



# ANNUAL REVIEW 2024



**Bishopthorpe**  
Charitable Partners' Trust

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation  
Registered Charity No. 1208221





## **PRAYER FOR BCPT**

Loving Father, bless your Church in the North.

Give us the wisdom, courage and resource we need to build your kingdom in the world.

Thankful for the generosity of your grace towards us in Jesus Christ, may we give freely in return.

Led by the Spirit, may we give ourselves in service to you.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen

*Archbishop Stephen, May 2024*

## **A SUMMARY OF OUR PURPOSE:**

To enable the advancement of our religion and religious education; the relief of those in need; financial assistance to people who have been employed by the Church of England or a similar body; and furtherance of the work of the Archbishops of York

# THANK YOU

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Dear Bishopthorpe Partners and other supporters,

The first year of the Bishopthorpe Charitable Partners' Trust has been very busy and successful thanks to you. If you are wondering why you are receiving this annual review, is it because you are on our mailing list and we want to make you aware of our Trust and keep you updated on our news, our progress and how you might help us further the mission and ministry of the Archbishop across the province of York.

## **A SUMMARY OF OUR CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES**

- The advancement of education in religion;
- Advancement of the Christian religion and the Church of England;
- Relief of those in need, by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage;
- Provision of financial assistance for persons in need who are or have been engaged or employed within the Church of England or other Christian body or who are dependants of such persons; and
- Furtherance of the work, mission, practical and spiritual needs of those persons who have, do or will hold the office of Archbishop of York and those who assist them in their ministry.

# INTRODUCTION

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By way of background, in the Southern Province, for many years the Archbishops of Canterbury have had charitable funds available to them, in particular The Lambeth Trust. This supports the work and mission of present and former Archbishops of Canterbury in the South of England. Funds are expended by the trustees for personal initiatives of the current Archbishop and to support the ongoing ministry of former Archbishops.

The Bishopthorpe Charitable Partners' Trust was conceived at a meeting held in February 2023, attended by a number of people drawn from across the North of England. At this gathering Archbishop Stephen spoke of his priorities, mission and ministry, outlining some of the plans he and others had made for the advancement of God's work across the Province of York, and introduced the concept of a 'Bishopthorpe Partnership'. He commented upon the disparity of resources which often favoured the south of the country over the northern area which comprises the Province of York. Archbishop Stephen described how he needed a fund not only to support his work in the immediate future but also to leave a legacy for his successors, so that well into the future Archbishops of York would be able to support innovative ideas and fresh thinking for the sake of the Gospel and for the communities they serve. The Bishopthorpe Partners would be asked to provide support through their talents, prayers and other resources (financial).

This concept was well-received by those present and subsequently turned into action, with the constitution of our CIO being registered by the Charity Commissioners on 13th May 2024.



Since then the Board of Trustees have concentrated on not only raising funds, but also applications for initial grants and the development and implementation of sound governance arrangements. The charity was formally launched on 3rd September 2024 at Bishopthorpe with guests attending from across the North of England.



# THE ARCHBISHOP'S PLANS



The Trustees have been focussed on the Archbishop's Faith In The North initiative which seeks to encourage a movement of prayer, storytelling and church planting inspired by the Northern Saints. It is intended this will provide resources for churches, schools and individuals in the York Province to foster deeper connections with the Christian faith and renew missionary purpose. There are elements of this initiative which do not fall within what might be described as 'mainstream' funding. It is assisting these particular elements that the Trustees have been looking at to make grants.

# GRANTS WE HAVE MADE SO FAR

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The first of these elements concerns a renewal of prayer & discipleship: the intention is for more people to be praying the Lord's Prayer, understanding its meaning, living lives shaped by the vision it presents and for children and young people knowing and engaging with the Lord's Prayer as a pathway to faith.

During the year ending December 2024 the Trustees made their first grant: £3,500 towards supporting the production of a Lord's Prayer Song for children that can be used in schools, homes and churches as part of the "Lord's Prayer Journey" package of resources produced by Faith In The North. After the writing and basic production of the song, a series of add-ons to enable greater quality, impact and reach were identified. These included higher quality production of the recording, sheet music, a lyric video (including BSL/Makaton versions to increase accessibility) and a downloadable school package that could be used to teach the song and values associated with it. Our grant meant these additional items were commissioned, leading to children & young people in schools across the Province successfully engaging with The Lord's Prayer as a pathway to faith. At the time of writing, the song has been played more than 10,000 times.



A primary school teacher who leads on RE and Music gave us the following unsolicited feedback:

“Our Year 5 & 6 children are digesting...planning...delivering weekly collective worship to the rest of the school as we learn the meaning of The Lord’s Prayer... it is going very well indeed. The whole school are REALLY enjoying singing the Lord’s Prayer Song (Makaton version). We are including this song in our Easter Church Service as it’s so enjoyed. This way the congregation / parents / grandparents etc. will also get to experience this. THANK YOU so very much for your fantastic and easy to use resources. I thought you ought to know how a small, rural CE primary school in ‘the north’ are following and accessing your wonderful initiative.”

The Lord’s Prayer Song can be found at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JDMOcV0-mHQ>





The second of these elements concerns more people discovering a relationship with God through resources for prayer: the renewal of storytelling. Through this people can see themselves as part of the big story of Faith in the North through the centuries and be encouraged and equipped to tell their story today. Children in schools can learn the story of Faith in the North in ways which engage them in the Christian faith. Churches engage with their story with fresh imagination and develop new, creative approaches to mission. People of all ages are encouraged to explore faith for themselves.

## LOOKING AHEAD

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During the year we are in regular dialogue with the Archbishop's team about their further work. This has led to grant applications we've since progressed to support work under both of the above elements mentioned above. There are 2 projects which particularly interested the Trustees: a four-episode video series for young children exploring prayer, based on The Lord's Prayer; and a set of Faith In The North prayer cards, using key themes from Anglo-Saxon spirituality, which will be available on Christian heritage pilgrim routes, offering a fresh approach to engaging with God and encourage people from all backgrounds to 'just start talking' to Him.

We will continue to work on growing the number of Bishopthorpe Partners to support and sustain the Trust in its early years.



# SOUND GOVERNANCE

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No organisation can afford to be without sound governance arrangements and in its first year a major part of the work of the Board of Trustees has been developing and implementing these.

Policy development during this reporting period has produced the following: Grant Making Policy; Standing Orders; Trustee Code of Conduct; Conflicts of Interest Policy; Privacy and Website Privacy Policy; and Donations Policy. Work towards adoption of the following policies was also put in hand (though not completed) during the year: Expenses Policy; Internal Financial Controls; Complaints Procedure; Safeguarding, Bullying and Harassment Policy; Serious Incidents Policy; Financial Reserves Policy; and Risk Management Policy. They have all since been completed and adopted by the Board.



# WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

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Our examined annual accounts are submitted to the Charity Commission and can be seen on their website. Trustees incurred one-off set up costs in this first year. This is a summary of our finances during the year under review:

Grants	£3,500	5.6%
Direct costs	£109	0.2%
Fund raising	£916	1.5%
Governance	£4,336	7.0%
Retained for future	£53,184	85.7%
Total income	£62,045	100.0%

We are profoundly grateful to our Partners and other supporters. Our work is wholly dependent on their generous support, steadfast commitment and prayers.

If you have enjoyed reading this review and are not yet a Bishopthorpe Partner, why not join us on this journey and support our Archbishop, his ministry and mission? Please get in touch and one of our Trustees will be pleased to talk to you.

# OUR TRUSTEES



Jonathan Radway



Erinma Bell



Philip Holt



John Whitfield



Richard Mantle



Claire Hensman



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# CONTACT US

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