

THE NEWMAN ASSOCIATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1006769

Details

Other names	NEWMAN ASSOCIATION
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Company number	00434364
Registered	1991-12-13
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Swallow & Co Commercial House 10 Bridge Road Stokesley Middlesbrough Cleveland
Phone	01642 711407
Email	secretary@newman.org.uk
Website	www.newman.org.uk

Activities

Objects: To further the mission to the world of the Christian religion with particular reference to the Roman Catholic Church and in the light of the life and work of Saint John Henry Newman, by promoting greater understanding of the Christian faith and the application of its principles to the contemporary world. Nothing in this constitution shall authorise an application of the property of the CIO for the purposes which are not charitable in accordance with section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and section 2 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

Activities: Promote Christian religion in the light of life and work of the Venerable/Blessed John Henry Newman
Organise conferences, lectures, meetings, study groups and discussion groups
Prepare issue and circulate Journal papers and other documents in support of the above.
Make grants to other organisations and individuals in support of educating RC laity

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-01-31	£27,642	£19,842	-	-
2024-01-31	£26,672	£31,210	-	-
2023-01-31	£19,407	£26,859	-	-
2022-01-31	£20,388	£20,170	-	-
2021-01-31	£20,880	£14,234	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ALEX MTHOBI	Chair	2018-09-15
ANTHONY BAKER		
Barbara Bolgiano		2023-02-02
Brian Hamill		2022-06-25
Carole Georgina Tetley O'Toole		2023-06-17
Sophie Anne Mary Rudge		2019-10-05

THE NEWMAN ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1006769

Accounts

The **NEWMAN ASSOCIATION**

Promoting open discussion and greater
understanding in today's Church

Annual Report 2024-5

www.newman.org.uk

The Newman Association is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), charity no. 1006769. Registered office: Swallow & Company Commercial House Bridge Road Stokesley North Yorkshire TS9 5AA.

Email: info@newman.org.uk Website: www.newman.org.uk Member of Pax Romana – International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL 2024-5

* denotes Council members who are also Trustees

President

Brian Hamill*
York Circle
Email: president@newman.org.uk
(elected President and Trustee June 2022)

Chaplain

Mgr Patrick Kilgarriff
Email: patrickkilgarriff1941@gmail.com

Vice-President

Alex Mthobi*
Eastbourne and Bexhill Circle
Email: amthobi@yahoo.com
(elected as Vice President June 2022)

Journal Editor

Barry Riley
Ealing Circle
Email: barryriley@btinternet.com

Secretary

Sophie Rudge*
Email: secretary@newman.org.uk

Membership Registrar

Cindy Hamill
York Circle
Email: cindyhamilluk@yahoo.com
(appointed as Membership Registrar
December 2022)

Treasurer

Anthony Baker*
Hertfordshire Circle
Email: treasurer@newman.org.uk

Council Members

John Duckett*
Coventry Circle
(elected June 2022,
resigned June 2024)

Barbara Bolgiano*
Hertfordshire Circle
(elected June 2023)
Email:
b.bolgiano@outlook.com

Carole O'Toole*
Wrexham Circle
(elected June 2023)
Email:
carolegtotoole@aol.com

PRESIDENT'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Perhaps the major event of the year for the Association as a whole was the Annual General Meeting in June. It was then that it took the step of opening the membership of the Newman to all baptised Christians and so we now have one class of membership. The reasoning behind this move was not primarily to boost the numerical membership, though of course this would help, but to move into an ecumenical approach to our function and declare the equality in Baptism among all Christians. There was some resistance to this move, perhaps mostly from those who some years ago, in different times, had joined the Newman as a specifically Roman Catholic organisation and wished that approach to be sustained. However, following the changes in ecumenical dialogue over the past decades, allied to the very open approach of Pope Francis with his Synodality initiative, made it no surprise that some 80% of the votes were in favour of the change.

Turning to other more regular affairs within the Newman Association, we have continued to keep the members up to date with what is happening with national events by our usual means of communication. First, the regular *Newsletter*, ably edited by Barbara Bolgiano, continues to provide the details of what is happening within the Circles and information about accessing these events. There is also the Newman Website, which is managed primarily by myself, with technical assistance from my son, Michael. We have endeavoured to keep it up to date and to encourage people both within the Association and beyond to make use of it, especially regarding the new link to recorded talks. The third means of connection with the Association is the Journal. Barry Riley has organised this for some considerable time on a very professional level, but it has unfortunately suffered somewhat this past year with a lack of available copy. It used to be a regular feature that the Circles would send in either written versions of talks given to them or recordings of the same. This practice seems to have somewhat fallen in abeyance (perhaps this is another Covid consequence), with the resulting reduction in editions of the Journal over this past year.

Turning to our relationships with outside Catholic agencies, our connection with *Andante*, a European organisation for women along similar lines to ourselves, but very practical in its approach, has produced, via Sophie Rudge, our national Secretary and Andante officer, some interesting links to talks on a broader canvas, and also a retreat. Sophie is also involved with another partner organisation, the National Board of Catholic Women, which has a good programme of events which she passes on to us. Anthony Baker, our Treasurer, is our representative on the National Council of Lay Associations which keeps us in touch with the more general lay organisations in the Church.

Finally, Pax Romana is another external organisation with which the Newman has connections, in this instance from its very beginning in 1942. This has grown over the years into a global organisation which seeks to air and have full discussions on various issues in the modern world. Alex Mthobi, our Vice-President, who has been our representative on Pax Romana for a number of years and has kept us informed about its progress, was invited to host a European conference on the Refugee and Asylum situation in Europe and the world. In the event this proved rather beyond the ability, not of the Alex and his Newman helpers but of the British hospitality sector to provide sufficiently low booking rates which would challenge those of Spain. As a result, the Conference has been transferred to Bilbao.

On a personal level I have attempted over the last couple of years to go back to our original source of members, the Universities, by working with the Leeds University Chaplaincy and Catholic Society there. What has emerged to date is that this is a difficult task to pull off. The students do not have the same relaxed lifestyle which I and many of our members enjoyed in our

own university days. Owing to modern communications their attention is widely spread what with deadlines for academic work and the necessity to have paid work to supplement their student loans etc, plus of course keeping up with their friendship group online. But I will continue to see if there is a way to set up some sort of permanent connection between them and the Newman.

On a very positive note, the Margaret Beaufort Institute in Cambridge has asked us to become partners with them in their project on John Henry Newman. This will comprise a study course of 4-6 lectures to examine the Newman's theology and its relevance in today's Church. The intention is to provide an outline of his view on the relationships between faith and reason, as well as authority, obedience and sincere enquiry. Individual modules will include reference to his published work on topics such as The Development of Christian Doctrine, The Threefold Office of Jesus in the context of the Church and the findings of the 1869 First Vatican Council. On a practical level, films will be produced which will be made available for circulation round the Circles.

While the membership of the Association continues a gentle downward trend, that trend has improved overall this past year. The decrease in membership was 7% 2023-24 but has been 4% this past year. This reflects the 16 new members who have joined us and the coming back to life of some Circles, such as Worcester. My recent general consultation of the Circles contacts, which has stemmed from Carole O'Toole's good work on a general Questionnaire to all Circles regarding both their present situation and ideas for the future, has raised the issues concerning recruiting those who are ready willing and able to actually run a Circle. This applies as much to Council as it does to the Circles. When I included a flyer with the latest edition of the Journal, the last to be edited by Barry Riley who is retiring from that role, I was in some respects sending up a distress rocket. It has not reached the critical level as yet but it may well do over the next year or so. Just as each Circle for a healthy life requires a turn-over in officers, so does Council. I wanted to make it clear to all members, as I stepped down from the Presidency, that the future of the Association has a certain air of uncertainty about it. I think we all need to take this to heart and seek out the ways and means to develop it further into the 21st century.

Brian Hamill, President, May 2025

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended January 31, 2025.

Objectives

The object of the Newman Association is to further the mission to the world of the Christian religion with particular reference to the Roman Catholic Church and in the light of the life and work of Saint John Henry Newman, by promoting greater understanding of the Christian faith and the application of its principles to the contemporary world.

Much of the activity of the Association is carried out in local "Circles", though some members are "unattached" where no Circle exists locally. These activities, typically talks or conferences on religious, artistic, and philosophical subjects, are open to non-members, including Christians of other denominations, non-Christians and those professing no religion. The trustees confirm that in governing the Association they have had regard to the Charity Commission statement on public benefit.

Structure, Governance and Management- Governing Document

The Newman Association was founded in 1942 as a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 1 May 1947 and registered as a charity on 13 December 1991. The new Constitution as a C.I.O. was adopted by the membership in June 2022 and approved by the Charities Commission in November 2022.

Recruitment and Appointment of Council and Trustees

The charity trustees are the principal members of the Association's Council, which may also include advisory members such as the chaplain and the editor of *The Newman* journal. Trustees are elected for a period of 3 years, but may be re-elected for a further term. The trustees may appoint a replacement trustee to fill a casual vacancy, and may also co-opt up to three further trustees, but such appointed trustees automatically retire at the following Annual General Meeting.

A trustee may serve for sets of two 3 year periods, after which they must cease office for at least a year, after which they may stand for re-election at a general meeting, as specified in the constitution. Council normally meets at least four times each year, which may be in person or by electronic means. The Association's success in meeting its aims and objectives is assessed each year in the President's review.

New trustees are directed to the Charities Commission website, in particular to those sections outlining the legal obligations of trustees under charity law. They also receive a copy of the previous year's annual report and accounts and a representative section of the Association's current literature. All trustees are encouraged to make themselves aware of information published by the Charity Commission and to keep abreast of developments in Charity governance.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

Charities law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year. In doing so the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make sound judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Association will continue on that basis.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which 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 trustees 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.

In accordance with charities law, as trustees, we confirm that:

- So far as we are aware there is no relevant audit information of which the Association's independent examiner is unaware and
- As the trustees, we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's independent examiner is aware of that information.

Financial Review

The trustees have reviewed the required level of the financial reserve. The total funds available in January 2025 were just in excess of £130,000 which may seem excessive in the light of the current levels of expenditure of around £30,000/year.

However the trustees point out that most of the reserves are held in the CCLA COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund, the value of which fluctuates over time. The sharp increase in the fund's value in 2024 increased the Association's assets by nearly £8000, but as with many investment products, the fund lost all its 2024 gain in the first quarter of 2025, and the value of £102,753 had become around £91,000 by the end of March, though by June 2025 it had risen to around the same value as at the start of the 2024-5 year. Despite these fluctuations, investment in such a fund is also a modest hedge against relentlessly rising inflation of the main operating costs of the Association. The Trustees judge that increasing the Association subscription rates at present would not be wise - and could actually reduce revenue by increasing the rate of membership lapsing.

a) Ongoing Circles need funds from the centre to organise new programmes of talks and discussion, and also to widen their contacts with other local groups. The income generated and expenditure incurred directly by Circles is included in the financial report. Every year a national grant is made to each Circle which requests new funds to maintain their programme. In 2024-5 £2550 in total was provided in national grants to six Circles. Given the increasing obstacles in operating small local bank accounts, the Trustees are encouraging some Circles to close local accounts and operate an imprest cash system to fund local events from the main national account.

b) In addition, further IT activity to enable Circles to provide a wider coverage of on-screen lectures is likely to require significant future expenditure

The trustees therefore conclude that the gap between operational income and expenditure is may well increase over the next years, and believe it prudent to retain a balance of around £100,000 for the present, with a significant proportion being held in the CCLA ethical investment fund. Nevertheless the Trustees will continue to assess opportunities to make further grants to external (mainly educational) institutions in support of projects which promote the Association's objectives.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 25 July 2025 signed on its behalf by:



Brian Hamill, President

**Statement of Financial Activities (Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account)
for the Year Ended January 31, 2025**

Balance Sheet		
2024		2025
£		£
127,325	Net assets brought forward	122,788
(4,537)	Net gain/(loss) in the year	7,800
122,788	Net assets carried forward	130,589
Represented by:		
95,715	COIF Charities investment Fund	102,753
15,706	Cash in banks managed by Newman Council	15,490
11,075	Cash in Circles banks	11,776
1,800	Debtors and prepayments	3,835
124,296	Gross Assets	133,854
(1,508)	Less liabilities	(3,265)
122,788	Net Assets	130,589
Income and Expenditure		
2023-4	Income	2024-5
9,475	Membership subscriptions	8,749
314	Donations	193
1,938	Gift Aid Receipts	1,735
1,522	National events -retreat	0
5,070	Circles Income (note1)	7,054
2,801	Bank and investment income	2,873
5,551	Increase/ (decrease) in value of COIF investment	7,038
-	Other income	-
26,672	Total income	27,642
Expenditure		
1,894	National events	0
3,110	Newman Journal	1,894
308	Public liability insurance	307
9,756	Circles expenditure - note 1	8,904
2,044	Annual general meeting and national lecture	1,044
396	Council meetings (incl.UK travel)	375
1,653	Website maintenance costs	1,584
848	IT/Zoom services	845
(270)	Pax Romana and national subscriptions (note2)	791
9,500	Donations to educational institutions (note 3)	900
2,271	Other expenses (note 4)	3,198
31,210	Total expenditure	19,842
(4,537)	Overall Surplus/(deficit)	7,800

The notes below form part of these accounts.

Note 1

	2023-4	2024-5
Circles Income		
Meetings	2,475	3,416
Functions	2,046	2,118
Other	549	1,520
Total	5,070	7,054

Circles expenditure

Meetings	4,544	6,753
Functions	1,625	1,431
Other	906	720
Total	9,756	8,904

Note2**Pax Romana and other subscriptions**

Pax Romana the 2023-4 figure was a correction of earlier overpaid subscriptions	(463)	600
National Board of Catholic Women	45	45
National Council for Lay Associations	0	0
Andante (European Catholic Women)	148	146

Note 3 grants

University of Durham CCS conference	2,000	
Edmund Plowden Trust, lecture fund	5,000	
University of Hertfordshire Catholic Society	2,400	900
Liverpool University chaplaincy	100	

	2023-4	2024-5
Note 4 Miscellaneous expenditure		
Bank charges	262	256
DD collection charges	101	557
Chaplain's honorarium	700	700
Examiner honorarium	500	950
Registered office services	210	420
postage	186	280
Travel (Pax Romana conference international)	199	0
Other small items	113	35
Total	2,271	3,198

Note 5 Trustee remuneration and related party transactions

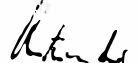
No trustee received any remuneration during the year 2024-5 (2023-4: nil). Specialist IT skills needed for the development of the website and to provide electronic links with Circles are provided by Michael Hamill of Smarts Group, son of a trustee, who responded to an earlier request to provide such services. Smarts Group was paid £2439 (VAT inclusive) in 2024-5. The trustees remain satisfied that the provision of such services is essential, and that the arrangement with Michael Hamill is good value and does not commit the Association in any long term way.

● otherwise, no trustee or any other person related to the charity has any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year, save as a potential beneficiary of the charity in the normal course of its activities (2023-4: none).

£ 213 expenses for travel to Council meetings were reimbursed to six trustees in the course of the year (2023-4: £479 to four trustees).

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 25 July 2025 and signed on its behalf by:


Brian Hamill
President & Trustee


Anthony Baker
Treasurer & Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE NEWMAN ASSOCIATION

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Newman Association for the year ended 31 January 2025, which are set out on pages 6-9.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). I report in respect of my examination of the Trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

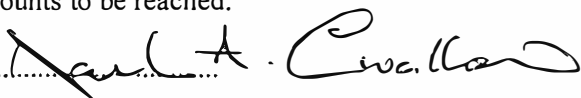
Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or

- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:.....

David A Swallow F.C.A. 25th July 2025

Swallow and Co, Commercial House, Bridge Road, Stokesley, TS9 5AA

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Cindy Hamill, Membership Secretary, has supplied this report covering the period from 1 February 2024 until the 31 January 2025.

Since the last annual report we have welcomed the following new members of the Association: Mrs Patricia Burrows (North Gloucester), Mr David McAuley and Dr Christine McAuley (North Gloucester), Ms Florence Boyle (Glasgow), Dr Antony Cole (Worcester), Mr Peter Ball and Dr Mariette Ball (Wimbledon), Mr George Kevin Thorogood and Mrs Sandra Thorogood (Wimbledon), Mrs Jenny Cairns (Wimbledon), Mrs Mary Diane Gent (Cleveland), Mrs Joyann Green (Eastbourne & Bexhill), Mrs Mary Nolan (Ealing), Mrs Jan Campbell (Glasgow), Rev. Peter Grimwood (Worcester), and Dr Peter Kevern (Worcester),

Circle membership (net figures after allowing for leavers and joiners) were:

Circle	Roll		Change
	01/02/24	31/01/25	
Birmingham	9	9	0
Cleveland	23	25	+2
Coventry	38	38	0
Ealing	21	18	-3
Eastbourne & Bexhill	9	9	0
Edinburgh	12	12	0
Glasgow	25	22	-3
Hertfordshire	48	48	0
Manchester & North Cheshire	32	30	-2
North Gloucester	17	20	+3
North Merseyside	16	14	-2

Overseas	3	3	0
Tyneside	23	20	-3
Unattached	92	81	-11
Wimbledon	13	16	+3
Worcester	26	26	0
Wrexham	15	13	-2
York	21	21	0
Total	443	425	-18

The net decrease in membership is about four percent this year in the period from 1st February 2024 to 31st January 2025.

The active circles have a wide variety of face to face meetings throughout the year. Some of the meetings from some circles are available on a Zoom link and the Newsletter is an excellent source of information for this. Unattached members are asked to ensure, by contacting membership@newman.org.uk, that we have an up to date email address to which to send a Newsletter directly to them

There are also a few members who have moved but not updated us with their new address. This comes to light only when the membership secretary receives returned Journals stating 'Not at this address'. All members are asked in February each year to send any new contact details.

Some members have become ill and need care or have resigned their membership and there are those members and ex-members who have died; may they rest in peace. We hold all these and their families in our prayers.

In Memoriam – Requiescant in pace

In particular, in the period February 2024 – January 2025, the Newman Association was notified of the deaths of the following members:

Mrs E A MacNamara (Feb 2024) Cleveland; Dr Christine Newman (Feb 2024) Cleveland; Mrs Felicity French (April 2024) Herts; Mrs Sheila Parkinson (Feb/March 2024) Wrexham, and her husband Bernard Parkinson who died sometime before her; Mgr. George Hay (April 2024) unattached; Mr and Mrs McManus (notified June 2024) unattached; Miss C. M. Moran (June 2024) N. Merseyside; Miss Mary Winifred C Fitzpatrick (June 2024) unattached; Fr A C Cogliolo (July 2024) Manchester; Mrs Monica White (July 2024) Croydon (closed); Sue Way (July 2024) Eastbourne & Bexhill; Mr Dan Baird (Dec 2024) Glasgow; Mrs Anne Merckx (Jan 2025) Cleveland; Ms Marguerite Walter (Jan 2025) Hertfordshire; Mrs Sylvia Reay (Jan 2025) Tyneside.

Dr Christine Newman was President of the Newman Association in 2007-09.

May these and other departed members all rest in peace.

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Annual Report 2023-4

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Email: info@newman.org.uk Website: www.newman.org.uk. Member of Pax Romana – International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL 2023-4

* denotes Council members who are also Trustees

President

Brian Hamill*
York Circle
Email: president@newman.org.uk
(elected President and Trustee June 2022)

Vice-President

Alex Mthobi*
Eastbourne and Bexhill Circle
Email: amthobi@yahoo.com
(elected as Vice President June 2022)

Secretary

Sophie Rudge*
Email: secretary@newman.org.uk

Treasurer

Anthony Baker*
Hertfordshire Circle
Email: treasurer@newman.org.uk

Chaplain

Mgr Patrick Kilgariff
Email: patrickkilgariff1941@gmail.com

Journal Editor

Barry Riley
Ealing Circle
Email: barryriley@btinternet.com

Membership Registrar

Cindy Hamill
York Circle
Email: cindyhamilluk@yahoo.com
(appointed as Membership Registrar
December 2022)

Council Members

John Duckett*
Coventry Circle
(Elected June 2022)
Email:
forjd_go2_johnduckett@talktalk.net

Barbara Bolgiano*
Hertfordshire Circle
(elected June 2023)
Email:
b.bolgiano@outlook.com

Carole O'Toole*
Wrexham Circle
(elected June 2023)
Email:
carolegtotoole@aol.com

PRESIDENT'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The year 2023-24 has overall been a year of further consolidation and rebuilding after Covid. Some Circles are now back to a full programme of events, while others are finding this more difficult to attain. The list of events which are sent out in the regular Newsletter show the large spread of events which are now taking place. However, some Circles are close to failing, mainly owing to lack of volunteers willing and able to take over the various administrative jobs. This is a great pity as the actual membership of those Circles has not necessarily diminished a great deal. This situation also applies at the Council level. The present members of Council have all worked hard to keep the Association moving forward, but many are now in their 80s and feeling the resulting failing of energy. There is therefore an urgent need for new blood to be brought onto Council to gain some experience in the various tasks so they can take over the key roles in due time – a time which is not all that far distant. From the point of view of membership numbers overall, these continue to decrease but there are signs in some Circles of genuine growth. This is encouraging news indeed.

The 2023 Annual General Meeting took place by Zoom on June 17th. This was an important event from a constitutional point of view since at this meeting it was necessary to elect the new Board of Trustees (in Newman parlance 'Council'), according to our new CIO status. All the voting for the nominees was conducted this year, as it was during Covid, by postal voting. We intend to try and see if we can have 'live' voting by Zoom at the forthcoming 2024 AGM. This will be a further development in our permitted use of electronic communication. Moving onto the topic of our Website, we have been trying, with varying degrees of success, to post talks and references to interesting Webinars on the site. This requires a certain technical expertise but the hope is that many of our members who now are unable to attend meeting owing to age etc, plus those who are not at this time attached to a Circle, will be able to join in what "the Newman" has to offer. As an example, we were able to put on the website a recording of the talk given by Austin Ivereigh to the online attendees of the AGM "*Reflections on Newman's "conspiracy of the faithful and their pastors."*" He linked this theme with his thoughts on the upcoming Synod on Synodality to which he had been invited. This was followed by a live streamed Mass celebrated by our chaplain Father Pat Kilgarrieff. Council has also been looking into the possibility of moving forward with regard to the question of Membership Status. At present only (Roman) Catholics can be full voting members of the Association and there are many members who have considered that this distinction is now out of date, valid though it was in 1942. A vote on this topic may well be an item on the agenda at the next AGM.

The two main events set up by Council over the year have been a very successful pilgrimage to Padua led by our National Chaplain, Fr Pat Kilgarrieff and the Newman Retreat, also led by him, at Ampleforth Abbey. There is a clear wish for these two events to be repeated during the coming year, if the necessary arrangements can be completed in time. Two members of Council, I and Sophie Rudge, with her role on *Andante*, were invited in the Conference on Synodality which was arranged by the Centre of Catholic Studies at Durham University. It was a wonderful experience in fulfilling the Synodal idea of listening with full attention to the ideas of all the Christian denominations on how they build up the ways and means of listening and speaking 'in the Spirit' within their own communities. Information on the various Webinars and online conference at the CCS has become a feature of the information sent out to all online members. Alex Mthobi as our representative on Pax Romana, the international Christian organisation with whom we have had a close connection since the Association began, continues to circulate updates and invitations to take part in Webinars by

Pax Romana. Through Sophie Rudge, Barbara Bolgiano and Anthony Baker (all members of Council), we have kept in close touch with our partner organisation, Andante, the National Board of Catholic Women and the National Council of Lay Associations respectively. The Newman Newsletter, which has had a difficult history over recent times with the death of one long-time editor and the resignation owing to serious health problems of his successor, is now ably edited by Barbara Bolgiano. She has expanded its recipients with a drive to draw in the unattached members of the Association via their email addresses, and also developed the information contained in the Newsletter.

Barry Riley, our long serving editor with a small and loyal editorial board, has continued to publish the Newman Journal which always includes interesting articles and information to keep members informed. We have had a review of those individuals and organisations which receive complimentary copies of the Journal by asking them directly if they still would like to receive this copy. Many did not reply and so we have been able to pare down some of the financial commitment involved.

As part of our 80th anniversary events last year we had set up a programme, organised by Patricia Egerton, of inviting Catholic Educational bodies to apply for funds to assist their various projects. The offer was taken up this year by Liverpool University Chaplaincy to assist some students financially in attending a residential faith development retreat. The Hertfordshire University Chaplain, Fr Innocent, also applied for funds to help develop his work, which was in a preliminary stage of growth. There was an interesting follow-up to this particular award as the Herts Circle has been involved in meeting many of the students and some students have been drawn into attending local events with that Circle. Perhaps this model of connection between University and local Circle may be something to develop in the future in other places. Council decided that we needed to draw this Award scheme within a review of the general strategy of connections with organisation outside the Association and so has put it on hold for this year. My own attempts to establish a link between my local University of Leeds and the Newman are continuing on a slightly different path with the possibility, hopefully, of establishing a Newman Circle actually with the Chaplaincy community.

Brian Hamill, President, April 2024

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2024

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended January 31, 2024.

Aims and Objectives

The object of the Association is to further the mission to the world of the Christian religion with particular reference to the Roman Catholic Church and in the light of the life and work of Saint John Henry Newman, by promoting greater understanding of the Christian faith and the application of its principles to the contemporary world.

Much of the activity of the Association is carried out through activities in local “Circles”, though some members are “unattached” where no Circle exists locally. These activities, typically talks or conferences on religious, artistic, and philosophical subjects, are open to non-members including Christians of other denominations, non-Christians and those

professing no religion. The trustees confirm that in governing the Association they have had regard to the Charity Commission statement on public benefit.

Structure, Governance and Management Governing Document

The Newman Association was founded in 1942 as a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 1 May 1947 and was registered as a charity on 13 December 1991. The new Constitution as a C.I.O. was adopted by the membership in June 2022 and approved by the Charities Commission in November 2022.

Recruitment and Appointment of Council and Trustees

The charity trustees are the principal members of the Association's Council, which may also include advisory members such as the chaplain and *The Newman* journal editor. Trustees are elected for a period of 3 years, but may be re-elected for a further term. The trustees may appoint a replacement trustee to fill a casual vacancy, and may also co-opt up to three further trustees, but such appointed trustees automatically retire at the following Annual General Meeting.

A trustee may serve for sets of two 3 year periods, after which they must cease office for at least a year, after which they may stand for re-election at a general meeting, as specified in the constitution. Council normally meets at least four times each year, which may be in person or by electronic means. The Association's success in meeting its aims and objectives is reviewed each year in the President's review.

New trustees are directed to the Charity Commission website, in particular those sections outlining the legal obligations of trustees under charity law. They also receive a copy of the previous year's annual report and accounts and a representative section of the Association's current literature. All trustees are encouraged to continue to make them aware of information published by the Charity Commission and to keep abreast of developments in Charity governance.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

Charities law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year. In doing so the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make sound judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Association will continue on that basis.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which 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 trustees 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.

In accordance with charities law, as trustees, we certify that:

- So far as we are aware there is no relevant audit information of which the company's independent examiner is unaware and
- As the trustees, we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's independent examiner is aware of that information.

Financial Review

The trustees have reviewed the required level of the financial reserve. The total funds available in January 2024 were just in excess of £120,000 which may seem excessive in the light of the current levels of expenditure of around £30,000/year.

However the trustees recognise that:

a) A significant portion (currently around £95,000) of the fund is held in a CCLA COIF investment fund, the value of which can fluctuate. Investment in this fund is also a modest hedge against rising cost inflation. While the main costs of the Association continue to increase with inflation, the Trustees judge that there are very limited opportunities to increase revenue by raising subscriptions.

b) Circles will require further funding to encourage them to resume their levels of pre-Covid activity, as will covering the costs of resuming of the national lectures each year. The income generated and expenditure incurred directly by Circles is included in the financial report. Grants are regularly made to Circles which manage a significant meetings programme.

c) In addition, other IT activity to enable Circles to provide a wider coverage of lectures will require significant future expenditure

The trustees therefore conclude that the gap between operational income and expenditure is may well increase over the next years, and believe it prudent to retain a balance of around £100,000 for the present, with a significant proportion continuing to be held in an investment fund.

Nevertheless the Trustees will continue to assess opportunities to make other grants to external (mainly educational) institutions in support of projects which promote the Association's objectives.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 28 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Brian Hamill, President

**Statement of Financial Activities (Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account)
for the Year Ended January 31, 2024**

Balance Sheet		
2022-3		2023-4
£		£
134,780	Net assets brought forward	127,325
(7,455)	Net gain/(loss) in the year	(4,537)
127,325	Net assets carried forward	122,788
Represented by:		
90,165	COIF Charities investment Fund	95,715
22,674	Cash in banks managed by Newman Council	15,706
13,448	Cash in Circles banks	11,075
3,100	Debtors and prepayments	1,800
129,387	Gross Assets	124,296
2,061	Less liabilities	(1,508)
127,326	Net Assets	122,788
Income and Expenditure		
2023	Income	2024
10,201	Membership subscriptions	9,475
2,083	Donations	314
2,122	Gift Aid Receipts	1,938
-	National events -retreat	1,522
3,902	Circles Income (note1)	5,070
2,748	Bank and investment income	2,801
(1,649)	Increase/ (decrease) in value of COIF investment	5,551
-	Other income	-
19,407	Total income	26,672
Expenditure		
89	National events	1,894
3,756	Newman Journal	3,110
850	Public liability insurance	308
8,642	Circles expenditure - note 1	9,756
2,677	Annual general meeting (net expense)	1,744
0	Council meetings (incl.UK travel)	396
1,584	Website maintenance costs	1,653
982	IT/Zoom services	848
1,134	Pax Romana and national subscriptions (note2)	(270)
5,000	Donations to educational institutions (note 3)	9,500
2,143	Other expenses (note 4)	2,271
26,859	Total expenditure	31,210
(7,455)	Overall Surplus/(deficit)	(4,537)

The notes below form part of these accounts.

Notes on the accounts 2023-4**Note 1**

2023

2024

Circles Income

Meetings	1,635	2,475
Functions	2,046	2,046
Other	221	549
Total	3,902	5,070

Circles expenditure

Meetings	5,358	4,544
Functions	1,777	1,625
Other	1,507	906
Total	8,642	9,756

Note2**Pax Romana and other subscriptions**

Pax Romana*	1000	(463)
National Board of Catholic Women	134	45
National Council for Lay Associations	0	0
Andante (European Catholic Women)	0	148

* the 2024 payment was a correction of earlier overpaid subscriptions

Note 3

In 2023-4 grants were made to	
University of Durham CCS conference	2,000
Edmund Plowden Trust, lecture fund	5,000
University of Hertfordshire Catholic Society	2,400
Liverpool University chaplaincy	100

2023

2024

Note 4 Miscellaneous expenditure

Bank charges	256	262
BACS charges	80	101
Chaplain's honorarium	700	700
Examiner honorarium	480	500
Registered office services	210	210
postage	219	186
Travel	48	199
Other small items	150	113
Total	2143	2271

Note 5 Trustee remuneration and related party transactions

No Trustee received any remuneration during the year 2023-4 (2022-3: nil). Specialist IT skills are needed for the development of the website and the provision of electronic links to and within Circles. Michael Hamill of Smarts Group, son of a trustee, responded to an earlier request to provide such services. Smarts Group was paid £2501 (VAT inclusive) in 2023-4 but around £400 of that was for 3rd party IT software. The trustees remain satisfied that the provision of such services is essential, and that the arrangement with Michael Hamill is good value and does not commit the Association in any long term way.

Otherwise, no trustee or any other person related to the charity has any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year, save as a potential beneficiary of the charity in the normal course of its activities (2022-3: none).

£479 travel expenses were reimbursed to four trustees in the course of the year (2022-3: £48 to one trustee)

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 28 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Brian Hamill
President & Trustee

Anthony
Baker
Treasurer & Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE NEWMAN ASSOCIATION

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Newman Association for the year ended 31 January 2024, which are set out on pages 6-9.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:

David A Swallow F.C.A.

Commercial House, Bridge Road, Stokesley, TS9 5AA
20 September 2024

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

This membership report covers the period from 1 February 2023 until 31 January 2024. Having completed one complete cycle of being membership registrar I would like to thank all those members with whom I have had contact and those who have sent wonderful greetings.

Since the last annual report we have been delighted to welcome the following new members of the Association: Dr Denis Rose (unattached), Mr Tom Piotrowski (Worcester), Dr George Kondratowicz and Dr Ewa Kondratowicz (Worcester), Mr Kieran Keating and Mrs Mary Keating (North Gloucester), Mrs Anne Rose (Hertfordshire), Mr Anthony Bracuti (York), Dr David Tibbutt (Worcester), Rev Peter Conley (Coventry), Mrs Fiona Hill (York), Mrs Eileen Sparks (York), Mr David McLoughlin and Mrs Fleur Dorrell (Worcester), Ms Barbara Cookson (York).

Circle	Roll		Change
	01/02/2023	31/01/24	
Birmingham	10	9	-1
Cleveland	26	23	-3
Coventry	40	38	-2
Ealing	22	21	-1
Eastbourne & Bexhill	10	9	-1
Edinburgh	16	12	-4
Glasgow	27	25	-2
Hertfordshire	54	48	-6
Manchester & North Cheshire	35	32	-3
North Gloucester	16	17	1
North Merseyside	18	16	-2
Overseas	3	3	0
Surrey Hills	5 now closed	3	-2
Tyneside	23	23	0
Unattached	97	89	-8
Wimbledon	15	13	-2
Worcester	25	26	1
Wrexham	17	15	-2
York	17	21	4
Total	476	443	-33

The decrease in membership is about seven percent this year in the period from 1st February 2023 to 31st January 2024.

There are fifteen active circles which have a wide variety of face to face meetings throughout the year. Some of the meetings from some circles are available on a Zoom link and the Newsletter is an excellent source of information for this.

If you are unattached, as far as being in an active Circle, do make sure we have an email address to send a Newsletter directly to you.

Some members have become ill and need care or have resigned their membership and there are those members and ex-members who have died; may they rest in peace. We hold all of these and their families in our prayers.

In Memoriam – Requiescant in pace

In the period February 2023 – January 2024, the Newman Association was notified of the deaths of the following members:

Mrs P Collins, (N.Gloucester) Feb 2023; Mr J J Bell, (Coventry) Feb 2023; Dr Maura Murphy, (North Merseyside) Feb 2023; Mr Richard Barnes, (Worcester) March 2023; Mrs J M Way, (unattached) Aug 2023; Mr Jim Naisbitt, (Herts) Sept 2023; Mrs L Greenwell-Bliss, (Cleveland) Oct 2023; Mr Kevin Ryan, (Cleveland) Nov 2023; Dr Narishta Ratnanather,

(London (closed)) Dec 2023; Dr Michael Ryan, (Herts) Jan 2024; Miss Moira O'Connor, (Croydon (closed)) Jan 2024; Mr Michael O'Hanlon (Edinburgh), December 2022; Mrs M Clement (unattached), Feb 2022 (Newman Association notified May 2023)

Josephine Way was President of the Association from 1995-7.
Kevin Ryan served as Treasurer from 2015-20.

May they all rest in peace.

Cindy Hamill
Membership Secretary

THE NEWMAN ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1006769

Accounts

*The **NEWMAN** **ASSOCIATION***

Promoting open discussion and greater
understanding in today's Church

Annual Report 2022-3

www.newman.org.uk

The Newman Association is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), charity no. 1006769. Registered office: Swallow & Company Commercial House Bridge Road Stokesley North Yorkshire TS9 5AA.

Email: info@newman.org.uk Website: www.newman.org.uk. Member of Pax Romana – International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL 2022-3

* denotes Council members who are also Trustees

President

Winifred Flanagan*
Birmingham Circle
(Resigned as President February 2022)

Brian Hamill*
York Circle
(Co-opted February 2022, elected
President and Trustee June 2022)

Secretary

Sophie Rudge*
Email: secretary@newman.org.uk

Treasurer

Anthony Baker*
Hertfordshire Circle
Email: treasurer@newman.org.uk

Council Members

Alex Mthobi*
Eastbourne and Bexhill Circle
Email: amthobi@yahoo.com
Elected as Vice President June 2022

Professor Terry Wright*
Tyneside Circle
(Elected June 2022,
resigned December 2022)

John Duckett*
Coventry Circle
Elected June 2022
Email:
forjd_go2_johnduckett@talktalk.net

Dr Patricia Egerton
Cleveland Circle
(Retired June 2022)

Dr Harcourt Concannon
Manchester and North Cheshire Circle
Email: harcourtconcannon@me.com
(Retired June 2022)

Chaplain

Mgr Patrick Kilgariff
Email: patrickkilgariff1941@gmail.com

Journal Editor

Barry Riley
Ealing Circle
Email: barryriley@btinternet.com

Membership Registrar

Dr Patricia Egerton
Cleveland Circle
(resigned as Membership Registrar
December 2022)

Cindy Hamill
(York Circle)
Email: cindyhamilluk@yahoo.com
Appointed as Membership Registrar
December 2022

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year marked the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Newman Association in 1942 so in a sense it can be appropriately seen as a rebirth after Covid, or at least the beginnings of one. Starting with the most important aspect of our work, the Circles, the pandemic has led to some Circles finding it difficult to come back to life. This is clearly an ongoing process and there remains hope for the future for many of these. Some Circles have come back quite strongly as they make further use of the facility of Zoom etc to develop their events, a gift which Covid unexpectedly offered us. As they begin to pick up again, these local events are being advertised on the website and in the Newsletter. It will take a little time for this situation to settle down overall.

Turning from the Circles to Council, over the course of the year we bade farewell with thanks to three trustees: Winifred Flanagan, our President since 2018 who was forced to resign owing to a severe Covid infection, Harcourt Concannon and Patricia Egerton. As new trustees we welcomed John Duckett from the Coventry Circle, Terry Wright from the Tyneside Circle and Barbara Bolgiano from the Hertfordshire Circle. Of the events which took place over the year, one of the most outstanding was the Manchester Newman lecture, postponed owing to Covid, and finally delivered by Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald on *Fraternity - A Proposal and a Project for Relations between Christians and Muslims*. Basing his talk on his wide experience on these interfaith relationships at the Vatican and in Muslim countries the Cardinal took us on a historical voyage through some choppy seas at times towards the calmer waters of the present pontificate. The lecture was streamed and recorded and made available to all members via a link in the national Newsletter. This recording and distribution of talks etc will become a growing feature of our spreading the word and vision of John Henry Newman.

The Newman pilgrimage planned for Padua in the autumn of 2022 was postponed until May 2023.

The Newman Retreat led by Fr Pat Kilgariff, our Chaplain, was held at Douai Abbey in December and another is planned for April 2023 at Ampleforth. At the AGM in June, which, after a postponement owing to a looming rail strike, we managed to hold in Newcastle, we finally passed our new Constitution and this was accepted in November by the Charity Commission. We are now officially a Charitable Instituted Organisation (CIO) which will make the reporting of matters easier. The Constitution allows greater freedom for meetings on line and we will be making greater use of this as the financial commitment to face to face General Meetings is considerable. At this AGM Greg Ryan of the Centre for Catholic Studies at Durham University gave an informative talk on the present Synodal Process entitled *Synodality – Buzzword or Breakthrough?* The Synodality project, promoted by Pope Francis, has a considerable way to go, with further meetings in Prague and finally in Rome in the autumn. Its progress in the Catholic Church in this country has been generally positive and the Newman took further interest with the arrangement of a talk on the subject given by Christopher Lamb, the *Tablet's* Rome correspondent.

To celebrate our 80th Anniversary we decide to set up two projects: the first was an Awards Scheme whereby we contacted a number of Catholic Institutes of Higher Education and offered some funding towards assisting their students to pursue courses and projects which are in line with Newman Association objectives. The offer this year was taken up by London University Chaplaincy and the Durham Centre for Catholic Studies. We shall be reviewing how best to continue this project over the coming years. Many thanks to Patricia Egerton,

Carole O'Toole and Sophie Rudge for managing this scheme, following the initial idea from Winifred Flanagan. Hopefully this project will develop our connections with other Catholic Bodies in general. At present we are well connected in Britain with the National Board of Catholic Women, the National Council of Lay Association and the CCS in Durham, while wider contact continues through Pax Romana worldwide and the re-establishment of membership of Andante, which is a European wide organisation for Catholic women. As the world seems to be becoming more fragmented, these links within the general orbit of Christianity will become increasingly helpful for the unity and strengthening of our ultimate purpose of spreading the Good News.

The second project is based on attempting to re-establish contact with young Catholics at University, a contact which at the beginning in 1942 was clearly the main source of our membership. Alas, over the years, owing to many changes and events within the country, the education system and the Church, this contact has, to a large extent, been lost. Council approved, with appropriate funding, my attempt to re-establish this connection, in particular with the universities in my local city of Leeds. So far this has been a successful venture and at the last meeting there were some nine students from varied backgrounds and courses, who were very open and interested in our Newman vision of an educated laity. This is definitely a space to watch.

Such are the particular events of the year, while the regular contributions of the Journal and the Newsletter have continued as a steady background to our activities. Barry Riley has continued in his role as Journal editor with his usual expertise but we have had changes in the editorship of the national Newsletter with the resignation and death of Kevin Lambert, after so many years of dedication to the Association in so many roles. Terry Wright of the Tyneside Circle took over from Kevin but unfortunately he, in turn had to resign owing to developing health challenges. The editorship of the Newsletter has now passed to Barbara Bolgiano, who has taken up this role with our thanks.

Brian Hamill
President

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2023

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended January 31, 2023. During the course of the year the Charities Commission approved the registration of the Association as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (C.I.O.) and the trustees who served during year are listed on page 2, as are those former trustees who also served as directors under the previous parallel company and charity authorisations.

Aims and Objectives

The object of the Association is to further the mission to the world of the Christian religion with particular reference to the Roman Catholic Church and in the light of the life and work of Saint John Henry Newman, by promoting greater understanding of the Christian faith and the application of its principles to the contemporary world.

Much of the activity of the Association is carried out through activities in local "circles", though some members are "unattached" where no circle exists locally. These activities, typically talks or conferences on religious subjects, are open to non-members including

Christians of other denominations, non-Christians and those professing no religion. The trustees confirm that in governing the Association they have had regard to the Charity Commission statement on public benefit.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Newman Association was founded in 1942 as a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 1 May 1947 and registered as a charity on 13 December 1991. The company was originally established under a Memorandum of Association, which defines its objects and powers, and is governed under its Articles of Association.

The new Constitution as a C.I.O. was adopted by the membership in June 2022 and approved by the Charities Commission in November 2022.

Recruitment and Appointment of Council

The charity trustees are the principal members of the Association's Council, which may also include advisory members such as the chaplain and *The Newman* journal editor. Trustees are elected for a period of 3 years, but may be re-elected for a further term. The trustees may appoint a replacement trustee to fill a casual vacancy, and may also co-opt up to three further trustees, but such appointed trustees automatically retire at the following Annual General Meeting.

A trustee may serve for sets of two 3 year periods, after which they must cease office for at least a year, after which they may stand for re-election at a general meeting, as specified in the constitution. Council normally meets at least four times each year, which may be in person or by electronic means. The Association's success in meeting its aims and objectives is reviewed each year in the President's report.

New trustees are directed to the Charity Commission website, in particular those sections outlining the legal obligations of trustees under charity law. They also receive a copy of the previous year's annual report and accounts and a representative section of the Association's current literature. All trustees are encouraged to continue to make themselves aware of information published by the Charity Commission and to keep abreast of developments in Charity governance.

Financial Review

The trustees have reviewed the required level of the financial reserve. The total funds available in January 2023 were in excess of £120,000 which may seem excessive in the light of the current levels of expenditure of around £25,000/year (before external grants).

However the trustees recognise that:

a) A significant portion (around £90,000 of the fund is held in a CCLA COIF investment fund, the value of which has decreased over the last year and may decrease further in future.

b) Circles will require further funding to encourage them to resume their levels of pre-Covid activity, as will covering the costs of resuming of the London and Manchester lectures each year.

c) The website and other IT activity will require significant future expenditure

d) The main costs of the Association will continue to increase with inflation, while the opportunity to increase revenue by raising subscriptions is limited.

The trustees therefore conclude that the gap between operational income and expenditure is likely to increase over the next 3 years, and believe it prudent to retain a balance of around £100,000 for the present.

Nevertheless over the next three years the Trustees intend to seek further opportunities to make annual grants (totalling around £5000-10,000/year to external (mainly educational) institutions to promote the Association's objectives.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

Charities law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year. In doing so the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make sound judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Association will continue on that basis.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which 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 trustees 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.

In accordance with charities law, as trustees, we certify that:

- So far as we are aware there is no relevant audit information of which the company's independent examiner is unaware and
- As the trustees, we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's independent examiner is aware of that information.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 1 May 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Brian Hamill, President

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income & Expenditure Account)

for the Year Ended January 31, 2023

Balance Sheet

2022		2023
£		£
128,774	Net assets brought forward	134,780
6,006	Net gain/(loss) in the year	(7,455)
134,780	Net assets carried forward	127,325

Represented by:

91,814	COIF Charities investment Fund	90,165
26,262	Cash in banks managed by Newman Council	22,674
15,733	Cash in Circles banks	13,448
2,250	Debtors and prepayments	3,100
136,059	Gross Assets	129,387
1,279	Less liabilities	2,061
134,780	Net Assets	127,326

Operational Income and Expenditure

2022	Income	2023
11,067	Membership subscriptions	10,201
250	Donations	2,083
2,006	Gift Aid Receipts	2,122
984	National events -retreat	-
3,306	Circles Income (note1)	3,902
2,696	Bank and investment income	2,748
5,789	Increase/ (decrease) in value of COIF investment	(1,649)
79	Other income	-
26177	Total income	19,407

Expenditure

1,160	National events	89
3,597	Newman Journal	3,756
759	Public liability insurance	850
3,862	Circles expenditure - note 1	8,642
906	Annual general meeting (net expense)	2,677
0	Council meetings	0
1,843	Website maintenance costs	1,584
1,498	IT/Zoom services	982
3,125	Pax Romana and national subscriptions (note2)	1,134
1,000	Donations to educational institutions	5,000
2,420	Other expenses (note 3)	2,143
20,170	Total expenditure	26,859
6,007	Overall Surplus/(deficit)	(7,455)

The notes below form part of these accounts.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 1 May 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Brian Hamill
President & Trustee

Anthony Baker
Treasurer & Trustee

Notes on the accounts 2022-3

	2022	2023
Note 1		
Circles Income		
Meetings	506	1,635
Functions	2,027	2,046
Other	773	221
Total	3,306	3,902

Circle expenditure

Meetings	1,253	5,358
Functions	1,820	1,777
Other	789	1,507
Total	3,862	8,642

Note2

Pax Romana and national subscriptions

Pax Romana*	3,080	1000
National Board of Catholic Women	45	134
National Council for Lay Associations	0	0

* the 2022 amount included a backlog of partly unpaid subscriptions over 3 years

	2021	2023
Note 3 Miscellaneous expenditure		
Bank charges	251	256
BACS charges	159	80
Chaplain's honorarium	600	700
Examiner honorarium	900	480
Registered office services	188	210
postage	225	219
National travel	-	48
Other small items	97	150
Total	2,420	2143

Note 4 Trustee remuneration and related party transactions

No member of the Board of Trustees received any remuneration during the year (2021-2: nil)

No trustee or any other person related to the charity has any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year, save as a potential beneficiary of the charity in the normal course of its activities (2021-2: none)
£603 travel expenses were reimbursed to three trustees in the course of the year (2020-1: nil)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE NEWMAN ASSOCIATION

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Newman Association for the year ended 31 January 2023. which are set out on pages 6 to 8.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:

David A Swallow F.C.A.

Commercial House, Bridge Road, Stokesley, TS9 5AA
April 2023

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

This membership report covers the period from February 2022 until the end of January 2023 following the ups and downs of the Covid pandemic and life as it now is reflected. I took over from Patricia Egerton towards the end of January 2023 and commenced my term of office by writing to let members know that their subscription was due.

Some members have become ill and need care and have resigned their membership; other members and ex-members have died and are listed later in this report. We hold all of these and their families in our prayers.

Since the last annual report we have been delighted to welcome the following new members of the Association: **Mr Paul Brohan** (Worcester Circle); **Mrs Teresa Castelino** (Coventry Circle); **Dr Barbara Bolgiano** and **Mrs Marguerite Walter** (Herts Circle); **Mr Philip & Mrs Margaret Clark** (Cleveland); **Mrs Lucinda Hamill, Dr David Walsh, Mr Thomas & Mrs Jean Naughton and Miss Ann Watson and** (York Circle); **Ms Collette Borrow** and **Miss Catherine Moran** (N. Merseyside).

There are sixteen active circles which have a variety of face to face meetings or Zoom. The use of email as a means of communicating information, especially to those whom are unattached, is very useful and saves on postage. We are encouraging members to use this means of communication as well as the Newman website to keep in touch and advertise their programmes.

Circle	Roll	Roll	Change
	01/2/2022	31/01/2023	
Birmingham	10	10	0
Cleveland	27	26	-1
Coventry	42	40	-2
Ealing	23	22	-1
Eastbourne & Bexhill	9	10	1
Edinburgh	16	16	0
Glasgow	31	27	-4
Hertfordshire	58	54	-4
Manchester & North Cheshire	38	35	-3
North Gloucester	16	16	0
North Merseyside	17	18	1
Overseas	3	3	0
Surrey Hills (dormant)	6	5	-1

Swansea University (now closed)	5	4	-1
Tyneside	23	23	0
Unattached	111	97	-14
Wimbledon	18	15	-3
Worcester	26	25	-1
Wrexham	18	17	-1
York	15	17	2
Total	512	477	-35

The decrease in membership was about seven percent in the period from February 2022 to February 2023.

In Memoriam – Requiescant in pace

In the period February 2022 – January 2023, the Newman Association was notified of the deaths of the following members:

Mrs Margaret Robinson, (Manchester); Mr Howard Curtis, (N Merseyside); Dr John Notley, (York); Miss Sue Scott, (ex-Birmingham); Dr Joseph M Jackson, (unattached); Mr David R Morton, (N Staffs); Prof Patrick Alderton, (Surrey Hills); Mrs A Byrne, (Wimbledon); Mrs Ianthe Pratt, (Croydon); Mrs Beryl Shannon, (Wimbledon); Mr Kevin Lambert, (Coventry); Sister Mary Burtenshaw, (Coventry); Mr Bill White, (Croydon), Mrs Maureen Thomas, (Wrexham); Mrs Joyce Shannon, (Wimbledon); Mrs Terry Gray, (Tyneside); Mr Eric Poyser, (unattached); Mrs Judith Bennett, (unattached); Mr Jacques Davis, (unattached); Dr John A Bryden, (unattached); Dr Joan M Tarnoky, (unattached); Mr Francis Radcliffe, (York); Mr William Capstick, (former London circle); Mrs Mary Corbett, (Herts).

Eric Poyser (1959-61), John Bryden (1965-7), Kevin Lambert (1993-5), Judith Bennett (1997-9) and Maureen Thomas (2003-5) all served as Presidents of the Association in the years listed. Bill White was membership secretary for many years.

May they all rest in peace.

Cindy Hamill
Membership Registrar

THE NEWMAN ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1006769

Accounts

The **NEWMAN ASSOCIATION**

Promoting open discussion and greater
understanding in today's Church

Annual Report *2021-2*

www.newman.org.uk

The **NEWMAN ASSOCIATION**

A Company Limited by Guarantee Registered in England and Wales No. 434364
Registered office: c/o Swallow & Company, Commercial House, Bridge Road, Stokesley,
North Yorkshire, TS9 5AA
Registered Charity: No. 1006769

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL 2021-2

President

Winifred Flanagan
Birmingham Circle
Email: winifredflanagan@gmail.com

Secretary

Sophie Rudge
Email: secretary@newman.org.uk

Treasurer

Anthony Baker
Hertfordshire Circle
Email: treasurer@newman.org.uk

Membership Registrar

Dr Patricia Egerton
Cleveland Circle
Email: tpj.egerton@virgin.net

Chaplain

Mgr Patrick Kilgariff
Email: patrickkilgariff1941@gmail.com

Journal Editor

Barry Riley
Ealing Circle
Email: barryriley@lineone.net
(Co-opted ex officio)

Council Members

Dr Harcourt Concannon
Manchester and North Cheshire Circle
Email: harcourtconcannon@me.com

Alex Mthobi
Eastbourne and Bexhill Circle
Email: amthobi@yahoo.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2021-2 was again a difficult year for the Association; the Covid lockdown at the start of the year meant that activities were limited to the use of the internet and video links, but some local Circles continued to provide on-line talks for their members and also for their wider parish communities; one enterprising Circle started to put talks on You-Tube for general offering. During the year several Circles started to meet again in person, though there is anxiety that only about half the 20 Circles have now established full programmes. Council has sought to support Circles through periodic on-line forums with Circle representatives.

Most members are also active in their local parishes and Diocesan organisations, so Council encouraged members to support their local consultations on Pope Francis' initiative to create a "Synodal" Church, an invitation warmly supported by the Association.

National activities continued their regular pattern. The Association's Council met five times during the year by video link. Council is much smaller than it was 5 years ago, which makes for efficient conduct of business, and reduces costs of meetings. However some tasks have to be delegated to members outside the Council, and it is hard to recruit replacements. Succession planning for the main officer roles is also harder. Nevertheless Council continued to promote activities in the Circles and also arranged two national events - a pilgrimage to Ravenna in September 2021 and in November a retreat at Douai Abbey led by our chaplain Monsignor Patrick Kilgariff. Such national activities help to bond members together across Circles and enable wider recruitment of national volunteers.

The Newman journal and the website www.newman.org.uk continue to be our main national sources of publicity. *The Newman* journal, run by an editorial team under Barry Riley was published in May and November 2021. Its intellectual articles and editorials provide a thought-provoking and sometimes trenchant commentary on events in Church and State. Past issues of the journal are placed as website documents which are available to a wider readership beyond the Association.

Council also arranged for membership approval of the long-planned new Constitution as a CIO. The required in-person AGM was, alas, further delayed by bad weather and disrupted travel; approval is awaited later in 2022.

The Association continued its regular support of the National Council for Lay Associations and the National Board of Catholic Women. Our long-standing relationship with Pax Romana was renewed, and our backlog of subscriptions was paid up to date.

The financial state of the Association is healthy and given the size of our reserves, Council began consideration of how the financial support previously provided to a few educational institutions may be made more widely available. Positive plans should emerge next year.

In conclusion I offer warm thanks to my colleagues on Council and to the Circle officers who have been worked hard this year to revive their Circles

Winifred Flanagan

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2022

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended January 31, 2022. The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law and who served during the year and up to the date of this report, are listed on page 2.

Aims and Objectives

The object of the Association is to further the mission to the world of the Christian religion with particular reference to the Roman Catholic Church and in the light of the life and work of Saint John Henry Newman, by promoting greater understanding of the Christian faith and the application of its principles to the contemporary world.

Much of the activity of the Association is carried out through activities in local “circles”, though some members are “unattached” where no circle exists locally. These activities, typically talks or conferences on religious subjects, are open to non-members including non-Catholics, non-Christians and those professing no religion. The trustees confirm that in governing the Association they have had regard to the Charity Commission statement on public benefit.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Newman Association is a charitable company limited by guarantee, founded in 1942, incorporated on 1 May 1947 and registered as a charity on 13 December 1991. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which defines its objects and powers, and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members may be required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

The new Governing Document was completed during 2021 with the intention of being adopted by the membership in 2022 and approval by Companies House and the Charities Commission.

Recruitment and Appointment of Council

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as members of Council. The chaplain of the Association, while a member of Council, is not a director/trustee. Under the terms of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, directors either may be appointed by the Council to fill a casual vacancy or are to be elected by the Society's members at the annual general meeting to serve a one-year (for officers) or two-year term of office. All appointed directors must submit themselves to election at the annual general meeting immediately following their appointment. There is no limit to the number of terms a director may serve, subject to approval of the membership in general meeting, though the periods of consecutive office as Council officer or ordinary member are specified in the Articles. Council meets at least four times each year. The company's success in meeting its aims and objectives is reviewed each year in the president's report.

New trustees are directed to the Charity Commission website, in particular those sections outlining the legal obligations of trustees under charity law. They also receive a copy of the

previous year's annual report and accounts and a representative section of the Association's current literature. All trustees are encouraged to continue to make themselves aware of information published by the Charity Commission and to keep abreast of developments in Charity governance.

Financial Review

The directors and trustees regard as satisfactory both the financial position as at January 31, 2022 and the level of activity of the charity during the year. The Statement of Financial Activity shows a central account surplus for the year of £6007 of which £5789 is in respect of the increase in the value of the COIF investment together with an operational surplus of £218. (2021 surplus £6146). It should be noted that the value of this fund is not fixed and may decrease in the future.

The trustees confirm their decision in September 2008 to seek to hold a basic financial reserve of around £80,000, which was then intended to provide an annual income to make grants, both to underwrite the Association's conferences and to promote appropriate activities elsewhere.

The intention remains to hold a further reserve sufficient to meet the working capital needs of the Association, including the probable fluctuations in income and expenditure over a five-year cycle. The trustees confirm their intention that, over the next few years, they intend to continue to use reserves to finance projects within the Association, and also to make external grants in keeping with the Association's objectives.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year. In doing so the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make sound judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Association will continue on that basis.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which 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 Companies Act 2006. The trustees 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.

In accordance with company law, as directors of the company, we certify that:

- So far as we are aware there is no relevant audit information of which the company's independent examiner is unaware and
- As the directors of the company, we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's independent examiner is aware of that information.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS 102) and in accordance with the special provisions of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 17 September 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

✕ *Winifred Flanagan*
Winifred Flanagan, President

**Statement of Financial Activities (including Income & Expenditure Account)
for the Year Ended January 31, 2022**

Balance Sheet		
2021		2022
£		£
122,628	Net assets brought forward	128,774
6,146	Net gain/(loss) in the year	6,006
128,774	Net assets carried forward	134,780

Represented by:		
86,025	COIF Charities investment Fund	91,814
25,881	Cash in banks managed by Newman Council	26,262
15,920	Cash in Circles banks	15,733
2,886	Debtors and prepayments	2,250
130,712	Gross Assets	136,059
1,938	Less liabilities	1,279
128,774	Net Assets	134,780

Operational Income and Expenditure		
2021	Income	2022
11,544	Membership subscriptions	11,067
54	Donations	250
2,236	Gift Aid Receipts	2,006
	National events - retreat	984
1,497	Circles Income (note1)	3,306
2,517	Bank and investment income	2,696
3,032	Increase/ (decrease) in value of COIF investment	5,789
	Other income	79
20,880	Total income	26177

Expenditure		
	National events - retreat	1,160
3,592	Newman Journal	3,597
744	Public liability insurance	759
2,516	Circles expenditure - note 1	3,862
1,381	Annual general meeting	906
284	Council meetings	0
2,523	Website maintenance costs	1,843
	IT/Zoom services	1,498
840	Pax Romana and national subscriptions (note2)	3,125

1,000	Donations to educational institutions	1,000
1,854	Other expenses (note 3)	2,421
14,734	Total expenditure	20,170
6,146	Overall Surplus/(deficit)	6,006

The notes below form part of these accounts.

For the year ended January 31, 2022 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year ended January 31, 2022 in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 17 September 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

X 
Winifred Flanagan
President & Director


Anthony Baker
Treasurer & Director

Notes on the accounts 2021-2

Note 1	2021	2022
Circles Income		
Meetings	931	506
Functions	0	2,027
Other	566	773
Total	1,497	3,306

Circle expenditure		
Meetings	1,648	1,253
Functions	100	1,820
Other	768	789
Total	2,516	3,862

Note2

Pax Romana and national subscriptions		
Pax Romana*	600	3,080
National Board of Catholic Women	85	45
National Council for Lay Associations	155	0

* the 2022 amount included a
backlog of partly unpaid subscriptions over 3 years

2021 2022

Note 3 Miscellaneous expenditure

Bank charges		251
BACS charges	80	159
Chaplain's honorarium	600	600
Examiner honorarium	360	900
Registered office services	561	188
postage	150	225
Other small items	103	98
Total	1,854	2,421

Note 4 Trustee remuneration and related party transactions

No member of the Board of Trustees received any remuneration during the year (2020-1: nil)

No trustee or any other person related to the charity has any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year, save as a potential beneficiary of the charity in the normal course of its activities (2020-1: none)

No travel expense was reimbursed to any trustee in the course of the year (2020-1: nil)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE NEWMAN ASSOCIATION

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 January 2022 which are set out in pages 5-8.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Trustees (who are also directors of the Company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (The 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to

whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met or

(2) To which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

David A Swallow F.C.A.

Commercial House, Bridge Road, Stokesley, TS9 5AA
September 2022

MEMBERSHIP REPORT 2021-2

There have been so many distressing consequences of the COVID pandemic. Among the more trivial, rather than tragic, outcomes has been the necessary rescheduling of meetings and publications. Thus the Circles of the Newman Association cancelled their planned programmes, and cycles of meetings and publications have been interrupted.

The Membership Report for the 2020-21 Annual Report was written in October 2021, and covered the period April 2020 to October 2021. That Annual Report, after several postponements, was actually delivered at the Newman AGM in Newcastle in June 2022. Since it is desirable 'to get back on track', this Membership Report covers the period October 2021 to February 2022, so that - from now on - the standard February to February cycle can be resumed.

During the difficulties of recent months there have been many members and ex-members of the Newman Association who have died. Some we have been told about, others we may not be aware of. We pray that they may all rest in peace.

Between October 2021 and February 2022, the Newman Association was delighted to welcome the following four new members of the Association:

Miss Brenda Bolton (*Herts*); **Mr Timothy Marks** (*North Gloucester*); **Ms Jane Lavery** (*Coventry*); **Mr Paul Duff** (*North Merseyside*).

Despite most welcome newcomers, the overall number of members of the Association continues to fall, through deaths and resignations. In the Report 2018-19 it was 623, in the Report 2019-20 it was 585, in the Report 2020-21 it was 536, and in February 2022 it can be seen to be 512. By the end of 2022 it will inevitably be below 500.

Circles are just now, post-COVID, rebuilding their programmes of activities. We wish them all well, as the Newman Association revives - hopefully to grow and thrive.

Patricia Egerton
Membership Secretary

Circle	Roll October 2021	Roll February 2022	Change
Birmingham	12	10	-2
Cleveland	27	27	0
Coventry	44	42	-2
Ealing	24	23	-1
Eastbourne & Bexhill	13	9	-4
Edinburgh	16	16	0
Glasgow	32	31	-1
Hertfordshire	58	58	0
Manchester & North Cheshire	38	38	0
North Gloucester	16	16	0
North Merseyside	17	17	0
Overseas	3	3	0
(Surrey Hills)	7	6	-1
(Swansea University)	6	5	-1
Tyneside	23	23	0
Unattached	116	111	-5
Wimbledon	18	18	0
Worcester	29	26	-3
Wrexham	19	18	-1
York	18	15	-3
TOTALS	536	512	-24

In Memoriam - Requiescant in pace

In the period February 2021-January 2022, the deaths of the following member were notified to the Association:

Mrs P. MacDonald, Miss D. Pritchard, Miss A. Breaks (N Merseyside); Mrs C. Wiggins (Wimbledon); Mrs M. Grimm, Mr D. Bartley (London); Dr O. Urwin (N Staffs); Mrs N. Green, Mrs M. Redfern (Ealing); Mr A. Vivian, Miss E. Cheverton (N Glos); Mr D. Cairns, Mrs M. Conway (Tyneside); Mr E. Harber (Herts); Mrs N. Sowerby (Cleveland); Rev M. Fewell (Swansea); Mr J. Brown (Coventry).

Miss Eileen Cheverton was President of the Association in 1991-3, and for many years was Editor of *The Newman* journal.

THE NEWMAN ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1006769

Accounts

The **NEWMAN ASSOCIATION**

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understanding in today's Church

Annual Report 2020 -1

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***The* NEWMAN ASSOCIATION**

A Company Limited by Guarantee Registered in England and Wales No. 434364
Registered Office: Suite 1, Third Floor. 11-12 St James Square, London, SW1Y 4LB
Registered Charity: No. 1006769

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL 2020-21

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Winifred Flanagan
Birmingham Circle
Email: winifredflanagan@gmail.com

Acting Secretary

Brian Hamill
York Circle
Email: secretary@newman.org.uk
Retired January 2021

Acting Treasurer

Kevin Ryan
Cleveland circle
Email: treasurer@newman.org.uk
Retired January 2021

Membership Registrar

Dr Patricia Egerton
Cleveland Circle
Email: tpj.egerton@virgin.net

Chaplain

Mgr Patrick Kilgarriff
Email: patrickkilgarriff1941@gmail.com

Journal Editor

Barry Riley
Ealing Circle
Email: barryriley@lineone.net
(Co-opted ex officio)

Council Members

Anthony Baker
Hertfordshire Circle
Email: ab@anthonybaker.me.uk
Elected Treasurer 2021

Dr Harcourt Concannon
Manchester and North Cheshire Circle
Email: harcourtconcannon@me.com

Dr Michael Jameson
Hertfordshire Circle
Email: michael.jameson@talktalk.net
Retired January 2021

Dr Ian Jessiman
Croydon Circle
Email: imjess@newman.org.uk
Co-opted June 2019
Retired January 2021

Alex Mthobi
Eastbourne and Bexhill Circle
Email: amthobi@yahoo.com

Sophie Rudge
Email: sophierudge@btinternet.com
Co-opted October 2019
Elected Secretary January 2021

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It gives me great pleasure to present this report in the 79th year of the Association's existence, one of the most challenging years because of the Covid- 19 pandemic.

The Association's journal, *The Newman* , provided important continuity in its coverage, and our thanks are due to Barry Riley, the editor. Right at the start of the year *The Newman* recorded the canonisation of John Henry Newman in September 2019 by Pope Francis in Rome. There were articles by members who attended the canonisation, together with a list of celebratory events, ecumenical and other events arranged by local Circles. Other journal editions, in May and November 2020, contained the usual wide variety of articles, ranging from Catholic social teaching, via ideas of Purgatory and the understanding of the concept of papal infallibility, to reflections on gardening and on blackbird song. An important article by John Duddington reviewed the constraints on the free expression of Christian views in modern UK society.

The journal was a vital component of the Association's activity, at a period when events in the local Circles were badly hit by the pandemic restrictions on meetings. 35 planned lectures were cancelled or postponed, though some Circles quickly established ways of communication electronically by on-line facilities such as Zoom; this has now become an established pattern. One advantage of on-line lectures and discussions is that they allow some older members to join in, who otherwise would not wish to travel to local halls and churches. On-line meetings have also encouraged a new spread of "book groups" within Circles, where theological and social issues are debated.

The Association's governing Council also met regularly, and from March 2020 met roughly every 3 months through the Zoom facility. Council has put in place arrangements (including extra funding) to encourage local circles to adopt and use electronic communications, though this continues to be a difficulty for some Circles where members lack the necessary computer skills. A regular President's letter, written out to Circle members via Circle secretaries, has informed and encouraged members about national issues. Council also arranged periodic on-line meetings with local Circle representatives to ensure that communication both ways was maintained.

The two national lectures planned for the summer of 2020, by Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald and by Austen Ivereigh in London, both had to be postponed. The national pilgrimage to Ravenna and the association retreat at Douai Abbey were both postponed until later in 2021. The Association's AGM, normally expected in the summer on 2020, was finally held on-line in January 2021. A new constitution for the Association was adopted by a large majority of those present and was then lodged with the Charities Commission, when approval was also sought for the Association to operate as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The AGM recorded its special thanks to Dr Ian Jessiman and Dr John Duddington for their hard work to bring the new constitution to its adoption.

Unfortunately the membership of the Association continued to decline as age and illness take their toll. Some new members have joined, almost always through local Circles, which highlighted again the challenge in a year when Circles could not meet face-to face. Council hopes that on-line publicity and wider use of electronic communications may help in the same way that it has encouraged some extra meeting attendance.

As may be seen below, the financial situation of the Association remains healthy, and ironically the reduced expenses on face to face meetings enabled a modest operating surplus to add to an increase in the value of investments. The Association continues to give financial support to the work of the Centre for Catholic Studies at Durham University, and Council has discussed ways in which it can use resources more widely in conformity with the wider objective to support the intellectual dimension of the Christian religion.

Despite the difficulties this year, the Association continued its involvement with the activities of the representative bodies the National Council for Lay associations and the National Board of Catholic Women. Members also continued to work more widely in their parish and local communities. In its own way the Association remains part of the Common Good in society, true to its role in nurturing faith and reason through the teachings of the Second Vatican Council and of Pope Francis.

Winifred Flanagan

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2021

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended January 31, 2021. The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law and who served during the year and up to the date of this report, are listed on page 2.

Aims and Objectives

The object of the Association is to further the mission to the world of the Christian religion with particular reference to the Roman Catholic Church and in the light of the life and work of Saint John Henry Newman, by promoting greater understanding of the Christian faith and the application of its principles to the contemporary world.

Much of the activity of the Association is carried out through activities in local "circles", though some members are "unattached" where no circle exists locally. These activities, typically talks or conferences on religious subjects, are open to non-members including non-Catholics, non-Christians and those professing no religion. The trustees confirm that in governing the Association they have had regard to the Charity Commission statement on public benefit.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Newman Association is a charitable company limited by guarantee, founded in 1942, incorporated on 1 May 1947 and registered as a charity on 13 December 1991. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which defines its objects and powers, and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members may be required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Recruitment and Appointment of Council

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as members of Council. The chaplain of the Association, while a member of Council, is not a director/trustee. Under the terms of the

Memorandum and Articles of Association, directors either may be appointed by the Council to fill a casual vacancy or are to be elected by the Society's members at the annual general meeting to serve a one-year (for officers) or two-year term of office. All appointed directors must submit themselves to election at the annual general meeting immediately following their appointment. There is no limit to the number of terms a director may serve, subject to approval of the membership in general meeting, though the periods of consecutive office as Council officer or ordinary member are specified in the Articles. Council meets at least four times each year. The company's success in meeting its aims and objectives is reviewed each year in the president's report.

New trustees are directed to the Charity Commission website, in particular those sections outlining the legal obligations of trustees under charity law. They also receive a copy of the previous year's annual report and accounts and a representative section of the Association's current literature. All trustees are encouraged to continue to make themselves aware of information published by the Charity Commission and to keep abreast of developments in Charity governance.

Financial Review

The directors and trustees regard as satisfactory both the financial position as at January 31, 2021 and the level of activity of the charity during the year. The Statement of Financial Activity shows a central account surplus for the year of £6146 (2019-20 surplus £4887). There was a small operating surplus, and in addition the value of the COIF investment increased, despite the market conditions associated with the COVID virus.

The trustees confirm their decision in September 2008 to seek to hold a basic financial reserve of around £80,000, which was then intended to provide an annual income to make grants, both to underwrite the Association's conferences and to promote appropriate activities elsewhere.

The intention remains to hold a further reserve sufficient to meet the working capital needs of the Association, including the probable fluctuations in income and expenditure over a five-year cycle. The trustees, confirm their statement in recent years that, over the next few years, they intend to continue to use reserves to finance projects within the Association, but also to make external grants in keeping with the Association's objectives.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year. In doing so the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make sound judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Association will continue on that basis.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which 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 Companies Act 2006. The trustees 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.

In accordance with company law, as directors of the company, we certify that:

- So far as we are aware there is no relevant audit information of which the company's independent examiner is unaware and
- As the directors of the company, we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's independent examiner is aware of that information.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS 102) and in accordance with the special provisions of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 9 October 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Winifred Flanagan, President

Winifred Flanagan

**Statement of Financial Activities (including Income & Expenditure Account)
for the Year Ended January 31, 2021**

Balance Sheet

2020		2021
£		£
117,741	Net Assets brought forward	122,628
4,857	Net gain/ (loss) in the year	6,146
<u>122,628</u>	Net Assets carried forward	<u>128,774</u>
Represented by:		
82,993	COIF Charities Investment Fund	86,025
24,809	Cash in Banks managed by Newman Council	25,881
14,576	Cash in Circles' Banks	15,920
250	Debtors & Prepayments	2,886
<u>122,628</u>	Gross Assets	<u>130,712</u>
	Less Liabilities:	<u>1,938</u>
<u>122,628</u>	Net Assets	<u>128,774</u>

Operational Income & Expenditure

2020	Income	2021
12,370	Subscriptions	11,544
150	Donations	54
2,871	Gift Aid Receipts	2,236
200	London Newman Lecture	
236	Manchester Newman Lecture	
120	Annual General Meeting	

10,181	Circles' Income: Note	1,497
2,296	Bank Interest	2,517
	Increase/decrease in value of COIF	
7,451	investment	3,032
30	Other Income	
<u>35,905</u>	Total Income	<u>20,880</u>

Expenditure

	National Council Lay Associations	155
	National Board of Catholic Women	85
390	London Newman Lecture: Note 1	
561	Manchester Newman Lecture Note 2	
5,521	Newman Journal: Note 3	3,592
	Pax Romana	600
719	Public Liability Insurance	744
1,388	Annual General Meeting: Note 4	1,381
1,942	Council Meetings: Note 5	284
1,060	Website maintenance costs	2,523
14,949	Circles expenditure: Note 9	2,516
834	Publicity	
3,654	Miscellaneous Expenditure: Note 7	2,854
<u>31,018</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>14,234</u>
	Operational and Overall	
<u>4,887</u>	Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>6,146</u>

The notes below form part of these accounts.

For the year ended January 31, 2021 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year ended January 31, 2021 in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the Board of Trustees in October 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

X *Winifred Flanagan*

Winifred Flanagan
President & Director

Anthony Baker

Anthony Baker
Treasurer & Director

Notes on the 2020-1 accounts

	£	£
	2020	2021
1. London Newman Lecture		
Cost of venue	50	
Catering	90	
Speaker honorarium and expenses	250	
	390	
Income	200	
Net Cost	190	
2. Manchester Newman lecture		
Cost of venue	314	
Speaker honorarium and expenses	247	
	561	
Donations	236	
Net Cost	325	
3. Newman Journal		
Printing & postage	5,374	3,431
Editors postage	147	161
	5,521	3,592
4. AGM costs		
Printing	1,053	1,381
Lunches	180	
Speakers fee & expenses	20	
Room hire	135	
	1,388	1,381
Receipts	120	
	1,268	1,381
5. Council Meetings		
Room hire	410	80
Travel Council Meetings	1,532	204
	1,942	284
7 Miscellaneous		
Grant to Centre of Catholic Studies, Durham	1,000	1,000
Examiner 's Honorarium	420	360
Registered office service	512	561
Chaplain's stipend	600	600
Postage Print & Stationery	1007	150
Miscellaneous smaller items	115	183
	3654	2,834

8. Memberships

Pax Romana	600
Andante	
National Council of Lay Associations conference	155
National Board of Catholic Women	85

9. Circles Income & Expenditure

Income

Meetings Income	3,686	931
Gross Income from functions	5,992	
Donations	30	
Other	483	566
	<u>10,181</u>	<u>1,497</u>

Expenditure

Room hire	2,960	175
Speakers' expenses	1,203	1,473
Speakers' fees/honoraria	4,343	
Cost of functions	5,449	100
Secretarial expenses	405	
Other expenses	589	768
	<u>14,949</u>	<u>2,516</u>

10. Trustee remuneration and related party transactions

No member of the Board of Trustees received any remuneration during the year.
(2019-2020: £nil).

No trustee or any other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year save as potential beneficiary of the charity in the normal course of its activities. (2019-2020 none).

Travel expenses amounting to £204 (2019 £1,531) were reimbursed to 4 trustees

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE NEWMAN ASSOCIATION

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 January 2021 which are set out in pages 6 to 9.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Trustees (who are also directors of the Company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (The 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities
- have not been met or

- (2) To which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

DAVID A. SWALLOW F.C.A.
COMMERCIAL HOUSE
BRIDGE ROAD
STOKESLEY
TS9 5AA

September 2021

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

During these last months there have been members and ex-members of the Newman Association who have died: some we have been told about, others we may not be aware of. We pray that God welcomes all into his eternal kingdom - may they rest in peace.

Since the last Annual Report was produced, we have been delighted to welcome the following as new members of the Association:

Canon Edward Stewart (*Coventry Circle*); **Mrs Bernadette Campbell** and **Dr Paddy Ferry** (*Edinburgh Circle*); **Mrs Elizabeth Hines** and **Mrs Helen Merritt** (*Herts Circle*); **Mr Christopher Bentall** and **Ms Joanna Vials** (*N Glos Circle*); **Mrs Anita Dowsing** (*unattached*); **Mrs Indra Ramasamy** (*Worcester Circle*).

Despite these nine welcome newcomers, the overall number of members of the Association continues to fall. The number of members now (October 2021) is 535; in the Report 2019-20 it was 585, and in the Report 2018-19 it was 623.

No-one will be surprised that the Newman Association has been affected by the COVID pandemic. Obviously many, if not most, of our activities have been curtailed or cancelled. At the present time it is unclear how many circles are active, with an ongoing programme of events. Several are making valiant efforts to continue, using electronic communications as well as face-to-face sessions. Only time will tell how many other circles will be able to arise from their 'comatose state', and resume the activities that make Newman membership so worth-while.

Circle	Roll	Roll	Change
	01/04/2020	01/10/2021	
Birmingham	12	12	0
Cleveland	31	27	-4
Coventry	45	44	-1
Ealing	25	24	-2
Eastbourne & Bexhill	13	13	0
Edinburgh	17	16	-1
Glasgow	34	32	-2
Hertfordshire	63	58	-5
Manchester & North Cheshire	38	38	0
North Gloucester	17	16	-1
North Merseyside	21	17	-4
Overseas	3	3	0
Surrey Hills	9	7	-2
Swansea University	7	6	-1
Tyneside	29	23	-6
Unattached	129	116	-13
Wimbledon	19	18	-1
Worcester	29	29	0
Wrexham	22	19	-3

York	22	18	-4
TOTALS	585	535	-50