

**THE ARMY ROMAN CATHOLIC TRUST**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**Charity Number 1051643**

**THE ARMY ROMAN CATHOLIC TRUST**

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

The Board of Trustees	<p>P Firth Major General J S Kerr CBE Rt Rev Bishop P. Mason (Ex-Officio) Colonel D Morgan OBE Father S Sharkey (Ex-Officio) - appointed 1 September 2024 Father P Smith Father I Stevenson (Ex-Officio) - retired 1 September 2024 Wing Commander C P Thorpe - Chairman</p>
Principal Address	<p>St. Michael and St. George Parish Office Queens Avenue Aldershot Hampshire GU11 2BY</p>
Independent Examiner	<p>Mark Dickinson FCA Shaw Gibbs (Audit) Limited Wey Court West Union Road Farnham Surrey GU9 7PT</p>
Bankers	<p>Royal Bank of Scotland Holts Camberley Branch 11 High Street Camberley Surrey GU15 3AL</p>
Investment Managers	<p>BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited PO Box 9036 Chelmsford Essex CM99 2XD</p>

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

The trustees have the pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

**Legal Status**

The Army Roman Catholic Trust was created by a Declaration of Trust dated 17th May 1954, as varied or affected by Schemes of Arrangement of the Charity Commissioners dated 20th June 1994 and 14th April 2000.

The Army Roman Catholic Trust is a Registered Charity, charity number 1051643.

**Trustees Appointments and New Trustee Proceedings**

The ex-officio trustees are appointed by virtue of their respective offices. Co-optative trustees are appointed by a resolution of the trustees passed at a special meeting.

The chairman of trustees contacts new ex-officio trustees and potential new lay trustees prior to attendance at their first trustees meeting, to tell them about the background and activities of the trust. All new trustees are also provided with a copy of the Charity Commission guide "The Essential Trustee: what you need to know".

**Objects of the Trust**

The objects of the trust are the advancement of the Roman Catholic Religion among members of His Majesty's Army and the welfare of Roman Catholics of His Majesty's Army.

**Connected Charities**

The following Charities are connected to The Army Roman Catholic Trust.

Vicariate Headquarters Trust  
26 The Crescent  
Farnborough  
Hampshire  
GU14 7AS

Royal Air Force Roman Catholic  
Church Purposes Fund  
The Chaplaincy Centre  
RAF Cosford  
Albrighton  
Wolverhampton  
WV7 3EX

Royal Navy (Roman Catholic) Trust  
Royal Navy Catholic Chaplaincy  
The Chaplaincy  
HMS Collingwood  
Newgate Lane  
Fareham  
Hampshire  
PO14 1AS

The Roman Catholic Bishopric of the Forces (GB)  
Wellington House  
St Omer Barracks  
Aldershot  
Hampshire  
GU11 2BG

**Investment Powers**

Under the Trust Deed, the charity has the power to make any investment which the trustees see fit. BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited invest all of the funds into the Armed Forces Charities Growth and Income Fund.

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**Risks**

The major risks to which the charity is exposed, as identified by the trustees, have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks.

**Reserves**

The trustees are resolved to ensure that income is expended upon the objects of the charity, taking one year with another. Reserves, which principally arise from the appreciation over time of the portfolio of investments, are resolved to be invested to procure a steady and rising income so as to ensure that the expenditure upon charitable objectives may be increased.

**Achievements and Performance**

The Trust has continued to support the Bishopric throughout the year  
The Trust supported four serving personnel and a chaplain to attend the Military Jubilee event held in Rome  
Two chaplains and a military nurse were supported to attend HCPT pilgrimages during the year.

**Financial Review**

The Trust accounts show a deficit of £15,851 on unrestricted funds for the year before losses on investments.

There was some expenditure out of the designated welfare fund this year.

The Trust's investments are managed by BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited and have been invested in the Armed Forces Charities Growth and Income Fund. Investment income has increased over the previous period and the market value of investments has decreased.

**Plans for Future Periods**

The Trust will support the Champion Dinner and develop ways to further support the original objects of the Trust, namely the advancement of the Roman Catholic Religion among members of His Majesty's Army and also support Catholic Chaplains in their ongoing formation.

Army Veteran Chaplains were invited to the International Military Pilgrimage 2024 and there are plans for this invitation to be extended every 10 years thereafter.

**General**

The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Statement of Recommended Practice and the Charities Act 2011.

**Funds**

A legacy previously received from the estate of Angela Curran for the Community at The Cathedral Church of St Michael and St George, is included in restricted funds. Other restricted funds relate to Cathedral Maintenance.

Other funds held are unrestricted and are held to further the objects of the trust. These funds are available and are adequate to fulfil the obligations of the trust.

Unrestricted funds include a designated fund for Chaplains' Welfare.

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**Trustees Decision Making Process**

Major decisions are made by a majority of trustees either at bi-annual trustees' meetings or by telephone or email discussion.

**Grant Making Policies**

Budgets are produced annually including proposed grants, and agreed in advance by the Trustees. The Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain has discretion for grants below £2,000.

**Public Benefit**

The Trust facilitates the faith practice of Roman Catholic members of the British Army, their families and those other Service personnel who wish to associate with them by providing for their participation in events which foster and develop their spiritual lives, enhance their sense of humanity and improve their sense of belonging and citizenship. It enables Chaplains to provide the best pastoral care and resources, and to engage people more deeply with the moral component of their military responsibilities. In addition, it supports the pastoral ministry of the Bishop of the Forces to those same people.

Recruiting to the Service – and thereby to benefiting from the Trust - is based on competence and character alone, and not determined by the Trust but by the Ministry of Defence.

The Trust makes a point of supporting servicemen and women affected by Operations. The Trust supports all Service personnel, Roman Catholic or not, who wish to be part of the outreach of the Roman Catholic community in the British Army. Particular care is taken that those on lower incomes, typically those under training, are given additional financial support.

No private benefits are received by anyone.

**Investment Performance Against Objectives Set**

Given the volatility of the markets, investments have performed adequately in the year under the management of the investment manager.

**The Trustees**

The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

P Firth  
Major General J S Kerr CBE  
Rt Rev Bishop P. Mason (Ex Officio)  
Colonel D Morgan OBE  
Father S Sharkey (Ex-Officio) - appointed 1 September 2024  
Father P Smith  
Father I Stevenson (Ex-Officio) - retired 1 September 2024  
Wing Commander C P Thorpe - Chairman

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**Trustees' Responsibilities**

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

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient 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 Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. The trustees are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Father S. Sharkey  
Trustee

Approved by the trustees on 3 July 2025

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER  
UNDER SECTION 145 OF THE CHARITIES ACT 2011  
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ARMY ROMAN CATHOLIC TRUST**

I report on the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025 as set out on pages 7 to 13.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

The charity's 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.

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; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 statement below.

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirement:
  - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act 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.

**Mark Dickinson FCA  
Shaw Gibbs (Audit) Limited  
Wey Court West  
Union Road  
Farnham  
Surrey  
GU9 7PT**

**Dated : 3 July 2025**



**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Notes	2025 Restricted Funds £	2025 Unrestricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>					
General donations and legacies		-	15,595	15,595	17,857
Charitable activities		-	-	-	-
Investment income	2	-	158,610	158,610	150,791
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		-	<b>174,205</b>	<b>174,205</b>	<b>168,649</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
<b>Charitable Activities</b>					
Grants paid	3	-	83,475	83,475	78,412
Other charitable activities	3	-	106,581	106,581	83,922
		-	<b>190,056</b>	<b>190,056</b>	<b>162,334</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		-	<b>190,056</b>	<b>190,056</b>	<b>162,334</b>
<b>NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE AND NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS BEFORE GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS</b>		-	<b>(15,851)</b>	<b>(15,851)</b>	<b>6,314</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	6	-	(171,122)	(171,122)	69,578
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>		-	<b>(186,974)</b>	<b>(186,974)</b>	<b>75,892</b>
<b>Transfers</b>					
General unrestricted		-	-	-	-
Designated unrestricted		-	-	-	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		-	<b>(186,974)</b>	<b>(186,974)</b>	<b>75,892</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
FUNDS AT 1 APRIL 2024		<b>10,696</b>	<b>3,968,961</b>	<b>3,979,657</b>	<b>3,903,764</b>
FUNDS AT 31 MARCH 2025		<b>10,696</b>	<b>3,781,987</b>	<b>3,792,683</b>	<b>3,979,657</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

**BALANCE SHEET  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Notes	£	2025	£	£	2024	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>							
Investments	6			3,693,497			3,864,620
				<u>3,693,497</u>			<u>3,864,620</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	7						
Debtors			4,751			4,764	
Cash at bank			97,852			113,663	
			<u>102,603</u>			<u>118,428</u>	
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	8		(3,417)			(3,391)	
			<u>(3,417)</u>			<u>(3,391)</u>	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>				99,185			115,037
<b>NET ASSETS</b>				<u>3,792,683</u>			<u>3,979,657</u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>							
<b>FUNDS</b>							
Restricted	11/12			10,696			10,696
Unrestricted:	11						
Designated				48,928			50,000
General				3,733,059			3,918,961
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				<u>3,792,683</u>			<u>3,979,657</u>

These financial statements were approved by the trustees on 3 July 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:

Wing Commander C. P. Thorpe  
Chairman

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025****1. Accounting Policies****Basis of accounting**

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The accounts have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

**Incoming Resources**

General donations, collections and bank interest are accounted for on a receivable basis.

**Investments**

Investments are managed under discretionary agreements by Blackrock Investment Management (UK) Limited.

Investments are accounted for by reference to the bargain date shown by the contract note issued in respect of their purchase or disposal.

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recorded at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the bid price. The statement of financial activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

The Trust does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**1 Accounting Policies**

**Investment income**

Income arising from investments is included by reference to the normal date of payment of dividends or interest on that investment. Provision is not made in the accounts for dividends to be received in the next accounting period on investments declared ex-dividend prior to 31st March 2025.

**Taxation**

As a qualifying charity, the trust is not liable to UK taxation.

**Resources Expended**

Charitable activities costs include grants made and governance costs as shown in note 3.

**Debtors**

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment.

**Creditors**

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction date.

**2 Investment Income**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
UK quoted investments	157,368	149,500
Bank interest receivable	1,242	1,291
	<b>158,610</b>	<b>150,791</b>

**3 Expenditure : Charitable activities**

<u>Grants Paid - Unrestricted Funds</u>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Bishopric of the Forces	83,475	76,356
Vicariate HQ Trust	-	2,056
	<b>83,475</b>	<b>78,412</b>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

<b>3</b>	<b>Expenditure : Charitable activities</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	<u>Unrestricted:</u>		
	Lourdes Military Pilgrimage	53,784	44,830
	Camino Pilgrimage	-	-
	Other Grants and Donations	5,167	2,740
	Pastoral Administrative Assistant Salary and expenses	7,620	7,208
	Chaplains' Conferences and Retreats	10,065	1,471
	PRCC Expenses	3,550	3,484
	Campion Dinner	3,684	-
	Rome Jubilee	4,297	-
	Sundry	1,484	2,054
	World Youth Day	-	9,647
	Sponsorship of HCPT Pilgrimages	2,801	-
	Travel	373	562
	Accountancy (see note 4)	7,326	7,002
	Tweeting with God	2,500	-
	Publications	3,931	-
		<b>106,581</b>	<b>78,997</b>
	Designated fund expenditure included in Other Grants and Donations	<b>1,072</b>	-
	<u>Restricted:</u>		
	Cathedral Seats Refurbishment	-	4,925
		<b>-</b>	<b>4,925</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Accountancy</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Accountancy, payroll and secretarial	4,726	4,402
	Independent examination fees	2,600	2,600
		<b>7,326</b>	<b>7,002</b>

**5 Staff Remuneration & Trustees' Emoluments**

During the year there was 1 employee on average (2024 - 1).  
No employee earned £60,000 per annum or more (2024- none).

There was no remuneration payable to the trustees in the current or previous years.  
During the year two trustees were reimbursed £1,554 (2024: two trustees were reimbursed £601) travel & subsistence expenses incurred for services provided to the charity. In addition the charity paid expenses of £838 (2023: £1,650 on behalf of one trustee) on behalf of two trustees.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**6 Investments**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<u>Listed investments</u>		
Armed Forces Charities Growth and Income Fund	3,693,497	3,864,620

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<u>Movement in Market Value</u>		
Market value at 1 April 2024	3,864,620	3,795,042
Acquisitions at cost	-	-
Disposals at open book value	-	-
Net (losses)/gains on revaluations in the year ended 31 March 2025	(171,122)	69,578
Market value at 31 March 2025	3,693,497	3,864,620
Historical cost at 31 March 2025	2,847,489	2,847,489

All investments are carried at their fair value. Holdings in growth and income funds are at the bid price.

**7 Analysis of current assets**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other debtors	4,751	4,764
	4,751	4,764

All debtors relate to unrestricted funds

Cash at bank balances were as follows: unrestricted funds (including designated) £97,852 (2024: £102,967), restricted income funds £10,696 (2024: £10,696).

**8 Analysis of current liabilities**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Accruals	2,790	2,790
Net wages	627	601
Other creditors	-	-
	3,417	3,391

All creditors relate to unrestricted funds.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**9 Vicariate Headquarters Trust**

The Army Roman Catholic Trust contribution of funds to the Vicariate Headquarters Trust for the purchase of property and the subsequent refurbishment of the property finished during the year. The trustees of the Vicariate Headquarters Trust have confirmed that in the event of the Trust being wound up, they would return surplus funds to the contributing parties. In the eventuality 49.33% of any surplus would be returned to the Army Roman Catholic Trust.

**10 Related Party Transactions**

A grant was paid during the year to the Roman Catholic Bishopric of the Forces (GB) of £83,475 (2024: £76,356). The charities are connected by virtue of having some Trustees in common.

**11 Analysis of net assets between funds**

	<b>Restricted Funds 2025</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds 2025</b>	<b>Total Funds 2025</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024</b>
Fund balances at 31 March are represented by:				
Investments	-	3,693,497	3,693,497	3,864,620
Net Current Assets	10,696	88,490	99,186	115,037
	<u>10,696</u>	<u>3,781,987</u>	<u>3,792,683</u>	<u>3,979,657</u>
Split of unrestricted funds				
Designated		48,928		
General		<u>3,733,059</u>		
		<u>3,781,987</u>		

A designated fund was set up for Chaplains' Welfare, the balance on this fund at the year end was £48,928

**12 Restricted Funds**

	<b>Cathedral Community Fund</b>	<b>Cathedral Maintenance Fund</b>	<b>Total Funds 2025</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024</b>
As at 1 April 2024	1,826	8,870	10,696	15,621
Incoming Resources	-	-	-	-
	<u>1,826</u>	<u>8,870</u>	<u>10,696</u>	<u>15,621</u>
Resources Expended	-	-	-	4,925
	<u>1,826</u>	<u>8,870</u>	<u>10,696</u>	<u>10,696</u>
Transfer from unrestricted funds	-	-	-	-
As at 31 March 2025	<u>1,826</u>	<u>8,870</u>	<u>10,696</u>	<u>10,696</u>

Previously a legacy of £10,000 was received from the estate of Colonel Angela Curran for the Community at the Cathedral Church of St Michael and St George.

A separate fund arising from a bequest originally amounting to £22,520 was maintained by the trust during the year. The fund was established to contribute to the maintenance of the Aldershot Cathedral.