

**The St Benet's Trust**  
(a company limited by guarantee)

**Trustees' report and financial statements**  
31 August 2020



Charity number: 1143350  
Company number: 7684231

*The St Benet's Trust*  
*Trustees' report and financial statements*  
*31 August 2020*

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## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

### The Charity

The St Benet's Trust is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. The Charity was incorporated on 27 June 2011. It was created to operate St Benet's Hall which is a Permanent Private Hall within the University of Oxford and these operations were transferred on 1 September 2012.

### Trustees

The Directors of the company are also the charity Trustees:

Sir R Waller (Acting Chair)

The Master of St Benet's Hall – Professor Richard Cooper

Mr A Philip Marsden (appointed 1 February 2021)

Mr D McDonough (appointed 1 February 2021)

Mr J MacHale

Right Reverend Culbert Madden (resigned 1 February 2021)

Reverend Oswald McBride

Reverend Wulstan Peterbuis (resigned 3 July 2021)

Mr A Dodd (resigned 27 July 2020)

Dr S Doran (concurrent with her role as Fellows' representative; resigned 21 November 2019)

Professor P Tufano (resigned 5 June 2020)

Dr Mary Marshall (concurrent with her role as Fellows' representative; appointed 21 November 2019)

### Officers:

Professor Richard Cooper – Master (appointed 1 September 2018)

Mr S Rumford – Bursar (resigned 3 November 2020)

Mr G Smith – Bursar (appointed 26 October 2020)

Dr S Bhattacharji – Senior Tutor (resigned 31 August 2019)

Dr B Gowers – Senior Tutor (appointed 1 September 2019)

Dr S Doran – Fellows' representative (resigned 21 November 2019)

Dr M Marshall – Fellows' representative (appointed 21 November 2019)

Mr E Kuhn – Director of Development (appointed 3 September 2018, contract terminated 2 March 2020)

Ms C Gahan – Development Officer & PA to the Master

Ms N Garbett – Administrator

Mr A Thomas – Development Director (appointed 23 March 2020)

Key management personnel: The management of the Hall on a day-to-day basis is delegated to the Master supported by the Bursar, Mr Grahame Smith, the Director of Development, Mr Andrew Thomas and the Senior Tutor, Dr Bernard Gowers.

### Registered address

Ampleforth Abbey  
Ampleforth  
York  
North Yorkshire  
YO62 4EY

### Address of the Hall:

St Benet's Hall  
38 St Giles  
Oxford  
OX1 3LN

### Registered number of the charity

1143350

### Registered number of the company

07684231

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS continued**

**Auditors**

Saffery Champness LLP  
Mitre House  
North Park Road  
Harrogate  
North Yorkshire  
HG1 5RX

**Solicitors**

Wrigleys LLP  
19 Cookridge Street  
Leeds  
LS2 3AG

**Bankers**

Barclays Bank plc  
1 – 3 Parliament Street  
York  
YO1 8SE

**Website**

[www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk](http://www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk)

## **TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' REPORT**

### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

The charity's reference and administration information together with details of Trustees, officers and advisers is shown on pages 1 and 2.

### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Ampleforth Abbey is an English Benedictine foundation, which was founded in 1608 at Dieulouard in Lorraine by English monks who had strong links with the medieval Benedictines of Westminster Abbey. The monastic community settled at Ampleforth in 1802. The Community is dedicated first to prayer and then to religious and charitable works. Education is one of the main works of the Community, as evidenced through Ampleforth College and St Benet's Hall.

St Benet's Hall was founded in 1897 as a place for the monks of Ampleforth Abbey and other monasteries to live while they read for Oxford degrees. Twenty years later it became a Permanent Private Hall of the University. Today, St Benet's Hall matriculates undergraduates and graduate students of all faiths and none into the University to study a wide range of subjects across the Humanities and Social Sciences. It is governed by the St Benet's Trust, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Ampleforth Abbey Trust, in accordance with the licence from the University of Oxford, dated 16 March 2012.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemptions.

#### **Trustees and Governance**

Details of the Trustees who served during the period are shown on page 1. There should be a minimum of 3 and maximum of 12 Trustees with at least 3 being members of the Ampleforth monastic community. Trustees are appointed by the member which is The Ampleforth Abbey Trustees acting in its capacity as the sole corporate member of the St Benet's Trust, upon the advice of the Governance, Nominations and Remuneration Committee. The Master and the Fellows' Representative are ex officio Trustees during the term of their office. The trustee board meets on a termly basis and Safeguarding, Health and Safety and Prevent legislation are standing agenda items.

So far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are not aware. Each Trustee has taken steps to ensure that he/she is aware of all relevant matters (e.g. making enquiries of other Trustees and the auditors) such as to exercise the care and diligence required of a Trustee.

The work of St Benet's Hall is organised through the following subcommittees:

- The Master and Fellows' Committee which is concerned with the overall running of the Hall
- The Education Committee oversees the academic work of the Hall
- The House Committee oversees the management of the building and site
- The Welfare Committee is concerned with the welfare of all members of the Hall
- The Joint Common Room Committee is concerned with all aspects of student life.

All committees pay due attention to the evolving Prevent legislation.

Appropriate training is provided to existing as well as newly-recruited Trustees through attendance at outside events and internally organised courses. New Trustees also receive an induction to brief them on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes and minutes of previous meetings.

#### **Key Management Personnel Remuneration**

The key management are detailed on page 1. The majority of the Trustees did not receive any remuneration in the year from the charity. The Master and the Fellows' Representative are remunerated and details are disclosed in the notes to the accounts. The pay of these Trustees and key management is reviewed annually and normally increased in accordance with the Ampleforth inflationary pay award. The pay of senior staff is also benchmarked against other charities of a similar size and nature.

#### **Risk Management**

The Trustees have examined the major risks that face the charity and established strategies and systems, which should allow these risks to be mitigated to an acceptable level including, where appropriate, insurance, setting aside financial reserves, and establishing a fundraising appeal. This review process is continued on an ongoing basis for each financial year. Trustees have confirmed that they are satisfied that the risk register contains the major strategic risks faced by the Charity.

The main risks are human, physical, reputational and financial. Risk management, audit, safeguarding and health and safety structures are in place to actively manage the risks. The risks are managed on a day to day basis by the Bursar of the Hall. In addition, risk management in terms of content and process, is reviewed and monitored annually by the St Benet's Trust.

## **OBJECTIVES, ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

### *Objects of the charity*

The objects of the charity are:

- The education of students for the priesthood or monastic life to serve as members of the monastic community
- The education of young persons and mature students in accordance with the doctrines and principles of the Roman Catholic faith
- The support of the monastic Community, in order to further its ability to promote education
- The advancement of the Roman Catholic faith
- Such other charitable purposes in connection with the advancement of education which are in accordance with the general aims of the Ampleforth Abbey Trust and of the Roman Catholic faith

### *Aims*

St Benet's has the status of a Permanent Private Hall with the University of Oxford, matriculating its own students (undergraduate and graduate) and presenting them for degrees irrespective of their religious backgrounds in accordance with the licence agreement with the University, and being a base for academic research.

### *Principal Activities of the charity*

The main charitable activities of St Benet's Hall are the provision of education to undergraduates and graduates and the promotion of academic research by all members of the Hall.

The activities undertaken during the year 2019-2020 although significantly and adversely affected by the Covid19 Pandemic, were to:

- Maintain focus on continued academic excellence
- Stabilise the number of graduate students after a period of growth
- Provide an intellectual outreach to the wider public on issues and themes of Christian theological education (study days, seminars, and public lectures)
- Take further steps to make the Hall and the vision for it more widely known and better appreciated in the University of Oxford, nationally, and internationally
- Continue and maximise development and fundraising activities, including fundraising journeys to China and Europe
- Monitor the governance structures of the St Benet's Trust
- Make particular efforts to ensure a sustainable and suitable vacation letting programme

### *Public Benefit*

The Trustees have had regard for the Charity Commission guidelines on public benefit and The Hall remains committed to the aim of providing public benefit in accordance with its founding principles and Benedictine tradition.

The Hall educates both undergraduates and post-graduates and serves a diverse community of students and fellows. The Hall regularly comes high amongst the Student Satisfaction Barometer of all the colleges and halls of the University, and strives not only to be academically excellent, but also to provide a unique pastoral environment that is welcoming to all and true to the importance of the concept of community, which is a key component of its Benedictine foundation.

The Hall is aware of the need to attract academically capable people from all backgrounds to consider applying to colleges and halls of Oxford University, and is involved in a widening participation project with East Lothian Council and Exeter College, and working with faith schools in the state sector.

The Hall, in seeking to build upon the Benedictine understanding of community, hospitality and the gift of discernment, has established the St. Benet's Institute to provide a focus on issues of Faith, Leadership and Dialogue.

The Hall also acts as one of the bases for the activities of the Oxford Companions of the Order of Malta. This is a student-run group affiliated to the Order of Malta, a Catholic order, also known as the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, dedicated to works of charity and living the Catholic faith by serving Christ in 'Our Lord's Poor'. Many of the group's volunteers are either not religious or not Catholic, and the Oxford Companions share in this work of reaching out to those most in need. Soup, sandwiches, tea, and coffee are taken from St Benet's by volunteers to homeless people on the streets of Oxford four times a week.

## **OBJECTIVES, ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

### **Fundraising**

The focus for 2018/20 has been securing funds to offset the purchase of Norham Gardens and to build a major endowment. Significant potential leads have been developed in 2018/20, which are being followed up in 2020/21. The focus will remain Norham Gardens and the endowment and strengthening relationships with alumni and potential international funders who match the Hall's values and ethos.

St Benet's Hall relies upon philanthropic support to enable the achievement of its mission and the Trust is extremely grateful for the generous support received from its alumni and other funders. St Benet's Hall's fundraising is monitored by Ampleforth Abbey Trust and Oxford University and adheres to their internal policies and statutory regulation. The Trust is also registered with the Fundraising Regulator and complies with their Codes of Conduct.

The majority of the philanthropy received comes from alumni and registered grant making bodies. Following the introduction of GDPR in May 2018 the database was segmented into those with whom a legitimate interest was held and those where opt in is required in order to continue engagement with them. The Old Benetians were given every opportunity to opt out of receiving any fundraising or marketing materials and the Trust responds immediately to any such requests.

The Trust regularly updates donors on how their donation is being used and the impact their support has for St Benet's Hall. Where the donor restricts the application of their donation, the Trust applies the gift to the purpose originally intended. The Trust also respects donors' rights to privacy and fully complies with GDPR. If donors request to be deleted from our records (right to be forgotten), then this is immediately complied with on their request. Requests for donations are targeted and measured and primarily focus on one-to-one conversations.

The Trust currently does not work with any commercial parties in its fundraising and has no plans to do so in the future. Where the Trust works with Data Processors or professional fundraisers it ensures that they meet and comply with the current GDPR, does not pass on any personal details to a third party and has the necessary privacy and security systems in place.

### **Impact of Covid 19**

From March 2020, because of the UK COVID lockdown measures, operational activity has been significantly impacted and the Trust has updated its financial forecasts accordingly to reflect it was unable to operate at full capacity across its various commercial activities. However, a significant unrestricted donation was received in September 2021 which provides the Charity with a significant level of cash headroom and the ability to withstand any further downturns in its operations due to Covid 19.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

### Financial results

The results for the period are shown on page 10 of the financial statements.

Total incoming resources were £1,295,000 (2019: £1,316,000) for the year and the net incoming resources after costs were £5,000 incoming (2019: £5,000 incoming).

The major fixed assets in which and with which these operations take place are either the property of the Ampleforth Abbey Trust or leased.

### Reserves policy

The Trust aims to retain sufficient reserves to cover its present working capital and future operating requirements. It is a subsidiary of the Ampleforth Abbey Trust and the group reserves policy is disclosed in the consolidated accounts of that charity.

Unrestricted reserves at 31 August 2020 show a deficit of £103,000 (2019: surplus £23,000). Excluding those reserves represented by fixed assets the Hall had no free reserves at the year end. As disclosed in note 14, there is a further £40,000 of reserves held by the Ampleforth Abbey Trust for use by the Hall.

Details of designated funds are included in the notes and will be spent on relevant costs as the need arises.

The present level of both free and restricted reserves is substantially less than required for the future sustainability of the Hall. However, the Charity received an unrestricted donation of £1.75m in September 2021 which will significantly boost the level of free reserves.

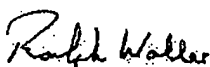
## PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The plans for the coming year are:

- To increase academic excellence including integrating more closely with the University's strategic plan and to continue to provide the best possible education for undergraduate and graduate students of the University of Oxford in our supportive community setting
- To secure further donations towards the aim of financial independence including the paying off the mortgage on 11 Norham Gardens
- To develop and improve accommodation for students, and maintain existing buildings
- To ensure, through the provision of scholarships, bursaries and grants, that finance will not be an obstacle for a student's decision to study at St Benet's Hall
- To further develop St Benet's Hall as a place of persons in formation, where students and staff are known and know each other, aspiring to a life of learning and mutual support
- To build on the place of faith in the Public Space, by lectures, retreat days, and working with other faith groups

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provision applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

Approved by the board and signed on its behalf by:



Sir Ralph Waller

Trustee

Date 24/9/21



**Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees (who are also directors of St Benet's Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

**Independent auditor's report to the members**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The St Benet's Trust for the year ended 31 August 2020 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows 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 charitable company's state of affairs as at 31 August 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 Companies Act 2006.

**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 charitable company 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:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

**Other information**

The trustees 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, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

**Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the directors' report and take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

**Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 7, the trustees (who are also directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) 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 trustees 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 trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company'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 trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative to do so.

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

We have been appointed as auditors under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with that Act.

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.

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

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members and the trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members 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 charitable company, the charitable company's members and trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

<b>Saffery Champness LLP</b>	
Sally Appleton (Senior Statutory Auditor) for and on behalf of Saffery Champness LLP	
Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors	Mitre House North Park Road Harrogate North Yorkshire HG1 5RX
Date: 27 September 2021	

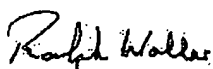
Saffery Champness LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

*The St Benet's Trust*  
*Trustees' report and financial statements*  
*31st August 2020*

**Balance sheet**  
**as at 31st August 2020**

	Note	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	8	36	41
		<hr/> 36	<hr/> 41
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	9	9	7
Debtors	10	63	254
Cash at bank and in hand		100	65
		<hr/> 172	<hr/> 326
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Creditors payable within one year	11	(149)	(313)
		<hr/> 23	<hr/> 13
<b>Net current assets</b>			
		<hr/> 59	<hr/> 54
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			
		<hr/> 59	<hr/> 54
<b>Net assets</b>			
		<hr/> <hr/> 59	<hr/> <hr/> 54
<b>Reserves</b>			
Restricted funds	14	162	31
Unrestricted funds			
Designated funds	14	68	14
General funds	14	(171)	9
		<hr/> 59	<hr/> 54

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.  
Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue by:



Sir Ralph Waller  
Trustee

*24 September* 2021

Registered company number: 07684231

*The St Benet's Trust*  
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31st August 2020

**Statement of financial activities (Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)**  
for the year to 31 August 2020

	Note	2020 £'000	2020 £'000	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
<b>Income from:</b>					
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Teaching, research and residential	2	763	-	763	745
<b>Donations and legacies</b>					
Donations	3	202	330	532	571
		965	330	1,295	1,316
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
<b>Raising funds</b>					
Fundraising & development		75	45	120	138
		75	45	120	138
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Teaching, research and residential		1,016	154	1,170	1,083
Donation to Ampleforth Abbey Trust		-	-	-	90
		1,016	154	1,170	1,173
<b>Total expenditure</b>	4	1,091	199	1,290	1,311
<b>Net (expenditure)/income</b>		(126)	131	5	5
<b>Transfer between funds</b>		-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		(126)	131	5	5
<b>Fund balances brought forward</b>		23	31	54	49
<b>Fund balances carried forward</b>		(103)	162	59	54

All funds shown above relate to continuing operations.

There are no recognised gains and losses other than those passing through the statement of financial activities.

The notes on pages 13 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

**Statement of Cash Flows**  
as at 31st August 2020

	<i>Note</i>	<i>2020</i> £'000	<i>2019</i> £'000
<b>Net cash inflow from operations</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>		<b>35</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period</b>		<b>65</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>65</b>

**Notes**  
(forming part of the accounts)

*The St Benet's Trust*  
*Trustees' report and financial statements*  
*31st August 2020*

**1 Accounting policies**

The accounts have been prepared under the Companies Act 2006 and in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP(FRS102)) and Financial Reporting Standard 102. The accounts are drawn up on the historical cost basis of accounting. The Trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

**Going concern**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. In forming their assessment of going concern the Trustees have considered the financial forecasts prepared, covering the period of at least 12 months from the approval of the accounts, and the impact of a significant unrestricted donation of £1.75m in September 2021. This donation provides the Charity with a significant level of cash headroom, and the ability to withstand any downturns in operations over the going concern period and beyond, and continue to meet its obligations as they fall due.

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's accounts.

**Fixed assets**

All capital expenditure on the buildings is dealt with in the accounts of the Ampleforth Abbey Trust. The St Benet's Trust is licensed to occupy these buildings for the operation of its educational works.

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated over their expected useful lives at the following annual rates

Plant and equipment - 10 years

**Pension schemes**

Employees are members of a defined contribution scheme. The assets of the schemes are held separately from the Trust in independently administered funds. The amount charged to the Statement of Financial Activities represents the contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period.

**Income**

Fees receivable, less any scholarships, bursaries or other allowances, are accounted for in the period in which the related service is provided.

Other income is credited to the Statement of Financial Activities when it falls due.

**Donations, legacies and fund accounting**

Incoming resources received by way of grant, donation or legacy to fund general or specific activities are recognised where there is entitlement, the amount can be reliably quantified and the economic benefit to the Charity is considered probable.

Donations received for the general purpose of the Trust are credited to unrestricted funds. The Trust may at its discretion set aside funds for specific purposes as designated funds which would otherwise form part of the general reserves of the Trust.

Donations subject to specific wishes of the donors are credited to relevant restricted funds, or to endowed funds where the amount is required to be held as permanent capital.

**Stocks**

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

**Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred. Expenditure is summarised under functional activity headings either on a direct cost basis, or for overhead and support costs, apportioned according to a number of evaluation criteria as appropriate.

Costs of raising funds include investment management fees, costs relating to attracting voluntary income and any trading expenses. Charitable activities costs include both direct costs and an apportionment of overhead and support costs.

**Operating leases**

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight line basis over the lease term.

**Financial Instruments**

The Trust has only financial assets and liabilities that qualify as basic financial instruments, which are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

**Notes (continued)**

	2020 £'000	2020 £'000	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
<b>2 Income from charitable activities</b>				
Teaching, research and residential				
Tuition fees - UK and EU students	303	-	303	255
Tuition fees - Overseas students	184	-	184	103
Other fees	6	-	6	14
College residential income	270	-	270	373
	<b>763</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>745</b>

The above analysis includes £522,081 (2019: £396,084) received from the Oxford University under the CFF (Collegiate Funding Formula) scheme, net of College fees received directly.

All prior year income was unrestricted.

	2020 £'000	2020 £'000	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
<b>3 Other income</b>				
Donations and legacies				
Donations	191	330	521	57
Donation from the Ampleforth Abbey Trust - re use of buildings	11	-	11	284
Donation from the Ampleforth Abbey Trust - other	-	-	-	230
	<b>202</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>571</b>

The 2019 donations figure includes £36k of restricted income, the balance of other income was unrestricted

All major capital expenditure including the buildings, is dealt with in the accounts of the Ampleforth Abbey Trust. The St Benet's Trust is licensed to occupy these buildings for the operation of its educational works. No charge was levied by the holding charity during the year for the use of the assets, and it is not possible to accurately value the benefit the Trust obtains in respect of this arrangement.

The use of the buildings to generate trading income is included in the accounts of the Ampleforth Abbey Trust or its subsidiary trading company. The surplus on such activities has been donated across to The St Benet's Trust and is therefore shown within voluntary income.



**Notes (continued)**

**4 Analysis of expenditure**

	2020 Direct staff costs	2020 Other direct costs	2020 Support costs (non staff)	2020 Total	2019 Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Expenditure on raising funds</b>					
Fundraising & development	75	45	-	120	138
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Teaching, research and residential	543	364	263	1,170	1,083
<b>Donation to Ampleforth Abbey Trust</b>	-	-	-	-	90
	<b>618</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>1,290</b>	<b>1,311</b>

As explained in note 3, all major capital expenditure is dealt with in the accounts of the Ampleforth Abbey Trust. The prior year donation to Ampleforth Abbey Trust relates to funds transferred to that Trust for capital works on the buildings.

The above expenditure includes £45k (2019 - £nil) of restricted fundraising and development costs and £154k (2019 - £33k) of restricted teaching, research and residential cost

**5 Support Costs**

	2020 Generating Funds £'000	2020 Teaching research & residential £'000	2020 Total £'000	2019 Total £'000
<b>Support costs (including direct staff costs)</b>				
Financial and domestic administration	-	229	229	242
IT	-	23	23	21
Depreciation	-	5	5	5
Governance costs	-	6	6	6
	<b>-</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>274</b>

Finance and administration, IT costs and other support costs are attributed according to the estimated staff time spent on each activity.

Various support services are provided by employees of the Ampleforth Abbey Trust.

No recharges have been made to the St Benet's Trust for such central costs or for use of the buildings as it would not be possible to accurately value these services

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
<b>Governance expenditure (included in support costs) includes:</b>		
Audit fees	4	4
Other	2	2

No amount has been included in Governance Costs for the direct employment costs or reimbursed expenses of the Hall Fellows or Master on the basis that these payments relate to their involvement in the Hall's charitable activities. Details of the remuneration and reimbursed expenses of employed Trustees is shown in note 15.

**Notes (continued)**

**6 Grants and awards**

	2020	2020	2020	2019
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total

During the year the Hall funded research awards and bursaries to students as follows:

Bursaries and hardship awards	35	10	45	37
-------------------------------	----	----	----	----

The above costs are included within the charitable expenditure heading of teaching, research and residential. Included within the prior year figure is restricted bursary expenditure of £13k.

**7 Staff numbers and costs**

The aggregate payroll costs for the year were as follows:

	2020	2019
	£'000	£'000
Wages and salaries	554	510
Social Security costs	44	44
Pension contributions - defined contribution	20	21
	<u>618</u>	<u>575</u>

The average number of permanent employees of the Hall, excluding Trustees was as follows:

	2020	2019
	<u>26</u>	<u>25</u>

The average number of permanent employees of the Hall, excluding Trustees, on a full time equivalent basis was as follows:

	2020	2019
Tuition and research	7	7
Fundraising	1	1
Support	4	3
	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>

The average number of employed Trustees during the year was as follows:

	2020	2019
Tuition and research	1	1
Support	1	1
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

Aggregate employee - benefits of key management personnel (relates to 3 individuals, 2019: 3)

	£'000	£'000
	<u>142</u>	<u>154</u>

Redundancy and termination payments of £nil (2019 £nil) were incurred during the year.

Details of the remuneration of the Hall Trustees is included as a separate note in these financial statements (note 15). No employee (excluding the Hall Trustees) earned gross pay and benefits in excess of £60,000.

The above costs relate to employees working directly on the activities of the St Benet's Trust. Ampleforth Abbey Trust also employs people who carry out work across the St Laurence Education Trust, Ampleforth Abbey Trust, Ampleforth Abbey Trading and The St Benet's Trust. No recharge was made by the Ampleforth Abbey Trust to the St Benet's Trust in relation to such costs. The Hall also benefits from temporary staff and agency workers who are not on the payroll.

*The St Bene's Trust*  
*Trustees' report and financial statements*  
*31st August 2020*

*Notes (continued)*

8. Tangible fixed assets:	<i>Plant and equipment £'000</i>	<i>Total £'000</i>
<b>Cost</b>		
Balance at 1st September 2019	54	54
Additions	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance at 31st August 2020	54	54
<b>Accumulated depreciation</b>		
Balance at 1st September 2019	13	13
Charge for the year	5	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance at 31st August 2020	18	18
<b>Net book value</b>		
at 31st August 2020	<hr/> 36 <hr/>	<hr/> 36 <hr/>
At 31st August 2019	<hr/> 41 <hr/>	<hr/> 41 <hr/>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>9. Stocks</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Other	9	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	9	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>10. Debtors</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Trade debtors	-	9
Amount owed by group undertakings	45	230
Prepayments	17	6
Other	1	9
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	63	254
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Trade creditors	49	29
Amounts owed to group undertakings	-	178
Accruals	89	88
Other creditors	11	18
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	149	313
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>12. Financial commitments</b>		
At 31 August 2020 the company had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:		
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Land and buildings		
Annual operating leases payments due as follows:		
In less than one year	-	-
Between two and five years	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Notes (continued)

13 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31st August 2020 are represented by:

	2020 Unrestricted £'000	2019 Unrestricted £'000	2020 Restricted £'000	2019 Restricted £'000	2020 Total £'000	2019 Total £'000
Fixed assets	36	41	-	-	36	41
Current assets	10	295	162	31	172	326
Current liabilities	(149)	(313)	-	-	(149)	(313)
	(103)	23	162	31	59	54

14 Funds

	Balance at 31 Aug 19 £'000	Income £'000	Expended £'000	Balance at 31 Aug 20 £'000
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
St Benet's Hall lecture series (i)	9	-	-	9
Bursary/hardship fund (ii)	19	40	(17)	42
Furniture and equipment (iii)	3	-	-	3
Development fund (iv)	-	45	(45)	-
Northam Gardens (loan interest) (v)	-	128	(105)	21
Chaplain Fund (vi)	-	41	(12)	29
John Templeton (vii)	-	78	(20)	58
	31	330	(189)	162
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
Designated				
Fellows research fund (viii)	14	75	(21)	68
General reserves (ix)	9	871	(1,051)	(171)
Grants from Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	19	(19)	-
	23	965	(1,091)	(103)
<b>Total funds</b>	54	1,295	(1,290)	59

	Balance at 31 Aug 18 £'000	Income £'000	Expended £'000	Balance at 31 Aug 19 £'000
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
St Benet's Hall lecture series (i)	9	-	-	9
Bursary/hardship fund (ii)	18	16	(13)	19
Furniture and equipment (iii)	3	-	-	3
Master Fund	-	20	(20)	-
	28	36	(33)	31
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
Designated				
Fellows research fund (viii)	14	-	-	14
General reserves (ix)	7	1,280	(1,278)	9
	21	1,280	(1,278)	23
<b>Total funds</b>	49	1,316	(1,311)	54

Notes (continued)

#### 14 Funds (continued)

- (i) The St Benet's Hall lecture series - the fund supports a series of visiting speakers.
- (ii) The bursary/hardship fund is to provide help to students at the Hall in need of financial support.
- (iii) The furniture and equipment fund relates to funds donated towards such items.
- (iv) The development fund - the Hall is aiming to raise funds to support its activities and ensure a sustainable future. This includes specific projects for academic development, student support, a St Benet's Lecture Series, refurbishment of the premises and a long term endowment project. Where donations (net of related development costs) are made with a restriction to one of these or other projects they are included within restricted or endowed funds as appropriate. If the donations are given within no such specific restriction they are included within the designated development fund.
- (v) The Northam Gardens fund is to be used to offset the cost of the loan interest.
- (vi) The Chaplain Fund is to be used to offset the cost of employing a lay Chaplain.
- (vii) The John Templeton Fund is to be used to offset the cost of a research post/project.
- (viii) The Fellows research fund is to be used to support the Fellows.
- (ix) The general unrestricted funds represent accumulated income from the Hall's activities and other sources that are available for the general purposes of the Hall.

The parent charity, Ampleforth Abbey Trust, also holds and invests some restricted funds for use by the St Benet's Trust and details are included in that charity's accounts. The balances held at the year end were as follows:

	Balance at 31 Aug 19 £'000	Income £'000	Expended £'000	Transfers £'000	Gains/ (losses) £'000	Balance at 31 Aug 20 £'000
The St Benet's Hall Hardship fund (x)	40	-	-	-	-	40

(x) The St Benet's hardship fund is for the support of students at St Benet's Hall.

#### 15 Trustees' remuneration

No trustee receives any remuneration for acting as a trustee. However, those trustees who are also employees of the Hall receive salaries for their work as employees. The total remuneration and taxable benefits as shown below is £83,012 (2019: £87,665). No pension costs are included in this total.

Remuneration paid to trustees	2020 gross remuneration, taxable benefits and pension contributions £	2019 gross remuneration, taxable benefits and pension contributions £
Richard Cooper	83,012	83,667
Dr Susan Doran	-	4,018

All employees are entitled to meals at common table while working.

No Trustees were paid expenses in respect of their roles as Trustees during the year.  
The aggregate remuneration paid to key management personnel was £142k (2019 £147k).

#### 16 Pension scheme

The Hall participates in a defined contribution pension scheme. Payments to the pensions scheme for the year were as follows:

	Employer £'000	Total £'000
Defined contribution scheme	20	42

Notes (continued)

17 Notes to the Cash Flow Statement

17a Reconciliation of net incoming resources to net cash flow from operations

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Net income	5	5
Elimination of non-operating cash flows:		
Depreciation	5	5
(Increase)/decrease in stock	(2)	-
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	191	(214)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(164)	210
Net cash provided by operating activities	35	6

17b Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Cash at bank and in hand	100	65

18 Ultimate parent undertaking

The St Benet's Trust is a company limited by guarantee and is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Ampleforth Abbey Trust, a charity registered in the United Kingdom (charity number 1026493). The sole member of that charity is the Ampleforth Abbey Trustees (company number 00396036) acting in capacity as the sole corporate trustee of the Ampleforth Abbey Trust.

The main object of the Ampleforth Abbey Trust is for the furtherance of the Roman Catholic religion. The object is fulfilled by the formation and subsequent ministry of Benedictine monks of Ampleforth Abbey. The works of the monks include the maintenance of the monastic community and its property, education, the welcoming of guests and parish work in dioceses of the Roman Catholic Church.

The largest group in which the results of the company are consolidated is that headed by Ampleforth Abbey Trust. The consolidated accounts of the group are available to the public and may be obtained from the Charity Commission.

19 Related party transactions

The Hall is also part of the collegiate University of Oxford. Material interdependencies between the University and of the Hall arise as a consequence of this relationship. For reporting purposes, The University and the other Halls and Colleges are not treated as related parties as defined in FRS102.

Some of the members of the Governing Body who are the trustees of the Hall and related parties as defined by FRS102, receive remuneration and facilities as employees of the Hall. Details of these payments and reimbursed expenses as trustees are disclosed separately in these financial statements (note 15).

The following transactions took place with the parent charity, Ampleforth Abbey Trust:

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
- recharges for Batelets for members of the monastic community	8	7
- donation from the Ampleforth Abbey Trust - re use of buildings for lettings	11	284
- donation from the Ampleforth Abbey Trust - other	-	230
- donation to the Ampleforth Abbey Trust for capital expenditure	-	(90)
- balance owed by the Ampleforth Abbey Trust at 31 August	45	53

Donations from Trustees and their related parties during the year amounted to £nil (2019: £nil).

**20 Statement of financial activities - comparative figures by fund-type**  
*for the year to 31 August 2019*

	2019 £'000 <i>Unrestricted</i>	2019 £'000 <i>Restricted</i>	2019 £'000 <i>Total</i>
<b>Income from:</b>			
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Teaching, research and residential	745	-	745
Public worship	-	-	-
<b>Donations and legacies</b>			
Donations	535	36	571
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,280	36	1,316
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
<b>Raising funds</b>			
Fundraising & development	138	-	138
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	138	-	138
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Teaching, research and residential	1,050	33	1,083
<b>Donation to Ampleforth Abbey Trust</b>	90	-	90
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,140	33	1,173
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,278	33	1,311
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2	3	5
<b>Transfer between funds</b>	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2	3	5
<b>Fund balances brought forward</b>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	21	28	49
<b>Fund balances carried forward</b>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	23	31	54