

ANNUAL REPORT 24/25

TRINITY.:



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As I conclude my second year as Chair of Trustees, I am deeply inspired by the continued passion and resilience of our community, team, and partners. Thank you to everyone who has stood alongside us. Your support continues to be the foundation of our success.

This year's report offers a powerful reflection on how far we've come. Building on the foundations laid in 2023/24, we've not only sustained a vibrant, inclusive cultural programme but also deepened our roots across the city - reaching new audiences, developing stronger partnerships, and affirming our role as a civic hub.

I'm especially proud of how the Trinity team has continued to lead with integrity and creativity. Their willingness to adapt, experiment, and work collaboratively has ensured our work remains relevant, responsive, and impactful.

We now look ahead with renewed focus. We know the challenges our communities face, but we also recognise the role creativity plays in shaping a more hopeful, connected future. Together, we remain committed to our mission: enabling Creative Expression for All.

Thank you once again for being part of this journey.



Chris Luffingham
Chair of Trustees, Trinity Community Arts

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR



**WELCOMED
70,998
PEOPLE**

**PROGRAMMED
1,412 EVENTS
& WORKSHOPS**

**SUPPORTED
326 ARTISTS
AND CREATIVES**

TRINITY IN NUMBERS

HOW TRINITY WORKS

TRINITY COMMUNITY ARTS

- CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE: EMPOWERING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT
- COMMUNITIES & NEIGHBOURHOODS: COLLABORATION WITH RESIDENTS TO CREATE A RESPONSIVE CULTURAL OFFER
- TRINITY PRESENTS: SHOWCASING EMERGING & UNDISCOVERED LOCAL TALENT
- FREE AND SUBSIDISED HIRES: SUPPORTING LOCALLY ROOTED COMMUNITY GROUPS TO FURTHER THEIR IMPACT

TRINITY COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE

- LIVE MUSIC: PROGRAMMING LIVE GIG & CLUB EVENTS WITH HIGH-PROFILE ARTISTS & PROMOTERS
- PARTNERSHIP HOST EVENTS: CELEBRATING THE MUSICAL HERITAGE OF TRINITY
- PRIVATE AND PUBLIC HIRES: REGULAR & ONE-OFF EVENTS INCLUDING WEDDINGS AND PRIVATE CELEBRATIONS





CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES

Creative Play (0-5 yrs)

In partnership with Central Bristol Children's Centre, we delivered 42 free **Stay & Play** sessions for local families to come together. Our Summer Fun Sessions welcomed 464 adults and 563 early-years children, building resilient community connections.

Creative Aspiration (11-16 yrs)

Hosted by hip-hop artist MoYah and Bristol City Poet Sukina Noor, 22 young people joined our **Speak Out** cohort, meeting weekly to develop creative tools to explore the theme of Home. The project culminated in a showcase event of upcycled fashion, music, and spoken word.

Creative Activation (5-11 yrs)

We launched the **Cultural Alliance**, ensuring every Key Stage 2 pupil (438 children) across three local schools now receives weekly 1-hour creative arts lessons in drama or dance. We offered 3 weekly after school clubs, including storytelling, dance, and nature-based activities.

Creative Empowerment (16-25 yrs)

We delivered **166,121** music lessons in our studios, supporting NEET young people to re-engage in learning. In partnership with Off The Record (OTR), we delivered 35 weekly Next Gen sessions for young people to self-express through music. Masterclasses hosted by diverse artists including Alex Gardner and Lady Nade provided inspiring industry insights.

CASE STUDY: AMBER (YOUTH MUSIC PARTICIPANT)

Amber* joined Next Gen following a free one-to-one session designed to ease anxiety for new participants. With gradual exposure and support from OTR staff, they built confidence to join group sessions.

When a performance opportunity arose at Trinity's Garden Party, Amber volunteered to play bass with a band. They practiced independently with peers, building the confidence to perform on the main stage to over 600 attendees.

"My child was anxious about attending open sessions. The one-to-one introduction was invaluable. The sessions are relaxed, friendly, and welcoming—thank you for creating such an inclusive space."

— Amber's Parent

"Coming to Next-Gen has really improved my confidence in my musical abilities and songwriting skills and has given me lots of opportunities to both record and perform on my own and with other young musicians, which is awesome and super valuable"

- Participant Feedback

*Name changed for confidentiality



Following a period of consultation and pilot activities led with schools, parents/carers, frontline charities, and community groups throughout 2023/24, we identified a significant gap in children's creative education. In response, in September 2024 we launched the Cultural Alliance; a 3-year targeted arts education programme embedded within the curriculum at 3 primary schools, within a 1-mile radius of Trinity.

Prior to our targeted intervention there was no dedicated arts provision within these schools. We're extremely proud of the progress we've made, securing investment from Paul Hamlyn Foundation so we can further advocate for the value of arts-based learning.

- 70% of pupils have English as an additional language
- 70% are from low-income households

Since launch, all 438 pupils (ages 5–11) have received weekly dance and drama sessions led by practitioners from Movema and ACTA, enhancing self-expression, confidence, and joy in learning.

"There's been so much creative expression and joyful connection in every session!"
— Cultural Alliance Practitioner, Movema

IN FOCUS: CULTURAL ALLIANCE





COMMUNITIES & NEIGHBOURHOODS

COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME

WE CONTINUE TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH GRASSROOTS ORGANISATIONS, WELCOMING 700 PARTICIPANTS TO SHARE IN CREATIVE EXPERIENCES.

We hosted 15 regular groups including 4 new groups making their home at Trinity:

- Bristol School of Art now deliver wellbeing arts and crafts sessions in Trinity's Garden
- Monthly meet-ups for Club Love Socials, a space for our LGBTQIA+ community to participate in talks, workshops and stalls

We celebrated 20 years of Misfits' Rhythm of the Night and we're excited to support Bristol Samba's 40-year anniversary in 2026!

We're proud to continue our Fun Palaces partnership, including teaming up with Easton Community Centre to host a skills-sharing day as part of the national movement to highlight everyday culture.

We hosted sold-out production The Grip in partnership with Strike A Light, inviting local contributors to share their own deeply personal stories of Windrush.

"On a twice-yearly basis I host a large group of LGBTQ+ dancers who travel from all over the UK for a dance weekend, which includes a Sunday afternoon tea dance at Trinity. Everyone loves the venue, and I find the staff are always really supportive and helpful in the run up and on the day" - Feedback from dance tutor

We've deepened our role within the local neighbourhood, responding to residents, local community groups, and grassroots organisations.

This began with the creation of three Community Connector roles - paid opportunities for local people to share their knowledge of, and passion for, their neighbourhoods. This has been essential to co-design activities and experiences that are relevant for hyper-local participation.

The Connector roles focused around three hyper-local areas or communities; elders in Newtown - a neighbourhood directly opposite Trinity, families living or socialising around Stapleton Road, and people accessing support for hunger or homelessness at the Wild Goose Cafe.

We launched 'Nature in Newtown' -a series of creative wellbeing activities with residents from a local housing estate and Lawrence Hill Health Centre; a summer of storytelling activities with 45 people from 12 local families sharing traditional dancing and singing together; and the Wild Goose Choir with 14 people attending weekly singing sessions.

"I've had a lot of things on my mind this week, but here I forget everything, I relax" - Feedback, Participant, Storytelling Sessions

NEIGHBOURHOODS PROGRAMME



Nature in Newtown led by Community Connector, Shanti Pant offered local residents the opportunity to capture their local natural environment on film. As a Newtown resident, and nature-lover, Shanti was keen to share her experience of how spending time in nature can provide a simple way to support wellbeing and connect with others.

Meeting weekly over 13 weeks, 14 people joined Shanti walking around local green spaces and taking part in gentle exercise led by creative practitioner Subitha Baghirathan, supporting people to find new places to explore on their doorstep and feel more connected to their local environment.

Following the summer sessions, the group created short films inspired by their experience, facilitated by Bristol-based filmmaker Jon Aitken and Shanti Sherson, a wellbeing practitioner. The group learned simple techniques using mobile phones to create short films, capturing their positive connections to nature.

"It's been lovely to build a nice friendly and inclusive group. It's given me confidence. I've been told 'you can't do that' so much. It's so good to be around people who say 'go for it!' - Participant Feedback

IN FOCUS: NATURE IN NEWTOWN



TRINITY PRESENTS: BEYOND OUR WALLS

Trinity Presents expanded its reach beyond our venue, curating a diverse series of events championing emerging and underrepresented artists. These events created vital platforms for artistic expression across the city.

IMPACT

Trinity Presents continues to champion innovative talent, hosting long-time collaborators Waldo's Gift for their new album launch; presenting Ishmael Ensemble at Electric in partnership with international promoters Metropolis; delivering a sell-out New Year's Eve takeover with Crotch; and supporting Bethany Ley at Strange Brew. We launched Seedling Sessions, a new series of events spotlighting local and diverse talent.

LEGACY

Honoring our soundsystem legacy, we teamed up with Teachings in Dub for our annual Day Party, drawing 800 attendees and featuring iconic acts including Mungo's HiFi, Solo Banton, and Adrian's Wall x Housewife's Choice – joining from Australia.

We forged new partnerships with local and national promoters, including Brown Excellence, showcasing South Asian soundsystem music, and AnExperience (Something Lovely) to host a community party whilst offering emerging Bristol-based artists their first sets. We celebrated the rich musical heritage of our building by welcoming Rupture, for a night of Jungle and Drum & Bass, featuring legendary artist DJ Storm.



Beyond live music, we activated new cultural spaces across the city with high-quality and inclusive creative experiences. A standout project, Destination Old Market, celebrated the area's diverse businesses through a promenade performance and pop-up music events in different high street stores. This initiative deepened our ties to the community and attracted over 1000 people to the local area, working with over 15 local artists.

We returned to Harbour Fest, programming the dance tent at Queen Square, showcasing the best of Bristol's local talent, including resident groups Hype and Gerry's Attic.

We produced a busy programme of high-quality theatre, dance and circus with performances from Pirates of the Carabina, screenings with Afrika Eye Film Festival, Mandala Theatre's Seed Guardians and Alison Ray Dance Company's Unknown Soldier.

Through audience consultation, we uncovered the need for more accessible programming for children. In response, we've extended our work with Tidal Tales to deliver fun outdoor theatre performances, as well as working with new companies, The Last Baguette, Roustabout Theatre and Flibbertigibbet Theatre. We're looking forward to presenting more shows for young audiences throughout 2025/26

TRINITY PRESENTS: COMBINED ARTS



In 2024, we introduced a ticket levy; a fee applied to all event tickets, intended to maintain essential improvements to the building, supporting our goal to keep the venue accessible, inclusive, and sustainable for all to enjoy.

This year we collected over £32,000 in match contributions, enabling us to make crucial improvements to the building.

One of our key priorities is to ensure everyone can access creative and cultural activities. This year we made a significant investment in modernising our lift, including replacing electrical components which have become outdated since the lift was originally installed in 2007. This essential upgrade will maintain the reliability of the lift, which benefits around 2,000 people each year, ensuring those with mobility needs can confidently access all areas of our building.

"I was at the show on Sunday and it was great to be given such a good view from the accessibility area. Thank you for looking out for the disabled community it's great to be given opportunities to be up the front again" - Audience Member

IN FOCUS: TICKET LEVY



LIVE MUSIC PROGRAMME

We delivered a dynamic calendar of music events, comprising 45 live gigs, 30 club nights, and 5 day parties. 19 shows sold out, reflecting strong audience engagement and demand. During this period, we have been working with 20 new promoters, both local and worldwide to maximise our diverse reach.

Our commitment to amplifying underrepresented artists remains a priority, with 11 projects led by female and non-binary artists, 4 of which sold out, underscoring both artistic quality and audience resonance.

We continue to explore new ways to present the most exciting shows, including more intimate events hosted in the Fyfe Hall and the Graffiti Room. Programming highlights include a standout collaboration between the Bristol/London-based label Accidental Meetings, and Kampala (Uganda) label Nyege Nyege alongside Nubian Twist, Mala & Joey Armon Jones, L'Entourloop and Jalen Ngonda. We welcomed in the new year with the return of Raver Tots, offering a vibrant, family-friendly rave on New Year's Day.

Hosting the opening night of the Anywhere in Albion tour by iconic artist Peter Doherty marked a major cultural moment for the venue.

"Love this venue. I've been to a few gigs now where I've requested a seat in the accessible area in advance. I've always been made to feel welcome and included, and I've been checked on that I'm okay during the show. Please don't change"

- Audience Feedback



ARTS FOR CHANGE

In another challenging year for the cultural and voluntary sectors, we have stayed bold and dynamic, all while holding fast to our commitment to meet the needs of our local community.

At Trinity, resilience isn't just about surviving tough times, it's about adapting with care, staying rooted in purpose and working meaningfully with others whose values and goals align with ours.

We continue to play a leading role in shaping the national conversation around community-led culture and civic participation. Through our commitment to strategic projects we're helping to strengthen the case for long-term, community-led solutions to the crisis facing civic infrastructure.

We're an active member of Platform Places' Mycelial Movement - a peer-led network of changemakers stewarding some of the UK's most essential community spaces. This national alliance supports knowledge-sharing and policy influence around community ownership and public asset protection. Our involvement in this network directly complements our local work on Roots of Resilience to safeguard community buildings at risk.

Through these strategic partnerships, we can link local advocacy with national collaboration, actively co-creating a more equitable, democratic and sustainable cultural landscape.



CITIZENS FOR CULTURE

We continue our work to deliver Citizens for Culture - the UK's first Citizens' Assembly to shape a regional Cultural Plan. Co-founded by Trinity's CEO Emma Harvey, alongside LaToyah McAllister-Jones (St Pauls Carnival CIC) and David Jubb (Citizens in Power), this bold initiative supports cultural participation and decision-making that is more inclusive, representative, and community-led.

From June 2025, 15,000 West of England households will be invited to take part, with 52 citizens selected by sortition (a civic lottery) to shape a plan in response to the provocation: "What would culture and creativity look like if they were for everyone?"

Launching on International Democracy Day in September, the Assembly runs through autumn 2025, with the final Cultural Plan unveiled during UK Parliament Week. It will be a bold, people-powered blueprint for inclusive cultural investment locally and a model for cultural decision-making nationally.

"We all have a right to cultural expression. This is about ensuring culture works for everyone." CEO Emma Harvey



Roots of Resilience is a collaborative response led by Trinity and 15 other Community Asset Organisations (CAOs) including Eastside Community Trust and Windmill Hill City Farm. The initiative aims to protect Bristol's community spaces, which are increasingly under threat due to council budget cuts and policies facilitating the sale of public assets.

Since the adoption of the new Committee system in Bristol City Council, the group has been using the campaign's manifesto to advocate for fairer reforms to the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) process.

We're proud of the progress we've seen to date, including the appointment of a dedicated council officer for CAT decisions and the involvement of CAOs in reviewing asset management strategies and policy to create the conditions required for more community asset management across the city.

"Unfortunately, without changes to how decisions are made about community infrastructure, the future of those spaces will always be at risk. The suggestions we are putting forward will enable us to secure a brighter future for our much-loved community spaces" Steve Sayers, CEO of Windmill Hill City Farm

ROOTS OF RESILIENCE



We continue to progress the ambitious restoration of Jacobs Wells Baths (JWB); a vital heritage asset for Central Bristol. Securing a 35-year lease with Bristol City Council in September 2024 marked a significant milestone within this first phase of capital works. The priority focus has been on essential repairs to make the Grade II listed building accessible to the public, including weatherproofing, asbestos decontamination and safeguarding roofing structures.

A key achievement to date has been securing a Development Grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, helping us to advance detailed design plans alongside community outreach.

The widespread support we continue to receive - including a special visit from Trinity's Patron Miriam Margolyes - is a brilliant endorsement for the value of our recovery efforts. As we overcome new challenges, we continue to move towards achieving our vision, blending sensitive conservation with renewed public use, to safeguard the future of this iconic building for generations to come.

"Backing from The National Lottery Heritage Fund at this crucial stage strengthens our efforts and highlights the cultural and social significance of preserving and repurposing architectural heritage for community benefit." - Fidel Meraz, Jacobs Wells Baths Steering Board

JACOBS WELLS BATHS





TELLING OUR STORY

OVER THE PAST YEAR, WE'VE DEEPE HOW WE CAPTURE & COMMUNICATE TRINITY'S IMPACT

We've embedded a 'Do-Review-Improve' approach to in-house monitoring, co-designed evaluation practices, and developed data-informed storytelling methods.

Supported by our partnership with Bath Spa University, we've championed an alternative model that centres lived experience - valuing stories as much as statistics. This has been heavily informed through the action research sessions we invited volunteers to join, helping to shape how we collect, report and share impact data.

We have since been piloting creative evaluation methods across key programmes, enabling participants to define success in their own terms. This participatory approach has allowed us to better reflect the real-world impact of our work, beyond traditional metrics.

Alongside this, we began laying the foundations for a Theory of Change, involving staff, partners, and community voices in shaping the narrative. These efforts are helping to ensure our story is not just told, but owned by those who make Trinity what it is.



EMPOWERING OUR WORKFORCE

WE BELIEVE PEOPLE THRIVE WHEN THEY'RE TRUSTED, RESOURCED, & TRULY HEARD

This year, we continued to invest in professional development and equity, welcoming Strawberry Words to deliver vital racial justice and unconscious bias training. We supported 15 staff to take part in tailored leadership development programmes delivered by MUTI, designed around their specific needs and roles.

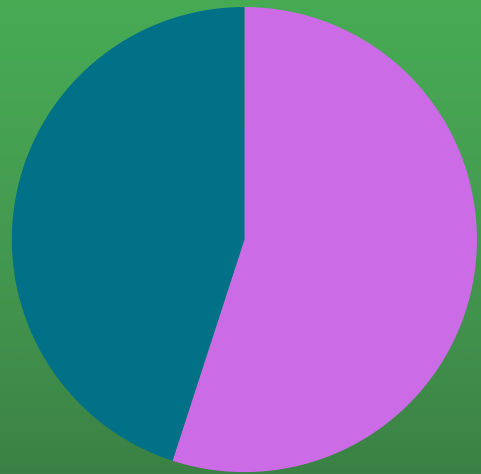
From safeguarding and trauma-informed practice to sociocracy, training has supported both individual growth and wider organisational change. We've also made real progress on our inclusion commitments - co-producing actions with our team and embedding inclusive practices into recruitment, leadership, and programme design.

Staff-led working groups and cross-team sessions have created valuable spaces for collaboration and agency. As our team grows in both size and confidence, we remain committed to building a culture where everyone can belong, contribute, and lead.

"The experience deepened staff understanding of how to lead with care and confidence, and provided a shared framework to help embed our values more fully into everyday work. Inspiring, enriching, and helped me to develop new skills"

- Cassie, Music Programme Coordinator

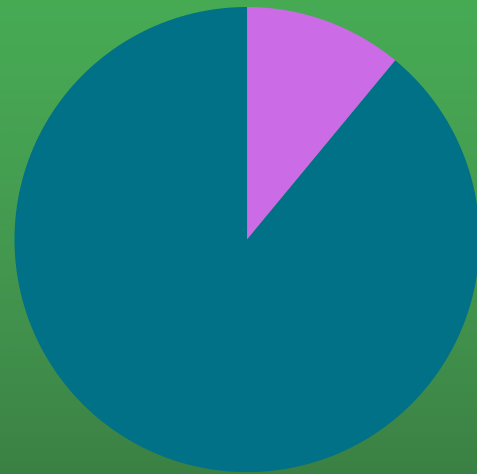
**55%
ARE AGED
BELOW 35**



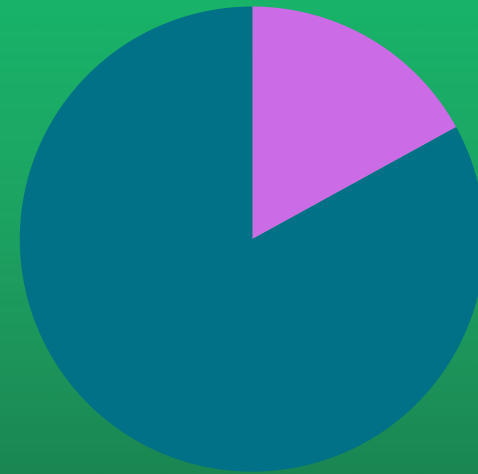
**38%
LIVE IN
NEIGHBOURING
POSTCODES OF
BS2 OR BS5**



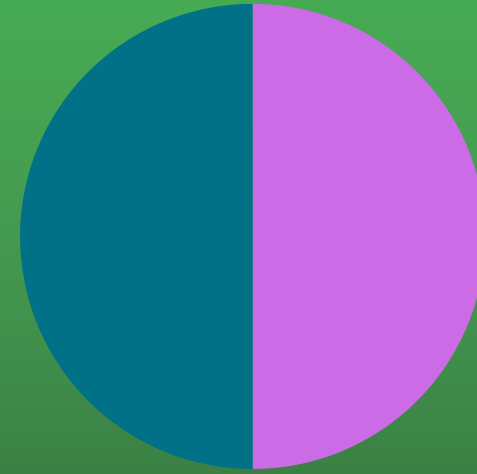
**11%
DESCRIBE
THEMSELVES
AS HAVING A
DISABILITY**



**17%
IDENTIFY AS
BEING FROM
GLOBAL
MAJORITY**



**50%
IDENTIFY AS
FEMALE**



**9%
IDENTIFY AS
LESBIAN, GAY,
BISEXUAL OR
PANSEXUAL**



OUR WORKFORCE

We remain committed to our environmental sustainability strategy whilst balancing heritage preservation.

We have been working with external experts and sustainability consultants to advise on potential solutions. We received a pro-bono net zero roadmap produced by Buro Happold, which we've started to work towards with small-scale energy saving solutions, including upgrading our electricity and gas meters to 'smart' meters, trialling 'smart' plugs and upgrading our hot water dispenser to a high efficiency unit. We've also changed all of our lighting to LED and upgraded our PA sound systems for energy efficiency.

Since installing solar panels on Trinity's roof last year, we have produced more solar energy than we can use, with 80% of the energy stored being sold back into the grid. By switching to battery-fuelled appliances, we can redirect this energy to improve the sustainability of our essential equipment.

We were awarded a grant from the Centre for Sustainable Energy in acknowledgement of our commitment to carbon reduction. With this funding, we replaced our outdated equipment with energy-efficient upgrades, including a new dishwasher and washing machine.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



TREASURERS STATEMENT

"As we all continue to navigate instability across the arts, voluntary, and wider business sectors, I'm proud to present figures that reflect Trinity's resilience, agility, and community spirit.

This year, we have generated a total income – across our charitable and trading entities - of £2,902,179, against an expenditure for the year of £2,002,464 (movements in restricted grants). Through careful financial management and an enterprising approach rooted in our grassroots values, we've maintained a healthy position without compromising our mission.

We closed the year with a positive free reserves position, increasing from £95k to £124k - putting us on track of three months' operating costs - a reserves target of £296k.

Thanks to the creativity, dedication, and care of our staff, volunteers, and supporters, Trinity hasn't just weathered the storm — we've continued to evolve, deepen our impact, and stay rooted in what matters.

I'm excited to help Trinity remain a bold, inclusive, and creative force for the communities it serves".

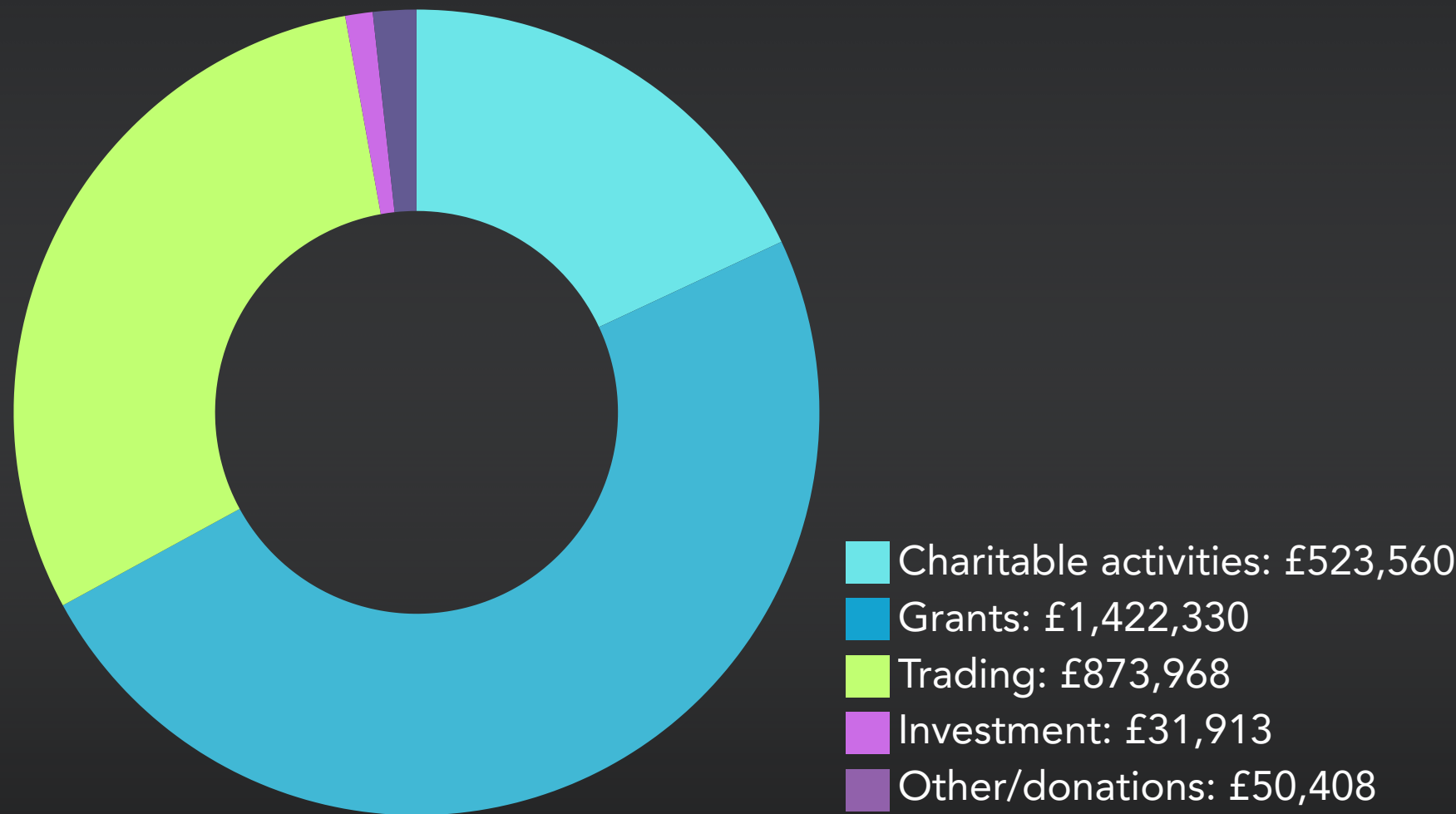
-Mark Pooley, Treasurer



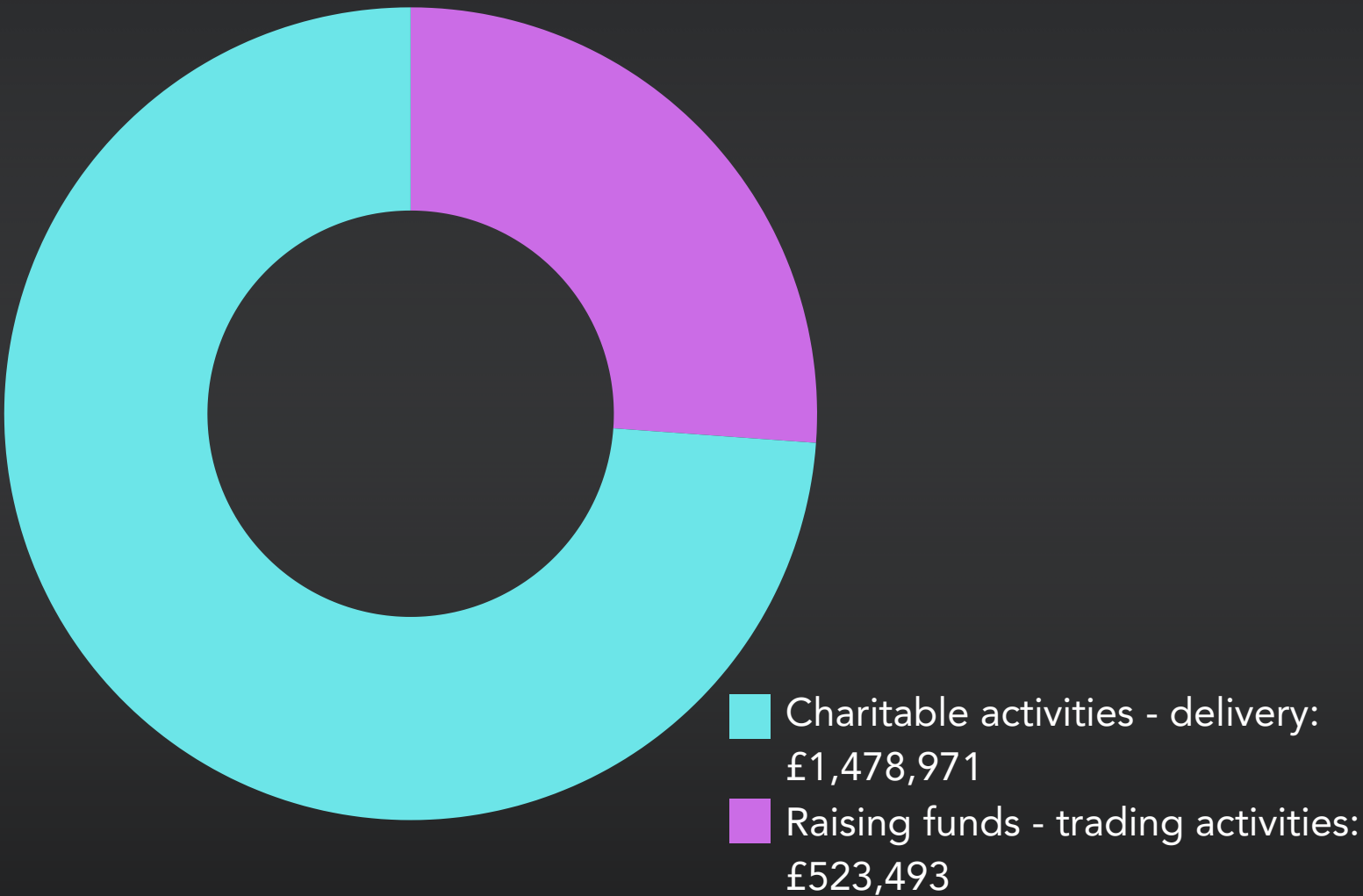
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES SUMMARY

Income: £2,902,179 Net position*: £899,715
Expenditure: £2,002,464 Free Reserves: £124,295

INCOME



EXPENDITURE



INCOME & EXPENDITURE

***Includes restricted funds differed
Figures shown are consolidated, covering both TCA and TCE.*

FUNDERS & CREDITS

- Architectural Heritage Fund
- Backstage Trust
- BBC Children in Need
- Bristol City Council
- Bruce Wake Charitable Trust
- Centre for Sustainable Energy
- Coutts Foundation
- D'Oyly Carte Charitable Foundation
- Fidelity Foundation
- Fun Palaces
- Historic England
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- Groundwork UK
- Historic England
- John James Foundation
- The Linbury Trust
- National Lottery Heritage Fund
- The Nisbet Trust
- Paul Hamlyn Foundation
- Quartet Community Foundation
- The Society of Merchant Venturers
- West of England Combined Authority
- Wesport
- Youth Music Catalyser Fund

Plus, the generous individuals who have donated and supported Trinity this year.

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