Charity No: 205112

# CHRIST'S HOSPITAL OF ABINGDON REPORT BY THE GOVERNORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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## CHRIST'S HOSPITAL OF ABINGDON

Incorporating:	The Twitty's Almshouse Ch	
	The Tomkins Almshouse Cl The Abingdon Almshouse a	
	The Charity of John Blackn	
	The Charity of Richard Wrig	
Statutory and other information		
Co-optative Governors	Mr C E Birks (Master from	01.1.24)
	Mr L D King	
	Mrs G Butt (to 01.02.24) Mr K W Senior	
	Mr S J McConnell	
	Mrs J D Kent	
	Mrs A Saunders	
	Mr. S Workman	
	Mrs M Evans	
Ex Officio Governors	Rector - Rev Dr E C Miller	
	Mayor Cllr Dr G Lewis OB	
	Mayor Cllr G Barody (from	06.06.24)
Nominative Governors	Clir G Barody (to 02.05.24	
	Clir O Forder (to 05.06.24)	l i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i
	Cllr T Greenaway	07 0 A)
	Cllr C Sanderson (from 04 Cllr R Jehanli (from 04.07.	
	olii n benanii (ironi 04.07.	24)
Emeritus Governor	Mr M W Matthews	
Clerk to the Governors	Mrs A Acott	
Address of the Charity	4 St Helen's Wharf	
	Abingdon	
	Oxfordshire OX14 5EN	
Principal Bankers	National Westminster Ban	k Plc
	11 Market Place	
	Abingdon Oxfordshire OX14 3HH	
Solicitors	Challenor & Son Stratton House	Blake Morgan LLP
	Bath Street Abingdon	Seacourt Tower West Way
	Oxfordshire OX14 3LA	Oxfordshire OX2 0FB
Auditor	Crowe UK LLP	
	R+ Building	
	2 Blagrave Street	
	Reading	
	Berkshire RG1 1AZ	
Investment managers	Investec Wealth & Investn	
	Part of Rathbones Group	Pic.
	2 Gresham Street London EC2V 7QN	
Property managing egepte		awood House
Property managing agents	Orpwood Ltd t/a Adkin Orp School Road	
	Ardington, Wantage	
	Oxfordshire OX12 8PQ	
Registered Charity No	205112	

## CHRIST'S HOSPITAL OF ABINGDON REPORT OF THE GOVERNORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Governors present their annual report and financial statements of the Charity for the year ending 31st December 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the requirements of the relevant regulations issued under the Charities Act 2011, having regard to the applicable version of the Charities SORP.

### 1. STATUS, ADMINISTRATION AND CONSTITUTION

The Ancient Corporation of the Master and Governors of the Hospital of Christ of Abingdon ("Ancient Corporation") was created by Letters Patent of King Edward VI in 1553. Christ's Hospital of Abingdon is now a Registered Charity regulated by a Scheme sealed by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales on 25 January 1971. The charity number, present Governors and advisors are listed on page 2.

### 2. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Christ's Hospital is a Registered Charity regulated by a Scheme sealed by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales on 25 January 1971 and subsequent Orders of 1999 and 2002. The Governors perform their obligations under the Schemes for the constituent charities by applying the income of the Charity to provide charitable support to residents of the town of Abingdon in Oxfordshire and such part of the ancient parishes of St Helen, St Helen Without and St Nicolas, Abingdon as do not fall within the boundaries of the town. The Governors are able to extend the area of benefit to the immediate surroundings of Abingdon in certain circumstances.

During the year we said goodbye to The Reverend Dr Charles Miller who retired after 18 years service as an Ex Officio governor and Mrs Glynne Butt who had served as Governor for 20 years and Master from 2015, Mayor Cllr Gabby Barody was appointed as Ex Officio Governor, replacing Mayor Dr G Lewis OB Cllr O Forder resigned Clllr C Saunderson, and Cllr Rawda Jehanli were appointed as Nominative Governors. All newly appointed Governors are provided with a copy of the Scheme dated 25th January 1971 and subsequent Orders, a copy of the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the last financial year, the Charity Commission book (or email link) "The Essential Trustee" and access to a copy of the Almshouse Association book "Standards of Almshouse Management". They also have a briefing meeting with the Master and the Clerk. Governors are encouraged to attend the various seminars organised by the Almshouse Association.

At the Governors' Meeting in December 2024, it was proposed and unanimously agreed to renew the appointment of Mr Charlie Birks to be Master for the year commencing 1st January 2025. Mr Birks respectfully accepted.

Much of the work of the charity is carried out by the Governors-in-Charge, supported day by day by the Clerk, Finance & Admin Assistant, Almshouse Administrator and Park Keeper. Governors-in-Charge during the year were as follows:

Mr S Workman Mrs G Butt Mrs M. Evans Mr L D King Mr S J McConnell Mr K W Senior Mr C Birks

- Park & Gardens (from 01.06.23)
- Almshouse Residents (to 01.02.24)
- Almshouse Residents (from 02.02.24)
- Almshouse Property
- Estates (property)
- Finance
- Grants

## CHRIST'S HOSPITAL OF ABINGDON REPORT OF THE GOVERNORS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Governors delegate day to day responsibility for various aspects of the Charity's affairs to:

The Clerk	who manages the staff and the almshouse property portfolio, maintains the Charity's accounting and other records and carries on the administration of the Charity to comply with applicable laws and regulations. The Clerk also manages the Archivist who is responsible for the recording and safe keeping of material for the archives of the Charity.				
The Investment Managers	who manage the portfolios held by the Charity under a discretionary management mandate.				
The Property Managing Agents	who manage the investment property held by the Charity.				
The Chartered Surveyors	who advise on the structural integrity of the Charity's almshouse property to ensure a suitable standard is maintained.				

### 2.1 Scheme of Governance

Governors met on eleven Thursdays (including a strategy meeting) during the year to enable them to discharge their responsibilities. At these meetings, Governors receive reports from the Governors-in-Charge on their activities in the previous month which confirm, or recommend for discussion, actions to be taken in both the short and longer term. These written and verbal reports provide each Governor with the information necessary to discharge their duties.

The Governors retain responsibility for all key decisions, including approval of:

- The strategy and policies adopted by the Charity to achieve its charitable objectives.
- The annual budget.
- Major capital expenditure, including property acquisition and refurbishment.
- The annual financial statements.
- The appointment of residents to vacant almshouses.
- Under extraordinary circumstances the need to set aside a license to occupy an almshouse.
- Grant applications.

A framework of authorities is in place, which maps out the structure of delegation as well as specifying those issues which remain the preserve of the Governors. This framework emphasizes the key role of specific Governor responsibility in the exercise of executive control, subject to reporting and ratification by the Governors, as described above. The relevant individuals are identified earlier in this report on page 3.

- The Finance Governor monitors and reviews the Charity's financial and internal control as well as its investments.
- The Grants Governor receives, considers and evaluates applications for charitable assistance, according to the provisions of the Scheme.
- The Almshouse Property Governor oversees the management of both almshouses and health and safety matters relating to the almshouses and workplaces.
- The Almshouse Residents' Governor looks after the best interests of the residents and takes the lead role in the appointment of new residents.
- The Park and Gardens Governor oversees the management of Albert Park and the almshouse gardens.
- The Estates (Property) Governor oversees the management of investment properties to ensure rental and maintenance matters are dealt with in line with the Scheme.

## CHRIST'S HOSPITAL OF ABINGDON REPORT OF THE GOVERNORS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

#### 2.2 Related Parties and Conflicts of Interest

During the year various Governors are involved either as trustees or in the management of a number of voluntary organisations majority of which are in Abingdon, including:

- The Albert Memorial Trust (Registered Charity No 1076274)
- Abingdon and Witney College
- The Abingdon Bridge (Registered Charity No 1160080)
- Abingdon School (Registered Charity No 1071298)
- Friends of Abbey Buildings Trust (Registered Charity No 1183398)
- Friends of Abingdon Civic Society (Registered Charity No 1183397)
- Quest for Learning (Registered Charity No 1107219)
- St Michael's and All Angels' Church DCC
- Abingdon Town Council
- Friends of St Edmunds School (1096121)
- Fitzharrys Manor Estates Residents Association
- Sunningwell Poor's Land Charity (Registered Charity No 200725)
- Sunningwell Poor's Land Schools Foundation (Registered Charity No 285506)
- The Law Society
- Institute of Marketing
- Institute of Management
- Sustainable Dialogues
- Abingdon Surgery Patients Group
- The Mental Health Foundation
- Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
- Dunmore School
- Abingdon Learning Trust
- Riverside Collection Management (05662567)
- Manor Preparatory School
- Ewelme Almshouse Charity (200581)
- Pendon Museum (313614)

The Charity is also a member of the Almshouse Association to whom an annual subscription is paid.

The Governors have adopted a comprehensive policy to identify all transactions with related parties or other transactions which might involve any conflict of interest. These are detailed in Note 13.

#### 2.3 Remuneration

Our approach to remuneration is designed to ensure we can attract and retain the talented and motivated people we need to achieve our mission and deliver our strategic goals. It is applied consistently across the organisation. We aim to pay competitively in the not-for-profit sector within the context of affordability. We therefore consider factors such as salaries paid in comparable organisations.

No remuneration was paid either directly or indirectly to any Governor or connected person during the period under review. Reimbursement of expenses occurs infrequently and then only when Governors or staff are acting on Christ's Hospital or Almshouse Association business and only on production of a valid receipt and the completion of a reimbursement form.

#### 2.4 Insurance

The Governors maintain indemnity insurance of up to £1 million. The annual premium charged in these financial statements was £868.00 (2023: £868.00). The Governors fully recognise that this does not relieve them of their responsibilities.

#### 2.5 Risk Management Statement

The Governors have assessed the major strategic, business and operational risks which they believe the Charity faces. The external risks and exposure thereto are kept under constant review, together with the internal aspects of health and safety.

A risk management register is maintained and is reviewed annually to ensure risks are effectively managed by the Charity. The major risks and preventative measures in place are as follows:

#### Falling investment income

The investment managers, Investec Wealth and Management Ltd, manage the Charity's portfolio within agreed parameters (medium/high risk) which are monitored at least quarterly, and all Governors are provided with summaries of those reports. A representative of the investment company presents a formal annual report and discussion of the portfolio during at least one of the Governors' meetings, usually March. The investment company ensure that the Charity invests in 'defensive' stocks which remain mostly unaffected by economic variations.

#### Reduction in Commercial & Residential rental income due to voids

Adkin are a specialist property management company who manage the Charity's property and land and report monthly to the Governors, making recommendations as to the best way to maximise the return on the Charity's portfolio, whilst remaining within the remit of the Scheme.

#### Damage to Property, i.e. Fire,

The Governors seek professional advice on the risks associated with Almshouses and other property and install and monitor safety equipment and measures on a regular basis. In April 2015, a major Fire Safety inspection took place and as a result of this upgrades were made to fire equipment and policies. In September 2019, the local Fire Officer also visited and was satisfied by the systems in place and the supporting paperwork. In September 2021 Turner Fire Security Ltd were appointed to carry out a fire risk assessment the findings of which have been implemented during 2023.

#### Information Damage i.e. Fraud, cyber crime

The Governors have taken advice on prevention of information theft and regularly review the Charity's Fraud policy to reflect the ever-advancing ability of 'fraudsters' to gain access to sensitive information. In 2023 some older computer equipment was replaced to ensure the latest best practice for back-up and protection of information is adhered to.

As a result of a review into of our security and back up concerns a new IT consultant was engaged as of May 2024.

## CHRIST'S HOSPITAL OF ABINGDON REPORT OF THE GOVERNORS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

### 2.6 Public Benefit

In following the Charity's aims and objectives, Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance in complying with their duty in section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 on public benefit. The provision of almshouse accommodation for those in need provides an identifiable public benefit which is directly in line with the Charity's aims. Beneficiaries of almshouses must be in need and will be drawn from that section of the public which has been defined in the Scheme.

The Charity gives 'relief in need' through education grants and grants of domestic items to those who cannot afford them and fall outside the help of the local authority. This year they also gave a considerable number of substantial grants to local charities for specific purposes to benefit residents in our area of benefit. All the above are directly identifiable public benefit.

The Charity also maintains Albert Park, a park which is permanently open for use by any member of the public and easily accessible to all levels of mobility. This is also in line with the Charities scheme document.

### 3. OBJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

#### 3.1 Objects

The Objects of Christ's Hospital of Abingdon and its subsidiary charities were created to provide charitable support to residents of the town of Abingdon-on-Thames in Oxfordshire.

The Charity's strategy is to provide funds both for individuals and organisations to provide help and relief within the terms of the Schemes. This can only be achieved within the conditions at the time. The primary objective is the provision of almshouse accommodation. Funds are also available for the relief of need and education of residents within the area of benefit.

The Charity owns Albert Park recreation ground and its surrounding roads, and whilst the Governors fully recognise their responsibility for the maintenance of these, it does provide a major drain on the Charity's resources.

The Charity measures its success in several ways. It aims to achieve a 90% occupation rate for almshouses, to maximise the grants paid out and to adhere as closely as possible to its annual budget in all areas. The Charity is very proud of its commitment to keeping almshouses as up to date as possible within the confines of their listed building status (see 'The estate').

The Governors are pursuing the process of transforming Christ's Hospital of Abingdon into a Charity Limited by Guarantee (CLG). Blake Morgan solicitors are preparing the relevant documentation to present to the Charity Commission. They are conducting a review of what the Charity does and what land and property it holds, advising on how the process of transformation would take place.

A significant area of work emerged around the First Registration of currently unregistered land and how to manage this in order for it to come under the purview of the new CLG. Governors also embarked on a period of reflection and analysis of the Charity's areas of operation.

Transforming into a CLG presents the Charity with an opportunity to review its scheme to ensure it is meeting the need for effective and appropriate control. The resulting changes should provide security for trustees and a clear understanding for new trustees to quickly integrate in managing the Charity. It is hoped a schedule of the proposed scheme changes for Governors to consider and agree will be ready in the second quarter of 2025.

The Governors are now actively reviewing the sustainability of the Charity as a whole. A long term view is to be formulated to build in resilience to our many and diverse requirements

### 3.2 Grants

The consequences of the pandemic and cost of living crisis continue to be far more complex than first envisaged. Families and Schools are struggling with finances, organisations are finding it difficult to recruit volunteers. Our young citizens are struggling with a complex set of issues that is of considerable concern for their mental health and future prospects, especially in our most deprived areas. Provision of mental health and SEN support cannot cope with demand.

We have a good relationship with our 13 state funded schools, the majority have had a personal visit to discuss their issues, and are encouraged to apply for grants to assist with school activities, equipment, and student support. It has become very apparent a growing number of students are very resource intensive, we have been pleased to help by supporting schools in resolving very difficult situations by providing professional support for the students teachers and the family. The aim is to ensure all students have access to an education structured to their needs, whilst reducing the impact on the school as a whole.

We have been working closely with home school liaison/support staff, as well as County and District Councils, CAB and Health care providers, in relieving hardship. The Charity continues to provide help to individuals with Relief in Need payments for equipment and/or basic necessities such as cookers, washing machines, fridge freezers, furniture, carpets. Provisions to institutions tend to be more substantial and are usually for equipment to help them function and provide life skills for vulnerable people.

This year the charity has increased funding for vulnerable adults in training programs within various projects in Abingdon. Organisations as various as the, Be Free Young Carers, One Planet, Yellow Submarine, The Abingdon Bridge, as well as a number of youth sporting clubs, have all benefited from Christ's Hospital of Abingdon. We have pursued our proactive approach with some vigour in encouraging schools, and organisations with making grant applications to ensure they are aware of the Charity's capabilities and policies. The response not only to our generosity but also the ability to make where necessary swift decisions have been universally applauded. The gratitude expressed when on a number of occasions support has not been available from any other source reinforces our standing within the town. Numbers of grants and values can be found within Note 6 of the accounts.

### 3.3 The Estate

The Governors are proud of the Charities' ownership of several freehold properties in Abingdon that are of considerable historic and heritage interest. They are mindful of the inalienable nature of these properties and their duty to maintain them. The most important of these properties are shown here with their listing:

Long Alley Almshouses and Hall	1446	Grade I		
Brick Alley Almshouses and outbuildings	1718	Grade I		
St Helen's Wharf Almshouse	1884	Grade II		
St Helen's Wharf Office	1884	Grade II		
St John's Almshouses	1801	Grade II		
Tomkins Almshouses & Clock Tower	1733	Grade II		
Twitty's Almshouses	1710	Grade II		
Albert Monument (within Albert Park)	1865	Grade II		
Conduit House	circa 1500	Grade II		
Albert Park	Listed Victorian	Park		
The Exchequer Room (forming part of the Church of St Helen, Abingdon)				

Associated with these properties are furniture, fittings, historic artefacts and an extensive archive housed in a climate-controlled building known as the Liversidge or Muniment room, which the Governors view as both historic and inalienable.

### 3.4 Albert Park and Long Alley Garden.

The Governors are committed to maintaining Albert Park for use by the people of Abingdon. Challenges remain regarding climate change along with ecological responsibilities and dealing with the consequences of Honey Fungus. We continue to replace trees in the Park which have died, or been subject to vandalism, with species which are more resistant to changing climatic conditions. We also maintain the mature trees in the Park through a planned maintenance programme, ensuring dead branches are removed so as not to pose a risk to Park users during stormy weather.

#### 4. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE AND RECORD OF ACTIVITIES

The Charity has again had a successful year despite the impact on society caused by the many world conflicts and climate change as well as the financial challenges to the UK. Income from rent and dividends has held up compared to the previous year, but expenses have increased significantly, due to increased levels of grant awards and increased expenditure on property. The revaluation of property has resulted in an increase of £130,575. There was a very small movement on the Commercial Property due to a decreased life of lease at Mullards Way and there was approximately 2.5% increase on the total Residential Properties.

It was felt that it was not necessary to undertake fundraising, as the investment portfolio, and modest contributions from residents towards maintenance, continue to contribute significantly to the planned expenditure.

The Quinquennial maintenance program for Tomkins, Twittys, and Long Alley Almshouses has been completed along with the refurbishment of number 5 Tomkins.

Repair and cleaning of the stained-glass windows in Long Alley Hall has returned them to their former glory. This exercise although costly acknowledged the governors' responsibility to the Historical buildings of Abingdon, they were much admired on Heritage open day.

Due to the increased risk to internet security Governors have engaged a company to maintain our systems and strengthen resistance against attack.

As part of our desire to make the Charity fall in line with climate objectives the diesel tractor has now been replaced with an electric vehicle.

#### 4.1 Residents

The residents continue to have the benefit from an Almshouse Administrator, who not only acts as a good neighbour and takes an interest in their welfare but is a safety coordinator for all routine testing of alarms, water hygiene and minor repairs.

Residents benefit from regular visits, and gatherings when circumstances allow, or phone/email contact on a daily or weekly basis, depending on their needs.

The Governors are sorry to report that twice in 2023 they voted to set aside a resident's license to occupy their almshouse. One resident left their almshouse as requested in October 2023. In the other case the charity commenced the legal process to evict the resident and they finally left in May 2024.

### 4.2 The Estate

### Maintaining Heritage and Ensuring Safety

The Governors of the Charity are dedicated to preserving the heritage of our esteemed estate while managing the financial burden associated with maintaining our listed buildings. This report aims to outline the measures taken to maintain and improve the Charity's assets, ensuring the well-being of our residents and fulfilling our charitable objectives and safety obligations.

#### **Asset Maintenance and Enhancements**

#### **Renovations and Refurbishments**

The policy of the Governors is to ensure that each almshouse, as it falls vacant, is updated to a high standard ready for reoccupation. Notably, Five Tomkins has been completely renovated after twenty-two years of occupation. Additionally, Three, and Five, Brick Alley, as well as Two Long Alley were deep cleaned 6 long alley was redecorated and flooring replaced.

#### Quinquennial Work

Extensive quinquennial work was completed during the year, including significant repairs at Tomkins, Twitty's, St John's, and Long Alley. Important repairs and adjustments were also made to the stained glass windows at Long Alley, ensuring their longevity and aesthetic value.

#### Flood Management

In September, heavy rains caused flooding at Long Alley, necessitating emergency pumping and sandbagging. Continuous monitoring of river levels has been instituted to help prevent such occurrences in the future.

#### **Regular Maintenance Activities**

Scheduled maintenance activities, such as legionella and water temperature testing, boiler servicing and repairs, emergency lighting, and portable appliance testing, were carried out throughout the year. Our thirty-two almshouses and offices require constant attention to minor faults and accidental damage. The permanent appointment of a Park Keeper/Handyman earlier this year has significantly improved the timely execution of minor repairs, ensuring our residents' safety and comfort.

#### Fire and Security Measures

Fire alarms were triggered multiple times across different locations, often due to cooking incidents, resulting in fire brigade attendance in some cases. Additionally, security services were called to investigate personal alarm activations, which were either medical emergencies or accidental triggers. Minimal issues were reported with intruder alarms, with only a few false alarms.

#### Conclusion and Future Outlook

The Governors remain committed to the careful stewardship of the Charity's resources, ensuring the preservation of our assets while prioritising the safety and well-being of our residents. Through diligent maintenance and strategic improvements, we strive to uphold the integrity and heritage of our estate.

Looking forward, the Governors will continue to focus on both preserving the historical significance of our estate and enhancing living conditions for our residents. We will remain vigilant in our efforts to address any challenges promptly, ensuring that our estate remains a safe, welcoming, and well-maintained environment for all.

## CHRIST'S HOSPITAL OF ABINGDON REPORT OF THE GOVERNORS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

#### 5. FINANCIAL REVIEW

Our Auditors agreed that a professional revaluation was not necessary until 2026 therefore the Governor in Charge of Property, Mr S J McConnell conducted a review with their agreement to assess the current value of all Commercial and Residential Property and the Land. This resulted in an increase in value of £130,575 from the previous year. Professional valuations of investment properties will take place no less than every 3 years. In the intervening years the Governor in Charge of Property, using his considerable knowledge and experience, will undertake a review of values. From this review the Governors will decide if a formal, professional valuation is then necessary.

All transactions were deemed to be in the normal course of business and the Governors consider the Charity to be a 'going concern'.

Careful and conservative forecasts and budgets for the next year are prepared by the Clerk and Governors in Charge each November and reviewed at the December meeting of all Governors. The Charity's Governors (Trustees) feel that it is as well placed as it can be to meet significant refurbishment costs in the future. The net surplus for the year was £991,448 (2023: surplus £364,367).

#### 5.1 Investment policy

The management of the Charity's investment portfolio is conducted by professional investment managers under discretionary management powers delegated by the Governors, under broad guidelines set by the Governors. These guidelines have been reviewed during the year and currently require that the managers protect the value of the capital and income of the Charity in real terms over the medium term by seeking a balanced return between income and capital growth, avoiding elevated risk. At any one time, the portfolios may comprise fixed interest and equity investments within these criteria. Portfolio exposure to equites is limited to 90% of the total fund value. In the avoidance of high risk, the managers are instructed not to involve the Charity in derivatives trading, underwriting or off-market transactions. Where necessary, the allocation of income and capital is apportioned according to the figures at the start of the year.

The Governors continue to monitor administrative costs and fees. The Governors are content that they are continuing to avoid high risks. The Governors reserve the right to exclude companies that carry out activities contrary to their aims or from holding investments which might damage the Charity's reputation. This policy is reviewed with the investment company during their annual report to the Governors, usually in the May Governors' meeting.

In order to measure our performance, we review the total fund return against a benchmark fund return of similar risk status.

As reported above a detailed report by the investment managers is delivered in person to a full meeting of the Governors at least annually. The entire area remains under the continuing scrutiny of the Governors and the Governor responsible for Finance in pursuit of the risk control as outlined above. The portfolio on 31st December 2024 was £16,774,841 (2023: £15,626,841). The investments made a revaluation gain of £1,184,551 (2023: £860,386 gain). During 2017 the Governors took the decision to sub-divide the Main Fund into Capital and Income generating sub-sections to better leverage the asset to meet the ongoing costs. An agreement was made by the Governors to set up a separate Fixed Interest Fund (6.5M) to generate income for grants, this will be set up by Investec in January 2025

## CHRIST'S HOSPITAL OF ABINGDON REPORT OF THE GOVERNORS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

### 5.2 Reserves Policy

Christ's Hospital has historically financed its operations through income derived from its endowment investments. In recent years it has also received maintenance contributions from almshouse residents. Due to the limited area of benefit, Governors have decided it is not practicable to seek donations or benefactors on a significant level. It must be noted that the instability in world markets as a result of the war in Ukraine and the conflict in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories has led to a significant rise in inflation.

As such Governors realise endowment alone is insufficient to provide enough income. It has become necessary to maintain a level of reserves to finance future operations in the long term. They believe that total assets of around  $\pounds$ 20 million are required under current conditions. It is therefore the intention of Christ's Hospital to try to maintain investment assets at this level. The level will be reviewed as circumstances change.

Total funds held by the Charity at the year-end stood at £24,545,159 (2023: £23,553,711). The Charity's unrestricted funds, excluding designations and unrestricted fixed assets, stood at £9,730,018 (2023: £9,145,662) at the year-end. If the market value of listed investments that are held to generate income to support the Charity's activities is excluded from the above sum, the remaining free reserves are negative £11,144 (2023: £339,857 positive).

Free reserves are held for the following reasons:

- a) There is a significant cost to maintaining Listed buildings of which the charity has eight sets (noted under 'estates') plus a Listed Victorian Park (Albert Park). Whilst investment monies are put aside in restricted funds for the upkeep of the Almshouses and emergency use, it is unknown when an emergency may occur and whether it will be covered by available designated funds. Repairs to ageing Listed buildings are increasingly complex and costly.
- b) It is anticipated that the Conservation area already in existence around Albert Park may be expanded. This may bring additional expense and the need for specialist contractors' expertise as the Charity strives to maintain, to a higher standard, the newly designated dwellings which it owns in the surrounding area.
- c) Considerations are to be made shortly as to the future of certain leasehold properties which revert to Christ's Hospital control in 2037. There may be significant investment needed to bring them to an acceptable modern standard.
- d) the charity like to have the capacity to spend on grants over and above the budgeted level, whilst still maintaining the ratio for allocation of expenditure required by the Charity Scheme i.e. expenditure on grants cannot currently be greater than that on almshouses.

### 6. FUNDS

In addition to the unrestricted funds, which represent accumulated income available to the Governors for such purposes as they may decide, the funds controlled by the Governors fall into a number of classes:

#### 6.1 Permanent endowment funds

These funds represent assets which are permanent capital held by the Governors. The property within these funds comprises:

- Freehold land and buildings held for the Charities' own use.
- Freehold land and buildings held for charitable purposes, including almshouses and Albert Park
- Investments in listed securities and real estate.

Two further funds have been created by orders of the Charity Commissioners made on 21 August and 13 December 1984 to recoup endowment monies spent on the Albert Park service area and in connection with Mullard (Abingdon) Housing Trust, respectively.

#### 6.2 Designated fund

**Extraordinary Repair Fund** - This fund has been set up by the Governors in response to the Almshouse Association's guidance to have a fund for each group of almshouses to provide for the cost of extraordinary repairs, improvements or building of the Charity's Almshouses. The designated fund balance at the year- end was £632,692 (2023: £560,733) per Note 14.

#### 6.3 Restricted funds

These funds represent income and other assets which may be applied only for specified purposes. These amount to  $\pounds1,597,009$  (2023:  $\pounds1,446,758$ ) per Note 15.

#### The Charity of John Blacknall Church branch

Income payable to the incumbent and churchwardens of the Parish of St Nicolas applicable to the maintenance of the Church of St Nicolas, Abingdon.

### The Charity of Richard Wrigglesworth Education branch

Funds available to assist with the education of individuals under the age of 25 by way of exhibition, grant or towards preparing them for entry into a trade.

#### Almshouse branches

Funds for the provision and maintenance of almshouses and their residents.

#### **Relief in Need branches**

Funds are available to support people in conditions of need, hardship or distress either individually or generally.

#### Extraordinary repair funds

Funds created in response to orders of the Charity Commissioners to provide for the cost of extraordinary repairs, improvements or building of the Charities' almshouses and other property.

## CHRIST'S HOSPITAL OF ABINGDON REPORT OF THE GOVERNORS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

### 7. PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Governors will continue to comply with the requirements of the Charity's Scheme to provide almshouse accommodation, relief in need, educational support and the provision and maintenance of Albert Park. The Governors remain committed to their policies of maintaining the Charity's assets and particularly the historic nature of many of the buildings. In refurbishing the almshouses to first-rate standards, consideration is being given to the increased expectations of potential residents. The Charity is committed to making positive improvements to the condition of Albert Park and the park's workstation building, much has already been achieved.

The Governors are committed to changing the status of the charity from an unincorporated association to a Company Limited by Guarantee The Charity has supported people in the area of benefit for 470 years and it is the Governors' firm intention that this should be continued for the foreseeable future. They are taking active measures to ensure that the relevant local people are aware of the help Christ's Hospital can offer and that the size of grants offered has increased where appropriate and justified. The Governors are committed to the objective of providing charitable support to residents of the town of Abingdon -on-Thames in Oxfordshire for an indefinite period. Fundamental to the achievement of this objective is the maintenance of an effective system of corporate governance. This is concerned with the direction and control of the organisation and, in particular, with the role of Governors and the need to ensure an effective framework of accountability and risk management.

This report was approved by the Governors on 3 April 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

CBirks

Mr C E Birks - Master

## CHRIST'S HOSPITAL OF ABINGDON STATEMENT OF GOVERNORS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Governors 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 Governors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments 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 business.

The Governors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions, 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 Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Charity's constitution. 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.



Crowe U.K. LLP

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE GOVERNORS OF CHRIST'S HOSPITAL OF ABINGDON

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Christ's Hospital of Abingdon for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, 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 charity's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, 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 Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC'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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Governors' 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 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 governors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE GOVERNORS OF CHRIST'S HOSPITAL OF ABINGDON

#### Other information

The Governors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and 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 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

In light of the knowledge and understanding of the Charity and their environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Governors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities act requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Governors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

#### **Responsibilities of Governors**

As explained more fully in the Governors' responsibilities statement set out on page 13, the Governors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Governors 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 Governors are responsible for assessing the 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 Governors either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE GOVERNORS OF CHRIST'S HOSPITAL OF ABINGDON

#### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 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 auditor's 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.

Details of the extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, are set out below.

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

#### Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We identified and assessed the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements from irregularities, whether due to fraud or error, and discussed these between our audit team members. We then designed and performed audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks within which the Charity operates, focusing on those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The laws and regulations we considered in this context for the charity were the Charities Act 2011, together with the Charities SORP (FRS102) 2019. We assessed the required compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statements.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. We also considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the Charity for fraud. The laws and regulations we considered in this context for the Charity were Charity Commission regulations, General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Health and Safety regulations. Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Governors and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

We identified the greatest risk of material impact on the financial statements from irregularities, including fraud, to be within the override of controls by management. Our audit procedures to respond to these risks included enquiries of management, and the Finance Governor about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, sample testing on the posting of journals, reviewing accounting estimates for biases and reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE GOVERNORS OF CHRIST'S HOSPITAL OF ABINGDON

Owing 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, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, 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 non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

#### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's Governors, 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 charity's governors those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 charity and the charity's governors as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Crowe UK LLP

Crowe U.K. LLP Statutory Auditor Reading

Date: 1 May 2025

## CHRIST'S HOSPITAL OF ABINGDON STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments						
from: Donations	2	_	4,100	_	4,100	4.100
Investments	3	645,856	64,532	6,715	717,103	717,717
Charitable activities	-	•,	• .,••=	0,110	,	,
- contributions from Almspeople		221,057	-	•	221,057	219,868
Other		1,687	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	1,687	<u> </u>
Total income and endowments		868,600	68,632	<u> </u>	943,947	<u>942,056</u>
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	4	47,526	8,359	142,150	198,035	191,796
Charitable activities						
- Grants payable		466,090	18,241	-	484,331	532,777
<ul> <li>Provision of Almshouses</li> <li>Albert Park maintenance</li> </ul>		402,569	59,922	-	462,491	420,954
- Albert Park maintenance		114,218	5,854		120,072	<u>95,548</u>
Total expenditure	4	1,030,403	92,376	142,150	1,264,929	1,241,075
Net gains/(loss) on investments		691,202	121,515	499,713	_1,312,430	<u> </u>
Net surplus/(deficit)		529,399	<u> </u>	364,278	991,448	<u> </u>
Transfers between funds	14	<u> </u>	52,480	(107,437)		<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		584,356	150,251	256,841	991,448	364,367
Total funds brought forward		9,145,662	1,446,758	12,961,291	<u>23,553,711</u>	<u>23,189,344</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u> </u>	<u>1,597,009</u>	<u>13,218,132</u>	<u>24,545,159</u>	<u>23,553,711</u>

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The notes on pages 22 to 38 form part of these financial statements

## CHRIST'S HOSPITAL OF ABINGDON **BALANCE SHEET** FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	7	35,195	41,486
Investment properties	8	7,113,575	6,983,000
Investments	9	16,774,841	<u>15,625,841</u>
	-		
		23,923,611	22,650,327
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Debtors	10	183,890	132,512
Cash at bank and in hand		<u> </u>	<u>998,047</u>
		887,668	1,130,559
LIABILITIES:			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within			
one year	11	<u>(266,120</u> )	<u>(227,175</u> )
NET CURRENT ASSETS		621,548	903,384
TOTAL NET ASSETS		24,545,159	<u>23,553,711</u>
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY:			
Unrestricted funds			
General	14	9,097,326	8,584,929
Designated	14	632,692	560,733
		9,730,018	9,145,662
		0,700,010	0,170,002
Restricted funds	15	1,597,009	1,446,758
Endowment funds	16	13,218,132	12,961,291
TOTAL FUNDS	17	_24,545,159	<u>23,553,711</u>

Approved and authorised for issue by the Governors on 3/4/5 and signed on their behalf by CBCRS

Mr C Birks - Master

Kein Senior

Mr K W Senior - Governor

The notes on pages 22 to 38 form part of these financial statements

## CHRIST'S HOSPITAL OF ABINGDON CASHFLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Net cash used in operating activities (see below)	(1,044,702)	(926,624)
<i>Cash flows from investing activities</i> Interest, dividends and rents from investments Purchase of plant and equipment Purchase of furniture and equipment Proceeds from sale of investments Purchase of investments	717,103 - (2,220) 14,007,690 (13,951,771)	717,717 - (24,797) 4,626,583 (5,321,562)
Net cash provided by/ (used in) by investing activities	770,802	(2,059)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(273,900)	(928,683)
Cash and cash equivalent brought forward	1,064,558	1,993,241
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	790,658	1,064,558
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	991,448	364,367
Depreciation charges Dividends, interest and rents from investments (Gain)/loss on investments (Increase)/decrease in debtors Increase/(decrease) in creditors	8,511 (717,103) (1,315,126) (51,377) <u>38,945</u>	4,819 (717,717) (663,386) 14,988 70,305
Net cash used in operating activities	(1,044,702)	(926,624)
	2024 £	2023 £
Cash awaiting investment with investment managers Cash in hand Notice deposits (less than three months)	86,880 504,638 199,140	66,511 537,347 460,700
Total cash and cash equivalents (Note 18 & 19)	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The notes on pages 22 to 38 form part of these financial statements

#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### a) Accounting convention

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued in October 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

Christ's Hospital of Abingdon meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Christ's Hospital of Abingdon is a charity registered in the UK (charity number 205112) with its registered office at 4 St Helens Wharf, Wharf Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 5EN.

#### b) Going Concern

The Governors consider that there are sufficient reserves held at the year-end to manage any foreseeable downturn in the UK and global economy. The Governors consider there are no material uncertainties relating to going concern and continue to adopt the going concern basis, meaning the Charity has adequate resources to continue its activities for at least the twelve months from the signing of these accounts.

#### c) Income

Dividends and rents are accounted for in the year to which they relate.

Legacies and voluntary income are accounted for in the year in which they are received.

#### d) Expenditure

Grants awarded by the Governors are recognised in the statement of financial activities in the period that they are made to the extent that a legal or constructive obligation exists.

Almshouses and Almspeople costs are accounted for on an accruals basis in the year to which they relate.

Pension costs charged in the SOFA represent contributions payable by the charity in that year.

Included within charitable activities are governance costs, which comprise the costs of running the Charity, including strategic planning for its future development, also internal and external audit, any legal advice for the Charity and all the costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Support costs are allocated on the basis of time spent (15% Grants Payable, 75% Provision of Almshouses, and 10% Albert Park Maintenance).

### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

#### e) Grant making

The charity's grant-making process is informed by the best practices of peer organisations, and the Charity Commission's guidelines and recommendations.

Grants payable are payments made to third parties in the furtherance of the charitable objects of the charity. In the case of an unconditional grant offer this is accrued once the recipient has been notified of the grant award. The notification gives the recipient a reasonable expectation that they will receive the one-year or multi-year grant.

Grants awards that are subject to the recipient fulfilling performance conditions are only accrued when the recipient has been notified of the grant and any remaining unfulfilled condition attaching to that grant is outside of the control of the Trust.

#### f) Freehold land and buildings

Freehold land and buildings held for the Charity's use are included on the balance sheet at cost. The buildings are depreciated over 50 years on a straight line basis.

The Charity owns certain fixed assets which are historic, inalienable and form part of the permanent endowment, the more important of which are listed in the Report of the Governors. No reliable cost information is available for these assets and their heritage nature means conventional valuation procedures would be unreliable. The Governors have no intention to dispose of these assets in the foreseeable future.

#### g) Other tangible fixed assets

Furniture and equipment are capitalised when considered appropriate and depreciation is calculated to write off the cost over the expected useful lives of the assets concerned. A deminimus capitalisation limit of £1,000 is applied. The following rates and bases have been used:

Office furniture, fixtures and fittings	20% straight line basis
Office equipment	25% straight line basis
Park equipment	25% straight line basis

#### h) Fixed asset investment properties

Investment properties are included in the balance sheet at fair value. The Governors obtain an independent valuation at least every three years. Realised gains and losses on investment properties are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

#### i) Fixed asset investments

Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value.

Realised gains and losses on investments are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Investment income is recognised in the financial statements on an accruals basis when the charity becomes legally entitled to it. Investment income not directly attributable to a specific fund is apportioned to the various funds based on their opening balance position.

#### j) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of 3 months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

#### k) Debtors

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

#### I) Creditors and Provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

#### m) Financial instruments

The charity 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.

#### n) Leases

In respect of operating leases for which the charity is the lessor, the charity classifies the leasing of the investment properties as an operating lease. The rents received from investment properties are recognised in the financial statements for the period they relate to.

In respect of operating leases for which the charity is the lessee, rentals are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

#### o) Funds

#### Unrestricted funds

General unrestricted funds represent funds which are expendable at the discretion of the governors in furtherance of the objects of the charity.

#### Designated funds

Designated funds are amounts which have been put aside at the discretion of the Governors for specific purposes. Such purposes are within the overall aims of the organisation.

#### **Restricted Funds**

Restricted funds are those which must be applied in accordance with the purpose specified by the donor. Expenditure relating to these purposes is charged directly to the fund.

#### Endowment Funds

Endowment funds consist of investments. The purpose to which that investment may be applied is restricted in accordance with the terms of the endowment trust.

### p) Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

Governors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying value of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that has a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements is in respect of the investment property valuation. The charity's investment properties are stated at their estimated fair value as disclosed in Note 8.

### 2. INCOME - DONATIONS

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Albert Park - contribution		<u> </u>	<u>4,100</u> <u>4,100</u>	<u> </u>

### 3. INCOME - INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Equity dividends and interest	318,334	64,532	6,715	389,581	396,259
Bank Interest	44,469	-	-	44,469	30,372
Rents	283,053	<u> </u>		283,053	291,086
	645,856	64,532	6,715	717,103	<u>717,717</u>

### 4. TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED

2024	Direct Costs	Staff costs	Depreciation costs	Support Costs*	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost of raising funds						
Investment managers fees**	90,241	-	-	-	90,241	66,921
Property costs	<u>    107,794 </u>				<u>    107,794</u>	<u> </u>
		-	-	-	198,035	191,796
	198,035					
Charitable activities						
Grants Payable (Note 6)	466,274	5,667	1,277	11,113	484,331	532,777
Provision of Almshouses	288,144	73,010	6,383	94,954	462,491	420,954
Albert Park maintenance	91,322	20,490	851	7,409	120,072	95,548
Total resources expended	1.043.775	99,167	8,511	<u>113,476</u>	1.264.929	<u>1.241.075</u>
rotar resources expended	TIXIXIUX		<u> </u>			1,247,070
Support costs included with	in					
provision of Almshouses						
Audit	-	_	_	25,866	25,866	19,240
Office salaries	37,784	_	_	20,000	37,784	79,724
Office costs	30,940	_	_	-	30,940	24,658
Professional fees		_		13,522	13,522	7,850
Sundry	2,928	-	-		2,928	<u>3,449</u>
Currory	21320		#		220	
	71,652	_	_	39.388	<u>    111,040</u>	<u>    134,921</u>
						134,921

\* Support costs are allocated on an estimate of time spent administering the Almshouses. See Note 1d for details.

\*\* Investment management fees include 5 quarters this year (2023: 4 quarters). This corrects a historic timing difference.

### 4. TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED (continued)

2023	Direct Costs £	Staff costs £	Depreciation costs £	Support costs £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Cost of raising funds	~	~	~	~	~	<u>ک</u>
Investment managers fees	66,921	-	-	-	66,921	69.621
Property costs	124,875				124,875	289,982
	191,796	-	-	-	191,796	359,603
Charitable activities						
Grants Payable (Note 6)	516,794	11,958	723	3,302	532,777	319,362
Provision of Almshouses	275,006	98,729	3,614	43,605	420,954	281,175
Albert Park maintenance	<u> </u>	<u> 18,482</u>	<u>482</u>	<u>2,202</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total resources expended	<u>1,057,978</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	1,241,075	1.092.676
Support costs included withir	provision					
of Almshouses						
Audit	-	-	-	19,240	19,240	21,682
Office salaries	79,724	-	-	-	79,724	84,857
Office costs	24,658	-	-	-	24,658	21,329
Professional fees	-	-	-	7,850	7,850	
Sundry	3,449	<b>ب</b>	<u> </u>		3,449	<u> </u>
	<u>    107,831</u>		-	27,090	<u>    134,921</u>	<u>    133,801</u>

#### 5. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

Staff costs were as follows:-

	2024 £	2023 £
Salaries and wages Social security costs Pension contributions	132,352 12,987 5,502	118,113 6,043 5,013
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

No employees earned in excess of £60,000 (2023 - none).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Governors and the Clerk to the Governors. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel (including employers NI and employers' pension) of the charity were £46,673 (*2023: £44,269*). None of the Governors received any remuneration in the current or preceding year.

During the year no (2023: None) Governors were reimbursed expenses for making purchases on behalf of the Almshouses.

The average monthly number of employees was as follows:-

	No.	No.
Almshouses and Almspeople (1 full-time)	1	1
Albert Park (1 part-time)	1	1
Management and administration (2 full-time, 1 part-time)	3	3
	5	5

The charity contributes to the personal pension schemes for certain of its employees. The pension charge represents the amounts payable by the charity to the funds in respect of the year. £Nil amounts were outstanding at the year end (*2023: £Nil*).

There were no redundancy payments made in the year (2023: none).

## 6. GRANTS PAYABLE (Direct cost)

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Educational		
Charitable payments for nil (2023: 3) individuals	-	13,007
Charitable payments for 13 (2023: 11) educational institutions	284,180	254,086
Deliaf	284,180	267,093
<b>Relief</b> Charitable payments for 28 <i>(2023: 31)</i> individuals	39 634	21 000
Other social institutions 22 (2023: 27) institutions	28,624	31,092
Other social institutions 22 (2023, 27) Institutions	<u>    141,911</u>	205,784
	170,535	236,876
John Blacknall Church branch	11,559	<u> </u>
	466,274	<u>516,794</u>

### 7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold land and buildings £	Furniture & equipment £	Total £
Cost	74 400	10 100	100.000
At 1 January 2024 Additions	74,480 	49,180 2,220	123,660 2,220
At 31 December 2024	74,480	51,400	125,880
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2024	60,180	21,994	82,174
Charge for the year	1,300	7,211	8,511
At 31 December 2024	61,480	29,205	90,685
Net book values			
At 31 December 2024	<u> </u>	22,195	35,195
At 31 December 2023	<u> </u>	27,186	<u> </u>

#### 8. INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

Freehold land and buildings	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Valuation</b> At 1 January 2024 Revaluation	6,983,000 130,575	7,180,000 (197,000)
At 31 December 2024	7,113,575	<u>    6.983,000</u>

All properties were valued as at 31 December 2023 by professional valuers in accordance with the Appraisal and Valuation Manual issued by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors on the basis that the properties are held for investment purposes. A formal valuation of the investment properties is to be carried out every three years. In the years between formal valuation the Governors will assess the value of the investment property.

	Total £
Commercial	2,095,000
Residential	3,303,575
Freehold land (leased until 2025)	495,000
Freehold land (leased until 2037)	1,220,000
	<u>7,113,575</u>

The charity earns rental income by leasing its properties to tenants under non-cancellable operating leases. Leases in which substantially all risks and rewards of ownership are retained by another party, the lessor, are classified as operating leases. Payments, including prepayments, made under operating leases (net of any incentives received from the lessor) are charged to the income statement on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

At the balance sheet date, the charity had contracted with tenants to receive the following future minimum lease payments:

	2024 £	2023 £
Not later than one year Later than one year and not later than five years Later than five years	188,659 229,253 77,571	202,599 288,269 100,974
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

There are no contingent rents recognised as income.

## 9. INVESTMENTS

10.

	2024	2023
	£	£
Market value at 1 January 2024	15,559,329	14,003,965
Additions	13,951,771	5,321,562
Disposals	(14,007,690)	(4,626,583)
Revaluation gains	1,184,551	860,386
Market value at 31 December 2024	16,687,961	15,559,330
Cash awaiting investment	86,880	66,511
	00,000	00,511
Total as at 31 December 2024	<u>    16,774,841 </u>	<u>    15,625,841</u>
*Historical costs of investments at 31 December 2024	15,930,392	<u>    10,239,077</u>
The year-end market value is made up as follows:		
UK fixed interest	1,356,070	881,890
UK equities	1,196,030	5,091,076
Overseas fixed interest	415,496	422,405
Overseas equities	11,462,527	6,727,469
Other assets	1,787,796	1,501,446
Cash and accrued interest	556,922	1,001,555
	<u>    16,774,841 </u>	<u>15,625,841</u>
DEBTORS		
	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	1/7 090	100 860
	147,239	109,869
Prepayments and accrued income	36,651	22,643
	<u> </u>	<u>132,512</u>

#### 11. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

Ĵ	2024 2023 £ £
Trade creditors Accruals	<b>38,358</b> 58,407 <b>227,762</b> 168,768
	<u> </u>
. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS	2024 2023 £ £
Basic financial assets Basic financial liabilities	<b>17,662,509</b> <i>16,756,400</i> <b>(266,120)</b> <i>(227,175)</i>

Basic financial assets are all investments (excluding investment properties), debtors plus cash in hand minus prepayments.

Basic financial liabilities are all creditors less due in less than one year plus creditors due in more than one year minus taxation payable.

The entity's income, expense, gains and losses in respect of financial instruments are summarised below:

	2024 £	2023 £
Total dividend and interest income for basic financial assets	434,050	426,631
Total gains/(losses) in respect of basic financial assets	1,184,551	860,386

#### 13. RELATED PARTIES

12.

One Governor (Mr K W Senior) is trustees of the Albert Memorial Trust (Abingdon) Charity (Registered Charity no. 1076274) to whom the Charity paid £1000 (2023: £1,000) and whom granted £716 (2023: £609) during the year to cover the insurance costs of the memorial in Albert Park, Abingdon.

Six Governors (Cllr Mrs G Barody, Cllr Mr T Greenaway, Cllr Sanderson, Cllr O Forder, Mayor Cllr Dr G Lewis OBE and Cllr Jehanli) are members of the Abingdon Town Council which granted the Charity £500 (2023: £4,100) during the year towards a town council meal for Christmas.

Two Governors (Mr L King and Cllr Mrs G Barody) are Trustee of The Abingdon Bridge (Registered Charity no. 1160080) which offers young people advice and counselling. During the year the Charity granted £44,360 (2023: £45,439) towards supporting their services to the people of Abingdon.

Two Governors (Mrs A Saunders and Mayor Cllr Dr G Lewis OBE) have links to St Edmunds School to whom which the charity paid £74,905 (2023: £32,260) during the year to support various activities.

One Governor (Mrs G Lewis) has links to St Nicholas Church to whom which the charity paid £11,559 during the year to support various activities.

### 13. **RELATED PARTIES (continued)**

One Governor (Rev Dr E C Miller – Left Oct 2024) is a trustee of St Nicholas School to whom which the charity paid £18,104 during the year to support various activities.

One Governor (Mr K W Senior) is Governor at Abingdon School to whom which the charity paid £1,000 during the year (2023: £nil) to support the provision of Robocon laptops.

A close family member of one of the governors (Mr S Workman) is employed by Dunmore School to whom which the charity paid £1,700 during the year to support various activities and school trips.

#### 14. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 January 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains £	Transfers £	At 31 December 2024 £
Designated fur - extraordinary repair fund General funds	nds 560,733 8,584,929	13,557 855,043	(3,140) (1,027,263)	45,671 645,531	15,871 <u>39,086</u>	632,692 9.097,326
	<u>9,145,662</u>	<u> </u>	<u>(1,027,203</u> )	<u>691,202</u>	<u>54,957</u>	9,730,018

#### Extraordinary Repair Fund

This fund has been set up by the Governors in response of the Almshouse Association's guidance to have a fund for each Almshouse to provide for the cost of extraordinary repairs, improvements or building of the charities' Almshouses.

#### **Property Capital Fund**

A temporary endowment fund was created, pursuant to an order of the Charity Commissioners sealed on 16 October 1972, in respect of the property known as South Abingdon Community Centre. This property was sold during the year ended 31 December 2000 and the proceeds were used to open a Property Capital Fund which has now been transferred to general funds.

#### Transfers

The transfer from General Fund to Extraordinary Repair Fund is made in accordance with the recommendations of the Almshouse Association. The charity has transferred in excess of the minimum required and varies depending on the Governors best estimate of the state and costs required for that set of Almshouses.

Transfer from the Property Capital Fund to General fund is in order to release this designated fund which is deemed no longer required by the Governors.

The transfer from General Funds to the Endowment Recoupment Funds is in accordance with the Recoupment Orders.

15. RESTRICTED FUNI						
	At 1					At 31
	January 2024	Incoming	Resources	Gains/	Transfers	December 2024
		resources	expended	(Losses)		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Albert Park grant	-	4,100	(4,100)	-	-	-
Fielding Alms House Legacy	-	50,000	(50,000)	-	-	-
Conduit House Restoration		(53, 333)	50.000			
Grant	-	<u>    (50,000</u> )	50,000			
	~	4,100	(4,100)	-	-	-
John Blacknall						
Church branch	12,162	-	(11,559)	(581)	1,704	1,726
Relief in need branch	<u>466,965</u>	30,498	<u>(10,395</u> )	40,824	<u>     18,868</u>	546,760
	479,127	30,498	(21,954)	40,243	20,572	548,486
<b>Richard Wrigglesworth</b>						
Relief in need branch	114,195	5,958	(8,276)	9,496	4,517	125,890
Education	<u> </u>	2,262	(258)	3,753	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
_	157,736	8,220	(8,534)	13,249	6,032	176,703
Abingdon Almshouse						
Almshouse branch	264,156	9,409	(5,348)	22,577	7,697	298,491
Extraordinary repair	230,367	5,627	(1,304)	18,958	6,341	259,989
Relief in need branch	<u>(68,745)</u>	(309)	(10,277)	<u>(5,774</u> )	(968)	<u>(86,073)</u>
	425,778	14,727	(16,929)	35,761	13,070	472,407
Tomkins Almshouse						
Almshouse branch	157,002	5,394	(25,741)	14,670	3,925	155,250
Extraordinary repair	<u>136,961</u>	2,974	(689)	<u>    10,021</u>	4,919	154,186
	293,963	8,368	(26,430)	24,691	8,844	309,436
Twitty's Almshouse						·
Almshouse branch	(52,692)	(757)	(13,624)	(4,133)	(16)	(71,222)
Extraordinary repair	141,974	3,454	(800)	11,631	3,955	160,214
Legacy	872	22	<u>(5</u> )	73	23	985
	<u> </u>	2,719	(14,429)	7,571	3,962	<u> </u>
Total restricted funds	<u>1,446,758</u>	68,632	<u>(92,376</u> )	<u>    121,515</u>	52,480	<u>1,597,009</u>

#### Almshouse branches

Funds for the provision and maintenance of almshouses and their residents.

#### **Relief in Need branches**

Funds available to support people in conditions of need, hardship or distress either individually or generally.

### Extraordinary repair fund

Funds created in response to orders of the Charity Commissioners to provide for the cost of extraordinary repairs, improvements or building of the charities' almshouses and other property.

### 15. RESTRICTED FUNDS (Continued)

### The Charity of John Blacknall - Church branch

Income payable to the Incumbent and Churchwardens of the Parish of St Nicolas applicable to the maintenance of the Church of St Nicolas, Abingdon.

#### The Charity of Richard Wrigglesworth

Education Branch Funds available to assist with the Education of individuals under the age of 25 by way of exhibition, grant or towards preparing them for entry into a trade.

#### Transfers

The transfers to John Blacknall Church Branch and the Richard Wigglesworth Education Fund are made to meet the requirements of the Scheme of that Charity.

Transfers from Almshouse funds to Extraordinary Repair Funds are made in accordance with the recommendations of the Almshouse Association. The charity has transferred in excess of the minimum required and varies depending on the Governors best estimate of the state and costs required for that set of Almshouses.

#### 16. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

10. ENDOWMENT FU						
	At 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains/ (Losses)	Transfers	At 31 December 2024
				()		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Christ's Hospital</b> Permanent Capital recoupment	11,547,585	-	(108,442)	381,210	(113,147)	11,707,206
- Order A - Order B	195,711 76,430	4,827 <u>1,888</u>	(4,626) (1,809)	16,263 6,359	2,541 <u>985</u>	214,716 <u>83,853</u>
	11,819,726	6,715	(114,877)	403,832	(109,621)	12,005,775
<b>John Blacknall</b> Permanent	744,136	-	(17,779)	62,501	1,423	790,281
Richard Wigglesworth Permanent						
- General	125,929	-	(3,009)	10,577	241	133,738
- Education	46,053	-	(1,100)	3,868	87	48,908
	171,982	-	(4,109)	14,445	328	182,646
Abingdon Almshouse						·
Permanent - Almshouse branch - Relief in need	108,593	-	(2,594)	9,121	208	115,328
branch	56,356		<u>(1,346</u> )	4,733	108	59,851
Tomkins Almshouse	164,949	-	(3,940)	13,854	316	175,179
Permanent	41,672		<u>(996</u> )	3,500	81	44,257
<b>Twitty's Almshouse</b> Permanent	<u> </u>		<u>    (449</u> )	<u> </u>	36	<u> </u>
	12,961,291	6,715	<u>(142,150</u> )	499,713	<u>(107,437)</u>	13,218,132

Capital Recoupment Funds were set up in accordance with the Charity Commission Recoupment orders August 1984 and December 1984 to recoup the permanent endowment. The other Funds are permanent Endowment funds held in accordance with the restriction and used to generate restricted funds for the charity.

#### Transfers

Capital Recoupment Order 'A' sealed on the 13th December 1984 in the sum of  $\pounds$ 215,000 for 'land and buildings', repayment being  $\pounds$ 1,039.46 per annum for 53 years from the date of the Order.

Capital Recoupment Order 'B' sealed on the 21st August 1984 in the sum of  $\pounds 65,000$  for 'provision of a service area in Albert Park', repayment being  $\pounds 0.55\%$  per annum of the sum expended for 50 years from the date of the Order.

For both Orders the Governors shall permit the dividends accruing to be invested thereon by way of accumulation until twelve months after the last payment.

## 17. ALLOCATION OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

2024	Tangible Fixed assets £	Investment properties £	Investments £	Net current assets £	Total £
Endowed Restricted Unrestricted	22,195  	7,113,575	6,082,362 1,597,009 <u>9,095,470</u>	621,548	13,218,132 1,597,009 <u>9,730,018</u>
	<u> </u>	<u>7,113,575</u>	<u>_16,774,841</u>	<u>    621,548</u>	<u>_24,545,159</u>

2023	Tangible Fixed assets	Investment properties	Investments	Net current assets	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Endowed Restricted Unrestricted	25,886 - 15,600	6,983,000 - 	5,949,611 1,446,758 <u>8,229,472</u>	- 	12,958,497 1,446,758 9,148,456
	<u> </u>	<u>6,983,000</u>	<u>    15,625,841</u>	903,384	<u>23,553,711</u>

### 18. RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH FLOW TO NET FUNDS

	2024 £	2023 £
(Decrease)/increase in cash during the year	(273,900)	(928,683)
Change in net funds	(273,900)	<u>    (928,683)</u>
Net funds at 1 January 2024	<u>    1,064,558</u>	<u>    1,993,241</u>
Net funds at 31 December 2024	<u> </u>	<u>    1.064,558</u>

### 19. ANALYSIS OF NET FUNDS

	Net funds at 1 January 2024 £	Cash change £	Net funds at 31 December 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand Cash awaiting investment Cash deposits	537,347 66,511 <u>460,700</u>	(32,709) 20,369 <u>(261,560)</u>	- 504,638 86,880 <u>199,140</u>
	<u>    1,064,558</u>	(273,900)	790,658

## CHRIST'S HOSPITAL OF ABINGDON STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

#### 20. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At 31 December 2020 the Charity has future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

Equipment	2024	2023	
Equipment	£	£	
Not later than one year Later than one year and not later than five years	2,163 <u>180</u>	2,163 2,344	
	<u>2,343</u>	<u>    4,507</u>	

### 21. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

At 31 December 2024 the Charity had no capital commitments (2023 - £Nil) and no charitable commitments (2023 - £Nil).

### 22. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There are no matters of a material nature to report in the post balance sheet period.

## CHRIST'S HOSPITAL OF ABINGDON STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

## 23. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES – COMPARATIVES BY FUND TYPE

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £
Income and endowments from:				
Donations	-	4,100		4,100
Investments	668,637	44,627	4,453	717,717
Charitable activities				
- contributions from Almspeople	144,374	75,494	-	219,868
Other	371			<u> </u>
Total income and endowments	<u> </u>	124,221	4,453	942,056
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	25,830	4,295	161,671	191,796
Charitable activities				
- Grants payable	514,038	18,739	-	532,777
- Provision of Almshouses	243,722	177,232	-	420,954
- Albert Park maintenance	<u> </u>	7,562	<del>_</del>	<u> </u>
Total expenditure	871,576	207,828	161,671	1,241,075
Net gains/(loss) on investments	256,054	42,562	364,770	<u> </u>
Net surplus/(deficit)	<u> </u>	(41,045)	207,552	364,367
Transfers between funds	(2,794)		2,794	
Net movement in funds	195,066	(41,045)	210,346	364,367
Total funds brought forward	8,950,596	1,487,803	<u>12,750,945</u>	23,189,344
Total funds carried forward	<u>9,145,662</u>	<u>    1,446,758</u>	<u>    12,961,291</u>	<u>23,553,711</u>

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