. We welcomed

speakers and experienced teachers from outside Bristol, to run day or weekend events and we held a sangha festival in August. We offered in-depth study of the Dharma in five small groups, and weekend retreat opportunities for the whole sangha at introductory / intermediate level to five small groups. Donations held their level from the previous year and the rental income from our Healing Rooms business has increased and now pretty much matches pre-Covid levels. Numbers attending our introductory courses and drop in classes have been good. We have continued our work with schools, hosting visits to the Centre or going out to schools to deliver what they need.

One of our basic principles is that people need the support of a spiritual community if they are to make consistent progress on the Buddhist path. Supporting and building Sangha continues to be an important objective of the community.

**Objectives and Activities**

The primary object of the Centre is the advancement of the Buddhist religion, in particular by:

- Encouraging members and others to live in accordance with the teachings of the Buddha
- Supporting ordained members of the Triratna Buddhist Community and other duly ordained Buddhists at the discretion of the Council of the Association
- Maintaining close communication with and working under the guidance of the Triratna Buddhist order and in co-operation with other groups with the same objects, and
- Using applications of the Buddha's teaching to promote the health and well-being of all.

**Structure, Governance and Management**

*Governing Document*

The Triratna Buddhist Community in Bristol (Bristol Buddhist Centre) was registered with the Charity Commission (No. 900165) on 30 November 1989 under the Charities Act 1960, as a charity whose purpose is the advancement of the Buddhist religion. The Charity is governed by its constitution and is organisationally and financially independent from other groups with the same object.

*Appointment of Trustees*

The Board of Trustees is appointed at the Annual General Meeting of the Charity. Trustees serve for one year, when they become eligible for re-election. Trustees are deemed to be fit and proper persons, and members of the Triratna Buddhist Order. They are appointed according to our Constitution and appended policy for Trustee Council membership.

*Organisational structure*

Trustees meetings are held at least 6 times a year. The day to day running of the centre is delegated to a team consisting of both salaried and volunteer staff, overseen by the Chair.

*Appointment of a new Chair*

During 2025, Francis Self (Dharmachari Bhadra) announced his intention to retire, having served as chair for over 7 years. A selection process was entered into and a new Chair appointed at the Annual General Meeting on 2 November 2025, to take up her role in 2026

It was agreed that the existing Chair would step down at the end of February 2026 and the new Chair would take over from that date. The new Chair was not a trustee in 2025. She will join the body of Trustees when she becomes Chair in 2026.

**Achievements and Performance**

During 2025, the trustees believe that the Charity achieved its objectives in the following ways:

For newcomers:
40 Introductory Meditation classes, as drop-ins
2 Buddhism & Meditation courses. These popular courses provided a systematic introduction to Buddhism and meditation for a total of 79 attendees.

20 events specifically for younger participants (Sub 35)

For regular atendees:
40 Sangha (friends) drop-in nights attracting between 20 and 30 attendees per week,
40 weekly sangha meditation classes attracting between 5 and 15 attendees per week

For mitras (stated Buddhists practising in Triratna) there were regular Dharma training groups and events for those training for ordination.
In 2025 5 people became mitras and one person was ordained.

Close communication with the Triratna Buddhist Order and Community was maintained through the Chair and Mitra Convenors attending bi-annual meetings with their counterparts from throughout Europe, as well as participating in Triratna-wide events.

We celebrated the main Buddhist festivals.

**Financial Review**

*Principal funding source* – The Charity is self-funding and in 2015 it introduced a dana (voluntary giving) system, i.e. no charge is made for classes and events, enabling anyone to benefit from the Buddha's teachings, regardless of means. The Charity has promoted to members the opportunity to support the Centre through the use of standing orders and direct debits. This provides the Centre with clearer cash flow, which in turn enables a more structured programme of development.

The Centre also offers facilities to other groups for a fee, and rents rooms to complementary therapists.

*Reserves Policy* – The Trustees have requested that a sum equivalent to 3 months of normal expenditure should be held in reserve. Currently a sum in excess of this is being held, in anticipation of some refurbishment work to be carried out at the Centre in due course.

*Investment Policy* – The Trustees have considered the most appropriate policy for investing funds and have a deposit account with Triodos Bank, which has strong ethical principles which accord with Buddhist philosophy. Investing with Triodos will allow the Charity a modest amount of capital growth and also enable the charity to withdraw funds at short notice, if necessary, with little or no loss of interest.

**Future Plans**

Underpinning the objects of the Charity is the aspiration to support and inspire the Buddhist community of which we are a part. Next year we would like to widen the reach of the Centre's activities, and to offer meditation and introductions to Buddhism to community groups and contexts outside of the Centre building. We want to look at ways of better using the whole Centre space and increasing the number of classes we run.

**Statement of Trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual 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 and Northern Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 and FRS 102;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards 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 charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of 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 Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 16th August 2026

and signed on its behalf by **Dharmacharini Vimala Vajri (Chair)**

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

| Triratna Buddhist Community in Bristol | | | 900165 | CC16a |
|---|---|---|---|---|

# Receipts and payments accounts

| For the period from | 01 January 2025 | To | 31 December 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|

## Section A Receipts and payments

| | Unrestricted funds to the nearest £ | Restricted funds to the nearest £ | Endowment funds to the nearest £ | Total funds to the nearest £ | Last year to the nearest £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **A1 Receipts** | | | | | |
| Donations and gifts | 56,646 | - | - | 56,646 | 54,766 |
| Gift Aid | 7,868 | - | - | 7,868 | 9,764 |
| Classess and Courses | 10,953 | - | - | 10,953 | 8,214 |
| Rental income | 32,722 | - | - | 32,722 | 27,379 |
| Events and shop income | 1,194 | - | - | 1,194 | 1,030 |
| Other | 1,120 | - | - | 1,120 | 969 |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Sub total** (Gross income for AR)* | 110,503 | - | - | 110,503 | 102,123 |
| **A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).** | | | | | |
| Interest income | 912 | - | - | 912 | 1,323 |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Sub total*** | 912 | - | - | 912 | 1,323 |
| ***Total receipts*** | 111,415 | - | - | 111,415 | 103,446 |
| **A3 Payments** | | | | | |
| Administration | 34,932 | - | - | 34,932 | 32,711 |
| Staff costs | 66,277 | - | - | 66,277 | 66,653 |
| Governance | 4,598 | - | - | 4,598 | 4,275 |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Sub total*** | 105,807 | - | - | 105,807 | 103,639 |
| **A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)** | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | |
| | - | - | - | - | |
| ***Sub total*** | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Total payments*** | 105,807 | - | - | 105,807 | 103,639 |
| ***Net of receipts/(payments)*** | 5,608 | - | - | 5,608 | - 193 |
| **A5 Transfers between funds** | - | - | - | - | - |
| **A6 Cash funds last year end** | 72,659 | - | - | 72,659 | 72,852 |
| ***Cash funds this year end*** | 78,267 | - | - | 78,267 | 72,659 |

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

### B1 Cash funds

| Categories | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Bank accounts | 78,267 | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | ***Total cash funds*** | 78,267 | - | - |
| | (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s)) | OK | OK | OK |

### B2 Other monetary assets

| Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Other debts due to the Charity. | 2,331 | - | - |
| Recoverable gift aid | 2,545 | - | - |
| | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - |

### B3 Investment assets

| Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |

### B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

| Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tangible assets at NBV | 263,110 | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |

### B5 Liabilities

| Details | Fund to which liability relates | Amount due (optional) | When due (optional) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Other debts due by the Charity | 3,481 | - | |
| | | - | |
| | | - | |
| | | - | |
| | | - | |

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

| Signature | Print Name | Date of approval |
|---|---|---|
| Vimala Vajri | Vimala Vajri | 16-Aug-26 |
| | | |

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

# Independent examiner's report on the accounts

## Section A Independent Examiner's Report

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Report to the trustees/ members of** | Triratna Buddhist Community in Bristol | | |
| **On accounts for the year ended** | 31 December 2025 | **Charity no (if any)** | 900165 |
| **Set out on pages** | 6 and 7 | | |

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2025.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Signed:** |  | **Date:** | 29 July 2026 |
| **Name:** | Clare Chapman | | |
| **Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):** | Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland | | |
| **Address:** | Fairways<br>Cole Road<br>Bruton, Somerset, BA10 0DD | | |