

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust

England & Wales · Charity number 1063237

Details

Other names	DOUAI ABBEY PARISH TRUST
Status	Registered
Legal form	Trust
Registered	1997-07-05
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Douai Abbey Upper Woolhampton Reading RG7 5TQ
Phone	0118 9715339
Email	dapt@douaiabbey.org.uk
Website	http://www.douaiabbey.org.uk/our-parishes.php

Activities

Objects: THE ADVANCEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC RELIGION BY PROMOTING IN CHURCHES AND PARISHES APPROPRIATED TO DOUAI ABBEY AFORESAID

Activities: THE ADVANCEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC RELIGION IN CHURCHES AND PARISHES INCORPORATED TO DOUAI ABBEY.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Gloucestershire
- Lancashire
- Warwickshire
- West Berkshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£900,377	£1,014,051	£5,836,028	9
2024-08-31	£836,936	£928,628	£5,970,538	9
2023-08-31	£836,249	£811,990	£5,927,842	9
2022-08-31	£825,001	£695,617	£5,686,564	11
2021-08-31	£676,196	£623,653	£5,639,000	11
2020-08-31	£690,450	£673,667	£5,244,212	13

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Paul Clive Forsythe Gunter OSB	Chair	2016-11-09
Rev Andrew Scott Hugh Somerville Knapman OSB		2021-01-01
Rev Bernard Godric Timney OSB		2008-01-02
Rev Francis Gerard Hughes OSB		2006-10-01
Rev Mark Benedict Thompson OSB		2015-10-18
Rev Paul Austin Gurr OSB		2025-10-23
Rev Thomas John Oliver Holt OSB		2024-09-22
Rev Walter Geoffrey Scott OSB		1998-01-02
Stephen Jones		2018-10-18

Accounts



**DOUAI ABBEY PARISHES TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust Contents

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Douai Abbey Parishes Trust
Reference and Administrative Details
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

Trustees	Rev Walter Scott OSB
	Rev Thomas Holt OSB (appointed 22/09/2024)
	Rev Francis Hughes OSB
	Rev Bernard Timney OSB
	Mr Stephen Jones
	Rev Andrew Hugh Somerville Knapman OSB
	Rev Paul Gunter OSB - Chair
	Rev Mark Thompson OSB
	Rev Alistair Hood OSB (resigned 01/05/2025)
Charity Number	1063237
Principal Address	Douai Abbey
	Upper Woolhampton
	Reading
	Berkshire
	RG7 5TQ
Accountants	Holy Brook Associates Ltd
	Curious Lounge
	Reading
	Berkshire
	RG11NH
Auditors	Caldwell Penn Ltd
	7a Abbey Business Park
	Monks Walk
	Farnham
	GU9 8HT
Bankers	The Co-operative Bank plc
	1 Balloon Street
	Manchester
	M4 4BE
Principal Investment Managers	Greenbank 30 Gresham Street, London, EC2V 7QN

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust

Trustees' Report For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

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

Objectives and Activities

Aims and Objectives

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 24 to 28 of the attached accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

+ Introduction

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust (the "Trust") is a charity established and governed by a trust deed dated 3 June 1997. It is registered with the Charity Commission, Charity Registration Number 1063237.

The Trust was established in 1997 by the separation of the activities of parishes, incorporated to Douai Abbey, from the other activities of Douai Abbey monastic community, which are accounted for within Douai Abbey Trust, a registered charity.

The seven parishes accounted for within the charity are as follows:

- Our Lady and St Joseph's, Alcester
- St Mary's, Woolhampton (Douai Abbey)
- St Benet's, Kemerton, together with two special trusts — The Roman Catholic Church Trust of 1842, and The Roman Catholic Poor School Trust for 1852
- St Anne's, Ormskirk
- St Elizabeth's, Scarisbrick, together with a special trust — The Benedictine Trust of 1860
- St Gregory the Great, Stratford-upon-Avon
- St Mary's, Studley

Significant Activities

+ Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans, and relevant policies

The activities of the charity can be divided into four principal areas: the administration of the Sacraments and maintenance of Divine Service; the education of young people in accordance with the Roman Catholic faith; pastoral work in propagation of the Roman Catholic faith; and charitable work in connection with any of the foregoing activities. Each of these is briefly considered in turn below.

Individual parishes review the income and expenditure each year, which is determined to be the key performance indicator for the parishes.

Administration of the Sacraments and maintenance of Divine Service

At Our Lady and St Joseph's in **Alcester** the total number of people attending the two Sunday Masses is around 110. Mass is celebrated in the parish primary school once each month. Sunday Masses are published in a weekly newsletter along with other notices. A dozen people, on average, attend one of the three weekday Masses. Morning Prayer is held in the church before Mass during Advent and Lent. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament occurs each Saturday during which the Sacrament of Confession is available. First Holy Communions and the Sacrament of Confirmation alternate annually. During Advent and Lent, a series of talks, given by parishioners, take place in the parish hall, and each week, at the chapel in Feckenham, a bible study group meets.

The **Woolhampton** parish comprises three churches located at Woolhampton (St Mary's), Pangbourne (Our Lady and St Bernadette's) and Theale (St Luke's). Sunday Mass is celebrated weekly at Pangbourne and at Theale, and from time to time, Mass is offered during the week. Parishioners in Woolhampton join the monastic community at Douai Abbey for Sunday Mass. From autumn of 2025, the parish will welcome Fr Austin Gurr OSB as its new parish priest, following an interregnum of some months after Fr Alban Hood OSB moved to serve the diocesan parish of Fordingbridge.

St Benet's, **Kemerton**, a small rural village parish, has a weekend Mass attendance averaging seventy people, with six to nine people attending on weekdays. Masses are also offered on Holy Days, with about 40 people attending. Over the past year there have been four baptisms, four funerals, and one wedding. Holy Communion is taken to six house-bound parishioners each week.

St Anne's, **Ormskirk** is served by two priests and two deacons. There are about 3,000 parishioners in the parish of whom a total of around 400 regularly attend the two Masses on Saturday evening and Sunday mornings. About twenty people attend daily Mass during the week. Other special services are held at various times and for particular occasions. Many non-Catholics attend the services. Sunday morning Mass is also livestreamed, as are some other services, and up to 200 sometimes join Mass via the livestream. During the year there were 56 baptisms, 34 funerals, 60 First Holy Communions, 34 Confirmations, and five adults were received into the Church.

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Douai Abbey Parishes Trust
Trustees' Report (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

Significant Activities - continued

St Elizabeth's **Scarisbrick** is a small, rural parish, covering a wide area of farmland and several small hamlets. Sunday Mass attendance averaged around 70 during the year. The Catholic population of the parish is estimated at around two hundred. The parish is currently administered from St Anne's in Ormskirk. There is one Mass on Sunday mornings, and one Mass during the week. On high feast days there was also Mass in the church. Little Church continues at Sunday Mass during the year to encourage families with younger children. Four baptisms, one reception of an adult into the Church, and ten funerals were celebrated during the year.

St Gregory's **Stratford-upon-Avon** welcomed Father Oliver Holt OSB as its new parish priest in September 2024. He was formally inducted by Abbot Paul Gunter in December. To the year end there were 14 baptisms, 34 First Holy Communions, 29 funerals, and seven weddings. Mass attendance is about 400. The parish pastoral council, established in September 2023, continued its work with sub-committees for Liturgy and Faith Development (renamed Liturgy and Formation), and Faith in Action. In Lent 2025 three well-supported talks were held in the church with one given by a Dominican deacon and the other two by the parish priest. St Gregory's continues to participate in the meetings and activities of Stratford Churches Together. The gas boilers in St Gregory's were found to be unsafe in the autumn of 2024, and research was undertaken to find a new, more sustainable system. As a result it was decided to opt for an electric infra-red system, which was eventually installed after the year end in time for the winter season of 2025/6. Meanwhile the Sunday services at St Gregory's had to be transferred to Our Lady of Peace, Shotton, during the winter months of 2024/5. Some years ago an ambitious scheme for a refurbishment of Our Lady of Peace had been planned, but during this year it was decided that this was too expensive and unjustified. A quinquennial survey and a fire risk assessment were undertaken, and an alternative programme of repair and maintenance has been adopted together with the formation of a Building Committee for Our Lady of Peace, reporting to the Parish Pastoral Council and the Finance Committee.

At **Studley** there are two Masses on weekends, a Saturday vigil and Sunday morning Mass, and one weekday Mass. Weekend Mass attendance averages 100. During the year there were 25 First Holy Communions, 20 Confirmations, and only two funerals. Parishioners who are either housebound or in nursing homes are visited regularly.

Education

At **Alcester**, the parish priest is chaplain to Our Lady and St Joseph's primary school in Alcester. Sacramental instruction is given within the primary school.

In the **Woolhampton** there is no Catholic primary or secondary school in the parish so adult formation in the faith is the focus here.

In **Kemerton**, likewise, there is no parish school.

Close to the church at **Ormskirk** are two schools: St Anne's Catholic Primary School with about 400 pupils, and St Bede's High School with about 700 pupils. The parish priest is an active foundation governor and priest chaplain to both schools. The parish also has significant numbers of scouts, cubs, beavers, squirrels, guides, brownies, and rainbows. The parish employs a part-time youth minister to support activities for teenagers, including the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme in which over 120 young people participate. In the parish we run programmes helping parishioners prepare for the celebration of the sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confession, and Marriage.

At **Scarisbrick**, St Mary's Primary School neighbours the church. It is a small school of about 100 pupils, of whom less than half are Catholic, and only about half of these live in the parish. The archdiocese is funding an extension to the EYFS area of the school, which will be ready for use in September 2025. The school plays a significant role in preparing children for First Holy Communion and, latterly, Confirmation, and links are increasingly stronger with the parish.

The parish school at **Stratford**, St Gregory's, is well connected with the parish. The pupils attend Mass in the church at least twice a term, in addition to occasional services in the school. There have been meetings with the parents for First Confessions and First Holy Communions, and a junior St Vincent de Paul group established. Children who do not attend the parish school are prepared for First Holy Communion. The children's liturgy at Our Lady of Peace, Shotton, continues to be popular.

At **Studley** the parish school is an Extended Services School working with the local social service and other schools, and has been rated as Good by Ofsted. It has a Rainbows Group helping children cope with bereavement and marital breakdown. It is an Eco and Healthy school and has just received the Gifted and Talented Award. The school plays a large role in preparing young people for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. The school has three Masses in the parish church every term, as well as on holy days of obligation. One Sunday Mass per term in church is organised by the school with its full participation.

Pastoral work

At **Alcester**, coffee is available in the hall monthly, after the 10:30am Mass. The parish hall is increasingly used by a number of local groups as well as by the parish for meetings. Parishioners participate in the town's ecumenical activities such as the Good Friday Walk of Witness and the Octave of prayer for Christian Unity. The parish priest has his own round of parish visits, and two parishioners, who are Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, visit the only nursing home in the town.

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Douai Abbey Parishes Trust
Trustees' Report (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

Significant Activities - continued

In the **Woolhampton** parish, the PCT (Parish Care Together) group quietly provides both practical and spiritual support to the elderly needy of the area, regardless of church affiliation. In addition, a small local charity fund, Pangbourne Assistance Fund, set up by a very generous donor in 1996, enables the parish to help those in need to meet exceptional expenses; for example a child's school trip, a washing machine, or a new carpet. The two church halls are let to various organisations within the local communities, including other charities.

In **Kemerton**, the St Benet's Pastoral Council meets regularly to discuss needs and organise events. The housebound are visited each week with Holy Communion.

In **Ormskirk**, the priest visits people in their homes, as well as being available to people who visit the presbytery. A prayer group has been meeting weekly for 20 years. Other groups which play an important part in parish life, but which cannot be readily categorised, include the Union of Catholic Mothers, the Knights of St Columba, the St Vincent de Paul Society, the Justice and Peace Group, the St Anne's Players, and the parish environment group. Our Parish Centre can be booked for functions and the use of the Centre is not restricted to just our own Catholic parishioners. However, the Centre is approaching the end of its useful life, and plans are in train to replace it. Safeguarding is a top priority in the parish.

At **Scarisbrick**, apart from the usual sick calls by the priest, Holy Communion is taken to five infirm parishioners in their homes, usually by Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. In the warmer months, every three weeks, morning tea after Sunday Mass is shared in the presbytery garden. After the sale of the parish hall in 2020, the opportunity for the expression of parish community life and pastoral support outside Mass was reduced; the regular morning tea has helped meet this deficiency. Also helping was the introduction of a parish Christmas party after the Covid lockdown, which has been very popular indeed, proving especially beneficial for more socially isolated parishioners. Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, as well as health and safety requirements, are taken seriously by the parish.

At **Stratford**, Mass attendance as elsewhere had fallen but numbers are slowly increasing and are now around 400. There are 40 housebound parishioners who receive Holy Communion in their homes. The St Vincent de Paul Society is active in the area helping those in need, and the parish bereavement group provides solace to many.

At **Studley** the parish priest continues to provide Mass for the primary school and to help with preparation for the Sacraments. Father Benedict Thompson OBS visits the sick in their homes, the local hospital, and the four nursing homes in the parish. He is helped in this by the support of the parish deacon. Two parishioners also visit people who are keen for more social contact; these are not necessarily physically infirm, and include people of no fixed faith.

Other charitable work

At **Alcester**, there is a successful food bank helped by parishioners. The church and modernised hall are surrounded by gardens maintained by the parish, a setting which attracts a number of groups seeking a venue to sponsor charitable events.

The **Woolhampton** parish traditionally supports a specific charity each year. The parish also collects food and other donations to support the foodbanks in Reading and West Berkshire, and prepares gift parcels for the homeless in Reading.

The **Kemerton** parish supports two local charities, Tewkesbury Foodbank and Gloucestershire Nightstop, by holding fundraising events. The parish hall is used by a group of retired musicians.

In **Ormskirk** some of the parish groups are directly geared to help those in need in the locality, especially the St Vincent de Paul Society. We have raised money by collections and social events for CAFOD and other charities, both local and beyond. The parish is a member of Ormskirk Churches Together. Over the past seven years St Anne's has worked with the Home Office to provide a home for a Syrian refugee family. The family has now settled in very well and a wonderful support group of parishioners keeps in touch with them on a regular basis.

Through collections in church the **Scarisbrick** parish has contributed to both national and local charities, including CAFOD, Nugent Care, and the St Vincent de Paul Society. Weekly collections of food are taken to the local foodbank. Discreet assistance is provided occasionally to a few families of pupils in our school who are in need from time to time, especially at Christmas. The Church charity Missio has strong support in the parish.

At **Stratford**, the parish supports many charities, particularly Father Clement's Lyerekh School for displaced orphans in Nigeria, Mary's Meals, Stratford Foodbank, and CAFOD.

Studley parish has supported CAFOD and Father Hudson's Society. We also support the Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) in Redditch, whose members include parishioners from Studley. The SVP helps several families in the parish, regardless of faith, both financially and physically. At Christmas essential groceries are provided to those who live alone or are unprovided for.

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

Public Benefit

In formulating the charity's aims and in planning the work of the individual parishes and hence the overall charity, the trustees have had regard to the general guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Policy for donations

The parishes each donate to other charitable causes whose aims and objectives are consistent with those of the charity i.e. the advancement and maintenance of the Roman Catholic religion and the relief of poverty. Donations are made from special collections held within each parish for each specific cause. In addition, each parish makes contributions towards the costs of the Roman Catholic Diocese in which it is situated and assists with meeting the expenses of the repair and maintenance of local Roman Catholic Schools.

Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults

Like all other organisations who serve in the community, the trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all those the charity serves in any way. This means that the trustees, volunteers and staff engaged in the work of the charity in Great Britain must obtain clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

The trustees are fully committed to implementing all policies and procedures of the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA). Each parish has a Child Protection Officer which operates under the safeguarding authorities of the relevant Roman Catholic Diocese of which the parish is a part.

Investment policy

The charity has both investment properties and a portfolio of listed investments. The trustees' overall policy with regard to the charity's listed investments is to maximise total return through a diversified portfolio, with the aim of providing the level of income advised by the trustees and, at the same time, with a view to ensuring capital appreciation exceeding inflation over any five-year period. The trustees are conscious of the potential short to medium term impact of current geopolitical and macro-economic events. The trustees are meeting regularly with the investment manager in order to remain apprised of the situation.

Similarly, the trustees acknowledge that current events may lead to short-term volatility in the property market, but believe that the market will recover in the medium to long term. The charity has no plans to dispose of its investment properties and regards them as long-term investments. Individual parishes review their investment performance at the end of the year.

Fundraising policy

The charity aims to achieve best practice in the way in which it communicates with donors and other supporters. It takes care with both the tone of its communications and the accuracy of its data to minimise the pressures on supporters. It applies best practice to protect supporters' data and never sells data, it never swaps data and ensures that communication preferences can be changed at any time. The charity manages its own fundraising activities and does not employ the services of Professional Fundraisers. The charity undertakes to react to and investigate any complaints regarding its fundraising activities and to learn from them and improve its service. During the year to 31 August 2025, the charity received no complaints about its fundraising activities.

Financial Review

Financial Position

At 31 August 2025 the free reserves of the charity amounted to £54,145 (2024– £51,265).

The unrestricted funds of the charity represent:

- The original funds deposited by the parishes to form a central fund, and designated as the Commune Depositum, amounting to £21,655 (2024– £21,655). Despite being designated, these funds are set aside in order to meet emergencies rather than for specific purposes. They are regarded, therefore, as free reserves.
- Central funds, held to cover the central administrative costs of the charity and provide short term loans to individual parishes should these be required, amounting to £32,772 (2024– £29,610).

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Douai Abbey Parishes Trust
Trustees' Report (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

Financial Position - continued

The trustees note that free reserves currently exceed the target set out in the reserves policy above but consider this to be prudent given current economic challenges and rising costs. The restricted funds amounting to £5,781,883 (2024–£5,919,273) represent the net assets (including land and buildings) of the seven parishes that form part of the charity. Under Canon Law each parish is a separate financial entity and as such each is treated as a separate restricted fund (see notes). Whilst the macroeconomic and geopolitical climate creates challenges, the trustees do not expect material concerns to arise over the charity's financial position or for the charity's going concern to be threatened.

Results for the year

A summary of the charity's income and expenditure can be found in the attached accounts.

Income for the year totalled £900,377 (2024– £836,936). The main source of income for the charity is the weekly collection carried out in each parish. In the year to 31 August 2025 general collections accounted for 415,226 (46.2%) (2024–£381,747 45.6%) of the charity's income, whilst special collections used to fund donations and grants accounted for a further £41,306 (4.6%) (2024– £45,122, 5.4%). Other significant income sources include the proceeds from small scale fundraising events; legacies; income from parish centre, room and hall hire; investment income; and interest receivable.

Expenditure in the year totalled £1,014,051 (2024– £928,628) with the major expenses being in connection with the upkeep of parish churches, presbyteries and similar buildings and the necessary living and personal expenses of the priests serving the seven parishes.

Net expenditure for the year before investment gains and losses, therefore, amounted to £113,674 (2024–£91,692). Net losses on the revaluation and disposal of listed investments of £20,840 (2024– net gains of £134,388) and there were no net gains on the revaluation of investment properties (2024– none), resulted in an overall net reduction in funds for the year of £134,514 (2024– increase of £42,696).

Reserves Policy

It is the trustees' current policy to retain free reserves (i.e. those unrestricted funds not represented by tangible fixed assets, designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed) of between six months' and two years' expenditure on unrestricted funds. This is not regarded as excessive when viewed in the light of the need to retain sufficient funds at a central level to cover the administrative costs of the charity and, importantly, provide short term loans to parishes in the event of special projects, unforeseen events and/or emergencies.

Risk Management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific operational areas of the charity, its investments and its finances. The trustees believe that by monitoring reserve levels, by ensuring controls exist over key financial systems, and by examining the operational and business risks faced by the charity, they have established effective systems to mitigate those risks. The trustees review a risk management matrix annually, which includes such potential risks as the loss of key staff, disaster recovery and reputational risk. The key risks for the charity, as identified by the trustees, are described below together with the principal ways in which they are mitigated:

● **Loss of key management**

The trustees are aware that they are very dependent on certain key people and the implications of losing these people would be serious. The trustees consider that strong support from financial advisers, training of trustees, and ongoing discussion of ways of lightening the load of the Abbot will all mitigate this risk. In addition the English Benedictine Congregation, of which the Abbey is a member, has developed structures of congregational support, including the lending of personnel, to assist any parishes who find themselves in difficulties.

● **Dependence of income from investments**

The charity relies to a large extent on the returns from its investment portfolio to cover its outgoings. The performance of the investment portfolio and the investment strategy are reviewed in meetings of the trustees and in regular meetings with the investment managers, taking into account current and future political and economic uncertainties. This risk and its mitigations are especially important at the present time in light of the current geopolitical and macroeconomic environment.

● **Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults**

Like all other organisations who serve in the community, the trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all those the charity serves in any way. This means that members engaged in any ministry in Great Britain must obtain clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The trustees are fully committed to implementing all policies and procedures of the Religious Life Safeguarding Service (RLSS).

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

Structure, Governance and Management

Trustee Selection Methods

+ Governance, structure and management

The Abbot of Douai Abbey is Chairman of the Trust. He is assisted by a trustee who acts as *Economus*. The Abbot appoints a minimum of two other trustees, who must be practising Roman Catholics and of whom at least one shall be a priest working in one of the Trust's parishes and at least one shall be a layperson who is active in one of the Trust's parishes. The Trust is actively preparing to merge with the Douai Abbey Trust in autumn of 2026 to form a new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The need perceived originally for the foundation in 1997 of a separate trust for the parishes no longer obtains, and both trusts recognise that there are significant efficiencies and cost savings to be made by combining again, in the form of a CIO.

The names of the trustees in office at the date on which this report was approved and of those who served during the year are set out on page 1 of this Annual Report and Accounts. Brief biographical details on each of the trustees in office at the date on which this report was approved are given below:

Right Reverend Paul Gunter OSB

Father Paul Gunter was elected Abbot of Douai in 2022, having been Parish Priest of Alcester from 2016–2022. He has also been Secretary for the Department of Christian Life & Worship of the Conference of Bishops of England & Wales since 2012. Father Paul has been a monk of Douai Abbey since 1985 and was ordained priest in 1991, graduating in theology from Heythrop College, University of London. He spent ten years in parish ministry at Cheltenham from 1992 to 1999, after which he became Parish Priest of Studley in the archdiocese of Birmingham until 2002. In 2002, he went to Rome for further studies in Liturgy, gaining doctorate in 2006 from the Pontifical Institute of Liturgy, where he lectured from 2006 to 2016, as well as at the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum 2008–2014, and was a Consultor to the Office of the Liturgical Celebrations of the Supreme Pontiff 2008–2013.

Reverend Alistair Alban Hood OSB

Father Alban served as Prior of Douai Abbey from September 2014 until June 2021. He was a teacher at Douai School, 1992–1995, served on the Douai parish of Ormskirk, 1995–2002, (during which time he was a trustee of the Douai Abbey Parishes Trust), was Novice Master, 2002–2021 and has been Choirmaster at Douai since 2002. He was formerly a trustee of the charity from 1998 until 2006. Since September 2022 has been Parish Priest of the Douai Abbey parish. He holds a doctorate in history from Liverpool Hope University.

Reverend Francis Gerard Hughes OSB

Reverend Francis Hughes, formerly assistant at St Osburg's, Coventry, Pangbourne and Theale, St Anne's Ormskirk, St Joseph's Centre for the Deaf, Manchester, and Parish Priest of Scarisbrick is parish priest of St Benet's Kemerton. A graduate of University College, Galway in Chemistry and Mathematics, he has worked as a teacher. He studied Theology at Oxford and has a MA in Canon Law from the University of London. He completed courses in counselling at the Richmond Fellowship and Manchester University and in Deaf Studies with the Open University. He has worked with the Deaf Community as chaplain and pastoral worker and has been a governor for St Mary's School, Scarisbrick. He has been Prior and Junior Master at Douai Abbey and was also a governor for St Gregory's School, Cheltenham. He currently assists the Clifton Marriage Tribunal.

Mr Stephen Jones

Steve Jones is a graduate of the University of Liverpool with a degree in Computational and Statistical Science. In the 1980's he worked as a software engineer specialising in Financial Systems for small and medium sized businesses. In the 1990s, Steve specialised in Payroll and HR systems becoming one of the UK's experts in the interpretation and application of Profit Related Pay and Salary Sacrifice schemes. In 1996, Steve set up Fairbanks Environmental Ltd with long-time friend and Civil Engineer, Bob Conlin, to employ data analysis to identify leaks within the underground storage systems at retail petrol stations. In 2016 Fairbanks was sold to the US based Dover Corporation. Steve continued as Managing Director of Dover's Data Analysis Business Unit for a further two years, before retiring in 2018.

Right Reverend Walter Geoffrey Scott OSB

In 2022 Right Reverend Geoffrey Scott retired as abbot of Douai Abbey after 24 years in the role. Before then he had worked as a teacher, headmaster, chaplain, and parish assistant. He is active as a writer and lecturer in church history, in which subject he holds a doctorate. Currently he is Parish Priest of Our Lady & St Joseph's, Alcester and Librarian and Archivist for Douai Abbey at Douai Abbey.

Reverend Andrew Hugh Somerville Knapman OSB

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Douai Abbey Parishes Trust Trustees' Report (continued) For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

Trustee Selection Methods - continued

Joining the monastery in early 2001, Father Hugh was ordained a priest in April 2007 after studying in Oxford and Rome. His MPhil dissertation at Bristol University was published by Paulist Press of New York in the autumn of 2018. Before entering the monastery, he studied at the University of Sydney and worked in education and then in a civilian role in communications for the New South Wales Police in Sydney, Australia. He served as Parish Priest of St Elizabeth's, Scarisbrick from 2021 until August 2024 when he returned to Douai Abbey to become Procurator. He undertakes various publishing projects for Douai Abbey under the imprint of Weldon Press, and is editor of the Douai Magazine. He serves the Trust as *Economus*.

Very Reverend Bernard Godric Timney OSB

Father Godric Timney OSB, the Rector of St Anne's, is a member of the Benedictine Community of Douai Abbey. Father Godric is Cathedral Prior of Worcester and is an Honorary Canon of Worcester Cathedral. He is also a trustee of the Archdiocese of Liverpool, a member of the Archbishop's Council, Dean of the Pastoral Area of Ormskirk and Maghull, a trustee of the Douai Abbey Parishes Trust. He spent nearly 28 years in secondary education and from 2003–2006 was Chairman of the National Conference of Priests of England and Wales. He is Chairman of the Conference of Vicars for Religious.

Reverend Mark Benedict Thompson OSB

Reverend Benedict Thompson is parish priest of the Studley parish. He is an Associate of the Royal College of Music, London; a Licentiate of Trinity College of Music, London; a graduate of National Opera Studio, London; and a former Principal Tenor with English National Opera. He studied Theology at St Benet's Hall, Oxford and counselling at Westminster Pastoral Foundation, London. He is a former Monastic Choirmaster and was assistant bursar at Douai Abbey 1997–1998; assistant Priest, Douai Abbey Parish 2000–2001; and chaplain to Southampton General Hospital 2001–2004. He was appointed as Parish Priest of Woolhampton in 2005, and has been Parish Priest of Studley since 2010.

Reverend Thomas Oliver Holt OSB

After taking a degree in English from Oxford, he was for many years a teacher of the subject in Douai School from 1977–1999, and housemaster there 1982–1999, later Bursar of Douai Abbey 2005–2024, trustee at various times since 1997, trustee of Priors Court School 2005–2014, trustee of the Lejeune Clinic for children with Down's Syndrome 2006–2016, trustee of Friends of the Newbury Spring Festival 2008–2018, and trustee of Downside Abbey 2016–2019. In Autumn 2024 he took up the role of Parish Priest at the Douai parish of Stratford-upon-Avon.

Induction and Training of Trustees

At each of the meetings of the trustees throughout the year, held in the various parishes, recent changes and developments in charity law, in financial strategy, and in questions relating to health and safety are discussed and, if necessary, implemented. A number of the trustees attend in-service training days provided by the dioceses and by the local education authorities in which they are situated. The trustees remain satisfied with the quality of financial and legal advice given to them by their professional advisers and are able to bring to this Trust the expertise they possess through their work with other trusts and charitable bodies.

Key Management Remuneration

The trustees consider that they alone comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. The Parish Priest at each parish is also a trustee. The trustees receive no remuneration or additional reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees to the charity. The Parish Priests are all members of Douai Abbey, the Community of St Edmund of the English Benedictine Congregation of the Order of St Benedict, Charity Registration Number 236962, and their living and personal expenses are borne by their parishes, which constitute the Douai Abbey Parishes Trust (1063237).

Employees

The charity strives to be an equal opportunities employer and applies objective criteria to assess merit. It aims to ensure that no job applicant or employee receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of age, race, colour, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation or disability.

Organisational Structure

The overall responsibility for the charity lies ultimately with the trustees who meet three times a year.

At **Woolhampton** (Douai Abbey), a parish administrator is responsible for general financial record-keeping and the management of the parish office. There is a Finance Committee of five members, and a Parish Pastoral Council with members from each of the three local church committees. This facilitates communication between each of the local churches and any of its individual committees.

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**Douai Abbey Parishes Trust
Trustees' Report (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025**

Organisational Structure - continued

At **Kemerton** there is a Parish Finance Committee composed of the parish priest, the treasurer and two other parishioners. The Finance committee decided that there is no need to meet so often and that on-line discussions would be sufficient to decide on extraordinary expenditure.

At **Studley** the parish is run by a Parish Committee which is supported by mission, social and finance committees.

At **Stratford** there is a Finance Committee, a parish committee and a pastoral group which helps to run the parish.

At **Scarisbrick** there is a Finance Committee that meets regularly. Small committees are often formed to organise events and occasions.

At **Alcester** there is a Parish Finance Committee which meets monthly. The Parish Development Committee, propels projects for maintenance and general purposes, as well as for parish community building projects. There is a qualified coordinator for safeguarding and a data-controller responsible for GDPR.

At **Ormskirk** the parish priest administers the parish on behalf of the Douai Abbey Parishes Trust. The Parish Pastoral Council meets regularly and offers advice and practical help in organising events. The Finance Committee oversees financial matters and one of the members, a qualified accountant, prepares the accounts for our professional auditors. Health and Safety and Risk Assessments are regularly discussed at the meetings.

Volunteers

The trustees are very grateful to the many volunteers who have given their time to the charity within the individual parishes over the past year and who have provided invaluable assistance.

Statement of 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 state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements the trustees are required to:

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at anytime the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They 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.

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

The trustees' report was approved by the board of trustees and signed on its behalf by:



Rev Andrew Hugh Somerville Knapman OSB

Trustee

Date

28/04/2026

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Douai Abbey Parishes Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Douai Abbey Parishes Trust (the "charity") for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account), Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions Relating to Going Concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on Which We Are Required to Report by Exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records or returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Independent Auditor's Report (continued) to the Members of Douai Abbey Parishes Trust

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 2—9, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

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

Use Of Our Report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters that we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Katharine Halsall

Katharine Halsall (Apr 30, 2026 10:04:17 GMT+1)

Caldwell Penn Ltd

Date **30/04/2026**

Caldwell Penn Ltd
7a Abbey Business Park
Monks Walk
Farnham
GU9 8HT

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust
Statement of Financial Activities
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

				2025	2024
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Donations and legacies	3	4,245	542,069	546,314	513,783
Charitable activities:					
Charitable activities		-	172,617	172,617	81,365
Other trading activities	4	-	12,719	12,719	10,967
Investments	5	1,536	127,328	128,864	186,985
Other	6	-	39,863	39,863	43,836
		<u>5,781</u>	<u>894,596</u>	<u>900,377</u>	<u>836,936</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	8	(397)	(57,861)	(58,258)	(20,892)
Charitable activities:	8				
Charitable activities		(4,573)	(951,220)	(955,793)	(907,736)
		<u>(4,970)</u>	<u>(1,009,081)</u>	<u>(1,014,051)</u>	<u>(928,628)</u>
NET EXPENDITURE BEFORE INVESTMENT LOSSES		811	(114,485)	(113,674)	(91,692)
Net (losses)/gains on investments		<u>2,069</u>	<u>(22,909)</u>	<u>(20,840)</u>	<u>134,388</u>
NET EXPENDITURE		<u>2,880</u>	<u>(137,394)</u>	<u>(134,514)</u>	<u>42,696</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		<u>2,880</u>	<u>(137,394)</u>	<u>(134,514)</u>	<u>42,696</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		51,265	5,919,277	5,970,542	5,927,842
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	20	<u>54,145</u>	<u>5,781,883</u>	<u>5,836,028</u>	<u>5,970,538</u>

The notes on pages 16 to 30 form part of these financial statements.

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust
Comparative Statement of Financial Activities
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

				2024
	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:				
Donations and legacies	3	-	513,783	513,783
Charitable activities:				
Charitable activities		-	81,365	81,365
Other trading activities	4	-	10,967	10,967
Investments	5	1,761	185,224	186,985
Other	6	-	43,836	43,836
		<u>1,761</u>	<u>835,175</u>	<u>836,936</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Raising funds	8	(370)	(20,522)	(20,892)
Charitable activities:	8			
Charitable activities		(1,203)	(906,533)	(907,736)
		<u>(1,573)</u>	<u>(927,055)</u>	<u>(928,628)</u>
NET EXPENDITURE BEFORE INVESTMENT LOSSES		188	(91,880)	(91,692)
Net gains on investments		<u>(3,350)</u>	<u>137,738</u>	<u>134,388</u>
NET EXPENDITURE		<u>(3,162)</u>	<u>45,858</u>	<u>42,696</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		<u>(3,162)</u>	<u>45,858</u>	<u>42,696</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:				
Total funds brought forward		54,427	5,873,415	5,927,842
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	20	<u>51,265</u>	<u>5,919,273</u>	<u>5,970,538</u>

The notes on pages 16 to 30 form part of these financial statements.

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust
Statement of Financial Position
As At 31 August 2025

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 Total funds	2024 Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	14	-	1,042,123	1,042,123	1,049,374
Investment Properties	15	-	2,445,000	2,445,000	2,445,000
Investments		55,742	2,088,198	2,143,940	2,290,230
		55,742	5,575,321	5,631,063	5,784,604
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	16	1,777	154,194	154,238	156,521
Investments		-	-	-	26,981
Cash at bank and in hand		1,945	530,998	532,943	451,521
		3,722	685,192	687,181	635,023
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	17	(5,319)	(478,630)	(482,216)	(449,089)
NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)		(1,597)	206,562	204,965	185,934
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		54,145	5,781,883	5,836,028	5,970,538
NET ASSETS		54,145	5,781,883	5,836,028	5,970,538
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Restricted Funds				5,781,883	5,919,273
Unrestricted Funds				54,145	51,265
TOTAL FUNDS	20			5,836,028	5,970,538

On behalf of the board



Rev Andrew Hugh Somerville Knapman OSB

Trustee

Date

28/04/2026

The notes on pages 16 to 30 form part of these financial statements.

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust
Statement of Cash Flows
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

		2025	2024
	Notes	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash generated from operations	1	60,179	8,004
Interest paid		(2,836)	-
Net cash generated from operating activities		<u>57,343</u>	<u>8,004</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible assets		(81,485)	(72,269)
Proceeds from disposal of tangible assets		-	9,400
Purchase of other fixed asset investments		(271,510)	(669,327)
Proceeds from disposal of other fixed asset investments		273,892	638,843
Purchase of current asset investments		75,000	30,952
Interest received		8,816	8,170
Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities		<u>4,713</u>	<u>(54,231)</u>
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		<u>62,056</u>	<u>(46,227)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	2	<u>478,502</u>	<u>524,729</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	2	<u><u>540,558</u></u>	<u><u>478,502</u></u>

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust
Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. Reconciliation of (expenditure)/income to cash generated from operations

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net (expenditure)/income	(134,514)	42,696
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Interest income	(5,980)	(8,170)
Depreciation of tangible assets	88,736	70,828
Provisions of fixed asset investments	122,711	-
Loss on disposal of tangible assets	-	454
Profit on revaluation of fixed assets	(46,184)	(134,388)
<i>Movements in working capital:</i>		
Decrease in trade and other debtors	2,283	13,235
Increase in trade and other creditors	33,127	23,349
Net cash generated from operations	<u>60,179</u>	<u>8,004</u>

2. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents, as stated in the Statement of Cash Flows, relates to the following items in the Balance Sheet:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	532,943	451,521
Short term deposits including current asset investments (less than 3 months)	7,615	26,981
Cash and cash equivalents as stated in the Statement of Cash Flows	<u>540,558</u>	<u>478,502</u>

3. Analysis of changes in net funds

	As at 1 September 2024	Cash flows	As at 31 August 2025
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	451,521	81,422	532,943
Short term deposits including current asset investments (less than 3 months)	26,981	(19,366)	7,615
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>478,502</u>	<u>62,056</u>	<u>540,558</u>
Debts falling due within one year	(156,833)	-	(156,833)
	<u>321,669</u>	<u>62,056</u>	<u>383,725</u>

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. General Information

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust is an unincorporated charity registered with the Charity Commission, registered charity number 1063237. The principal address is Douai Abbey, Upper Woolhampton, Reading, Berkshire, RG7 5TQ.

2. Accounting Policies

2.1. Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)", Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

2.2. Going Concern Disclosure

The trustees have not identified any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these accounts. The trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of at least one year from the date of approval of these accounts. There are no material uncertainties that cast doubt on the going concern of the charity. Whilst the current macroeconomic and geopolitical climate may create challenges, given the charity's, as well as individual parishes', current levels of reserves and continuing income, the trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

2.3. Significant judgements and estimations

Preparation of the accounts requires the trustees and management to make significant judgements and estimates. The items in the accounts where these judgements and estimates have been made include:

- Estimating the useful economic life of tangible fixed assets for the purpose of determining an annual depreciation charge;
- Determining the probability of the receipt of legacies which are measurable and to which the charitable company is entitled;
- Estimating the fair value of investment properties; and
- Estimating future income and expenditure flows for the purpose of assessing going concern (see below).

2.4. Incoming Resources

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity has entitlement to the income, the amount of income can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Income comprises donations, legacies, investment income, interest receivable, income from the sale of books, votives and candles, funerals and church yard income, parish centre, hall and room hire, and other miscellaneous income.

Donations and Gift Aid tax recoverable are recognised when the charity has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations pledged but not received, the amount is accrued for where the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

In accordance with the Charities SORP FRS 102 volunteer time is not recognised.

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Douai Abbey Parishes Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

2.4. Incoming Resources - continued

Legacies are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the legacy, the executors have established that there are sufficient surplus assets in the estate to pay the legacy, and any conditions attached to the legacy are within the control of the charity. Entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, but the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material. In the event that the gift is in the form of an asset other than cash or a financial asset traded on a recognised stock exchange, recognition is subject to the value of the gift being reliably measurable with a degree of reasonable accuracy and the title of the asset having been transferred to the charity.

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Income from sale of books, votives and candles, funerals and church yard income, parish centre, hall and room hire, and other miscellaneous income, including refund income received in respect to the sale of a property in the prior year, is measured at fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts

2.5. Resources Expended

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure comprises direct costs and support costs. All expenses, including support costs, are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. The classification between activities is as follows:

a. The cost of raising funds relates to expenditure incurred in organising and holding small scale fundraising events, managing investment properties and costs in connection with the management of the charity's listed investments.
b. The costs of charitable activities comprise expenditure on the charity's primary purposes as described in the trustees' report and include:

- Charitable donations which comprise gifts to other charitable causes with aims and objectives which are consistent with those of the charity i.e. the advancement and maintenance of the Roman Catholic religion and the relief of poverty. Donations are made from Special Collections held within each parish for each specific cause.
- In addition, each parish makes contributions towards the costs of the Roman Catholic Diocese in which it is situated and assists with meeting the expenses of the repair and maintenance of local Roman Catholic Schools.
- Expenditure on the support of the charity's seven parishes includes expenditure on the upkeep of parish buildings (including churches and parishes), staff and related costs, the living and personal expenses of parish priests and other parish running costs.

Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs represent indirect charitable expenditure. In order to carry out the primary purposes of the charity it is necessary to provide support in the form of financial procedures, provision of office services and equipment.

Governance costs comprise the costs involving the public accountability of the charity (including audit costs) and costs in respect to its compliance with regulation and good practice. Governance costs are apportioned using percentages based on the expenditure incurred on the activities of the charity.

All expenditure on support of the charity's seven parishes are allocated to the support of the parishes and their ministry as costs in respect to raising funds and giving donations are considered to be minimal.

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

2.6. Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing more than £1,000 and with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised.

a Inalienable land and buildings The freehold of the land and buildings legally owned by the charity and occupied rent free on behalf of the trustees of the governing body of Catholic voluntary-aided schools, which are separate charities and publicly funded, are valued at £nil. The trustees consider that no meaningful value can be attributed to these assets, since they are not used directly by the charity, do not generate income and cannot be disposed of in the open market or put to alternative use while such occupation, which may be indefinite, continues.

b Churches and similar properties

The trustees are the legal owners of churches and similar land and buildings situated within the seven parishes operated by the charity. In the event of the charity ceasing its work in any of these parishes, the trustees would consider themselves obliged to allow such assets to be used indefinitely to meet the needs of the parish for its church and similar property. As a valuation of such assets at fair value would not easily be determined, where reliable information relating to the historic cost is available, these assets have been included at historic cost. Subsequent additions to the properties have been included at cost and these are depreciated at 2% per annum.

c Functional freehold property

Freehold properties used for the direct charitable work of the charity are included in the accounts at cost or deemed cost. Deemed cost is based on a mixture of original cost and historic valuations.

Functional freehold properties are depreciated at a rate of 2% per annum on a straight line basis in order to write the buildings off over their estimated useful economic life to the charity.

d Freehold building improvements

Improvements to functional freehold buildings are included in the accounts at cost as incurred. The improvements, once complete, are depreciated at 10% per annum on a straight line basis, in order to write the cost of these improvements off over their expected useful life.

e Other tangible fixed assets

Other tangible fixed assets are capitalised and depreciated at the following annual rates in order to write them off over their estimated useful lives:

- Furniture and equipment 10% to 25% per annum based on cost
- Motor vehicles 25% to 20% per annum based on cost

Freehold	2% initial cost and 10% on improvements
Motor Vehicles	20% to 25%
Fixtures & Fittings	10% to 25%

2.7. Investment Properties

All investment properties are carried at fair value determined annually and derived from the current market rents and investment property yields for comparable real estate, adjusted if necessary for any difference in the nature, location or condition of the specific asset. No depreciation is provided for. Changes in fair value are recognised in the statement of financial activities.

2.8. Investments

Listed investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price.

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

As noted above, the main form of financial risk faced by the charity is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular sectors or sub sectors.

Fixed asset investments comprising long term deposits are stated at the value of the initial deposit as this will be returned in full upon maturity.

Fixed asset investments comprising freehold land and buildings are included in the accounts at a valuation based on market value. Professional valuations are carried out every five to six years on a rolling basis.

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Douai Abbey Parishes Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

2.8. Investments - continued

Realised and unrealised revaluation gains (or losses) on both listed and property investments are credited (or debited) to the statement of financial activities in the year of valuation.

2.9. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand and deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and are readily convertible to a known amount of cash with insignificant risk of change in value, and bank overdrafts.

2.10. Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax as all its income is charitable and applied for charitable purposes.

2.11. Provisions and Contingencies

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events; it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation; and the amount of the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Where there are a number of similar obligations, the likelihood that an outflow will be required in settlement is determined by considering the class of obligations as a whole. A provision is recognised even if the likelihood of an outflow with respect to any one item included in the same class of obligations may be small.

Provisions are measured at the present value of the expenditures expected to be required to settle the obligation using a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the obligation. The increase in the provision due to passage of time is recognised as a finance cost.

Contingencies

Contingent liabilities are not recognised. Contingent liabilities arise as a result of past events when (i) it is not probable that there will be an outflow of resources or that the amount cannot be reliably measured at the reporting date or (ii) when the existence will be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of uncertain future events not wholly within the charity's control. Contingent liabilities are disclosed in the financial statements unless the probability of an outflow of resources is remote.

Contingent assets are not recognised. Contingent assets are disclosed in the financial statements when an inflow of economic benefits is probable.

2.12. Debtors

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount, less any provision for non-recoverability.

Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

2.13. Funds

Restricted funds comprise monies raised for, or their use restricted to, a specific purpose, or contributions subject to donor-imposed conditions.

Unrestricted funds represent those monies which are freely available for application towards achieving any charitable purpose that falls within the charity's charitable objects.

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

3. Income from Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £
Donations and gifts:			
General Collections	-	415,226	415,226
Special Collections	-	41,306	41,306
Donations from organisations	4,245	-	4,245
Gift aid	-	31,258	31,258
Legacies	-	-	-
Other:			
Restoration Project (roof) donations	-	28,911	28,911
Other donations	-	25,368	25,368
	<u>4,245</u>	<u>542,069</u>	<u>546,314</u>
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £
Donations and gifts:			
General Collections	-	381,747	381,747
Special Collections	-	45,122	45,122
Donations from organisations	-	-	-
Gift aid	-	-	-
Legacies	-	4,000	4,000
Other:			
Restoration Project (roof) donations	-	23,709	23,709
Other donations	-	59,205	59,205
	<u>-</u>	<u>513,783</u>	<u>513,783</u>

4. Income from Other Trading Activities

	2025 Restricted funds £	2024 Restricted funds £
Fundraising events	<u>12,719</u>	<u>10,967</u>

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

5. Investment Income

			2025
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Bank interest receivable	34	8,782	8,816
Investment income	1,502	59,814	61,316
Rental income from investment property	-	58,732	58,732
	<u>1,536</u>	<u>127,328</u>	<u>128,864</u>

			2024
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Bank interest receivable	-	8,170	8,170
Investment income	1,761	62,454	64,215
Rental income from investment property	-	114,600	114,600
	<u>1,761</u>	<u>185,224</u>	<u>186,985</u>

6. Other Income

	2025	2024
	Restricted funds	Restricted funds
	£	£
Gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets held for charity's own use	6,950	(454)
Miscellaneous Income	32,913	44,290
	<u>39,863</u>	<u>43,836</u>

7. Net Income/(Expenditure)

The net (expenditure)/income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2025	2024
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets - owned	88,736	70,825
Gain/Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(6,950)	454

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

8. Analysis of Expenditure

	2025		
	Activities undertaken directly (see note 9)	Grant funding of activities	Support costs (see note 10)
	£	£	£
Raising funds	52,236	-	6,022
Charitable activities	859,505	41,084	55,204
	<u>911,741</u>	<u>41,084</u>	<u>61,226</u>
			<u>1,014,051</u>

	2024		
	Activities undertaken directly (see note 9)	Grant funding of activities	Support costs (see note 10)
	£	£	£
Raising funds	20,892	-	-
Charitable activities	781,048	55,841	70,847
	<u>801,940</u>	<u>55,841</u>	<u>70,847</u>
			<u>928,628</u>

9. Direct Costs

	2025	
	Raising funds	Charitable activities
	£	£
Fundraising activities:		
Fundraising costs	2,711	35
Investment management costs:		
Investment management costs	15,387	-
Rent collection, property repairs and maintenance charges	5,504	-
Cost of goods sold:		
Church expenses, clergy living and personal costs and sundry	27,639	599,769
Youth Project expenditure	-	21,473
Miscellaneous expenditure	-	13,899
Employee costs:		
Priests' salary and NI equivalent	432	19,035
Employee salaries	-	92,322
Employers NI	-	3,049
Employers pensions - defined contribution schemes	-	858
General administration:		
Transport costs	563	17,956
Depreciation:		
Depreciation	-	88,736
Interest payable:		

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Douai Abbey Parishes Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

Bank charges	-	2,836	2,836
Other:			
Diocesan Levy	-	(463)	(463)
	52,236	859,505	911,741

	2024		
	Raising funds	Charitable activities	Total
	£	£	£
Fundraising activities:			
Fundraising costs	2,434	-	2,434
Investment management costs:			
Investment management costs	15,105	-	15,105
Rent collection, property repairs and maintenance charges	2,898	-	2,898
Cost of goods sold:			
Church expenses, clergy living and personal costs and sundry	455	517,980	518,435
Youth Project expenditure	-	15,019	15,019
Miscellaneous expenditure	-	3,159	3,159
Employee costs:			
Priests' salary and NI equivalent	-	27,562	27,562
Employee salaries	-	87,077	87,077
Employers NI	-	2,445	2,445
Employers pensions - defined contribution schemes	-	989	989
General administration:			
Transport costs	-	15,683	15,683
Depreciation:			
Depreciation	-	70,825	70,825
Other:			
Diocesan Levy	-	40,309	40,309
	20,892	781,048	801,940

10. Support Costs

	2025		
	Raising funds	Charitable activities	Total
	£	£	£
Premises expenses:			
Church expenses	-	962	962
General administration:			
Insurance	4,022	-	4,022
Accountancy fees	-	3,860	3,860
Professional fees	1,980	19,509	21,489
Bank charges	20	272	292

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Douai Abbey Parishes Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

Office costs	-	11,992	11,992
Governance costs:			
Audit fees	-	18,609	18,609
	<u>6,022</u>	<u>55,204</u>	<u>61,226</u>

			2024
			Charitable
			activities
			£
General administration:			
Professional fees			35,457
Bank charges			3,168
Office costs			13,973
Governance costs:			
Audit fees			18,249
			<u>70,847</u>

11. Auditor's Remuneration

Remuneration received by the charity's auditors and their associates during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Audit Services		
Audit of the company's financial statements	<u>14,544</u>	<u>18,249</u>

12. Staff Costs

Staff costs were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	111,789	114,639
Social security costs	3,049	2,445
Other pension costs	858	989
	<u>115,696</u>	<u>118,073</u>

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000.

13. Average Number of Employees

Average number of employees during the year was: 9 (2024: 9)

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

14. Tangible Assets

	Land & Property				
	Freehold	Leasehold	Motor Vehicles	Fixtures & Fittings	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
As at 1 September 2024	1,064,860	711,065	84,924	210,583	2,071,432
Additions	-	21,706	32,806	26,973	81,485
Disposals	-	-	(35,945)	-	(35,945)
As at 31 August 2025	1,064,860	732,771	81,785	237,556	2,116,972
Depreciation					
As at 1 September 2024	274,507	505,911	70,344	171,296	1,022,058
Provided during the period	17,627	36,906	13,062	21,141	88,736
Disposals	-	-	(35,945)	-	(35,945)
As at 31 August 2025	292,134	542,817	47,461	192,437	1,074,849
Net Book Value					
As at 31 August 2025	772,726	189,954	34,324	45,119	1,042,123
As at 1 September 2024	790,353	205,154	14,580	39,287	1,049,374

It is likely that there are material differences between the open market values of the charity's freehold land and buildings and their book values. These arise from the specialised nature of some of the properties and the effects of inflation. The amounts of such differences cannot be ascertained without incurring significant cost, which, in the opinion of the trustees, is not justified in terms of the benefits to the users of the accounts.

As permitted by FRS 102, the charity has continued to adopt a policy of not revaluing its tangible fixed assets. The historical cost of the properties included above at a historic valuation cannot be ascertained with any accuracy. Other tangible fixed assets are stated at cost.

Certain of the charity's properties are subject to covenants which restrict their use and disposal.

15. Investment Property

	2025
	£
Fair Value	
As at 1 September 2024 and 31 August 2025	2,445,000

Investment properties comprise certain of the charity's properties situated at Ormskirk, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Kemerton and Scarisbrick.

The trustees obtained valuations from Armitstead Barnett LLP, Chartered Surveyors, in relation to two properties and adjacent land at Ormskirk (St Anne's Social Centre and adjacent land, and the former site of St Anne's School) as at 31 August 2023, the valuations being carried out on an open market value basis. On the basis of the advice obtained, the properties were valued at £500,000 and £60,000 respectively.

The charity's investment property situated at Stratford-Upon-Avon, St Gregory's Hall (including the adjoining car park) was valued by ehB Reeves, Chartered Surveyors of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire as at 31 August 2022 on the basis of open market value. The valuation was £535,000 for St Gregory's Hall and £625,000 for the adjoining car park. In the opinion of the trustees, these valuations are not materially different to the values of the property and land as they stood at 31 August 2023.

The Coach House at Stratford-Upon-Avon was valued on an open market value basis at £400,000 by Carter Chartered Surveyors as at 16 January 2024. In the opinion of the trustees, there was no material difference between the valuation of the Coach House between the balance sheet date and the date of the inspection for the formal valuation.

The charity's property based at Kemerton was valued by Andrews Estate agents on 6 February 2023 on the basis of open market value as at that date at £325,000. In the opinion of the trustees, the valuation as at 6 February 2023 is not materially different to the value of the property as it stood at 31 August 2023.

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

Investment breakdown

			2025
	£	£	£
Market value at 1 September 2024	2,445,000	2,167,519	4,612,519
Additions at cost		271,510	271,510
Disposal proceeds		(273,892)	(273,892)
Realised gains		7,324	7,324
Disposals at book value		(266,568)	(266,568)
Net unrealised investment gains (losses)		7,324	7,324
Disposals at book value		(266,568)	(266,568)
Unrealised investment gains (losses)		(36,136)	(36,136)
Market value at 31 August 2025	2,445,000	2,136,324	4,581,324
Cash held by investment managers for reinvestment		7,615	7,615
			4,588,940
Cost of listed investments			1,987,224

Investment breakdown in previous year

			2024
	£	£	£
Market value at 1 September 2023	2,445,000	2,002,647	4,447,647
Additions at cost	-	669,328	669,328
Disposal proceeds	-	(638,843)	(638,843)
Realised gains	-	7,158	7,158
Disposals at book value	-	(631,685)	(631,685)
Net unrealised investment gains (losses)	-	127,230	127,230
Market value at 31 August 2024	2,445,000	2,167,520	4,612,520
Cash held by investment managers for reinvestment		26,979	26,979
			4,639,500
Cost of listed investments			2,002,218

16. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	6,627	8,636
Prepayments and accrued income	72,493	90,353
Other debtors	6,600	1,289
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations	68,518	56,243
	154,238	156,521

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

17. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amount owed to the Archdiocese of Liverpool	156,833	156,833
Diocesan levies payable	133,140	141,869
Amount due to Douai Abbey Trust	20,000	20,000
Expense creditors	116,423	68,362
Accruals	55,820	62,025
	<u>482,216</u>	<u>449,089</u>

In 2007 the trustees decided that the Parish Centre attached to St Anne's, Ormskirk should cease to be managed by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool. This followed considerable discussion regarding financial viability and the recognition of the need to expend considerable sums of money in connection with health and safety enhancements.

The amount owed to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool following the decision to terminate the management contract of St Anne's Parish Centre totals £156,833 (2023 –£156,833).

Included within 'Creditors: amounts falling due within one year' is a liability for Diocesan levies payable. All parishes pay a levy to the diocese in which they are located, which is a contribution to the operating costs of the diocese, and also covers certain services provided by the diocese, e.g. IT services and support. The levy is determined according to varying formulae. During the Covid lockdown, most dioceses waived the levy. Some dioceses have yet to resume invoicing for payment of the levy, and as such some parishes in these dioceses have continued to set aside an amount annually to cover the levy when it becomes due.

18. Loans

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year or on demand:		
Other loans	<u>156,833</u>	<u>156,833</u>

19. Pension Commitments

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

During the year the charge to the statement of financial activities in respect of defined contribution schemes was £858 (2024: £989).

At the statement of financial position date contributions of £NIL were due to the fund and are included in creditors.

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

20. Movement in Funds

	As at 1 September 2024	Income	Expenditure	As at 31 August 2025
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General:				
General unrestricted fund	29,610	5,781	(2,901)	32,490
Designated:				
Commune Depositum	21,655	-	-	21,655
Total unrestricted funds	51,265	5,781	(2,901)	54,145
Restricted funds				
Alcester	283,002	78,783	(62,746)	299,039
Ormskirk	854,272	206,375	(372,807)	687,840
Scarisbrick	293,510	51,003	(41,261)	303,252
Stratford	3,123,162	320,788	(298,675)	3,145,275
Studley	267,471	64,697	(81,908)	250,260
Woolhampton	388,104	94,458	(103,944)	378,618
Kemerton	709,756	78,492	(70,649)	717,599
Total restricted funds	5,919,277	894,596	(1,031,990)	5,781,883
Total funds	5,970,542	900,377	(1,034,891)	5,836,028
	As at 1 September 2023	Income	Expenditure	As at 31 August 2024
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General:				
General unrestricted fund	32,772	1,761	(4,923)	29,610
Designated:				
Commune Depositum	21,655	-	-	21,655
Total unrestricted funds	54,427	1,761	(4,923)	51,265
Restricted funds				
Alcester	262,962	75,058	(55,019)	283,001
Ormskirk	891,051	184,435	(221,214)	854,272
Scarisbrick	238,859	57,214	(2,562)	293,511
Stratford	3,073,569	311,179	(261,586)	3,123,162
Studley	298,552	53,198	(84,279)	267,471

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Douai Abbey Parishes Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

Woolhampton	396,632	86,466	(94,998)	388,100
Kemerton	711,790	67,625	(69,659)	709,756
Total restricted funds	<u>5,873,415</u>	<u>835,175</u>	<u>(789,317)</u>	<u>5,919,273</u>
Total funds	<u><u>5,927,842</u></u>	<u><u>836,936</u></u>	<u><u>(794,240)</u></u>	<u><u>5,970,538</u></u>

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trusts to be applied for specific purposes. The restricted funds represent the net assets held by each individual parish.

21. Transactions with Trustees

Most of the trustees are parish priests in the parishes operated by the charity. As such certain living and personal expenses during the year are borne by the charity. No trustee received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees during the current or previous year.

No trustee expenses have been incurred.

22. Related Party Disclosures

The Douai Abbey Parishes Trust is connected to two other charities by virtue of the fact that the charities have some trustees in common.

Name	Charity Reg Number	Charitable purpose
The Community of St Edmund of the English Congregation of the Order of St Benedict established at Douai Abbey, Woolhampton, Berkshire (Douai Abbey Trust).	236962	The advancement and maintenance of the Roman Catholic religion
The Benedictine Trust	1086872	To further the religious and other charitable work of the Roman Catholic Church in Scarisbrick.

During the year ended 31 August 2025, rent of £12,000 (2023– £12,000) for the use of St Mary's Church was paid to Douai Abbey Trust from Douai Abbey Parishes Trust.

On 13 February 2020, the parish church of Our Lady and St Joseph's, Alcester, signed a loan agreement with four other parishes within the charity and Douai Abbey Trust to fund the construction of a new church hall. The loan received from Douai Abbey Trust amounted to £20,000 (2024– £20,000). At the balance sheet date, £20,000 (2024– £20,000) remained outstanding. The loan is interest free and repayable over a period of five years, the first repayment becoming due two years after the completion of the work on the hall. Although the hall is now in use, it was subsequently agreed to delay repayments, so these have not yet started. Repayments will be due annually and amount to £4,000 per annum.

During the year ended 31 August 2025, the charity received aggregate donations from trustees of the charity amounting to £nil (2024– £nil).

23. Commune Depositum

At 31 August 2025, funds amounting to £21,655 (2024– £21,655) and representing the original funds deposited by the parishes, had been set aside in a fund known as the Commune Depositum. These funds are to be used towards funding any unforeseen events or emergencies or special projects.

23. Net income before investment gains (losses)

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Douai Abbey Parishes Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

This is stated after charging:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Staff costs	115,696	118,073
Auditors remuneration:		
- Statutory audit services	18,609	18,610
- Other services	-	3,720
Depreciation	88,734	76,171

24. Taxation

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust is a registered charity and therefore is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

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Douai Abbey Parishes Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

25. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Funds balances at 31 August are represented by						
Tangible Fixed Assets	-		1,042,123	-	1,049,374	1,049,374
Investments						
Investment properties	-	2,445,000	2,445,000	-	2,445,000	2,445,000
Listed investments and cash held for reinvestment	55,742	2,088,198	2,143,940	52,590	2,141,910	2,141,910
Net current assets	(1,597)	206,562	204,965	(1,325)	282,989	281,664
Total net assets	54,145	5,781,883	5,836,028	51,265	5,919,273	5,970,538

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

	2025	2024
	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:		
Donations and legacies		
General Collections	415,226	381,747
Special Collections	41,306	45,122
Donations from organisations	4,245	-
Gift aid	31,258	-
Legacies	-	4,000
Restoration Project (roof) donations	28,911	23,709
Other donations	25,368	59,205
	546,314	513,783
Charitable Activities:		
Charitable activities		
Youth programme	25,827	-
Sales of books/candles/votives etc.	6,186	3,572
Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals and church yard income	53,865	37,690
Parish Centre Hall and Room Hire	86,739	40,103
	172,617	81,365
Other trading activities		
Fundraising events	12,719	10,967
	12,719	10,967
Investments		
Investment income	61,316	64,215
Rental income from investment property	58,732	114,600
Bank interest receivable	8,816	8,170
	128,864	186,985
Other		
Gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets held for charity's own use	6,950	(454)
Miscellaneous Income	32,913	44,290
	39,863	43,836
	900,377	836,936
EXPENDITURE ON:		
Raising funds		
Church expenses, clergy living and personal costs and sundry	(27,639)	(455)
Fundraising costs	(2,711)	(2,434)
Investment management costs	(15,387)	(15,105)
Rent collection, property repairs and maintenance charges	(5,504)	(2,898)
Priests' salary and NI equivalent	(432)	-
Transport costs	(563)	-

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Douai Abbey Parishes Trust
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

Insurance	(4,022)	-
Professional fees	(1,980)	-
Bank charges	(20)	-
	<u>(58,258)</u>	<u>(20,892)</u>
Charitable Activities:		
Charitable activities		
Church expenses, clergy living and personal costs and sundry	(599,769)	(517,980)
Youth Project expenditure	(21,473)	(15,019)
Miscellaneous expenditure	(13,899)	(3,159)
Fundraising costs	(35)	-
Priests' salary and NI equivalent	(19,035)	(27,562)
Employee salaries	(92,322)	(87,077)
Employers NI	(3,049)	(2,445)
Employers pensions - defined contribution schemes	(858)	(989)
Transport costs	(17,956)	(15,683)
Diocesan Levy	463	(40,309)
Special Collections Gifts	(39,907)	(54,181)
Syrian Refugee support scheme and small charity donations	(1,177)	(1,660)
Depreciation	(88,736)	(70,825)
Bank charges	(2,836)	-
Church expenses	(962)	-
Accountancy fees	(3,860)	-
Professional fees	(19,509)	(35,457)
Bank charges	(272)	(3,168)
Office costs	(11,992)	(13,973)
Audit fees	(18,609)	(18,249)
	<u>(955,793)</u>	<u>(907,736)</u>
	<u>(1,014,051)</u>	<u>(928,628)</u>
NET EXPENDITURE BEFORE INVESTMENT LOSSES	<u>(113,674)</u>	<u>(91,692)</u>
Net (losses)/gains on investments		
Surplus on disposal of listed fixed asset investments	7,959	-
Deficit on disposal of listed current asset investments	(63,768)	-
Surplus on revaluation of investments	34,969	-
Fair value surplus on revaluation of investments	-	134,388
	<u>(20,840)</u>	<u>134,388</u>
NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME	<u>(134,514)</u>	<u>42,696</u>

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust 2025 - 27th April 2026

Final Audit Report

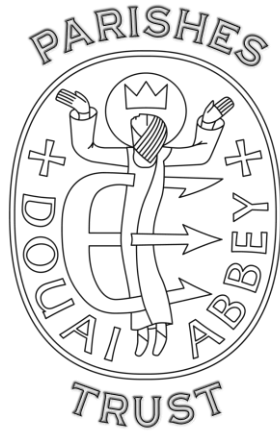
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Accounts



**Douai
Abbey
Parishes
Trust**

Annual Report and Accounts

31 August 2024

Charity Registration Number: 1063237

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Reference and administration details of the charity, its trustees and advisers

Trustees	Rt Rev Paul Gunter OSB (Chairman) Rev Robert Alexander Austin OSB Rev Thomas Oliver Holt OSB Rev Alistair Alban Hood OSB Rev Francis Gerard Hughes OSB Mr Stephen Jones Rt Rev Walter Geoffrey Scott OSB Rev Andrew Hugh Somerville Knapman OSB Very Rev Bernard Godric Timney OSB Rev Mark Benedict Thompson OSB
Administrative address	Douai Abbey Upper Woolhampton Reading RG7 5TQ
Charity registration number	1063237
Auditor	Caldwell Penn Ltd 7a Abbey Business Park, Monks Walk Farnham GU9 8HT
Principal bankers	The Co-operative Bank plc 1 Balloon Street Manchester M4 4BE
Principal investment managers	Greenbank 30 Gresham Street London EC2V 7QN

Trustees' report Year to 31 August 2024

The trustees present their statutory report together with the accounts of the Douai Abbey Parishes Trust (the Trust) for the year ended 31 August 2024.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 24 to 28 of the attached accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

+ Introduction

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust (the "Trust") is a charity established and governed by a trust deed dated 3 June 1997. It is registered with the Charity Commission, Charity Registration Number 1063237.

The Trust was established in 1997 by the separation of the activities of parishes, incorporated to Douai Abbey, from the other activities of Douai Abbey monastic community, which are accounted for within Douai Abbey Trust, a registered charity.

The seven parishes accounted for within the charity are as follows:

- ◆ Our Lady and St Joseph's, Alcester
- ◆ St Mary's, Woolhampton (Douai Abbey)
- ◆ St Benet's, Kemerton, together with two special trusts — The Roman Catholic Church Trust of 1842, and The Roman Catholic Poor School Trust for 1852
- ◆ St Anne's, Ormskirk
- ◆ St Elizabeth's, Scarisbrick, together with a special trust — The Benedictine Trust of 1860
- ◆ St Gregory the Great, Stratford-upon-Avon
- ◆ St Mary's, Studley

+ Public Benefit

In formulating the charity's aims and in planning the work of the individual parishes and hence the overall charity, the trustees have had regard to the general guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

+ Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans, and relevant policies

Activities, specific objectives, achievements, and future plans

The activities of the charity can be divided into four principal areas: the administration of the Sacraments and maintenance of Divine Service; the education of young people in accordance with the Roman Catholic faith; pastoral work in propagation of the Roman Catholic faith; and charitable work in connection with any of the foregoing activities. Each of these is briefly considered in turn below.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans, and relevant policies (continued)

Activities, specific objectives, achievements, and future plans (continued)

Individual parishes review the income and expenditure each year, which is determined to be the key performance indicator for the parishes.

Administration of the Sacraments and maintenance of Divine Service

At Our Lady and St Joseph's in **Alcester** the total number of people attending the two Sunday Masses is around 100. The parish primary school attends Mass on most Fridays. One of the Sunday Masses continues to be streamed and a newsletter is published weekly. Nine people, on average, attend one of the three weekday Masses. Marriage preparation courses are held at Redditch and Stratford.

The **Woolhampton** parish comprises three churches located at Woolhampton (St Mary's), Pangbourne (Our Lady and St Bernadette's) and Theale (St Luke's). Sunday Mass is celebrated weekly at Pangbourne and at Theale, and from time to time Mass is offered during the week. Parishioners in Woolhampton join the monastic community at Douai Abbey for Sunday Mass..

St Benet's, **Kemerton**, a small rural village parish, has a weekend Mass attendance averaging seventy people, with six to nine people attending on weekdays. Masses are also offered on Holy Days, with about 40 people attending. Over the past year there have been three baptisms, two First Holy Communions, five funerals, and one wedding. Holy Communion is taken to six housebound parishioners each week.

St Anne's, **Ormskirk** has been served by one priest and two deacons, though from summer 2024 an assistant priest has also been appointed. There are about 3,000 parishioners in the parish of whom a total of around 400 regularly attend the two Masses on Saturday evening and Sunday mornings. About twenty people attend daily Mass during the week. Other special services are held at various times and for particular occasions. Many non-Catholics attend the services. Sunday morning Mass is also livestreamed, as are some other services, and up to 200 sometimes join Mass via the livestream.

St Elizabeth's **Scarisbrick** is a small, rural parish, covering a wide area of farmland and several small hamlets. Sunday Mass attendance averaged around 75, but when the Vigil Mass ceased to be offered from September 2024 this fell to around 65. The Catholic population of the parish is estimated at around two hundred. Father Hugh Somerville Knapman OSB finished as parish priest in August 2024 in order to take up a new role at Douai Abbey. As a result, the parish is now administered from St Anne's in Ormskirk. In the past year there has been one Mass on Sunday morning, and a vigil Mass on Saturday evenings preceded by confessions. Two public Masses were celebrated in church during the week, though from September 2024 only one will be offered. On high feast days there was also Mass in the church. Little Church was restored to Sunday Mass during the year to encourage families with younger children. One baptism, one wedding, and ten funerals have been

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans, and relevant policies (continued)

Activities, specific objectives, achievements, and future plans (continued)

Administration of the Sacraments and maintenance of Divine Service (continued)

celebrated during 2023-24. In July 2024 the Abbot of Douai administered First Holy Communion and Confirmation to fourteen young people.

St Gregory's **Stratford-upon-Avon** was preparing, at the end of the reporting year, to farewell its long-time parish priest, Fr Alexander Austin OSB in September 2024. He has returned to Douai Abbey, and from there Fr Oliver Holt OSB came the same month to be the new parish priest. To the year end there were 26 baptisms, 51 First Holy Communions, thirty funerals, and three weddings. In September 2023 a new parish pastoral council was established with sub-committees for Liturgy and Faith Development, and Faith in Action. In November the Abbot of Douai undertook a visitation of the parish, returning in February 2024 to administer Confirmation to 24 of our youngsters. In March a retreat for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion was led in the parish by Fr David Rocks OP.

At **Studley** there are two Masses for Sunday and one weekday Mass. Sunday Mass attendance averages 95. The year has seen a number of baptisms, as well as 23 First Holy Communions, 22 Confirmations, and seven funerals. We have nine parishioners who are either housebound or in nursing homes to whom Holy Communion is taken regularly.

Education

At **Alcester**, the parish priest has visited St Benedict's, the Catholic comprehensive school, which has its own priest chaplain, and the Catholic primary school. Sacramental instruction is given within the primary school. There is also a grammar school in the town, a short walk from the church. The schools have held receptions in the recently renovated parish hall.

In the **Woolhampton** there is no Catholic primary or secondary school in the parish so adult formation in the faith is the focus here.

In **Kemerton**, where likewise there is no parish school, Father Francis Hughes OSB visits St Gregory's School, Cheltenham to assist in services of reconciliation and participate in school liturgies.

Within close proximity to the church at **Ormskirk** are two schools: St Anne's Catholic Primary School with about 400 pupils, and St Bede's High School with about 700 pupils. The parish priest is an active foundation governor and priest chaplain to both schools. The parish also has significant numbers of scouts, cubs, beavers, squirrels, guides, brownies, and rainbows. The parish employs a part-time youth minister to support activities for teenagers, including the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme in which over 120 young people participate. In the parish we run programmes helping parishioners prepare for the celebration of the sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confession, and Marriage.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans, and relevant policies (continued)

Activities, specific objectives, achievements, and future plans (continued)

Education (continued)

At **Scarisbrick**, St Mary's Primary School neighbours the church. It is a small school of about 100 pupils, of whom less than half are Catholic, and only about half of these live in the parish. A new head teacher, Mrs Joanne Preston, was appointed during the year, which has resulted in an improved Religious Education inspection report and stronger links with the parish. The archdiocese is funding an extension to the EYFS area of the school, which will be ready for use in September 2025. The school plays a significant role in preparing children for First Holy Communion and, latterly, Confirmation.

The parish school at **Stratford**, St Gregory's, was graded as Outstanding in November 2023 after an inspection by the local Catholic educational authorities. The school has 205 pupils, and the ties between the parish and school are strong. There have been meetings with the parents for first Confession and First Holy Communion, and a junior St Vincent de Paul group established. Children who do not attend the parish school are prepared for First Holy Communion at the parish's chapel-of-ease at Shottery, where the children's liturgy continues to be popular.

At **Studley** the parish school is an Extended Services School working with the local social service and other schools, and has been rated as Good by Ofsted. It has a Rainbows Group helping children cope with bereavement and marital breakdown. It is an Eco and Healthy school and has just received the Gifted and Talented Award. The school plays a large role in preparing young people for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. The school has three Masses in the parish church every term, as well as on holy days of obligation. One Sunday Mass per term in church is organised by the school with its full participation.

Pastoral work

At **Alcester**, coffee is available in the hall monthly, after the 10:30am Mass. The parish hall provided a warm hub for townsfolk who found heating their own homes expensive, and is increasingly used by a number of local groups. Parishioners participate in the town's ecumenical activities such as the Good Friday Walk of Witness. The parish priest has his own round of parish visits, and a parishioner to visit the only nursing home in the town.

In the **Woolhampton** parish, the PCT (Parish Care Together) group quietly provides both practical and spiritual support to the elderly needy of the area, regardless of church affiliation. In addition, a small local charity fund, set up by a very generous donor in 1996, enables the parish to help those in need to meet exceptional expenses, for example a child's school trip, a washing machine, or a new carpet. The two church halls are let to various organisations within the local communities, including other charities.

In **Kemerton**, the St Benet's Pastoral Council meets regularly to discuss needs and organise events. There was a parish day of reflection in March. Meetings were held as part of the Synod process. The housebound are visited each week with Holy Communion.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans, and relevant policies (continued)

Activities, specific objectives, achievements, and future plans (continued)

Pastoral work (continued)

In **Ormskirk**, the priest visits people in their homes, as well as being available to people who visit the presbytery. A prayer group has been meeting weekly for 20 years. Other groups which play an important part in parish life but which cannot be readily categorised include the Union of Catholic Mothers, the Knights of St Columba, the St Vincent de Paul Society, the Justice and Peace Group, the St Anne's Players, and the parish environment group. Our Parish Centre can be booked for functions and the use of the Centre is not restricted to just our own Catholic parishioners. However, the Centre is approaching the end of its useful life, and plans are being developed to replace it. Safeguarding is a top priority in the parish.

At **Scarisbrick**, apart from the usual sick calls by the priest, Holy Communion is taken to several infirm parishioners in their homes, usually by Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. In the warmer months, every three weeks, morning tea after Sunday Mass has been introduced, held in the presbytery garden. After the sale of the parish hall in 2020, the opportunity for the expression of parish community life and pastoral support outside Mass was reduced; the regular morning tea has helped meet this deficiency. Also helping was the introduction of a parish Christmas party, which has been very popular indeed, and has proved especially beneficial for more socially isolated parishioners. Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, and health and safety requirements, are taken seriously by the parish.

At **Stratford**, Mass attendance as elsewhere had fallen but numbers are slowly increasing and are now around 600. There are forty housebound parishioners who receive Holy Communion in their homes. There have been days of recollection and training for eucharistic ministers. Ecumenical relations are good and the local ministers meet regularly. The weekly supper for the homeless has continued and a local social centre, the Fred Winter Centre, has been opened where several parishioners help out. The St Vincent de Paul Society is active in the area helping those in need, and the parish bereavement group provides solace to many.

At **Studley** the parish priest continues to provide Mass for the primary school and to help with preparation for the Sacraments. Father Benedict Thompson OBS visits the sick in their homes, the local hospital, and the four nursing homes in the parish. He is helped in this by the support of the parish deacon. Two parishioners also visit people who are keen for more social contact; these are not necessarily physically infirm, and include people of no fixed faith.

Other charitable work

At **Alcester**, there is a successful food bank maintained by parishioners. The church and modernised hall are surrounded by gardens maintained by the parish, a setting which attracts a number of groups seeking a venue to sponsor charitable events.

The **Woolhampton** parish traditionally supports a specific charity each year. The parish also collects food and other donations to support the foodbanks in Reading and West Berkshire.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans, and relevant policies (continued)

Activities, specific objectives, achievements, and future plans (continued)

Other charitable work (continued)

The **Kemerton** parish supports two local charities, Tewkesbury Foodbank and Gloucestershire Nightstop, by holding fundraising events. The parish hall is used by a group of retired musicians, and it was also made available to a village committee supervising the refurbishment of the Village Hall.

In **Ormskirk** some of the parish groups are directly geared to help those in need in the locality, especially the St Vincent de Paul Society. We have raised money by collections and social events for CAFOD and other charities, both local and beyond. The parish is a member of Ormskirk Churches Together. Over the past six years St Anne's has worked with the Home Office to provide a home for a Syrian refugee family. The family has now settled in very well and a wonderful support group of parishioners keeps in touch with them on a regular basis.

Through collections in church the **Scarisbrick** parish has contributed to both national and local charities, including CAFOD, Nugent Care, and the St Vincent de Paul Society. Weekly collections of food are taken to the local foodbank. Discreet assistance is provided occasionally to a few families of pupils in our school who are in need from time to time, especially at Christmas. The Church charity *Missio* has strong support in the parish.

At **Stratford**, the parish supports many charities, particularly Father Clement's Lyerekhu School for displaced orphans in Nigeria, Mary's Meals, Stratford Foodbank, and CAFOD.

Studley parish has supported CAFOD and Father Hudson's Society. We also support the Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) in Redditch, whose members include parishioners from Studley. The SVP helps several families in the parish, regardless of faith, both financially and physically. At Christmas essential groceries are provided to those who live alone or are unprovided for.

Policy for donations

The parishes each donate to other charitable causes whose aims and objectives are consistent with those of the charity i.e. the advancement and maintenance of the Roman Catholic religion and the relief of poverty. Donations are made from special collections held within each parish for each specific cause. In addition, each parish makes contributions towards the costs of the Roman Catholic Diocese in which it is situated and assists with meeting the expenses of the repair and maintenance of local Roman Catholic Schools.

Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults

Like all other organisations who serve in the community, the trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all those the charity serves in any way. This means that the trustees, volunteers and staff engaged in the work of the charity in Great Britain must obtain clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

The trustees are fully committed to implementing all policies and procedures of the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA). Each parish has a Child Protection Officer which

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans, and relevant policies (continued)

Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults (continued)

operates under the safeguarding authorities of the relevant Roman Catholic Diocese of which the parish is a part.

Investment policy

The charity has both investment properties and a portfolio of listed investments. The trustees' overall policy with regard to the charity's listed investments is to maximise total return through a diversified portfolio, with the aim of providing the level of income advised by the trustees and, at the same time, with a view to ensuring capital appreciation exceeding inflation over any five-year period. The trustees are conscious of the potential short to medium term impact of current geopolitical and macro-economic events. The trustees are meeting regularly with the investment manager in order to remain apprised of the situation.

Similarly, the trustees acknowledge that current events may lead to short-term volatility in the property market, but believe that the market will recover in the medium to long term. The charity has no plans to dispose of its investment properties and regards them as long-term investments. Individual parishes review their investment performance at the end of the year.

Fundraising policy

The charity aims to achieve best practice in the way in which it communicates with donors and other supporters. It takes care with both the tone of its communications and the accuracy of its data to minimise the pressures on supporters. It applies best practice to protect supporters' data and never sells data, it never swaps data and ensures that communication preferences can be changed at any time. The charity manages its own fundraising activities and does not employ the services of Professional Fundraisers. The charity undertakes to react to and investigate any complaints regarding its fundraising activities and to learn from them and improve its service. During the year to 31 August 2024, the charity received no complaints about its fundraising activities.

+ Financial review

Results for the year

A summary of the charity's income and expenditure can be found on page 21 of the attached accounts.

Income for the year totalled £836,936 (2023– £836,249). The main source of income for the charity is the weekly collection carried out in each parish. In the year to 31 August 2024 general collections accounted for £381,747 (45.6%) (2023– £383,823 [45.9%]) of the charity's income, whilst special collections used to fund donations and grants accounted for a further £45,122 (5.4%) (2023– £49,703). Other significant income sources include the proceeds from small scale fundraising events; legacies; income from parish centre, room and hall hire; investment income; and interest receivable.

Expenditure in the year totalled £928,628 (2023– £811,990) with the major expenses being in connection with the upkeep of parish churches, presbyteries and similar buildings and the necessary living and personal expenses of the priests serving the seven parishes.

Financial review (continued)

Results for the year (continued)

Net expenditure for the year before investment gains and losses, therefore, amounted to £91,692 (2023–net income of £24,259). Net gains on the revaluation and disposal of listed investments of £134,338 (2023– net gains of £114,981) and there were no net gains on the revaluation of investment properties (2023– £332,000), resulted in an overall net increase in funds for the year of £42,696 (2023– £241,278).

Reserves policy

It is the trustees' current policy to retain free reserves (i.e. those unrestricted funds not represented by tangible fixed assets, designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed) of between six months' and two years' expenditure on unrestricted funds. This is not regarded as excessive when viewed in the light of the need to retain sufficient funds at a central level to cover the administrative costs of the charity and, importantly, provide short term loans to parishes in the event of special projects, unforeseen events and/or emergencies.

Financial position

At 31 August 2024 the free reserves of the charity amounted to £51,265 (2023– £54,427). The unrestricted funds of the charity represent:

- ♦ The original funds deposited by the parishes to form a central fund, and designated as the Commune Depositum, amounting to £21,655 (2023– £21,655). Despite being designated, these funds are set aside in order to meet emergencies rather than for specific purposes. They are regarded, therefore, as free reserves.
- ♦ Central funds, held to cover the central administrative costs of the charity and provide short term loans to individual parishes should these be required, amounting to £29,610 (2023– £32,772).

The trustees note that free reserves currently exceed the target set out in the reserves policy above but consider this to be prudent given current economic challenges and rising costs.

The restricted funds amounting to £5,919,273 (2023– £5,873,415) represent the net assets (including land and buildings) of the seven parishes that form part of the charity. Under Canon Law each parish is a separate financial entity and as such each is treated as a separate restricted fund (note 16). Whilst the macroeconomic and geopolitical climate creates challenges, the trustees do not expect material concerns to arise over the charity's financial position or for the charity's going concern to be threatened.

✚ Governance, structure and management

Governance and management

The Abbot of Douai Abbey is Chairman of the Trust. The Abbot appoints a minimum of two other trustees, who must be practising Roman Catholics and of whom at least one shall be a priest working in one of the Trust's parishes and at least one shall be a layperson who is active in one of the Trust's parishes.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Governance and management (continued)

The names of the trustees in office at the date on which this report was approved and of those who served during the year are set out on page 1 of this Annual Report and Accounts. Brief biographical details on each of the trustees in office at the date on which this report was approved are given below:

Right Reverend Paul Gunter OSB

Father Paul Gunter was elected Abbot of Douai in 2022, having been Parish Priest of Alcester from 2016–2022. He has also been Secretary for the Department of Christian Life & Worship of the Conference of Bishops of England & Wales since 2012. Father Paul has been a monk of Douai Abbey since 1985 and was ordained priest in 1991, graduating in theology from Heythrop College, University of London. He spent ten years in parish ministry at Cheltenham from 1992 to 1999, after which he became Parish Priest of Studley in the archdiocese of Birmingham until 2002. In 2002, he went to Rome for further studies in Liturgy, gaining doctorate in 2006 from the Pontifical Institute of Liturgy, where he lectured from 2006 to 2016, as well as at the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum 2008–2014, and was a Consultor to the Office of the Liturgical Celebrations of the Supreme Pontiff 2008–2013.

Reverend Robert Alexander Austin OSB

Reverend Alexander Austin was parish priest of St Gregory's, Stratford-upon-Avon until September 2024. He has degrees in Social and Political Science, and in Theology, and a master's degree in Christian Spirituality. A priest since 1980, he taught art and Religious Education at Douai School for fifteen years, where he was also a housemaster and school chaplain. He also served in the monastic offices of Infirmarian and Guestmaster, as well as serving as a councillor from time to time. He was Novice Master at Douai for eight years whilst serving as assistant priest in the Woolhampton parish. In 2000 he was sent as Parish Priest to Pershore, and in 2002 he became Parish Priest of St Mary's, Studley. His last parish posting was at Stratford since 2010.

Reverend Alistair Alban Hood OSB

Father Alban served as Prior of Douai Abbey from September 2014 until June 2021. He was a teacher at Douai School, 1992–1995, served on the Douai parish of Ormskirk, 1995–2002, (during which time he was a trustee of the Douai Abbey Parishes Trust), was Novice Master, 2002–2021 and has been Choirmaster at Douai since 2002. He was formerly a trustee of the charity from 1998 until 2006. Since September 2022 has been Parish Priest of the Douai Abbey parish. He holds a doctorate in history from Liverpool Hope University.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Governance and management (continued)

Reverend Gerard Francis Hughes OSB

Reverend Francis Hughes, formerly assistant at St Osburg's, Coventry, Pangbourne and Theale, St Anne's Ormskirk, St Joseph's Centre for the Deaf, Manchester, and Parish Priest of Scarisbrick is parish priest of St Benet's Kemerton. A graduate of University College, Galway in Chemistry and Mathematics, he has worked as a teacher. He studied Theology at Oxford and has a MA in Canon Law from the University of London. He completed courses in counselling at the Richmond Fellowship and Manchester University and in Deaf Studies with the Open University. He has worked with the Deaf Community as chaplain and pastoral worker and has been a governor for St Mary's School, Scarisbrick. He has been Prior and Junior Master at Douai Abbey and was also a governor for St Gregory's School, Cheltenham. He currently assists the Clifton Marriage Tribunal.

Mr Stephen Jones

Steve Jones is a graduate of the University of Liverpool with a degree in Computational and Statistical Science. In the 1980's he worked as a software engineer specialising in Financial Systems for small and medium sized businesses. In the 1990s, Steve specialised in Payroll and HR systems becoming one of the UK's experts in the interpretation and application of Profit Related Pay and Salary Sacrifice schemes. In 1996, Steve set up Fairbanks Environmental Ltd with long-time friend and Civil Engineer, Bob Conlin, to employ data analysis to identify leaks within the underground storage systems at retail petrol stations. In 2016 Fairbanks was sold to the US based Dover Corporation. Steve continued as Managing Director of Dover's Data Analysis Business Unit for a further two years, before retiring in 2018.

Right Reverend Walter Geoffrey Scott OSB

In 2022 Right Reverend Geoffrey Scott retired as abbot of Douai Abbey after 24 years in the role. Before then he had worked as a teacher, headmaster, chaplain, and parish assistant. He is active as a writer and lecturer in church history, in which subject he holds a doctorate. Currently he is Parish Priest of Our Lady & St Joseph's, Alcester and Librarian and Archivist for Douai Abbey at Douai Abbey.

Reverend Andrew Hugh Somerville Knapman OSB

Joining the monastery in early 2001, Father Hugh was ordained a priest in April 2007 after studying in Oxford and Rome. His MPhil dissertation at Bristol University was published by Paulist Press of New York in the autumn of 2018. Before entering the monastery, he studied at the University of Sydney and worked in education and then in a civilian role in communications for the New South Wales Police in Sydney, Australia. He served as Parish Priest of St Elizabeth's, Scarisbrick from 2021 until August 2024 when he returned to Douai Abbey to become Procurator. He undertakes various publishing projects for Douai Abbey under the imprint of Weldon Press, and is editor of the Douai Magazine.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Governance and management (continued)

Very Reverend Bernard Godric Timney OSB

Father Godric Timney OSB, the Rector of St Anne's, is a member of the Benedictine Community of Douai Abbey. Father Godric is Cathedral Prior of Worcester and is an Honorary Canon of Worcester Cathedral. He is also a trustee of the Archdiocese of Liverpool, a member of the Archbishop's Council, Dean of the Pastoral Area of Ormskirk and Maghull, a trustee of the Douai Abbey Parishes Trust. He spent nearly 28 years in secondary education and from 2003–2006 was Chairman of the National Conference of Priests of England and Wales. He is Chairman of the Conference of Vicars for Religious.

Reverend Mark Benedict Thompson OSB

Reverend Benedict Thompson is parish priest of the Studley parish. He is an Associate of the Royal College of Music, London; a Licentiate of Trinity College of Music, London; a graduate of National Opera Studio, London; and a former Principal Tenor with English National Opera. He studied Theology at St Benet's Hall, Oxford and counselling at Westminster Pastoral Foundation, London. He is a former Monastic Choirmaster and was assistant bursar at Douai Abbey 1997–1998; assistant Priest, Douai Abbey Parish 2000–2001; and chaplain to Southampton General Hospital 2001–2004. He was appointed as Parish Priest of Woolhampton in 2005, and has been Parish Priest of Studley since 2010.

Reverend Thomas Oliver Holt OSB

After taking a degree in English from Oxford, he was for many years a teacher of the subject in Douai School from 1977–1999, and housemaster there 1982–1999, later Bursar of Douai Abbey 2005–2024, trustee at various times since 1997, trustee of Priors Court School 2005–2014, trustee of the Lejeune Clinic for children with Down's Syndrome 2006–2016, trustee of Friends of the Newbury Spring Festival 2008–2018, and trustee of Downside Abbey 2016–2019. In Autumn 2024 he took up the role of Parish Priest at the Douai parish of Stratford-upon-Avon.

Training of trustees

At each of the meetings of the trustees throughout the year, held in the various parishes, recent changes and developments in charity law, in financial strategy, and in questions relating to health and safety are discussed and, if necessary, implemented. A number of the trustees attend in-service training days provided by the dioceses and by the local education authorities in which they are situated. The trustees remain satisfied with the quality of financial and legal advice given to them by their professional advisers and are able to bring to this Trust the expertise they possess through their work with other trusts and charitable bodies.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and accounts 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 accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that year. In preparing accounts the trustees are required to:

- ♦ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ♦ observe the methods and principles of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- ♦ make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ♦ state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts;
- ♦ prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the relevant Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the trust deed. They 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 so far as the trustees are aware:

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

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

Structure and management reporting

The overall responsibility for the charity lies ultimately with the trustees who meet three times a year.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Structure and management reporting (continued)

At **Woolhampton** (Douai Abbey), a parish administrator is responsible for general financial record-keeping and the management of the parish office. There is a Finance Committee of five members, and a Parish Pastoral Council with members from each of the three local church committees. This facilitates communication between each of the local churches and any of its individual committees.

At **Kemerton** there is a Parish Finance Committee composed of the parish priest, the treasurer and two other parishioners. The Finance committee decided that there is no need to meet so often and that on-line discussions would be sufficient to decide on extraordinary expenditure.

At **Studley** the parish is run by a Parish Committee which is supported by mission, social and finance committees.

At both **Stratford** there is a Finance Committee, a parish committee and a pastoral group which helps to run the parish.

At **Scarisbrick** there is a Finance Committee that meets regularly. Small committees are often formed to organise events and occasions.

At **Alcester** there is a Parish Finance Committee which meets monthly. The Parish Development Committee, propels projects for maintenance and general purposes, as well as for parish community building projects. There is a qualified coordinator for safeguarding and a data-controller responsible for GDPR.

At **Ormskirk** the parish priest administers the parish on behalf of the Douai Abbey Parishes Trust. The Parish Pastoral Council meets regularly and offers advice and practical help in organising events. The Finance Committee oversees financial matters and one of the members, a qualified accountant, prepares the accounts for our professional auditors. Health and Safety and Risk Assessments are regularly discussed at the meetings.

Key management personnel

The trustees consider that they alone comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

The Parish Priest at each parish is also a trustee. The trustees receive no remuneration or additional reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees to the charity. The Parish Priests are all members of Douai Abbey, the Community of St Edmund of the English Benedictine Congregation of the Order of St Benedict, Charity Registration Number 236962, and their living and personal expenses are borne by that charity.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Structure and management reporting (continued)

Employees

The charity strives to be an equal opportunities employer and applies objective criteria to assess merit. It aims to ensure that no job applicant or employee receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of age, race, colour, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation or disability.

+ Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific operational areas of the charity, its investments and its finances. The trustees believe that by monitoring reserve levels, by ensuring controls exist over key financial systems, and by examining the operational and business risks faced by the charity, they have established effective systems to mitigate those risks. The trustees review a risk management matrix annually, which includes such potential risks as the loss of key staff, disaster recovery and reputational risk.

The key risks for the charity, as identified by the trustees, are described below together with the principal ways in which they are mitigated:

◆ **Loss of key management**

The trustees are aware that they are very dependent on certain key people and the implications of losing these people would be serious. The trustees consider that strong support from financial advisers, training of trustees, and ongoing discussion of ways of lightening the load of the Abbot will all mitigate this risk. In addition the English Benedictine Congregation, of which the Abbey is a member, has developed structures of congregational support, including the lending of personnel, to assist any parishes who find themselves in difficulties.

◆ **Dependence of income from investments**

The charity relies to a large extent on the returns from its investment portfolio to cover its outgoings. The performance of the investment portfolio and the investment strategy are reviewed in meetings of the trustees and in regular meetings with the investment managers, taking into account current and future political and economic uncertainties. This risk and its mitigations are especially important at the present time in light of the current geopolitical and macroeconomic environment.

◆ **Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults**

Like all other organisations who serve in the community, the trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all those the charity serves in any way. This means that members engaged in any ministry in Great Britain must obtain clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The trustees are fully committed to implementing all policies and procedures of the Religious Life Safeguarding Service (RLSS)

Governance, structure and management (continued)

+ Volunteers

The trustees are very grateful to the many volunteers who have given their time to the charity within the individual parishes over the past year and who have provided invaluable assistance.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Trustee: Rev Andrew Hugh Somerville Knapman OSB

Approved by the trustees on: 31 July 2025

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Douai Abbey Parishes Trust

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Douai Abbey Parishes Trust (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statements of cash flows, the principal accounting policies and the notes to the accounts. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the accounts:

- ◆ give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2024 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- ◆ have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- ◆ have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the accounts, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the accounts is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the accounts are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Other information (continued)

In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the accounts or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- ◆ the information given in the trustees' annual report is inconsistent in any material respect with the accounts; or
- ◆ sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- ◆ the accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- ◆ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the accounts, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these accounts.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts (continued)

How the audit was capable of detecting irregularities including fraud

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- ◆ The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- ◆ We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with those charged with governance and other management, and from our knowledge and experience of the sector;
- ◆ We focused on these laws and regulations, which included but were not limited to the Charities Act 2011; Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102); and Safeguarding Regulations; and
- ◆ We assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of trustees, inspecting legal correspondence and review of trustees' meeting minutes; and
- ◆ The engagement team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

As part of planning our audit, we determined materiality and assessed the susceptibility of the Charity's accounts to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- ◆ Making enquiries of trustees as where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud and their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- ◆ Considering the internal controls, processes and procedures in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- ◆ Performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected movements;
- ◆ Tested journal entries to consider whether these were indicative of potential bias
- ◆ Performed substantive testing of income and expenditure including testing the authorisation thereof;
- ◆ Reviewed large and unusual bank transactions to ensure that these were legitimate transactions in the normal course of business;
- ◆ Investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions; and
- ◆ Assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts (continued)

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- ◆ Agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- ◆ Reading the minutes of meetings of trustees; and
- ◆ Enquiring as to actual and potential litigation and claims

Because of the inherent limitations in our audit procedures, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the accounts or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from events and transactions reflected in the accounts, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

As a result of performing the above, no key audit matters were identified that related to irregularities, including fraud, in respect of the current period accounts.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the accounts is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at <https://www.frc.org.uk/library/standards-codes-policy/audit-assurance-and-ethics/auditors-responsibilities-for-the-audit/>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Katharine Halsall

Caldwell Penn Limited
Statutory Auditor
7a Abbey Business Park, Monks Walk
Farnham
GU9 8HT

31 July 2025

Caldwell Penn is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of part 42 of the Companies Act 2006 and in accordance with the regulations set out in section 154 of the Charities Act 2011.

Statement of financial activities Year to 31 August 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	1	—	513,783	513,783	—	549,269	549,269
Other trading activities							
. Fundraising activities		—	10,967	10,967	—	15,654	15,654
Investments and interest receivable	2	1,761	185,224	186,985	1,631	186,261	187,892
Charitable activities	3	—	81,365	81,365	—	76,785	76,785
Other sources		—	43,836	43,836	144	6,505	6,649
Total income		1,761	835,175	836,936	1,775	834,474	836,249
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	4	370	20,067	20,437	354	20,223	20,577
Charitable activities							
. Charitable donations payable	5	—	96,151	96,151	—	101,571	101,571
. Support of the Parishes and their ministry	6	1,203	810,837	812,040	3,911	685,931	689,842
Total expenditure		1,573	927,055	928,628	4,265	807,725	811,990
Net (expenditure) income before investment gains (losses)	8	188	(91,880)	(91,692)	(2,490)	26,749	24,259
Unrealised gains on investment properties		—	—	—	—	332,000	332,000
Realised and unrealised losses on listed investments	13	(3,350)	137,738	134,388	(2,817)	(112,164)	(114,981)
Net (expenditure) income and net movement in funds		(3,162)	45,858	42,696	(5,307)	246,585	241,278
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward at 1 September		54,427	5,873,415	5,927,842	59,734	5,626,830	5,686,564
Total funds carried forward at 31 August		51,265	5,919,273	5,970,538	54,427	5,873,415	5,927,842

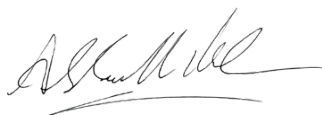
All recognised gains and losses are included in the above statement of financial activities.

All of the charity's activities were derived from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

Balance sheet 31 August 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		1,049,374		1,057,787
Investments	13		4,639,500		4,464,207
			5,688,874		5,521,994
Current assets					
Debtors	14	156,520		169,755	
Short term deposits		122,712		153,664	
Cash at bank and in hand		451,521		508,169	
		730,753		831,588	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(449,089)		(425,740)	
Net current assets			281,664		405,848
Total net assets			5,970,538		5,927,842
The funds of the charity:					
Funds and reserves					
Income funds:					
Restricted funds	16		5,919,273		5,873,415
Unrestricted funds					
. Commune Depositum	17		21,655		21,655
. Central funds			29,610		32,772
			5,970,538		5,927,842

Approved by the trustees
and signed on their behalf by:



Trustee: Rev Andrew Hugh Somerville Knapman OSB

Approved on: 31 July 2025

Statement of cash flows Year to 31 August 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities	A	(104,392)	(22,808)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Investment income received		120,566	184,507
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(72,269)	(138,625)
Proceeds from disposal of fixed assets		9,400	-
Proceeds from the disposal of listed investments		638,843	451,582
Purchase of investments		(669,327)	(587,193)
Cash placed on deposit		30,952	(150,280)
Net cash flow from (used in) investing activities		58,165	(240,009)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(46,227)	(262,817)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2023	B	524,729	787,546
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2024	B	478,502	524,729

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year to 31 August 2024

A Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash (used in) provided by operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net movement in funds (as per the statement of financial activities)	42,696	241,279
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	70,828	76,171
Losses (gains) on the revaluation and disposal of listed investments	(134,388)	114,981
Gains on the revaluation of investment properties		(332,000)
Losses on the disposal of tangible fixed assets	454	—
Investment income and dividends receivable	(120,566)	(187,892)
(Increase) decrease in debtors	13,235	(25,459)
Increase in creditors	23,349	90,112
Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities	(104,392)	(22,808)

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	451,521	508,169
Cash held by investment managers	26,981	16,560
Total cash and cash equivalents	478,502	524,729

No separate reconciliation of net debt has been prepared as there is no difference between the net cash (debt) of the charity and the above cash and cash equivalents.

Principal accounting policies 31 August 2024

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the accounts are laid out below.

Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared for the year to 31 August 2024 with comparative information provided in respect to the year to 31 August 2023.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the notes to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

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

The accounts are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest pound.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Preparation of the accounts requires the trustees and management to make significant judgements and estimates.

The items in the accounts where these judgements and estimates have been made include:

- ◆ Estimating the useful economic life of tangible fixed assets for the purpose of determining an annual depreciation charge;
- ◆ Determining the probability of the receipt of legacies which are measurable and to which the charitable company is entitled;
- ◆ Estimating the fair value of investment properties; and
- ◆ Estimating future income and expenditure flows for the purpose of assessing going concern (see below).

Assessment of going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these accounts. The trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of at least one year from the date of approval of these accounts. There are no material uncertainties that cast doubt on the going concern of the charity.

Whilst the current macroeconomic and geopolitical climate may create challenges, given the charity's, as well as individual parishes', current levels of reserves and continuing income, the trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

Income recognition

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity has entitlement to the income, the amount of income can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Income comprises donations, legacies, investment income, interest receivable, income from the sale of books votives and candles, funerals and church yard income, parish centre, hall and room hire, and other miscellaneous income.

Donations and Gift Aid tax recoverable are recognised when the charity has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations pledged but not received, the amount is accrued for where the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

In accordance with the Charities SORP FRS 102 volunteer time is not recognised.

Legacies are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the legacy, the executors have established that there are sufficient surplus assets in the estate to pay the legacy, and any conditions attached to the legacy are within the control of the charity. Entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, but the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material. In the event that the gift is in the form of an asset other than cash or a financial asset traded on a recognised stock exchange, recognition is subject to the value of the gift being reliably measurable with a degree of reasonable accuracy and the title of the asset having being transferred to the charity.

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Income from sale of books, votives and candles, funerals and church yard income, parish centre, hall and room hire, and other miscellaneous income, including refund income received in respect to the sale of a property in the prior year, is measured at fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts.

Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure comprises direct costs and support costs. All expenses, including support costs, are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. The classification between activities is as follows:

- a. The cost of raising funds relates to expenditure incurred in organising and holding small scale fundraising events, managing investment properties and costs in connection with the management of the charity's listed investments.
- b. The costs of charitable activities comprise expenditure on the charity's primary purposes as described in the trustees' report and include:
 - ◆ Charitable donations which comprise gifts to other charitable causes with aims and objectives which are consistent with those of the charity i.e. the advancement and maintenance of the Roman Catholic religion and the relief of poverty. Donations are made from Special Collections held within each parish for each specific cause. In addition, each parish makes contributions towards the costs of the Roman Catholic Diocese in which it is situated and assists with meeting the expenses of the repair and maintenance of local Roman Catholic Schools.
 - ◆ Expenditure on the support of the charity's seven parishes includes expenditure on the upkeep of parish buildings (including churches and parishes), staff and related costs, the living and personal expenses of parish priests and other parish running costs.

Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs represent indirect charitable expenditure. In order to carry out the primary purposes of the charity it is necessary to provide support in the form of financial procedures, provision of office services and equipment.

Governance costs comprise the costs involving the public accountability of the charity (including audit costs) and costs in respect to its compliance with regulation and good practice. Governance costs are apportioned using percentages based on the expenditure incurred on the activities of the charity.

All expenditure on support of the charity's seven parishes are allocated to the support of the parishes and their ministry as costs in respect to raising funds and giving donations are considered to be minimal.

Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing more than £1,000 and with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised.

a Inalienable land and buildings

The freehold of the land and buildings legally owned by the charity and occupied rent free on behalf of the trustees of the governing body of Catholic voluntary-aided schools, which are separate charities and publicly funded, are valued at £nil. The trustees consider that no meaningful value can be attributed to these assets, since they are not used directly by the charity, do not generate income and cannot be disposed of in the open market or put to alternative use while such occupation, which may be indefinite, continues.

b Churches and similar properties

The trustees are the legal owners of churches and similar land and buildings situated within the seven parishes operated by the charity. In the event of the charity ceasing its work in any of these parishes, the trustees would consider themselves obliged to allow such assets to be used indefinitely to meet the needs of the parish for its church and similar property. As a valuation of such assets at fair value would not easily be determined, where reliable information relating to the historic cost is available, these assets have been included at historic cost. Subsequent additions to the properties have been included at cost and these are depreciated at 2% per annum.

c Functional freehold property

Freehold properties used for the direct charitable work of the charity are included in the accounts at cost or deemed cost. Deemed cost is based on a mixture of original cost and historic valuations.

Functional freehold properties are depreciated at a rate of 2% per annum on a straight line basis in order to write the buildings off over their estimated useful economic life to the charity.

d Freehold building improvements

Improvements to functional freehold buildings are included in the accounts at cost as incurred. The improvements, once complete, are depreciated at 10% per annum on a straight line basis, in order to write the cost of these improvements off over their expected useful life.

e Other tangible fixed assets

Other tangible fixed assets are capitalised and depreciated at the following annual rates in order to write them off over their estimated useful lives:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ◆ Furniture and equipment | 10% to 25% per annum based on cost |
| ◆ Motor vehicles | 25% to 20% per annum based on cost |

Fixed asset investments

Listed investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price.

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

Fixed asset investments (continued)

As noted above, the main form of financial risk faced by the charity is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular sectors or sub sectors.

Fixed asset investments comprising long term deposits are stated at the value of the initial deposit as this will be returned in full upon maturity.

Fixed asset investments comprising freehold land and buildings are included in the accounts at a valuation based on market value. Professional valuations are carried out every five to six years on a rolling basis.

Realised and unrealised revaluation gains (or losses) on both listed and property investments are credited (or debited) to the statement of financial activities in the year of valuation.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount, less any provision for non-recoverability. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand or have a maturity of less than three months from the date of acquisition. Deposits for more than three months but less than one year have been disclosed as short-term deposits. Cash placed on deposit for more than one year is disclosed as a fixed asset investment.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash payment where such discounting is material.

Fund structure

Restricted funds comprise monies raised for, or their use restricted to, a specific purpose, or contributions subject to donor-imposed conditions.

Unrestricted funds represent those monies which are freely available for application towards achieving any charitable purpose that falls within the charity's charitable objects.

1 Income from: Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
General collections	—	381,747	381,747	—	383,823	383,823
Special collections	—	45,122	45,122	—	49,703	49,703
Roof restoration project appeal	—	23,709	23,709	—	19,947	19,947
Legacies	—	4,000	4,000	—	43,612	43,612
Other donations	—	59,205	59,205	—	44,092	44,092
Grants receivable	—	—	—	—	500	500
Syrian refugee sponsorship	—	—	—	—	(240)	(240)
Youth project	—	—	—	—	7,832	7,832
Chaplaincy	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	513,783	513,783	—	549,269	549,269

2 Income from: Investments and interest receivable

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Income from listed investments	1,573	62,643	64,216	1,599	66,776	68,375
Rental income	—	114,599	114,599	—	115,300	115,300
Bank interest and other income	188	7,982	8,170	32	4,185	4,217
	1,761	185,224	186,985	1,631	186,261	187,892

3 Income from: Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Sales of books, candles and votives	—	3,572	3,572	—	10,209	10,209
Funerals and church yard income	—	37,690	37,690	—	42,627	42,627
Parish centre, hall and room hire	—	40,103	40,103	—	23,949	23,949
	—	81,365	81,365	—	76,785	76,785

4 Expenditure on: Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Fundraising costs	—	2,434	2,434	—	4,053	4,053
Investment property costs	—	2,898	2,898	—	2,065	2,065
Investment management fees	370	14,735	15,105	354	14,105	14,459
	370	20,067	20,437	354	20,223	20,577

5 Expenditure on: Charitable donations payable

The charity makes donations to charitable causes in accordance with its policy for donations set out in the trustees' report. Donations payable during the year were as follows:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Diocesan levies	—	40,309	40,309	—	47,244	47,244
Special collections	—	54,182	54,182	—	36,895	36,895
Syrian refugee sponsorship	—	1,140	1,140	—	1,140	1,140
Miscellaneous donations under £1,000 each	—	520	520	—	16,292	16,292
	—	96,151	96,151	—	101,571	101,571

6 Expenditure on: Support of the Parishes and their ministry

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Church expenses, clergy living and personal costs and sundry parish costs	340	517,640	517,980	—	357,399	357,399
Staff costs (note 9)	—	90,511	90,511	—	81,887	81,887
Priests' salary and NI equivalent	—	27,562	27,562	—	37,021	37,021
Depreciation	—	70,826	70,826	—	76,171	76,171
Gain or loss on fixed assets	—	454	454	—	—	—
Transport costs	—	15,684	15,684	—	15,864	15,864
Youth project	—	15,019	15,019	—	5,213	5,213
Support costs (note 7)	863	69,982	70,845	3,270	106,412	109,682
Miscellaneous expenses	—	3,159	3,159	641	5,964	6,605
	1,203	810,837	812,040	3,911	685,931	689,842

7 Support costs

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Office costs	—	13,973	13,973	3,270	34,484	37,754
Bank charges	—	3,169	3,169	—	3,180	3,180
Governance	—	18,249	18,249	—	22,330	22,330
Professional	863	34,591	35,454	—	46,418	46,418
	863	69,982	70,845	3,270	106,412	109,682

8 Net income before investment gains (losses)

This is stated after charging:

	2024 £	2023 £
Staff costs (note 9)	90,511	81,887
Auditor's remuneration		
· Statutory audit services	18,249	18,610
· Other services	—	3,720
Depreciation	70,826	76,171

9 Employees, staff costs and key management personnel

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	87,077	78,284
Social security costs	2,445	2,567
Pension costs	989	1,036
	90,511	81,887

The average number of employees during the year was 9 (2023 – 9).

No employee earned £60,000 per annum or more (including taxable benefits) during the year (2023– none).

The trustees consider that they comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

The Parish Priest at each Parish is also a trustee. The trustees receive no remuneration or additional reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees to the charity. The Parish Priests are all members of Douai Abbey, the Community of St Edmund of the English Benedictine Congregation of the Order of St Benedict, Charity Registration Number 236962, and their living and personal expenses are borne by that charity.

10 Trustees' remuneration

Most of the trustees are parish priests in the parishes operated by the charity. As such, certain living and personal expenses during the year are borne by the charity. No trustee received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees during the current or previous year.

11 Taxation

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust is a registered charity and therefore is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Freehold buildings improvements £	Furniture and equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
At 1 September 2023	1,044,633	696,257	192,789	76,483	2,010,162
Additions	20,227	14,808	17,794	19,440	72,269
Disposals	—	—	—	(11,000)	(11,000)
At 31 August 2024	<u>1,064,860</u>	<u>711,065</u>	<u>210,583</u>	<u>84,923</u>	<u>2,071,431</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2023	259,405	469,203	157,139	66,628	952,375
Charge for year	15,101	36,708	14,157	4,862	70,828
Eliminated on disposal	—	—	—	(1,146)	(1,146)
At 31 August 2024	<u>274,506</u>	<u>505,911</u>	<u>171,296</u>	<u>70,344</u>	<u>1,022,057</u>
Net book values					
At 31 August 2024	<u>790,354</u>	<u>205,154</u>	<u>39,287</u>	<u>14,579</u>	<u>1,049,374</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>785,228</u>	<u>225,788</u>	<u>36,916</u>	<u>9,855</u>	<u>1,057,787</u>

It is likely that there are material differences between the open market values of the charity's freehold land and buildings and their book values. These arise from the specialised nature of some of the properties and the effects of inflation. The amounts of such differences cannot be ascertained without incurring significant cost, which, in the opinion of the trustees, is not justified in terms of the benefits to the users of the accounts.

As permitted by FRS 102, the charity has continued to adopt a policy of not revaluing its tangible fixed assets. The historical cost of the properties included above at a historic valuation cannot be ascertained with any accuracy. Other tangible fixed assets are stated at cost.

Certain of the charity's properties are subject to covenants which restrict their use and disposal.

Notes to the accounts 31 August 2024

13 Investments

	Investment properties £	Listed investments £	2024 £
Market value at 1 September 2023	2,445,000	2,002,647	4,447,647
Additions at cost	—	669,327	669,327
Disposal proceeds	—	(638,843)	(638,843)
Realised gains	—	7,158	7,158
Disposals at book value	—	(631,685)	(631,685)
Net unrealised investment gains (losses)	—	127,230	127,230
Market value at 31 August 2024	2,445,000	2,167,519	4,612,519
Cash held by investment managers for reinvestment			26,981
			4,639,500
Cost of listed investments			2,022,134

	Investment properties £	Listed investments £	2023 £
Market value at 1 September 2022	2,113,000	1,982,017	4,095,017
Additions at cost	—	587,193	587,193
Disposal proceeds	—	(451,582)	(451,582)
Realised losses	—	(273)	(273)
Disposals at book value	—	(451,855)	(451,855)
Net unrealised investment gains (losses)	332,000	(114,708)	217,292
Market value at 31 August 2023	2,445,000	2,002,647	4,447,647
Cash held by investment managers for reinvestment			16,560
			4,464,207
Cost of listed investments			2,002,218

At 30 August 2024, the following listed investment holding represented a material holding (greater than 5%) when compared to the value of the listed investments in total:

Holding	Market value at 30 August 2024 £	Percentage of portfolio %
EQUITY TRUSTEES FUND SERVICES AllianceBern Sust US S Inc	163,863	7.56%

13 Investments (continued)

Investment properties comprise certain of the charity's properties situated at Ormskirk, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Kemerton and Scarisbrick.

The trustees obtained valuations from Armitstead Barnett LLP, Chartered Surveyors, in relation to two properties and adjacent land at Ormskirk (St Anne's Social Centre and adjacent land, and the former site of St Anne's School) as at 31 August 2023, the valuations being carried out on an open market value basis. On the basis of the advice obtained, the properties were valued at £500,000 and £60,000 respectively.

The charity's investment property situated at Stratford-Upon-Avon, St Gregory's Hall (including the adjoining car park) was valued by ehB Reeves, Chartered Surveyors of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire as at 31 August 2022 on the basis of open market value. The valuation was £535,000 for St Gregory's Hall and £625,000 for the adjoining car park. In the opinion of the trustees, these valuations are not materially different to the values of the property and land as they stood at 31 August 2023.

The Coach House and car park at Stratford-Upon-Avon was valued on an open market value basis at £400,000 by Carter Chartered Surveyors as at 16 January 2024. In the opinion of the trustees, there was no material difference between the valuation of the Coach House between the balance sheet date and the date of the inspection for the formal valuation.

The charity's property based at Kemerton was valued by Andrews Estate agents on 6 February 2023 on the basis of open market value as at that date at £325,000. In the opinion of the trustees, the valuation as at 6 February 2023 is not materially different to the value of the property as it stood at 31 August 2023.

14 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade Debtors	8,635	-
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations	56,243	95,770
Prepayments and accrued income	90,353	73,985
Other Debtors	1,289	-
	156,520	169,755

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Diocesan levies payable	141,869	105,597
Expense creditors	68,362	11,456
Accruals and other creditors	62,025	131,854
Amount owed to the Archdiocese of Liverpool	156,833	156,833
Amount due to Douai Abbey Trust	20,000	20,000
	449,089	425,740

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (continued)

In 2007 the trustees decided that the Parish Centre attached to St Anne's, Ormskirk should cease to be managed by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool. This followed considerable discussion regarding financial viability and the recognition of the need to expend considerable sums of money in connection with health and safety enhancements. The amount owed to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool following the decision to terminate the management contract of St Anne's Parish Centre totals £156,833 (2023 – £156,833).

Included within 'Creditors: amounts falling due within one year' is a liability for Diocesan levies payable. All parishes pay a levy to the diocese in which they are located, which is a contribution to the operating costs of the diocese, and also covers certain services provided by the diocese, e.g. IT services and support. The levy is determined according to varying formulae. During the Covid lockdown, most dioceses waived the levy. Some dioceses have yet to resume invoicing for payment of the levy, and as such some parishes in these dioceses have continued to set aside an amount annually to cover the levy when it becomes due.

16 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trusts to be applied for specific purposes:

	At 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	(Losses) gains £	At 31 August 2024 £
Parishes:					
. Our Lady of St Joseph, Alcester	262,962	75,058	(56,557)	1,538	283,001
. St Mary's, Woolhampton	396,632	86,466	(108,311)	13,313	388,100
. St Benet's, Kemerton	711,790	67,625	(69,659)	—	709,756
. St Anne's, Ormskirk	891,051	184,435	(228,985)	7,771	854,272
. St Elizabeth's, Scarisbrick	238,859	57,214	(65,699)	63,137	293,511
. St Gregory the Great, Stratford	3,073,569	311,179	(320,987)	59,401	3,123,162
. St Mary's, Studley	298,552	53,198	(76,857)	(7,422)	267,471
	5,873,415	835,175	(927,055)	137,738	5,919,273

Notes to the accounts 31 August 2024

	At 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	(Losses) gains £	At 31 August 2023 £
Parishes:					
. Our Lady of St Joseph, Alcester	233,128	80,800	(49,300)	(1,666)	262,962
. St Mary's, Douai	400,548	110,061	(94,591)	(19,386)	396,632
. St Benet's, Kemerton	707,011	62,748	(57,969)	—	711,790
. St Anne's, Ormskirk	803,363	191,491	(193,719)	89,916	891,051
. St Elizabeth's, Scarisbrick	242,807	58,255	(53,879)	(8,324)	238,859
. St Gregory the Great, Stratford	2,925,181	259,837	(281,622)	170,173	3,073,569
. St Mary's, Studley	314,792	71,282	(76,645)	(10,877)	298,552
	<u>5,626,830</u>	<u>834,474</u>	<u>(807,725)</u>	<u>219,836</u>	<u>5,873,415</u>

The restricted funds represent the net assets held by each individual parish.

17 Commune Depositum

At 31 August 2024, funds amounting to £21,655 (2023– £21,655) and representing the original funds deposited by the parishes, had been set aside in a fund known as the Commune Depositum. These funds are to be used towards funding any unforeseen events or emergencies or special projects.

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Fund balances at 31 August are represented by:						
Tangible fixed assets	—	1,049,374	1,049,374	—	1,057,787	1,057,787
Investments						
. Investment properties	—	2,445,000	2,445,000	—	2,445,000	2,445,000
. Listed investments and cash held for reinvestment	52,590	2,141,910	2,194,500	49,064	1,970,143	2,019,207
Net current assets	(1,325)	282,989	281,664	5,363	400,485	405,848
Total net assets	<u>51,265</u>	<u>5,919,273</u>	<u>5,970,538</u>	<u>54,427</u>	<u>5,873,415</u>	<u>5,927,842</u>

The total unrealised gains on listed investments as at 31 August 2024 constitute movements on revaluation and are as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Unrealised gains on listed investments at 31 August	<u>145,386</u>	<u>429</u>
Reconciliation of movements in unrealised gains on listed investments:		
Unrealised gains at 1 September	429	149,882
In respect to disposals in year	17,727	(34,745)
Net gains (losses) arising on revaluation in the year	127,230	(114,708)
Total unrealised gains at 31 August	<u>145,386</u>	<u>429</u>

It is not possible to determine the historic cost of investment properties with reasonable accuracy. As such, the effect of cumulative unrealised gains in respect to investment properties has not been reported in the above.

19 Connected charities and related party transactions

The Douai Abbey Parishes Trust is connected to two other charities by virtue of the fact that the charities have some trustees in common.

Name	Charity Reg. No	Charitable objectives
The Community of St Edmund of the English Congregation of the Order of St Benedict established at Douai Abbey, Woolhampton, Berkshire (Douai Abbey Trust).	236962	The advancement and maintenance of the Roman Catholic religion.
The Benedictine Trust	1086872	To further the religious and other charitable work of the Roman Catholic Church in Scarisbrick.

During the year ended 31 August 2024, rent of £12,000 (2023– £12,000) for the use of St Mary's Church was paid to Douai Abbey Trust from Douai Abbey Parishes Trust.

On 13 February 2020, the parish church of Our Lady and St Joseph's, Alcester, signed a loan agreement with four other parishes within the charity and Douai Abbey Trust to fund the construction of a new church hall. The loan received from Douai Abbey Trust amounted to £20,000 (2023– £20,000). At the balance sheet date, £20,000 (2023– £20,000) remained outstanding. The loan is interest free and repayable over a period of five years, the first repayment becoming due two years after the completion of the work on the hall. Although the hall is now in use, it was subsequently agreed to delay repayments, so these have not yet started. Repayments will be due annually and amount to £4,000 per annum.

During the year ended 31 August 2024, the charity received aggregate donations from trustees of the charity amounting to £nil (2023– £nil).

Accounts

**Douai
Abbey
Parishes
Trust**

Annual Report and Accounts

31 August 2023

Charity Registration Number
1063237

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Reference and administration details of the charity, its trustees and advisers

Trustees	Rt Rev Paul Gunter OSB (Chairman) Rev Alexander Austin OSB Mr John Elliott (resigned 2 June 2023) Rev Alistair Alban Hood OSB (appointed 1 February 2023) Rev Francis Hughes OSB Mr Stephen Jones Rt Rev Geoffrey Scott OSB Rev Hugh Somerville-Knapman OSB Rev Godric Timney OSB Rev Benedict Thompson OSB Rev Gabriel Wilson OSB (resigned 1 February 2023)
Administrative address	Douai Abbey Upper Woolhampton Reading RG7 5TG
Charity registration number	1063237
Auditor	Buzzacott LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
Principal bankers	HSBC Bank plc 69 Pall Mall London SW1Y 5EY National Westminster Bank plc 250 Bishopsgate London EC2M 4AA
Principal investment managers	Rathbones Investment Management Limited 8 Finsbury Circus London EC2M 7AZ

Trustees' report Year to 31 August 2023

The trustees present their statutory report together with the accounts of the Douai Abbey Parishes Trust (the Trust) for the year ended 31 August 2023.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 26 to 30 of the attached accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Introduction

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust (the "Trust") is a charity established and governed by a trust deed dated 3 June 1997. It is registered with the Charity Commission, Charity Registration Number 1063237.

The Trust was established in 1997 by the separation of the activities of parishes, appropriated to Douai Abbey, from the other activities of Douai Abbey Monastery which are accounted for within Douai Abbey Trust, a registered charity.

The seven parishes accounted for within the charity are as follows:

- ◆ Our Lady and St Joseph, Alcester.
- ◆ St Mary's, Douai Abbey.
- ◆ St Benet's, Kemerton together with two special trusts – The Roman Catholic Church Trust of 1842 and The Roman Catholic Poor School Trust for 1852.
- ◆ St Anne's, Ormskirk.
- ◆ St Elizabeth's, Scarisbrick together with a special trust – The Benedictine Trust of 1860.
- ◆ St Gregory the Great, Stratford-upon-Avon.
- ◆ St Mary's, Studley.

Public Benefit

In formulating the charity's aims and in planning the work of the individual parishes and hence the overall charity, the trustees have had regard to the general guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans and relevant policies

Activities, specific objectives, achievements and future plans

The activities of the charity can be divided into four principal areas: the administration of the Sacraments and maintenance of Divine Service, the education of young people in accordance with the Roman Catholic faith, pastoral work in propagation of the Roman Catholic faith and charitable work in connection with any of the foregoing activities. Each of these is briefly considered in turn below.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans and relevant policies (continued)

Activities, specific objectives, achievements and future plans (continued)

Individual parishes review the income and expenditure each year, which is determined to be the key performance indicator for the parishes.

Administration of the Sacraments and maintenance of Divine Service

Following the emergence from the COVID pandemic, at **Alcester** the number attending the two Sunday Masses has risen from 60 to over 100 and included a large number of young children. The number of altar servers has doubled since the end of the pandemic. The choir and organist provide a good lead for the congregation. The primary school attends Mass on most Fridays. One of the Sunday Masses continues to be streamed and a newsletter is published weekly. An average of nine persons attend one of the three weekday Masses. During the year there have been eighteen baptisms, six confirmations, and eleven funerals. Marriage preparation courses are held at Redditch and Stratford. The parish is responsible for the maintenance of a number of rotas including church reading, welcoming, and cleaning. The parish priest has weekly sick communion visits and a parishioner visits the main nursing home on a weekly basis. The parish priest and a parishioner attend Alcester Churches Together committee meetings. The town's unity service took place in Our Lady's in January 2023. A permanent deacon in formation and some young adults receive spiritual guidance from Father Geoffrey.

The **Woolhampton** parish comprises three churches located at Woolhampton (St Mary's), Pangbourne (Our Lady and St Bernadette's) and Theale (St Luke's). Mass is celebrated regularly at Pangbourne and at Theale, and from time to time during the week. Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist also take communion to the sick and housebound in their homes. Bi-annual courses are run for First Holy Communion and Confirmation candidates. Weddings and baptisms are regularly celebrated.

St Benet's, **Kemerton**, has a weekend Mass attendance of about seventy, slowly recovering from a drop after the pandemic, with three to nine people for weekdays. A mass for those who suffered a bereavement during the pandemic was held in October. Funerals, weddings and baptisms continue to be held at the church.

The **Ormskirk** parish is served by one priest and two deacons. There is much involvement of lay volunteers as readers, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, church cleaners, catechists, and musicians. There are about 3,000 parishioners in the parish of whom about 500 + regularly attend the two Masses on Saturday evening and Sunday mornings. About 20 people attend daily Mass during the week. Under usual circumstances at Easter and Christmas the congregation can number in excess of 1,200. Other special services are held at various times and for particular occasions. Many non-Catholics attend the services.

The COVID 'lockdown' still impacts on our parish in that some elderly parishioners are still cautious about coming to church. However, we now 'stream' Sunday morning Mass and other services, and many people, up to 200 sometimes, join Mass 'on line'.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans and relevant policies (continued)

Activities, specific objectives, achievements and future plans (continued)

Administration of the Sacraments and maintenance of Divine Service (continued)

During the past 12 months there were 65 baptisms, 8 weddings and 39 funerals. There were 57 First Communion. There are about 30 young people who serve on the altar and assist in the liturgy. The priest is on call 24 hours a day. He is the Catholic chaplain to the local hospital in Ormskirk. There are many care homes in the parish and the priest makes regular visits to them. The priest visits the sick and housebound in their homes.

St Anne's parish is a vibrant community and very much involved in the life of Ormskirk. The church itself is obviously the place of worship for Roman Catholics but many others come to use the church. In gathering as we do, the building becomes the centre of our outreach to the people of the town. When the local Mayor is a Catholic we hold the annual civic service in St Anne's and Fr Godric has been the mayor's chaplain on several occasions, taking part in civic ceremonies and leading prayers before the meetings of West Lancs Council.

St Elizabeth's **Scarisbrick** is a small, rural parish, covering a wide area of farmland and a few small hamlets. Sunday Mass attendance averages around seventy-five in the wake of the Covid pandemic. Decline in numbers has mainly been due to a higher-than-average number of deaths. Offsetting these to a limited extent has been the arrival of some new faces in church from outside the parish borders. The Catholic population of the parish is estimated at around two hundred.

The parish is an incorporated parish of Douai Abbey. Father Hugh Somerville Knapman OSB has been parish priest since September 2021. He has commitments, beyond the parish, to the monastery. In the past year there has one Mass on Sunday morning, as well as a vigil Mass on Saturday evenings preceded by the opportunity for confessions. Two public Masses are celebrated in church during the week. On high feast days there is also Mass in the church. Seven baptisms, two weddings, and eight funerals have been celebrated during 2022/23.

The parish at **Stratford** continues with the administration of the sacraments of baptism, confession, weddings, funerals and First Holy Communion. Much of the year has been taken up with the Synodal Way, a consultation with parishioners on their needs and desires for the church. There were extensive meetings and a report submitted to the diocese. As a result a pastoral council is in formation and an Alpha Course and Open Day are in preparation. St Gregory's is now continuously live-streamed which heightens security and enabled a robber who was stealing from money-boxes in the church to be apprehended red-handed. The bulletin continues to be e-mailed but an abbreviated hard copy is now also produced. The renovation of our Shottery church continues and a consensus reached on the way forward with general enthusiasm for the scheme. It will be a great asset not only for the parish but for the local community as it's hall and meeting room will be hired out. Planning permission has been obtained but we are still awaiting the all clear from the local planners.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans and relevant policies (continued)

Activities, specific objectives, achievements and future plans (continued)

Administration of the Sacraments and maintenance of Divine Service (continued)

At **Studley** the year has seen the usual baptisms, weddings and funerals, as well as twenty-eight First Holy Communions and twenty-nine confirmations. We have ten housebound parishioners and people in nursing homes. There are four nursing homes in the parish all of which we are in contact with. Our Marriage Preparation Course has, unfortunately, ceased. We do still offer preparation for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

Education

At **Alcester**, the parish priest has visited St Benedict's, the Catholic comprehensive school, which has its own priest chaplain, and the Catholic primary school where a new head has been appointed. Sacramental instruction is given within the primary school. Some candidates for the sacraments come from the local grammar school and independent schools, as well as the local universities, and are instructed by the parish priest. The withdrawal of the subsidy from the local authority for travel to St Benedict's appears to have reduced the number of its pupils. It was built to offer Catholic secondary education to Catholics in the local villages. Sixth form pupils studying theology at St Benedict's visited Our Lady and St Joseph's and had a question-and-answer session with Father Geoffrey. The schools have held receptions in the recently renovated parish hall.

In the **Woolhampton** parish a major thrust is the theological and spiritual formation of our people, and a small group of parishioners helps the parish priest in preparing and organising a series of teachings and reflections on current topics.

In **Kemerton**, Father Francis Hughes visits St Gregory's School, Cheltenham to assist in the services of reconciliation and participate in pre-school liturgies.

Within close proximity to the church at **Ormskirk** are two schools: St Anne's Catholic Primary School with about 400 pupils, and St Bede's High School with about 700 pupils. Both are highly successful and over-subscribed. Father Godric Timney OSB, the parish rector, is a foundation governor and priest chaplain to both schools and he plays a significant role in the life of both schools. We have scouts, cubs, beavers, squirrels, guides, brownies and rainbows, and the parish employs a part-time youth minister to support activities for teenagers. He successfully runs the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme in which over 120 young people participate. Over 20 young people from the area took part in the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes where they help with the assisted pilgrims. In the parish we run programmes helping parishioners prepare for the celebration of the sacraments of Baptism and First Eucharist, Reconciliation and Marriage.

At **Scarisbrick**, St Mary's Primary School adjoins the church land. It is a small school of about one hundred pupils, of whom less than half are Catholic, and only about half live in the parish. Father Hugh and several parishioners are active governors of the school and offer the head teacher friendly and significant support as needed. In September 2023 the head teacher announced his retirement from the end of term and in January 2024 a new head teacher was appointed.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans and relevant policies (continued)

Activities, specific objectives, achievements and future plans (continued)

Education (continued)

First Communions are now held every other year. Therefore, there were no First Communions this year. The school will take the greater part in preparing the candidates for both First Holy Communion and Confirmation, to be celebrated in July 2024.

The parish school at **Stratford** has two hundred and five pupils and a new head, Katie Wilkes, who has settled in very well. The ties between the parish and school are being strengthened and there are three parishioners who are governors. There have been meetings with the parents for first confessions and First Holy Communion and a junior St Vincent de Paul established. Children who do not attend the parish school are prepared for First Holy Communion at Shotton where the children's liturgy continues to be popular.

At **Studley** the parish school is an Extended Services School working with the local social service and other schools. It has a Rainbows Group helping children cope with bereavement and marital breakdown. It is an Eco and Healthy school and has just received the Gifted and Talented Award. It is part of COMENIAS, the British Council global links and has active links with schools in Germany, Finland, South Africa and Palestine, as well as being recognised for its stress on cultural diversity. It has now joined Our Lady of the Magnificat Multi-Academy Company (registered company number 090644485), which currently has seventeen schools across Warwickshire and Worcestershire. The school has been rated 'Good' by OFSTED.

Pastoral work

At **Alcester**, the parish and the town provided funding for a young parishioner to attend the World Youth Day in Lisbon. Coffee is available in the hall monthly, after the 10:30am Mass service. The hall is used for receptions after funerals and baptisms. It also provided a warm hub for townsfolk who found heating their own homes expensive. Parishioners participate in the town's churches joint activities such as the Good Friday Walk of Witness. Stiffening of requirements for baptism have resulted in an increase of families returning to the church. The hall is central in the town and has an extensive parking facility. It is increasingly used by a number of local groups. A successful joint Day of Reflection in the hall between thirty parishioners of Alcester and Bidford-upon-Avon was led by Father Geoffrey and a local priest. Father Geoffrey has his own round of parish visits and delegates a parishioner to visit the only nursing home in the town. Since Bidford is still awaiting appointment of a new parish priest, it has been supplied occasionally from Alcester. One baptism took place at the Throckmorton family's private chapel at their home at Coughton Court and Father Geoffrey has given advice on how the building might be adapted for future use.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans and relevant policies (continued)

Activities, specific objectives, achievements and future plans (continued)

Pastoral work (continued)

In the **Woolhampton** parish, the PCT (Parish Care Together) group quietly provides both practical and spiritual support to the elderly needy of the area, regardless of church affiliation. In addition, a small local charity fund, set up by a very generous donor in 1996, enables the parish to help those in need to meet exceptional expenses, for example a child's school trip, a washing machine, or a new carpet. The two church halls are let to various organisations within the local communities, including a number of charities. In April 2022, the parish began holding weekly coffee mornings to support Ukrainian refugees living in the area.

In **Kemerton**, the St Benet's Pastoral Council meets regularly to discuss needs and organise events. There was a parish day of reflection in March. Meetings were held as part of the Synod process.

In **Ormskirk**, the priest ministers to the people of the parish through the celebration of the sacraments, through the various programmes and talks held in the parish, by visiting people in their homes, as well as being available to people at St Anne's Priory. There is a parish RCIA programme for those wishing to join the Catholic Church and a prayer group which has been meeting weekly for 20 years. Other groups which play an important part in parish life but which cannot be readily categorised include the following: the Union of Catholic Mothers, the Knights of St Columba, the St Vincent de Paul Society, the Justice and Peace Group, the St Anne's Players and the parish environment group.

Our Pastoral Centre can be booked for functions and the use of the Centre is not restricted to just our own Catholic parishioners. The rooms in the Centre have been refurbished to a high standard of décor.

The safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, and health and safety requirements are taken seriously by the parish, and nominated persons are very conscientious in ensuring the high profile of these two areas. The Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is on the agenda of every parish meeting.

Volunteers look after the church grounds, including the graveyard, and have saved the parish many thousands of pounds in doing this.

Father Hugh at **Scarisbrick**, like most parish priests, is on call for parishioners 24 hours a day. Especially since Covid, much pastoral support is given by parishioners who know individuals' circumstances well. When a particular need arises, such as illness, Father Hugh is called in to administer the Sacrament of Anointing or to offer spiritual guidance or comfort.

A parish Finance Committee, consisting of the parish priest and members of the parish with appropriate skills, meets several times a year, to assist the parish priest in his financial responsibilities. Given the small number of parishioners, a pastoral council has not yet been revived, as most planning and exchange ideas can be done easily and informally as needed, and the finance committee can deal with matters requiring more formal consultation.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans and relevant policies (continued)

Activities, specific objectives, achievements and future plans (continued)

Pastoral work (continued)

Since the sale of the parish centre in 2020, the parish is without any facility for meetings and pastoral activities. This has left a gap in the life of the parish which the parish will try to address in the future. In the summer of 2023, morning tea was held after Sunday Mass every three weeks, in the presbytery garden. This proved a great success, enabling newer parishioners to get to know older ones. Parishioners provided pastries and cakes in generous amounts. This will become a regular feature in the warmer months. The parish Christmas party at Master McGraths was attended by sixty-seven people, far more than expected. This, too, will be a regular parish event.

We regularly support charities locally, nationally and, when necessary, the parishioners are quick to respond to international appeals. St Elizabeth's maintains positive relations with other Christian denominations in the village.

Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, and health and safety requirements, are taken seriously by the parish. A new parish safeguarding lead was appointed, who has previous high-level experience in schools. In June 2023 the Archdiocese of Liverpool removed safeguarding support for religious order parishes such as Scarisbrick, which means the parish now falls under the oversight of the Religious Life Safeguarding Service, under the oversight of the Safeguarding Lead at Douai Abbey.

At **Stratford**, Mass attendance as elsewhere has fallen but numbers are slowly increasing and are now around six hundred. There are forty housebound parishioners who receive communion at home. There have been days of recollection and training for eucharistic ministers. Ecumenical relations are good and the local ministers meet regularly. The Good Friday Walk of Witness drew large crowds. There was a very successful Life in the Spirit Course which inspired many. The weekly supper for the homeless has continued and a local social centre, the Fred Winter Centre, has been opened where a number of the parishioners help out. Parishioners are involved with much local voluntary work including members in local government. The St Vincent de Paul Society do tremendous work in the area helping those in need and the parish bereavement group provides solace and hope to many organising masses and socials. We continue to support many charities, particularly Father Clement's Lyerekhu School for displaced orphans in Nigeria, Mary's Meals, Stratford Foodbank and CAFOD.

At **Studley** the parish priest continues to provide Mass for the primary school and to help with preparation for the Sacraments. Although the congregation has halved to around one hundred, we continue to be as supportive as possible to the local area. The priest visits the sick in their homes, the local hospital and the four nursing homes in the parish. He is helped in this by the support of the parish deacon. The Catholic Women's League has been disbanded due primarily to the age range of the members. However, some of the former members still undertake the visiting of elderly people in the parish, whether Catholic or not. At Christmas, through various fundraising events, they provide essential groceries for those who live on their own or have no one else to provide for them.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans and relevant policies (continued)

Activities, specific objectives, achievements and future plans (continued)

Other charitable work

During the year at **Alcester**, the parish has hosted a sale of Fair-Trade items and a presentation by a former parishioner to help fund a school in Tanzania. A Spiritan priest appealed for aid to the missions in Africa. Within the parish itself, there is a successful food bank maintained by parishioners, and to help parish funds, a successful Italian evening was held, which raised nearly £1,000. This was later followed by a cream tea and a visit to a disused nuclear bunker within the parish. The church and modernised hall are surrounded by gardens maintained by the parish, a setting which attracts a number of groups seeking a venue to sponsor charitable events.

The **Woolhampton** parish, as its social outreach project, continues to raise funds for Young People and Children First, a local charity which supports young people coming out of care. Some fundraising events took place during the year. The parish also collects food and other donations to support the foodbanks in Reading and West Berkshire.

The **Kemerton** parish supports Tewkesbury Foodbank and Gloucestershire Nightstop (two local charities) by holding fundraising events. The housebound are visited each week with Holy Communion.

The parish hall is used by a group of retired musicians and it was also made available to a village committee supervising the refurbishment of the Village Hall.

In **Ormskirk** some of the parish groups are directly geared to help those in need in the locality. The SVP Society is particularly worthy of mention. Much quiet support is provided throughout the year. We have raised money by collections and social events for CAFOD and other charities, both local and distant. St Anne's parish plays a prominent part in the life of the Ormskirk Community and contributes to town events. We are members of the Ormskirk Churches Together.

The church roof appeal still requires funds to cover the cost of repairs to the church, which are on-going.

Over the past five years St Anne's parish has worked with the Home Office to provide a home for a Syrian refugee family. The family has now settled in very well and a wonderful support group of parishioners keeps in touch with them on a regular basis.

Through collections in church the Scarisbrick parish has contributed to national and local charities, including CAFOD, Nugent Care, and the St Vincent de Paul Society which supports local people in need. Weekly collections of food are taken to St Marie's Centre for the homeless in Southport. Discreet assistance is provided occasionally to a few families of pupils in our school who are in need from time to time, especially at Christmas.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans and relevant policies (continued)

Activities, specific objectives, achievements and future plans (continued)

Other charitable work (continued)

Studley parish's involvement with the Arden Food Bank Project has come to an end due to cessation of the charity's activities, but many other charities have been supported over the year including CAFOD and Father Hudson's Society. We also support the Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) in Redditch whose members include parishioners from Studley. The SVP helps several families in the parish, regardless of faith, both financially and physically.

Policy for donations

The parishes each donate to other charitable causes whose aims and objectives are consistent with those of the charity i.e. the advancement and maintenance of the Roman Catholic religion and the relief of poverty. Donations are made from special collections held within each parish for each specific cause. In addition, each parish makes contributions towards the costs of the Roman Catholic Diocese in which it is situated and assists with meeting the expenses of the repair and maintenance of local Roman Catholic Schools.

Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults

Like all other organisations who serve in the community, the trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all those the charity serves in any way. This means that the trustees, volunteers and staff engaged in the work of the charity in Great Britain must obtain clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

The trustees are fully committed to implementing all policies and procedures of the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA). Each parish has a Child Protection Officer which operates under the safeguarding authorities of the relevant Roman Catholic Diocese of which the parish is a part.

Investment policy

The charity has both investment properties and a portfolio of listed investments.

The trustees' overall policy with regard to the charity's listed investments is to maximise total return through a diversified portfolio, with the aim of providing the level of income advised by the trustees and, at the same time, with a view to ensuring capital appreciation exceeding inflation over any five-year period. The trustees are conscious of the potential short to medium term impact of current geopolitical and macro-economic events. The trustees are meeting regularly with the investment manager in order to remain apprised of the situation.

Similarly, the trustees acknowledge that current events may lead to short-term volatility in the property market, but believe that the market will recover in the medium to long term. The charity has no plans to dispose of its investment properties and regards them as long-term investments.

Individual parishes review their investment performance at the end of the year.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans and relevant policies (continued)

Fundraising policy

The charity aims to achieve best practice in the way in which it communicates with donors and other supporters. It takes care with both the tone of its communications and the accuracy of its data to minimise the pressures on supporters. It applies best practice to protect supporters' data and never sells data, it never swaps data and ensures that communication preferences can be changed at any time. The charity manages its own fundraising activities and does not employ the services of Professional Fundraisers. The charity undertakes to react to and investigate any complaints regarding its fundraising activities and to learn from them and improve its service. During the year to 31 August 2023, the charity received no complaints about its fundraising activities.

Financial review

Results for the year

A summary of the charity's income and expenditure can be found on page 23 of the attached accounts.

Income for the year totalled £836,249 (2022 – £825,001). The main source of income for the charity is the weekly collection carried out in each parish. In the year to 31 August 2023 general collections accounted for £383,823 (45.9%) (2022 – £355,296 (43.1%)) of the charity's income, whilst special collections used to fund donations and grants accounted for a further £49,703 (2022 – £29,138). Other significant income sources include the proceeds from small scale fundraising events; legacies; income from parish centre, room and hall hire; investment income; and interest receivable.

Expenditure in the year totalled £811,990 (2022 – £695,617) with the major expenses being in connection with the upkeep of parish churches, presbyteries and similar buildings and the necessary living and personal expenses of the priests serving the seven parishes.

Net income for the year before investment gains and losses, therefore, amounted to £24,259 (2022 – £129,384). Net losses on the revaluation and disposal of listed investments of £114,981 (2022 – net gains of £186,820) and net gains on the revaluation of investment properties of £332,000 (2022 – £105,000), resulted in an overall net increase in funds for the year of £241,279 (2022 – £47,564).

Reserves policy

It is the trustees' current policy to retain free reserves (i.e. those unrestricted funds not represented by tangible fixed assets, designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed) of between six months' and two years' expenditure on unrestricted funds. This is not regarded as excessive when viewed in the light of the need to retain sufficient funds at a central level to cover the administrative costs of the charity and, importantly, provide short term loans to parishes in the event of special projects, unforeseen events and/or emergencies.

Financial review (continued)

Financial position

At 31 August 2022 the free reserves of the charity amounted to £54,427 (2022 – £59,734).

The unrestricted funds of the charity represent:

- ♦ The original funds deposited by the parishes to form a central fund, and designated as the Commune Depositum, amounting to £21,655 (2022 – £21,655). Despite being designated, these funds are set aside in order to meet emergencies rather than for specific purposes. They are regarded, therefore, as free reserves.
- ♦ Central funds, held to cover the central administrative costs of the charity and provide short term loans to individual parishes should these be required, amounting to £32,772 (2022 – £38,079).

The trustees note that free reserves currently exceed the target set out in the reserves policy above but consider this to be prudent given current economic challenges and rising costs.

The restricted funds amounting to £5,873,415 (2022 – £5,626,830) represent the net assets (including land and buildings) of the seven parishes that form part of the charity. Under Canon Law each parish is a separate financial entity and as such each is treated as a separate restricted fund (note 16). Whilst the macroeconomic and geopolitical climate creates challenges, the trustees do not expect material concerns to arise over the charity's financial position or for the charity's going concern to be threatened.

Governance, structure and management

Governance and management

The Abbot of Douai Abbey is Chairman of the Trust. The Abbot appoints a minimum of two other trustees, who must be practising Roman Catholics and of whom at least one shall be a priest working in one of the Trust's parishes and at least one shall be a layperson who is active in one of the Trust's parishes.

The names of the trustees in office at the date on which this report was approved and of those who served during the year are set out on page 1 of this Annual Report and Accounts. Brief biographical details on each of the trustees in office at the date on which this report was approved are given below:

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Governance and management (continued)

Reverend Paul Gunter OSB

Father Paul Gunter became Parish Priest of Alcester in 2016. At the same time, he serves as Secretary for the Department of Christian Life & Worship of the Conference of Bishops of England & Wales beginning in 2012. Father Paul has been a monk of Douai Abbey since 1985 and was ordained priest in 1991 after graduating in theology from Heythrop College, University of London. Over ten years of parish ministry followed, at Cheltenham in the Diocese of Clifton 1992-1999, where he was contemporaneously chaplain of Cheltenham General Hospital from 1992-1999, chaplain of St Benedict's School Cheltenham 1997-1999, and deanery representative of the Clifton Diocesan Council of Priests 1995-1999; then parish priest of Studley in the Archdiocese of Birmingham from 1999-2002. In 2002, he went to Rome pursuing further studies in Liturgy, gaining a license in 2004 and a Doctorate in 2006, both from the Pontifical Institute of Liturgy. He is an associate professor there, having lectured there from 2006-2016, at the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum 2008-2014, and at the same time was a Consultor to the Office of the Liturgical Celebrations of the Supreme Pontiff 2008-2013. During 2021/22, Father Paul was appointed as Abbot of the Community at Douai Abbey.

Reverend Alexander Austin OSB

Reverend Alexander Austin is parish priest of St Gregory's, Stratford upon Avon. He has degrees in Social and Political Science, in Theology and a master's degree in Christian Spirituality. A priest since 1980, he taught art and Religious Education at Douai School for fifteen years where he was also a housemaster and school chaplain. At the same time he also undertook pastoral work in the monastery for many years including the roles of infirmarian and guestmaster, as well as serving as a councillor to three different abbots. He was novice master at the Abbey for eight years whilst simultaneously serving as assistant priest at Woolhampton and Burghfield Common. In 2000 he left the monastery to become parish priest of Pershore from where he moved in 2002 to become parish priest of St Mary's, Studley. He has been at Stratford since 2010 and is a governor and chaplain to St Gregory's Primary School and to St Benedict's Secondary School in Alcester. He also serves on the Birmingham Diocesan Historic Churches and Art Commission.

Mr John Elliott

John Elliott is a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators. John joined The Bird Group of Companies Limited as Divisional Chief Accountant in 1977 and currently is a Director and Group Company Secretary. He is also Treasurer of the Stratford-upon-Avon & District Manufacturers' Association and Treasurer of St Gregory's Roman Catholic Parish. He resigned as a trustee on 2 June 2023.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Governance and management (continued)

Reverend Alistair Alban Hood OSB MA, PhD, PGCE, AdvDip Couns

Father Alban served as Prior of Douai Abbey from September 2014 until June 2021. He was a teacher at Douai School, 1992 - 1995, served on the Douai parish of Ormskirk, 1995 - 2002, (during which time he was a trustee of the Douai Abbey Parishes Trust), was Novice Master, 2002-2021 and has been Choirmaster at Douai since 2002. He was formerly a trustee of the charity from 1998 until 2006. He is on the editorial board of the Douai Magazine and since September 2022 has been Parish Priest of the Douai Abbey parish.

Reverend Francis Hughes OSB

Reverend Francis Hughes, formerly assistant at St Osburg's, Coventry, Pangbourne and Theale, St Anne's Ormskirk, St Joseph's Centre for the Deaf, Manchester, and Parish Priest of Scarisbrick is parish priest of St Benet's Kemerton. A graduate of University College, Galway in Chemistry and Mathematics, he has worked as a teacher. He studied Theology at Oxford and has a MA in Canon Law from the University of London. He completed courses in counselling at the Richmond Fellowship and Manchester University and in Deaf Studies with the Open University. He has worked with the Deaf Community as chaplain and pastoral worker and has been a governor for St Mary's School, Scarisbrick. He has been Prior and Junior Master at Douai Abbey and was also a governor for St Gregory's School, Cheltenham. He currently assists the Clifton Marriage Tribunal.

Mr Stephen Jones

Steve Jones is a graduate of the University of Liverpool with a degree in Computational and Statistical Science. In the 1980's he worked as a software engineer specialising in Financial Systems for small and medium sized businesses. In the 1990s, Steve specialised in Payroll and HR systems becoming one of the UK's experts in the interpretation and application of Profit Related Pay and Salary Sacrifice schemes. In 1996, Steve set up Fairbanks Environmental Ltd with long-time friend and Civil Engineer, Bob Conlin, to employ data analysis to identify leaks within the underground storage systems at retail petrol stations.

Fairbanks enjoyed national and international success, employing two hundred UK staff, and providing its services to major petrol retailers in thirty-five countries, both directly and through a network of distributors. In 2016 Fairbanks was sold to the US based Dover Corporation. Steve continued as Managing Director of Dover's Data Analysis Business Unit for a further two years, before retiring in 2018.

Right Reverend Geoffrey Scott OSB

Right Reverend Geoffrey Scott of the English Benedictine Community of Douai Abbey has worked as a teacher, headmaster, chaplain and parish assistant. He is at present librarian at Douai Abbey and is a trustee of a number of charities. He has previously served the community at Douai Abbey as Abbot.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Governance and management (continued)

Reverend A Somerville Knapman OSB, MPhil, MA (Theol), STB, BA

Joining the monastery in early 2001, Father Hugh was ordained a priest in April 2007 after studying in Oxford and Rome. His recently completed theological research at Bristol University was published by Paulist Press of New York in the autumn of 2018. Before entering the monastery, he studied at the University of Sydney and worked in education and then in a civilian role in communications for the New South Wales Police in Sydney, Australia. Currently he serves as the priest in residence at the parish of Scarisbrick in Lancashire and is the Community webmaster. He is engaged in doctoral studies and undertakes various publishing projects for the Community under the imprint of The Weldon Press. He is on the editorial board of the Douai Magazine.

Very Reverend Godric Timney OSB

Father Godric Timney OSB, the Rector of St Anne's, is a member of the Benedictine Community of Douai Abbey. Father Godric is Cathedral Prior of Worcester and is an Honorary Canon of Worcester Cathedral. He is also a trustee of the Archdiocese of Liverpool, a member of the Archbishop's Council, Dean of the Pastoral Area of Ormskirk and Maghull, a trustee of the Douai Abbey Parishes Trust. He spent nearly 28 years in secondary education and from 2003-2006 was Chairman of the National Conference of Priests of England and Wales. He is Chairman of the Conference of Vicars for Religious and has been involved in parish and Catholic ministry for 48 years.

Reverend Benedict Thompson OSB

Reverend Benedict Thompson is parish priest of the Studley parish. He is an Associate of the Royal College of Music, London; a Licentiate of Trinity College of Music, London; a graduate of National Opera Studio, London; and a former Principal Tenor with English National Opera. He studied Theology at St Benet's Hall, Oxford and counselling at Westminster Pastoral Foundation, London. He is a former Monastic Choir Master and was assistant bursar to Father Peter in 1997-1998; assistant Priest, Douai Abbey Parish between 2000-2001; Chaplain to Southampton General Hospital between 2001-2004 and was appointed as parish priest of Douai Abbey Parish in 2005 and subsequently as parish priest of Studley in 2010.

Reverend Gabriel Wilson OSB

Reverend Gabriel Wilson was a teacher of English from 1992 to 2008 and an Advanced Skills Teacher in Hertfordshire. He was Director of the Abbey's Pastoral Programme (Retreats) from 2008 until 2021, has been Vocations Director since 2014 and has been parish priest of Woolhampton since July 2021.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Training of trustees

At each of the meetings of the trustees throughout the year, held in the various parishes, recent changes and developments in charity law, in financial strategy, and in questions relating to health and safety are discussed and, if necessary, implemented. A number of the trustees attend in-service training days provided by the dioceses and by the local education authorities in which they are situated. The trustees remain satisfied with the quality of financial and legal advice given to them by their professional advisers and are able to bring to this Trust the expertise they possess through their work with other trusts and charitable bodies.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and accounts 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 accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that year. In preparing accounts the trustees are required to:

- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ◆ observe the methods and principles of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- ◆ make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ◆ state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts;
- ◆ prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the relevant Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the trust deed. They 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.

Structure and management reporting

The overall responsibility for the charity lies ultimately with the trustees who meet three times a year.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Structure and management reporting (continued)

At **Woolhampton** (Douai Abbey) a parish administrator is responsible for general financial record keeping and the management of the parish office. There is a Finance Committee of five members, and a Parish Pastoral Council with members from each of the three local church committees. This facilitates communication between each of the local churches and any of its individual committees.

At **Kemerton** there is a Parish Finance Committee composed of the parish priest, the treasurer and four other parishioners. The Finance committee decided that there is no need to meet so often and that on-line discussions would be sufficient to decide on extraordinary expenditure.

At **Studley** the parish is run by a Parish Committee which is supported by mission, social and finance committees.

At both **Stratford** and **Scarisbrick**, there is a Finance Committee, a parish committee and a pastoral group which helps to run the parish.

At **Alcester** there is a Parish Finance Committee which meets monthly. The Parish Development Committee, propels projects for maintenance and general purposes, as well as for parish community building projects. There is a qualified coordinator for safeguarding and a data-controller responsible for GDPR.

At **Ormskirk** the parish priest administers the parish on behalf of the Douai Abbey Parishes Trust. The Parish Pastoral Council meets regularly and offers advice and practical help in organising events. The Finance Committee oversees financial matters and one of the members, a qualified accountant, prepares the accounts for our professional auditors. Health and Safety and Risk Assessments are regularly discussed at the meetings.

Key management personnel

The trustees consider that they alone comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

The Parish Priest at each parish is also a trustee. The trustees receive no remuneration or additional reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees to the charity. The Parish Priests are all members of Douai Abbey, the Community of St Edmund of the English Benedictine Congregation of the Order of St Benedict, Charity Registration Number 236962, and their living and personal expenses are borne by that charity.

Employees

The charity strives to be an equal opportunities employer and applies objective criteria to assess merit. It aims to ensure that no job applicant or employee receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of age, race, colour, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation or disability.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific operational areas of the charity, its investments and its finances. The trustees believe that by monitoring reserve levels, by ensuring controls exist over key financial systems, and by examining the operational and business risks faced by the charity, they have established effective systems to mitigate those risks. The trustees review a risk management matrix annually, which includes such potential risks as the loss of key staff, disaster recovery and reputational risk.

The key risks for the charity, as identified by the trustees, are described below together with the principal ways in which they are mitigated:

◆ ***Loss of key management***

The trustees are aware that they are very dependent on certain key people and the implications of losing these people would be serious. The trustees consider that strong support from financial advisers, training of trustees, and ongoing discussion of ways of lightening the load of the Abbot will all mitigate this risk. In addition the English Benedictine Congregation, of which the Abbey is a member, has developed structures of congregational support, including the lending of personnel, to assist any parishes who find themselves in difficulties.

◆ ***Dependence of income from investments***

The charity relies to a large extent on the returns from its investment portfolio to cover its outgoings. The performance of the investment portfolio and the investment strategy are reviewed in meetings of the trustees and in regular meetings with the investment managers, taking into account current and future political and economic uncertainties. This risk and its mitigations are especially important at the present time in light of the current geopolitical and macroeconomic environment.

◆ ***Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults***

Like all other organisations who serve in the community, the trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all those the charity serves in any way. This means that members engaged in any ministry in Great Britain must obtain clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The trustees are fully committed to implementing all policies and procedures of the Religious Life Safeguarding Service (RLSS)

Volunteers

The trustees are very grateful to the many volunteers who have given their time to the charity within the individual parishes over the past year and who have provided invaluable assistance.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Trustee: Rt. Rev. Paul C. F. Gunter OSB

Approved by the trustees on: 5 June 2024

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Douai Abbey Parishes Trust

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Douai Abbey Parishes Trust (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statements of cash flows, the principal accounting policies and the notes to the accounts. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the accounts:

- ◆ give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- ◆ have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- ◆ have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the accounts, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the accounts is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the accounts are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Other information (continued)

In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the accounts or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- ◆ the information given in the trustees' annual report is inconsistent in any material respect with the accounts; or
- ◆ sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- ◆ the accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- ◆ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the accounts, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these accounts.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts (continued)

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- ◆ the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- ◆ we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with those charged with governance and other management, and from our knowledge and experience of the sector;
- ◆ we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the accounts or the operations of the charity, including Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011;
- ◆ we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of trustees and inspecting legal correspondence. We corroborated our enquiries through our review of trustees' minutes; and
- ◆ identified laws and regulations were communicated within the engagement team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit;

We assessed the susceptibility of the Charity's accounts to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- ◆ making enquiries of trustees as to their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- ◆ considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- ◆ performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- ◆ performed substantive testing of expenditure including testing the authorisation thereof; and
- ◆ assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts (continued)

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- ◆ agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- ◆ reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the accounts is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Buzzacott LLP
Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

30 June 2024

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

Statement of financial activities Year to 31 August 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	1	—	549,269	549,269	—	477,886	477,886
Other trading activities							
. Fundraising activities		—	15,654	15,654	—	10,724	10,724
Investments and interest receivable	2	1,631	186,261	187,892	1,879	186,151	188,030
Charitable activities	3	—	76,785	76,785	—	59,160	59,160
Refund in respect to sale of property during the prior year		—	—	—	—	50,000	50,000
Other sources		144	6,505	6,649	5,803	33,398	39,201
Total income		1,775	834,474	836,249	7,682	817,319	825,001
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	4	354	20,223	20,577	380	18,457	18,837
Charitable activities							
. Charitable donations payable	5	—	101,571	101,571	—	73,880	73,880
. Support of the Parishes and their ministry	6	3,911	685,931	689,842	35	602,865	602,900
Total expenditure		4,265	807,725	811,990	415	695,202	695,617
Net (expenditure) income before investment gains (losses)	8	(2,490)	26,749	24,259	7,267	122,117	129,384
Unrealised gains on investment properties		—	332,000	332,000	—	105,000	105,000
Realised and unrealised losses on listed investments	13	(2,817)	(112,164)	(114,981)	(3,689)	(183,131)	(186,820)
Net (expenditure) income and net movement in funds		(5,307)	246,585	241,278	3,578	43,986	47,564
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward at 1 September 2022		59,734	5,626,830	5,686,564	56,156	5,582,844	5,639,000
Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2023		54,427	5,873,415	5,927,842	59,734	5,626,830	5,686,564

All recognised gains and losses are included in the above statement of financial activities.

All of the charity's activities derived from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

Balance sheet 31 August 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		1,057,787		995,333
Investments	13		4,464,207		4,195,402
			5,521,994		5,190,735
Current assets					
Debtors	14	169,755		144,296	
Short term deposits		153,664		—	
Cash at bank and in hand		508,169		687,161	
		831,588		831,457	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(425,740)		(335,628)	
Net current assets			405,848		495,829
Total net assets			5,927,842		5,686,564
The funds of the charity:					
Funds and reserves					
Income funds:					
Restricted funds	16		5,873,415		5,626,830
Unrestricted funds					
. Commune Depositum	17		21,655		21,655
. Central funds			32,772		38,079
			5,927,842		5,686,564

Approved by the trustees
and signed on their behalf by:



Trustee: Rt. Rev. Paul C. F. Gunter OSB

Approved on: 5 June 2024

Statement of cash flows Year to 31 August 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities	A	(22,808)	93,285
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Investment income received		184,507	188,030
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(138,625)	(174,469)
Proceeds from the disposal of listed investments		451,582	320,571
Purchase of investments		(587,193)	(460,997)
Cash placed on deposit		(150,280)	—
Net cash used in investing activities		(240,009)	(126,865)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(262,817)	(33,580)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2022	B	787,546	821,126
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2023	B	524,729	787,546

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year to 31 August 2023

A Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash (used in) provided by operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net movement in funds (as per the statement of financial activities)	241,279	47,564
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	76,171	76,071
Losses on the revaluation and disposal of listed investments	114,981	186,820
Gains on the revaluation of investment properties	(332,000)	(105,000)
Losses on the disposal of tangible fixed assets	—	176
Investment income and dividends receivable	(187,892)	(188,030)
(Increase) decrease in debtors	(25,459)	3,749
Increase in creditors	90,112	71,935
Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities	(22,808)	93,285

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	508,169	687,161
Cash held by investment managers	16,560	100,385
Total cash and cash equivalents	524,729	787,546

No separate reconciliation of net debt has been prepared as there is no difference between the net cash (debt) of the charity and the above cash and cash equivalents.

Principal accounting policies 31 August 2023

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the accounts are laid out below.

Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared for the year to 31 August 2023 with comparative information provided in respect to the year to 31 August 2022.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the notes to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

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

The accounts are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest pound.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Preparation of the accounts requires the trustees and management to make significant judgements and estimates.

The items in the accounts where these judgements and estimates have been made include:

- ◆ Estimating the useful economic life of tangible fixed assets for the purpose of determining an annual depreciation charge;
- ◆ Determining the probability of the receipt of legacies which are measurable and to which the charitable company is entitled;
- ◆ Estimating the fair value of investment properties; and
- ◆ Estimating future income and expenditure flows for the purpose of assessing going concern (see below).

Assessment of going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these accounts. The trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of at least one year from the date of approval of these accounts. There are no material uncertainties that cast doubt on the going concern of the charity.

Whilst the current macroeconomic and geopolitical climate may create challenges, given the charity's, as well as individual parishes', current levels of reserves and continuing income, the trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

Income recognition

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity has entitlement to the income, the amount of income can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Income comprises donations, legacies, investment income, interest receivable, income from the sale of books votives and candles, funerals and church yard income, parish centre, hall and room hire, and other miscellaneous income.

Donations and Gift Aid tax recoverable are recognised when the charity has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations pledged but not received, the amount is accrued for where the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

In accordance with the Charities SORP FRS 102 volunteer time is not recognised.

Legacies are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the legacy, the executors have established that there are sufficient surplus assets in the estate to pay the legacy, and any conditions attached to the legacy are within the control of the charity. Entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, but the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material. In the event that the gift is in the form of an asset other than cash or a financial asset traded on a recognised stock exchange, recognition is subject to the value of the gift being reliably measurable with a degree of reasonable accuracy and the title of the asset having being transferred to the charity.

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Income from sale of books, votives and candles, funerals and church yard income, parish centre, hall and room hire, and other miscellaneous income, including refund income received in respect to the sale of a property in the prior year, is measured at fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts.

Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure comprises direct costs and support costs. All expenses, including support costs, are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. The classification between activities is as follows:

- a. The cost of raising funds relates to expenditure incurred in organising and holding small scale fundraising events, managing investment properties and costs in connection with the management of the charity's listed investments.
- b. The costs of charitable activities comprise expenditure on the charity's primary purposes as described in the trustees' report and include:
 - ◆ Charitable donations which comprise gifts to other charitable causes with aims and objectives which are consistent with those of the charity i.e. the advancement and maintenance of the Roman Catholic religion and the relief of poverty. Donations are made from Special Collections held within each parish for each specific cause. In addition, each parish makes contributions towards the costs of the Roman Catholic Diocese in which it is situated and assists with meeting the expenses of the repair and maintenance of local Roman Catholic Schools.
 - ◆ Expenditure on the support of the charity's seven parishes includes expenditure on the upkeep of parish buildings (including churches and parishes), staff and related costs, the living and personal expenses of parish priests and other parish running costs.

Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs represent indirect charitable expenditure. In order to carry out the primary purposes of the charity it is necessary to provide support in the form of financial procedures, provision of office services and equipment.

Governance costs comprise the costs involving the public accountability of the charity (including audit costs) and costs in respect to its compliance with regulation and good practice. Governance costs are apportioned using percentages based on the expenditure incurred on the activities of the charity.

All expenditure on support of the charity's seven parishes are allocated to the support of the parishes and their ministry as costs in respect to raising funds and giving donations are considered to be minimal.

Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing more than £1,000 and with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised.

a Inalienable land and buildings

The freehold of the land and buildings legally owned by the charity and occupied rent free on behalf of the trustees of the governing body of Catholic voluntary-aided schools, which are separate charities and publicly funded, are valued at £nil. The trustees consider that no meaningful value can be attributed to these assets, since they are not used directly by the charity, do not generate income and cannot be disposed of in the open market or put to alternative use while such occupation, which may be indefinite, continues.

b Churches and similar properties

The trustees are the legal owners of churches and similar land and buildings situated within the seven parishes operated by the charity. In the event of the charity ceasing its work in any of these parishes, the trustees would consider themselves obliged to allow such assets to be used indefinitely to meet the needs of the parish for its church and similar property. As such assets are not, therefore, susceptible to a meaningful valuation and there is no reliable information as to their cost, they are excluded from the accounts.,

c Functional freehold property

Freehold properties used for the direct charitable work of the charity are included in the accounts at cost or deemed cost. Deemed cost is based on a mixture of original cost and historic valuations.

Functional freehold properties are depreciated at a rate of 2% per annum on a straight line basis in order to write the buildings off over their estimated useful economic life to the charity.

d Freehold building improvements

Improvements to functional freehold buildings are included in the accounts at cost as incurred. The improvements, once complete, are depreciated at 10% per annum on a straight line basis, in order to write the cost of these improvements off over their expected useful life.

e Other tangible fixed assets

Other tangible fixed assets are capitalised and depreciated at the following annual rates in order to write them off over their estimated useful lives:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ◆ Furniture and equipment | 10% to 25% per annum based on cost |
| ◆ Motor vehicles | 25% to 20% per annum based on cost |

Fixed asset investments

Listed investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price.

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

Fixed asset investments (continued)

As noted above, the main form of financial risk faced by the charity is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular sectors or sub sectors.

Fixed asset investments comprising long term deposits are stated at the value of the initial deposit as this will be returned in full upon maturity.

Fixed asset investments comprising freehold land and buildings are included in the accounts at a valuation based on market value. Professional valuations are carried out every five to six years on a rolling basis.

Realised and unrealised revaluation gains (or losses) on both listed and property investments are credited (or debited) to the statement of financial activities in the year of valuation.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount, less any provision for non-recoverability. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand or have a maturity of less than three months from the date of acquisition. Deposits for more than three months but less than one year have been disclosed as short-term deposits. Cash placed on deposit for more than one year is disclosed as a fixed asset investment.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash payment where such discounting is material.

Fund structure

Restricted funds comprise monies raised for, or their use restricted to, a specific purpose, or contributions subject to donor-imposed conditions.

Unrestricted funds represent those monies which are freely available for application towards achieving any charitable purpose that falls within the charity's charitable objects.

1 Income from: Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
General collections	—	383,823	383,823	—	355,296	355,296
Special collections	—	49,703	49,703	—	29,138	29,138
Roof restoration project appeal	—	19,947	19,947	—	19,848	19,848
Legacies	—	43,612	43,612	—	29,000	29,000
Other donations	—	44,092	44,092	—	34,402	34,402
Grants receivable	—	500	500	—	—	—
Syrian refugee sponsorship	—	(240)	(240)	—	260	260
Youth project	—	7,832	7,832	—	7,440	7,440
Chaplaincy	—	—	—	—	2,502	2,502
	—	549,269	549,269	—	477,886	477,886

2 Income from: Investments and interest receivable

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Income from listed investments	1,599	66,776	68,375	1,879	74,833	76,712
Rental income	—	115,300	115,300	—	111,264	111,264
Bank interest and other income	32	4,185	4,217	—	54	54
	1,631	186,261	187,892	1,879	186,151	188,030

3 Income from: Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Sales of books, candles and votives	—	10,209	10,209	—	6,597	6,597
Funerals and church yard income	—	42,627	42,627	—	39,764	39,764
Parish centre, hall and room hire	—	23,949	23,949	—	12,799	12,799
	—	76,785	76,785	—	59,160	59,160

4 Expenditure on: Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Fundraising costs	—	4,053	4,053	—	2,536	2,536
Investment property costs	—	2,065	2,065	—	1,171	1,171
Investment management fees	354	14,105	14,459	380	14,750	15,130
	354	20,223	20,577	380	18,457	18,837

5 Expenditure on: Charitable donations payable

The charity makes donations to charitable causes in accordance with its policy for donations set out in the trustees' report. Donations payable during the year were as follows:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Diocesan levies	—	47,244	47,244	—	34,711	34,711
Special collections	—	36,895	36,895	—	24,740	24,740
Syrian refugee sponsorship	—	1,140	1,140	—	1,145	1,145
Miscellaneous donations under £1,000 each	—	16,292	16,292	—	13,284	13,284
	—	101,571	101,571	—	73,880	73,880

6 Expenditure on: Support of the Parishes and their ministry

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Church expenses, clergy living and personal costs and sundry parish costs	—	357,399	357,399	—	323,900	323,900
Staff costs (note 9)	—	81,887	81,887	—	89,577	89,577
Priests' salary and NI equivalent	—	37,021	37,021	—	16,000	16,000
Depreciation	—	76,171	76,171	—	76,071	76,071
Transport costs	—	15,864	15,864	—	14,629	14,629
Youth project	—	5,213	5,213	—	6,885	6,885
Support costs (note 7)	3,270	106,412	109,682	—	70,187	70,187
Miscellaneous expenses	641	5,964	6,605	35	5,616	5,651
	3,911	685,931	689,842	35	602,865	602,900

7 Support costs

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Office costs	3,270	34,484	37,754	—	24,931	24,931
Bank charges	—	3,180	3,180	—	1,795	1,795
Governance	—	22,330	22,330	—	14,450	14,450
Professional	—	46,418	46,418	—	29,011	29,011
	3,270	106,412	109,682	—	70,187	70,187

8 Net income before investment gains (losses)

This is stated after charging:

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs (note 9)	81,887	89,577
Auditor's remuneration		
. Statutory audit services	18,610	14,300
. Other services	3,720	150
Depreciation	76,171	76,071

9 Employees, staff costs and key management personnel

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	78,284	87,805
Social security costs	2,567	1,291
Pension costs	1,036	481
	81,887	89,577

The average number of employees during the year was 9 (2022 – 11).

No employee earned £60,000 per annum or more (including taxable benefits) during the year (2022 – none).

The trustees consider that they comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

The Parish Priest at each Parish is also a trustee. The trustees receive no remuneration or additional reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees to the charity. The Parish Priests are all members of Douai Abbey, the Community of St Edmund of the English Benedictine Congregation of the Order of St Benedict, Charity Registration Number 236962, and their living and personal expenses are borne by that charity.

10 Trustees' remuneration

Many of the trustees are parish priests in the parishes operated by the charity. As such, certain living and personal expenses during the year are borne by the charity. No trustee received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees during the current or previous year.

11 Taxation

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust is a registered charity and therefore is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Freehold buildings improvements £	Furniture and equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
At 1 September 2022	1,037,052	596,297	181,723	84,025	1,899,097
Additions	7,581	99,960	20,084	11,000	138,625
Disposals	—	—	(9,018)	(18,542)	(27,560)
At 31 August 2023	<u>1,044,633</u>	<u>696,257</u>	<u>192,789</u>	<u>76,483</u>	<u>2,010,162</u>
Cost	291,245	696,257	192,789	76,483	1,256,774
Deemed cost: valuation	753,388	—	—	—	753,388
	<u>1,044,633</u>	<u>696,257</u>	<u>192,789</u>	<u>76,483</u>	<u>2,010,162</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2022	243,290	420,050	158,653	81,771	903,764
Charge for year	16,115	49,153	7,504	3,399	76,171
Eliminated on disposal	—	—	(9,018)	(18,542)	(27,560)
At 31 August 2023	<u>259,405</u>	<u>469,203</u>	<u>157,139</u>	<u>66,628</u>	<u>952,375</u>
Net book values					
At 31 August 2023	<u>785,228</u>	<u>227,054</u>	<u>35,650</u>	<u>9,855</u>	<u>1,057,787</u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>793,762</u>	<u>176,247</u>	<u>23,070</u>	<u>2,254</u>	<u>995,333</u>

It is likely that there are material differences between the open market values of the charity's freehold land and buildings and their book values. These arise from the specialised nature of some of the properties and the effects of inflation. The amounts of such differences cannot be ascertained without incurring significant cost, which, in the opinion of the trustees, is not justified in terms of the benefits to the users of the accounts.

As permitted by FRS 102, the charity has continued to adopt a policy of not revaluing its tangible fixed assets. The historical cost of the properties included above at an historic valuation cannot be ascertained with any accuracy. Other tangible fixed assets are stated at cost.

Certain of the charity's properties are subject to covenants which restrict their use and disposal.

13 Investments

	Investment properties £	Listed investments £	2023 £
Market value at 1 September 2022	2,113,000	1,982,017	4,095,017
Additions at cost	—	587,193	587,193
Disposal proceeds	—	(451,582)	(451,582)
Realised losses	—	(273)	(273)
Disposals at book value	—	(451,855)	(451,855)
Net unrealised investment gains (losses)	332,000	(114,708)	217,292
Market value at 31 August 2023	2,445,000	2,002,647	4,447,647
Cash held by investment managers for reinvestment			16,560
			4,464,207
Cost of listed investments			2,002,218

	Investment properties £	Listed investments £	2022 £
Market value at 1 September 2021	2,008,000	2,028,410	4,036,410
Additions at cost	—	460,998	460,998
Disposal proceeds	—	(320,571)	(320,571)
Realised gains	—	26,259	26,259
Disposals at book value	—	(294,312)	(294,312)
Net unrealised investment gains (losses)	105,000	(213,079)	(108,079)
Market value at 31 August 2022	2,113,000	1,982,017	4,095,017
Cash held by investment managers for reinvestment			100,385
			4,195,402
Cost of listed investments			1,832,135

At 30 August 2023, the following listed investment holding represented a material holding (greater than 5%) when compared to the value of the listed investments in total:

Holding	Market value at 30 August 2023 £	Percentage of portfolio %
Equity Trustees' Fund Services	103,301	5.16

13 Investments (continued)

Investment properties comprise certain of the charity's properties situated at Ormskirk, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Kemerton and Scarisbrick.

The trustees obtained valuations from Armitstead Barnett LLP, Chartered Surveyors, in relation to two properties and adjacent land at Ormskirk (St Anne's Social Centre and adjacent land, and the former site of St Anne's School) as at 31 August 2023, the valuations being carried out on an open market value basis. On the basis of the advice obtained, the properties were valued at £500,000 and £60,000 respectively.

The charity's investment property situated at Stratford-Upon-Avon, St Gregory's Hall (including the adjoining car park) was valued by ehB Reeves, Chartered Surveyors of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire as at 31 August 2022 on the basis of open market value. The valuation was £535,000 for St Gregory's Hall and £625,000 for the adjoining car park. In the opinion of the trustees, these valuations are not materially different to the values of the property and land as they stood at 31 August 2023.

The Coach House at Stratford-Upon-Avon was valued on an open market value basis at £400,000 by Carter Chartered Surveyors as at 16 January 2024. In the opinion of the trustees, there was no material difference between the valuation of the Coach House between the balance sheet date and the date of the inspection for the formal valuation.

The charity's property based at Kemerton was valued by Andrews Estate agents on 6 February 2023 on the basis of open market value as at that date at £325,000. In the opinion of the trustees, the valuation as at 6 February 2023 is not materially different to the value of the property as it stood at 31 August 2023.

14 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations	95,770	92,031
Prepayments and accrued income	73,985	52,265
	169,755	144,296

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Diocesan levies payable	105,597	80,824
Expense creditors	11,456	5,481
Accruals and other creditors	131,854	72,490
Amount owed to the Archdiocese of Liverpool	156,833	156,833
Amount due to Douai Abbey Trust	20,000	20,000
	425,740	335,628

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (continued)

In 2007 the trustees decided that the Parish Centre attached to St Anne's, Ormskirk should cease to be managed by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool. This followed considerable discussion regarding financial viability and the recognition of the need to expend considerable sums of money in connection with health and safety enhancements. The amount owed to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool following the decision to terminate the management contract of St Anne's Parish Centre totals £156,833 (2022 – £156,833).

16 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trusts to be applied for specific purposes:

	At 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	(Losses) gains £	At 31 August 2023 £
Parishes:					
. Our Lady of St Joseph, Alcester	233,128	80,800	(49,300)	(1,666)	262,962
. St Mary's, Douai	400,548	110,061	(94,591)	(19,386)	396,632
. St Benet's, Kemerton	707,011	62,748	(57,969)	—	711,790
. St Anne's, Ormskirk	803,363	191,491	(193,719)	89,916	891,051
. St Elizabeth's, Scarisbrick	242,807	58,255	(53,879)	(8,324)	238,859
. St Gregory the Great, Stratford	2,925,181	259,837	(281,622)	170,173	3,073,569
. St Mary's, Studley	314,792	71,282	(76,645)	(10,877)	298,552
	5,626,830	834,474	(807,725)	219,836	5,873,415

	At 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	(Losses) gains £	At 31 August 2022 £
Parishes:					
. Our Lady of St Joseph, Alcester	208,650	51,289	(24,414)	(2,397)	233,128
. St Mary's, Douai	400,727	99,214	(71,960)	(27,433)	400,548
. St Benet's, Kemerton	587,072	82,690	(52,751)	90,000	707,011
. St Anne's, Ormskirk	817,894	170,684	(171,454)	(13,761)	803,363
. St Elizabeth's, Scarisbrick	253,879	103,179	(61,902)	(52,349)	242,807
. St Gregory the Great, Stratford	2,974,717	263,252	(248,404)	(64,384)	2,925,181
. St Mary's, Studley	339,905	47,011	(64,317)	(7,807)	314,792
	5,582,844	817,319	(695,202)	(78,131)	5,626,830

The restricted funds represent the net assets held by each individual parish.

17 Commune Depositum

At 31 August 2023, funds amounting to £21,655 (2022 – £21,655) and representing the original funds deposited by the parishes, had been set aside in a fund known as the Commune Depositum. These funds are to be used towards funding any unforeseen events or emergencies or special projects.

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Fund balances at 31 August are represented by:						
Tangible fixed assets	—	1,057,787	1,057,787	—	995,333	995,333
Investments						
· Investment properties	—	2,445,000	2,445,000	—	2,113,000	2,113,000
· Listed investments and cash held for reinvestment	49,064	1,970,143	2,019,207	51,054	2,031,348	2,082,402
Net current assets	5,363	400,485	405,848	8,680	487,149	495,829
Total net assets	54,427	5,873,415	5,927,842	59,734	5,626,830	5,686,564

The total unrealised gains on listed investments as at 31 August 2023 constitute movements on revaluation and are as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Unrealised gains on listed investments at 31 August 2023	429	149,882
Reconciliation of movements in unrealised gains on listed investments:		
Unrealised gains at 1 September 2022	149,882	404,151
In respect to disposals in year	(34,745)	(41,190)
Net losses arising on revaluation in the year	(114,708)	(213,079)
Total unrealised gains at 31 August 2023	429	149,882

It is not possible to determine the historic cost of investment properties with reasonable accuracy. As such, the effect of cumulative unrealised gains in respect to investment properties has not been reported in the above.

19 Connected charities and related party transactions

The Douai Abbey Parishes Trust is connected to two other charities by virtue of the fact that the charities have some trustees in common.

Name	Charity Reg. No	Charitable objectives
The Community of St Edmund of the English Congregation of the Order of St Benedict established at Douai Abbey, Woolhampton, Berkshire (Douai Abbey Trust).	236962	The advancement and maintenance of the Roman Catholic religion.
The Benedictine Trust	1086872	To further the religious and other charitable work of the Roman Catholic Church in Scarisbrick.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, rent of £12,000 (2022 – £12,000) for the use of St Mary's Church was paid to Douai Abbey Trust from Douai Abbey Parishes Trust.

During the year ended 31 August 2022, £6,259 was paid to Douai Abbey Trust in respect of roof works at St Mary's Church carried out by the Abbey. There were no further amounts paid in respect of this work during the year ended 31 August 2023.

20 Connected charities and related party transactions (continued)

On 13 February 2020, the parish church of Our Lady and St Joseph's, Alcester, signed a loan agreement with four other parishes within the charity and Douai Abbey Trust to fund the construction of a new church hall. The loan received from Douai Abbey Trust amounted to £20,000 (2022 – £20,000). At the balance sheet date, £20,000 (2022 – £20,000) remained outstanding. The loan is interest free and repayable over a period of five years, the first repayment becoming due two years after the completion of the work on the hall. Repayments will be due annually and amount to £4,000 per annum. Subsequent to the year end, the trustees of the Douai Abbey Trust agreed to advance a further £8,000 to the charity on similar terms.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, the charity received aggregate donations from trustees of the charity amounting to £nil (2022 – £1,500).

Accounts

**Douai
Abbey
Parishes
Trust**

Annual Report and Accounts

31 August 2022

Charity Registration Number
1063237

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Reference and administration details of the charity, its trustees and advisers

Trustees	Rt Rev Paul Gunter OSB (Chairman) Rev Alexander Austin OSB Mr John Elliott Rev Alistair Alban Hood OSB (appointed 1 September 2022) Rev Francis Hughes OSB Mr Stephen Jones Rt Rev Geoffrey Scott OSB Rev Hugh Somerville-Knapman OSB Rev Godric Timney OSB Rev Benedict Thompson OSB Rev Gabriel Wilson OSB
Administrative address	Douai Abbey Upper Woolhampton Reading RG7 5TG
Charity registration number	1063237
Auditor	Buzzacott LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
Principal bankers	HSBC Bank plc 69 Pall Mall London SW1Y 5EY National Westminster Bank plc 135 Bishopsgate London EC2M 3UR
Principal investment managers	Rathbones Investment Management Limited 8 Finsbury Circus London EC2M 7AZ

Trustees' report Year to 31 August 2022

The trustees present their statutory report together with the accounts of the Douai Abbey Parishes Trust (the Trust) for the year ended 31 August 2022.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 26 to 30 of the attached accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Introduction

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust (the "Trust") is a charity established and governed by a trust deed dated 3 June 1997. It is registered with the Charity Commission, Charity Registration No. 1063237.

The Trust was established in 1997 by the separation of the activities of parishes, appropriated to Douai Abbey, from the other activities of Douai Abbey Monastery which are accounted for within Douai Abbey Trust, a registered charity.

The seven parishes accounted for within the charity are as follows:

- ◆ Our Lady and St Joseph, Alcester.
- ◆ St Mary's, Douai Abbey.
- ◆ St Benet's, Kemerton together with two special trusts – The Roman Catholic Church Trust of 1842 and The Roman Catholic Poor School Trust for 1852.
- ◆ St Anne's, Ormskirk.
- ◆ St Elizabeth's, Scarisbrick together with a special trust – The Benedictine Trust of 1860.
- ◆ St Gregory the Great, Stratford-upon-Avon.
- ◆ St Mary's, Studley.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans and relevant policies

Activities, specific objectives, achievements and future plans

The activities of the charity can be divided into four principal areas: the administration of the Sacraments and maintenance of Divine Service, the education of young people in accordance with the Roman Catholic faith, pastoral work in propagation of the Roman Catholic faith and charitable work in connection with any of the foregoing activities. Each of these is briefly considered in turn below.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans and relevant policies (continued)

Activities, specific objectives, achievements and future plans (continued)

Administration of the Sacraments and maintenance of Divine Service

The **Woolhampton** parish comprises 3 churches located at Woolhampton (St Mary's), Pangbourne (Our Lady and St Bernadette's) and Theale (St Luke's). Mass is celebrated in each church and during the week in rotation. Eucharistic Ministers also take communion to the sick and housebound in their homes. Bi-annual courses are run for First Holy Communion and Confirmation candidates. Weddings and baptisms are regularly celebrated.

St Benet's, **Kemerton**, has a weekend Mass attendance of about 70, slowly recovering from a drop after the pandemic, with 3 to 9 people for weekdays. A Mass for those who suffered a bereavement during the pandemic was held in October. Funerals, weddings and baptisms continue to be held at the church.

The **Ormskirk** parish is served by one priest and two deacons. There is much involvement of lay volunteers as readers, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, church cleaners, catechists, and musicians. There are about 4,000 parishioners in the parish of whom about 500 + regularly attend the two Masses on Saturday evening and Sunday mornings. About 20 people attend daily Mass during the week. Under usual circumstances at Easter and Christmas the congregation can number in excess of 1,200. Other special services are held at various times and for particular occasions. Many non-Catholics attend the services.

We are still recovering from the effects of Covid which curtailed many of our activities. One positive result of the 'lockdown', however, is that we now stream our Sunday Mass and other church services as requested and our outreach is sometimes to hundreds of people.

During the past 12 months there were 63 baptisms, 6 weddings and 69 funerals. There were 64 First Communions. There are about 30 young people who serve on the altar and assist in the liturgy. The priest is on call 24 hours a day. He is the Catholic chaplain to the local hospital in Ormskirk. There are many care homes in the parish and the priest makes regular visits to them. The priest visits the sick and housebound in their homes.

St Anne's parish is a vibrant community and very much involved in the life of Ormskirk. The church itself is obviously the place of worship for Roman Catholics but many others come to use the church. In gathering as we do, the building becomes the centre of our outreach to the people of the town. When the local Mayor is a Catholic we hold the annual civic service in St Anne's.

St Elizabeth's **Scarisbrick** is a small, rural parish, covering a wide area of farmland and a few small hamlets. Sunday Mass attendance averages around 70 in the wake of the Covid pandemic. Decline in numbers has mainly been due to a higher-than-average number of deaths. Offsetting these to a limited extent has been the arrival of some new faces in church from outside the parish borders. We estimate that the Catholic population of the parish stands at around 200.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans and relevant policies (continued)

Activities, specific objectives, achievements and future plans (continued)

Administration of the Sacraments and maintenance of Divine Service (continued)

The parish is an incorporated parish of Douai Abbey. From 1 September 2021, Father Hugh Somerville-Knapman OSB took over as Parish Priest, though he has resided in the presbytery at Scarisbrick and has been working in the parish since March 2019. He has commitments beyond the parish, to the monastery in various roles and as doctoral student at St Mary's University, Twickenham. In the past year there has been one Mass on Sunday morning, as well as a vigil Mass on Saturday evenings preceded by the opportunity for confessions. Two public Masses are celebrated in church during the week. On high feast days there is also Mass in the church. Baptisms, weddings and funerals have been celebrated throughout the year in higher numbers than usual, in part due to the need to catch up as Covid restrictions were gradually lifted.

The post-Covid return of the traditional Autumn Harvest festival was especially welcomed by the congregation. Nevertheless, regular attendance at Mass is now appreciated in greater depth than prior to the Covid restrictions. A number of parishioners remain unable to attend church and Father Hugh, assisted by a small team of parishioners, ensures they are visited weekly.

The parish at **Stratford** continues with the administration of the sacraments of baptism, confession, weddings, funerals and first holy communions. Much of the year has been taken up with the Synodal Way, a consultation with parishioners on their needs and desires for the church. There were extensive meetings and a report submitted to the diocese. As a result a pastoral council is in formation and an Alpha Course and Open Day are in preparation. St Gregory's is now continuously live-streamed which heightens security and enabled a robber who was stealing from money-boxes in the church to be apprehended red-handed. The bulletin continues to be e-mailed but an abbreviated hard copy is now also produced. The renovation of our Shottery church continues and a consensus reached on the way forward with general enthusiasm for the scheme. It will be a great asset not only for the parish but for the local community as its hall and meeting room will be hired out. Planning permission has been obtained but we are still awaiting the all clear from the local planners.

At **Studley** the year has seen 7 baptisms, 3 weddings, 5 funerals, 26 First Holy Communions and 27 Confirmations. We have twelve housebound parishioners and people in nursing homes. There are four nursing homes in the parish all of which we are in contact with. Our Marriage Preparation Course has, unfortunately, ceased. We do still offer preparation for RCIA.

Education

In the **Woolhampton** parish a major thrust is the theological and spiritual formation of our people, and a small group of parishioners helps the parish priest in preparing and organising a series of teachings and reflections on current topics.

In **Kemerton**, Father Francis Hughes visits St Gregory's School, Cheltenham to assist in the services of reconciliation and participate in pre-school liturgies.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans and relevant policies (continued)

Activities, specific objectives, achievements and future plans (continued)

Education (continued)

Within close proximity to the church at **Ormskirk** are two schools: St Anne's Primary School with about 320 pupils, and St Bede's High School with about 700 pupils. Both are highly successful and over-subscribed. Father Godric Timney OSB, the parish rector, is a foundation governor and priest chaplain to both schools. We have scouts, cubs, beavers, guides, brownies and rainbows, and the parish employs a part-time youth minister to support activities for teenagers. He successfully runs the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. 18 young people from the area participated in the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes where they help with the assisted pilgrims. In the parish we run programmes helping parishioners prepare for the celebration of the sacraments of Baptism and First Eucharist, Reconciliation and Marriage.

At **Scarisbrick**, St Mary's Primary School adjoins the church land. It is a small school with about 100 pupils, of whom less than half are Catholic. The normal relationship between the parish and school was impaired by the Covid restrictions that applied to both the school and the parish, and most of the usual shared activities were unable to take place. Slowly the links between the school and parish are being restored, though the school itself has other challenges of its own to face which demand significant attention. Father Hugh and several parishioners are active governors of the school and offer the head teacher friendly and significant support as needed.

During the year, there were nine First Communions, the children being prepared in the parish using a new course. The school would like to take a greater part in the preparation of pupils with the removal of the last Covid restrictions. Given the small number of candidates in any one year it has been decided that First Communions will be made every two years.

The parish school at **Stratford** has 205 pupils and a new head, Katie Wilkes who has settled in very well. The ties between the parish and school are being strengthened and there are three parishioners who are governors. There have been meetings with the parents for first confessions and holy communion and a junior SVP established. Children who do not attend the parish school are prepared for first holy communion at Shottery where the children's liturgy continues to be popular.

At **Studley** the parish school is an Extended Services School working with the local social service and other schools. It has a Rainbows Group helping children cope with bereavement and marital breakdown. It is an Eco and Healthy school and has just received the Gifted and Talented Award. It is part of COMENIAS, the British Council global links and has active links with schools in Germany, Finland, South Africa and Palestine, as well as being recognised for its stress on cultural diversity. It has now joined the 'Our Lady of the Magnificat' multi academy which currently has 17 schools across Warwickshire and Worcestershire. The school has been rated 'Good' by OFSTED.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans and relevant policies (continued)

Activities, specific objectives, achievements and future plans (continued)

Pastoral work

In the **Woolhampton** parish, the PCT (Parish Care Together) group quietly provides both practical and spiritual support to the elderly needy of the area, regardless of church affiliation. In addition, a small local charity fund, set up by a very generous donor in 1996, enables the parish to help those in need to meet exceptional expenses, e.g. a child's school trip, a washing machine, a new carpet, etc., The 2 church halls are let to various organisations within the local communities, including a number of charities. In April 2022, the parish began holding weekly coffee mornings to support Ukrainian refugees living in the area.

In **Kemerton**, the St Benet's Pastoral Council meets regularly to discuss needs and organise events. There was a parish day of reflection in March. Meetings were held as part of the Synod process.

In **Ormskirk**, the Parish Priest ministers to the people of the parish through the celebration of the sacraments, through the various programmes and talks held in the parish, by visiting people in their homes, as well as being available to people at St Anne's Priory. There is a parish RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) programme for those wishing to join the Catholic Church, a prayer group which has been meeting weekly for 20 years, and a bereavement support group. Other groups which play an important part in parish life but which cannot be readily categorised include the following: the Union of Catholic Mothers, the Knights of St Columba, the Justice and Peace Group, the St Anne's Players and the parish environment group.

Our Pastoral Centre can be booked for functions and the use of the Centre is not restricted to just our own Catholic parishioners. The rooms in the Centre have been refurbished to a high standard of décor.

The safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, and health and safety requirements are taken seriously by the parish, and nominated persons are very conscientious in ensuring the high profile of these two areas.

Volunteers now look after the church grounds, including the graveyard, and have saved the parish thousands of pounds in doing this.

At **Scarisbrick**, Father Hugh, like most parish priests, is on call for parishioners 24 hours a day. One blessing of Covid has been that parishioners now look out for each other even more than before. Much pastoral support is given by parishioners who know individuals' circumstances well. When a particular need arises, such as illness, Father Hugh is called in to administer the Sacrament of Anointing or to offer spiritual guidance or comfort.

A parish Finance Committee, consisting of the Parish Priest and members of the parish with appropriate skills meets several times a year, to assist the Parish Priest in his financial responsibilities. Given the small number of parishioners, and in the wake of Covid, a pastoral council has not yet been revived, as most planning and exchanging of ideas can be done easily and informally as needed, for the time being.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans and relevant policies (continued)

Activities, specific objectives, achievements and future plans (continued)

Pastoral work (continued)

Since the sale of the parish centre in 2020 the parish is without any facility for meetings and pastoral activities. This has left a gap in the life of the parish which the parish aims to address in the future.

We regularly support charities locally, nationally and, when necessary, the parishioners are quick to respond to international appeals. St Elizabeth's maintains positive relations with other Christian denominations in the village.

Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, and health and safety requirements, are taken seriously by the parish. A new parish safeguarding lead was appointed, who has previous high-level experience in schools. We work harmoniously with the safeguarding office of the Archdiocese of Liverpool. As Catholic Church safeguarding is in the process of national restructuring Fr Hugh follows the safeguarding training and principles of both the monastery and the archdiocese.

At **Stratford**, Mass attendance, as elsewhere, has fallen but numbers are slowly increasing and are now around 600. There are 40 housebound parishioners who receive communion at home. There have been days of recollection and training for eucharistic ministers. Ecumenical relations are good and the local ministers meet regularly. The Good Friday Walk of Witness drew large crowds. There was a very successful Life in the Spirit Course which inspired many. The weekly supper for the homeless has continued and a local social centre, the Fred Winter Centre, has been opened where a number of the parishioners help out. Parishioners are involved with much local voluntary work including members in local government. The SVP do tremendous work in the area helping those in need and the parish bereavement group provides solace and hope to many organizing masses and socials. We continue to support many charities, particularly Fr Clement's Lyerekhu School for displaced orphans in Nigeria, Mary's meals, Stratford Foodbank and CAFOD.

At **Studley** the parish priest continues to provide Mass for the primary school and to help with preparation for the Sacraments. Although the congregation has halved to around 100, we continue to be as supportive as possible to the local area. The priest visits the sick in their homes, the local hospital and the four nursing homes in the parish. And is helped in this by the support of the parish deacon. The Catholic Women's League has been disbanded due primarily to the age range of the members. However, some of the former members still undertake the visiting of elderly people in the parish, whether Catholic or not. At Christmas, through various fundraising events, they provide essential groceries for those who live on their own or have no one else to provide for them.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans and relevant policies (continued)

Activities, specific objectives, achievements and future plans (continued)

Other charitable work

The **Woolhampton** parish, as its social outreach project, continues to raise funds for Young People and Children First, a local charity which supports young people coming out of care. Some fund-raising events took place during the year, although they have been limited by Covid restrictions. The parish also collects food and other donations to support the foodbanks in Reading and West Berkshire.

The **Kemerton** parish supports Tewkesbury Foodbank and Gloucestershire Nightstop (two local charities) by holding fundraising events. The housebound are visited each week with Holy Communion.

The parish hall is used by a group of retired musicians, and it was made available to a village committee supervising the refurbishment of the Village Hall.

In **Ormskirk**, some of the parish groups are directly geared to help those in need in the locality. The SVP Society is particularly worthy of mention. Much quiet support is provided throughout the year. We have raised money by collections and social events for CAFOD and other charities, both local and distant. St Anne's parish plays a prominent part in the life of the Ormskirk Community and contributes to town events. We are members of the Ormskirk Churches Together.

Repairs to the church roof have been put on hold for the time being. The church roof appeal has not been very active over the year but funds have continued to grow slowly.

Over the past four years St Anne's parish has worked with the Home Office to provide a home for a Syrian refugee family. The family has now settled in very well and a wonderful support group of parishioners keeps in touch with them on a regular basis.

Through collections in church, the **Scarisbrick** parish has contributed to national and local charities, including CAFOD, Nugent Care, and the St Vincent de Paul Society which supports local people in need. Weekly collections of food are taken to St Marie's Centre for the homeless in Southport. Discreet assistance is provided occasionally to a few families of pupils in our school who are in need from time to time. Soon after the invasion of Ukraine, on its own initiative the parish raised £3,000 for Ukrainian refugees.

Studley parish's involvement with the Arden Food Bank Project has come to an end due to cessation of the charity's activities, but many other charities have been supported over the year including CAFOD and Father Hudson's Society. We also support the Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) in Redditch whose members include parishioners from Studley. The SVP helps several families in the parish, regardless of faith, both financially and physically.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans and relevant policies (continued)

Activities, specific objectives, achievements and future plans (continued)

The Parish of Our Lady and St Joseph, Alcester

Our Lady and St Joseph Parish at **Alcester** is a small parish where parishioners work enthusiastically to support and develop the parish. This has been a challenging year. Covid took its toll, and it was some time before things started to return to any form of normality. We came to Mass in our masks and we kept our distance from others, moving for Holy Communion and not participating in the Kiss of Peace. The school did not come to Mass in church for some time and the Children's Liturgy came to a halt. As the worry about contacting Covid became less acute, our regular Mass attendance improved and first Communion teaching linked with the school restarted.

The Easter Liturgy was well attended and enhanced by the choir leading good congregational singing. During the year Father Paul, our Parish Priest was elected abbot. He left in May but not before he asked a small committee of four people to carry on the administration of the Parish. Father Paul came back for a few days and we were able to give him a good farewell. The first week after Father Paul's departure three funerals came in; not ones we were expecting. The Parish Priest of Bidford on Avon, Canon Gary Byrne, officiated at these funerals and as we had no priest he also visited both local schools and said Mass in the Primary school. After Father Paul's departure, each weekend we had a supply priest who covered the Masses. There is no longer a regular weekend Mass at the Throckmorton's Private Chapel in Coughton. Funerals, weddings and baptisms can take place there with the priest from Alcester officiating. We were delighted when Abbot Geoffrey joined us in August as our new Parish Priest.

The Parish does not have the benefit of significant cash reserves. There is a small investment with Rathbones. Going forward for 2022/23, we now have internet banking.

The Church has been repaired as required. The presbytery is now in a good state of repair and decoration but the Parish Hall needed major renovation. The project started in 2017 and by August 2022 the Hall was in a state of which we could be very proud. A lot over our £180,000 target, including £43,000.00 from grants and donations has been raised for the Hall, which should have covered the cost of the build and the VAT. The aim was that all the work and snagging would be complete by June 2022. The project was thwarted within a week of the start of the build and work had to be stopped, as the Planners did not like the colour of six different samples of bricks. It took over a year to resolve the issue; after legal advice we were made aware that it was the duty of the Planning Authority to say why they would not let the build continue. Within six weeks, they agreed that special bricks would have to be made to their specification, at a particular brickworks at an extra cost of £17,000. The builders could not restart the project immediately and progress was then disrupted by Covid. The saga continued with the drainage collapsing, incurring additional costs of £20,000, the ceiling needing work (at a cost of £6,000).

As a result, professional, planning and archaeological costs also spiralled, and one very annoying issue was an unnecessary £7,000 electric bill. The Abbey and other Douai Abbey Parishes helped us cope with these issues with loans. The builders have left us with some expensive snagging issues which are not obvious to the casual observer.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans and relevant policies (continued)

Activities, specific objectives, achievements and future plans (continued)

The Parish of Our Lady and St Joseph, Alcester (continued)

£13,000 was set aside to resolve the snagging issues. We are dealing with the issues. It does not look as though the amount withheld will cover what is necessary. We have received professional advice on actions to be taken.

Where are we now: We continue with the Parish Collection and the weekly Parish Development Fund Collection. Parishioners pay by Standing Order, cash or using the Dona machine for both the Parish collection and the parish Development Fund.

People took some time to feel safe to come back to Church and to attend fund raising events, but 2 successful ones have taken place: A concert given by a well-respected choir with wine and nibbles and then an Italian evening. This included a delicious meal cooked by a member of the parish and some of his old staff who, before he retired, had run Italian restaurants. On each occasion there was the obligatory raffle. Our 200 Club continues providing us with an annual donation. Gift Aid is claimed.

Our Hall has been let since February 2022 despite the snagging difficulties. We consider that we are not able to advertise the Hall until all the work is complete. We have planning in place for when we achieve this. Alcester Singers use the Hall each week, the Civic Society monthly, the Alcester Flower Club monthly and several of the local U3A groups. In the town it is expected that local groups get a preferential hiring rate. There have been one off events in the Hall paying the proper hire price. Each of these hirings has happened through word of mouth. Our great asset is the excellent well-lit carparking area. The Hall is very well-appointed and some parishioners have been very generous in helping us achieve this standard. A good piano was bought and given to the Hall. The parish uses the Hall for coffee after Mass, after funerals and baptisms and for various events.

This is a parish with no paid staff; everything is done by volunteers other than our large lawns which must be done by a contractor. He does them at what he calls "Church rates"; negotiated rates much less than we were paying years ago. We are not in a financial position to pay anyone else. We are working hard to get into the position of being able to pay back the loans.

If you came to the Parish, you would see a beautiful site in a Conservation area, well maintained with lovely gardens, a Church, house and Hall looking good with new signage and an external notice board all this belying the fact that the parish watches every penny, raises every penny where possible and keeps getting knocked back by unforeseen financial problems. We have a Dona machine in Church, but it has not achieved what we had hoped; hopefully the technical issues will be resolved. Weekly collections are increasing but are not yet back to pre-Covid standards. Cash for banking must be taken to Bromsgrove or Leamington Spa. We encourage people to pay other than by cash, but this is a slow process.

The Finance Committee oversees the finances of the Parish and the work of the treasurer. Another Committee oversees the Hall but will not be taking full control of the Hall until the work is completed as there are still big expenses.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans and relevant policies (continued)

Policy for donations

The parishes each donate to other charitable causes whose aims and objectives are consistent with those of the charity i.e. the advancement and maintenance of the Roman Catholic religion and the relief of poverty. Donations are made from special collections held within each parish for each specific cause. In addition, each parish makes contributions towards the costs of the Roman Catholic Diocese in which it is situated and assists with meeting the expenses of the repair and maintenance of local Roman Catholic Schools.

Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults

Like all other organisations who serve in the community, the trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all those the charity serves in any way. This means that the trustees, volunteers and staff engaged in the work of the charity in Great Britain must obtain clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

The trustees are fully committed to implementing all policies and procedures of the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA). Each parish has a Child Protection Officer which operates under the safeguarding authorities of the relevant Roman Catholic Diocese of which the parish is a part.

Investment policy

The charity has both investment properties and a portfolio of listed investments.

The trustees' overall policy with regard to the charity's listed investments is to maximise total return through a diversified portfolio, with the aim of providing the level of income advised by the trustees and, at the same time, with a view to ensuring capital appreciation exceeding inflation over any five-year period. The trustees are conscious of the potential short to medium term impact of current geopolitical and macro-economic events. The trustees are meeting regularly with the investment manager in order to remain apprised of the situation.

Similarly, the trustees acknowledge that current events have impacted property values but believe that the market will recover in the medium to long term. The charity has no plans to dispose of its investment properties and regards them as long-term investments.

Financial review

Results for the year

A summary of the charity's income and expenditure can be found on page 23 of the attached accounts.

Income for the year totalled £825,001 (2021 – £676,196). The main source of income to the charity is the weekly collection carried out in each parish. In the year to 31 August 2022 general collections accounted for £355,296 (43%) (2021 – £326,429 (48%) of the charity's income, whilst special collections used to fund donations and grants accounted for a further £29,138 (2021 – £11,440). Other significant income sources include the proceeds from small scale fundraising events; legacies; income from parish centre, room and hall hire; investment income; and interest receivable.

Financial review (continued)

Results for the year (continued)

Expenditure in the year totalled £695,617 (2021 – £623,653) with the major expenses being in connection with the upkeep of parish churches, presbyteries and similar buildings and the necessary living and personal expenses of the priests serving the seven parishes.

Net income for the year before investment gains and losses, therefore, amounted to £129,384 (2021 – net income of £52,543). Net losses on the revaluation and disposal of listed investments of £186,820 (2021 – net gains of £342,245) and net gains on the revaluation of investment properties of £105,000 (2021 – £nil), resulted in an overall net increase in funds for the year of £47,564 (2021 – £394,788).

Reserves policy

It is the trustees' current policy to retain free reserves (i.e. those unrestricted funds not represented by tangible fixed assets, designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed) of between six months' and two years' expenditure on unrestricted funds. This is not regarded as excessive when viewed in the light of the need to retain sufficient funds at a central level to cover the administrative costs of the charity and, importantly, provide short term loans to parishes in the event of special projects, unforeseen events and/or emergencies.

Financial position

At 31 August 2022 the free reserves of the charity amounted to £59,734 (2021 – £56,156). The unrestricted funds of the charity represent:

- ◆ The original funds deposited by the parishes to form a central fund, and designated as the Commune Depositum, amounting to £21,655 (2021 – £21,655). Despite being designated, these funds are set aside in order to meet emergencies rather than for specific purposes. They are regarded, therefore, as free reserves.
- ◆ Central funds, held to cover the central administrative costs of the charity and provide short term loans to individual parishes should these be required, amounting to £38,079 (2021 – £34,501).

The trustees note that free reserves are in excess of the target set out in the reserves policy above. However, they do not consider the level of free reserves to be excessive.

The restricted funds amounting to £5,626,830 (2021 – £5,582,844) represent the net assets (including land and buildings) of the seven parishes that form part of the charity. Under Canon Law each parish is a separate financial entity and as such each is treated as a separate restricted fund (note 17). Whilst the macroeconomic and geopolitical climate creates challenges, the trustees do not expect material concerns to arise over the charity's financial position or for the charity's going concern to be threatened.

Governance, structure and management

Governance and management

The Abbot of Douai Abbey is Chairman of the Trust. The Abbot appoints a minimum of two other trustees, who must be practicing Roman Catholics and of whom at least one shall be a priest working in one of the Trust's parishes and at least one shall be a layperson who is active in one of the Trust's parishes.

The names of the trustees in office at the date on which this report was approved and of those who served during the year are set out on page 1 of this Annual Report and Accounts. Brief biographical details on each of the trustees in office at the date on which this report was approved are given below:

Reverend Paul Gunter OSB

Father Paul Gunter became Parish Priest of Alcester in 2016. At the same time, he serves as Secretary for the Department of Christian Life & Worship of the Conference of Bishops of England & Wales beginning in 2012. Father Paul has been a monk of Douai Abbey since 1985 and was ordained priest in 1991 after graduating in theology from Heythrop College, University of London. Over ten years of parish ministry followed, at Cheltenham in the Diocese of Clifton 1992-1999, where he was contemporaneously chaplain of Cheltenham General Hospital from 1992-1999, chaplain of St Benedict's School Cheltenham 1997-1999, and deanery representative of the Clifton Diocesan Council of Priests 1995-1999; then parish priest of Studley in the Archdiocese of Birmingham from 1999-2002. In 2002, he went to Rome pursuing further studies in Liturgy, gaining a license in 2004 and a Doctorate in 2006, both from the Pontifical Institute of Liturgy. He is an associate professor there, having lectured there from 2006-2016, at the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum 2008-2014, and at the same time was a Consultor to the Office of the Liturgical Celebrations of the Supreme Pontiff 2008-2013. During 2021/22, Father Paul was appointed as Abbot of the Community at Douai Abbey.

Reverend Alexander Austin OSB

Reverend Alexander Austin is parish priest of St Gregory's, Stratford upon Avon. He has degrees in Social and Political Science, in Theology and a master's degree in Christian Spirituality. A priest since 1980, he taught art and Religious Education at Douai School for fifteen years where he was also a housemaster and school chaplain. At the same time he also undertook pastoral work in the monastery for many years including the roles of infirmarian and guestmaster, as well as serving as a councillor to three different abbots. He was novice master at the Abbey for eight years whilst simultaneously serving as assistant priest at Woolhampton and Burghfield Common. In 2000 he left the monastery to become parish priest of Pershore from where he moved in 2002 to become parish priest of St Mary's, Studley. He has been at Stratford since 2010 and is a governor and chaplain to St Gregory's Primary School and to St Benedict's Secondary School in Alcester. He also serves on the Birmingham Diocesan Historic Churches and Art Commission.

Mr John Elliott

John Elliott is a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators. John joined The Bird Group of Companies Limited as Divisional Chief Accountant in 1977 and currently is a Director and Group Company Secretary. He is also Treasurer of the Stratford-upon-Avon & District Manufacturers' Association and Treasurer of St Gregory's Roman Catholic Parish.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Governance and management (continued)

Reverend Alistair Alban Hood OSB MA, PhD, PGCE, AdvDip Couns

Prior of Douai Abbey from September 2014 until June 2021. Teacher at Douai School, 1992 - 1995, served on the Douai parish of Ormskirk, 1995 - 2002, (during which time he was a trustee of the Douai Abbey Parishes Trust), Novice Master, 2002-2021 and Choirmaster at Douai since 2002. He was formerly a trustee of the charity from 1998 until 2006. He is on the editorial board of the Douai Magazine and since September 2022 has been Parish Priest of the Douai Abbey parish.

Reverend Francis Hughes OSB

Reverend Francis Hughes, formerly assistant at St Osburg's, Coventry, Pangbourne and Theale, St Anne's Ormskirk, St Joseph's Centre for the Deaf, Manchester, and Parish Priest of Scarisbrick is parish priest of St Benet's Kemerton. A graduate of University College, Galway in Chemistry and Mathematics, he has worked as a teacher. He studied Theology at Oxford and has a MA in Canon Law from the University of London. He completed courses in counselling at the Richmond Fellowship and Manchester University and in Deaf Studies with the Open University. He has worked with the Deaf Community as chaplain and pastoral worker and has been a governor for St Mary's School, Scarisbrick. He has been Prior and Junior Master at Douai Abbey and was also a governor for St Gregory's School, Cheltenham. He currently assists the Clifton Marriage Tribunal.

Mr Stephen Jones

Steve Jones is a graduate of the University of Liverpool with a degree in Computational and Statistical Science. In the 1980's he worked as a software engineer specialising in Financial Systems for small and medium sized businesses. In the 1990's Steve specialised in Payroll and HR systems becoming one of the UK's experts in the interpretation and application of Profit Related Pay and Salary Sacrifice schemes. In 1996, Steve set up Fairbanks Environmental Ltd with long-time friend and Civil Engineer, Bob Conlin, to employ data analysis to identify leaks within the underground storage systems at retail petrol stations.

Fairbanks enjoyed national and international success, employing 200 UK staff, and providing its services to major petrol retailers in 35 countries, both directly and through a network of distributors. In 2016 Fairbanks was sold to the US based Dover Corporation. Steve continued as Managing Director of Dover's Data Analysis Business Unit for a further two years, before retiring in 2018.

Right Reverend Geoffrey Scott OSB

Right Reverend Geoffrey Scott of the English Benedictine Community of Douai Abbey is Chairman of the Douai Abbey Parishes' Trust. He has worked as a teacher, headmaster, chaplain and parish assistant. He is at present librarian at Douai Abbey and is a trustee of a number of charities. He was Abbot throughout the year to 31 August 2021.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Governance and management (continued)

Reverend A Somerville Knapman OSB, MPhil, MA (Theol), STB, BA

Joining the monastery in early 2001, he was ordained a priest in April 2007 after studying in Oxford and Rome. His recently completed theological research at Bristol University was published by Paulist Press of New York in the autumn of 2018. Before entering the monastery, he studied at the University of Sydney and worked in education and then in a civilian role in communications for the New South Wales Police in Sydney, Australia. Currently he serves as the priest in residence at the parish of Scarisbrick in Lancashire and is the Community webmaster. He is engaged in doctoral studies and undertakes various publishing projects for the Community under the imprint of The Weldon Press. He is on the editorial board of the Douai Magazine.

Very Reverend Godric Timney OSB

Father Godric Timney OSB, the Rector of St Anne's, is a member of the Benedictine Community of Douai Abbey. Father Godric is Cathedral Prior of Worcester and is an Honorary Canon of Worcester Cathedral. He is also a trustee of the Archdiocese of Liverpool, a member of the Archbishop's Council, Dean of the Pastoral Area of Ormskirk and Maghull, a trustee of the Douai Abbey Parishes Trust. He spent nearly 28 years in secondary education and from 2003-2006 was Chairman of the National Conference of Priests of England and Wales. He is Chairman of the Conference of Vicars for Religious and has been involved in parish and Catholic ministry for 48 years.

Reverend Benedict Thompson OSB

Reverend Benedict Thompson is parish priest of the Studley parish. He is an Associate of the Royal College of Music, London; a Licentiate of Trinity College of Music, London; a graduate of National Opera Studio, London; and a former Principal Tenor with English National Opera. He studied Theology at St Benet's Hall, Oxford and counselling at Westminster Pastoral Foundation, London. He is a former Monastic Choir Master and was assistant bursar to Father Peter in 1997-1998; assistant Priest, Douai Abbey Parish between 2000-2001; Chaplain to Southampton General Hospital between 2001-2004 and was appointed as parish priest of Douai Abbey Parish in 2005 and subsequently as parish priest of Studley in 2010.

Reverend Gabriel Wilson OSB

Reverend Gabriel Wilson was a teacher of English from 1992 to 2008 and an Advanced Skills Teacher in Hertfordshire. He has served at Douai Abbey since 2008, as Director of the Abbey's Pastoral Programme (Retreats) until 2021, Vocations Director since 2014 and has been parish priest of Woolhampton since July 2021.

Training of trustees

At each of the meetings of the trustees throughout the year, held in the various parishes, recent changes and developments in charity law, in financial strategy, and in questions relating to health and safety are discussed and, if necessary, implemented. A number of the trustees attend in-service training days provided by the dioceses and by the local education authorities in which they are situated. The trustees remain satisfied with the quality of financial and legal advice given to them by their professional advisers, and are able to bring to this Trust the expertise they possess through their work with other trusts and charitable bodies.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and accounts 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 accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that year. In preparing accounts the trustees are required to:

- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ◆ observe the methods and principles of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- ◆ make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ◆ state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts;
- ◆ prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the relevant Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the trust deed. They 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.

Structure and management reporting

The overall responsibility for the charity lies ultimately with the trustees who meet three times a year.

At **Woolhampton** (Douai Abbey) a parish administrator is responsible for general financial record keeping and the management of the parish office. There is a Finance Committee of five members, and a Parish Pastoral Council with members from each of the three local church committees. This facilitates communication between each of the local churches. Each church maintains its own individual committee which deals with local matters.

At **Kemerton** there is a Parish Finance Committee composed of the parish priest, the treasurer and five other parishioners. The Finance committee decided that there is no need to meet so often and that on-line discussions would be sufficient to decide on extraordinary expenditure.

At **Studley** the parish is run by a Parish Committee which is supported by mission, social and finance committees.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Structure and management reporting (continued)

At both **Stratford** and **Scarisbrick**, there is a Finance Committee, a parish committee and a pastoral group which helps to run the parish.

At **Alcester** there is a Parish Finance Committee which meets monthly. Another recently formed group, the Parish Development Committee, propels projects for maintenance and general purposes, as well as for parish community building projects. There is a qualified coordinator for safeguarding and a data-controller responsible for GDPR.

At **Ormskirk** the parish priest administers the parish on behalf of the Douai Abbey Parishes Trust. The Parish Pastoral Council meets regularly and offers advice and practical help in organising events. The Finance Committee oversees financial matters and one of the members, a qualified accountant, prepares the accounts for our professional auditors. Health and Safety and Risk Assessments are regularly discussed at the meetings.

Key management personnel

The trustees consider that they alone comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

The Parish Priest at each parish is also a trustee. The trustees receive no remuneration or additional reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees to the charity. The Parish Priests are all members of Douai Abbey, the Community of St Edmund of the English Benedictine Congregation of the Order of St Benedict, Charity Registration Number 236962, and their living and personal expenses are borne by that charity.

Employees

The charity strives to be an equal opportunities employer and applies objective criteria to assess merit. It aims to ensure that no job applicant or employee receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of age, race, colour, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation or disability.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific operational areas of the charity, its investments and its finances. The trustees believe that by monitoring reserve levels, by ensuring controls exist over key financial systems, and by examining the operational and business risks faced by the charity, they have established effective systems to mitigate those risks. The trustees review a risk management matrix annually, which includes such potential risks as the loss of key staff, disaster recovery and reputational risk.

Risk management (continued)

With the exception of the risks and challenges presented by Covid-19 which are discussed above, the key risks for the charity, as identified by the trustees, are described below together with the principal ways in which they are mitigated:

◆ ***Loss of key management***

The trustees are aware that they are very dependent on certain key people and the implications of losing these people would be serious. The trustees consider that strong support from financial advisers, training of trustees, and ongoing discussion of ways of lightening the load of the Abbot will all mitigate this risk. In addition the English Benedictine Congregation, of which the Abbey is a member, has developed structures of congregational support, including the lending of personnel, to assist any parishes who find themselves in difficulties.

◆ ***Dependence of income from investments***

The charity relies to a large extent on the returns from its investment portfolio to cover its outgoings. The performance of the investment portfolio and the investment strategy are reviewed in meetings of the trustees and in regular meetings with the investment managers, taking into account current and future political and economic uncertainties. This risk and its mitigations are especially important at the present time in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic.

◆ ***Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults***

Like all other organisations who serve in the community, the trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all those the charity serves in any way. This means that members engaged in any ministry in Great Britain must obtain clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The trustees are fully committed to implementing all policies and procedures of the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA).

Volunteers

The trustees are very grateful to the many volunteers who have given their time to the charity within the individual parishes over the past year and who have provided invaluable assistance.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Rt Rev Paul Gunter OSB

Trustee

Approved by the trustees on: 21/06/2023

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Douai Abbey Parishes Trust

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Douai Abbey Parishes Trust (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statements of cash flows, the principal accounting policies and the notes to the accounts. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the accounts:

- ◆ give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2022 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- ◆ have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- ◆ have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the accounts, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the accounts is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the accounts are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report and accounts, other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Other information (continued)

In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the accounts or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- ◆ the information given in the trustees' annual report is inconsistent in any material respect with the accounts; or
- ◆ sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- ◆ the accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- ◆ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the accounts, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these accounts.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts (continued)

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- ◆ the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- ◆ we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with those charged with governance and other management, and from our knowledge and experience of the sector;
- ◆ we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the accounts or the operations of the charity, including Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011;
- ◆ we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of trustees and inspecting legal correspondence. We corroborated our enquiries through our review of trustees' minutes; and
- ◆ identified laws and regulations were communicated within the engagement team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit;

We assessed the susceptibility of the Charity's accounts to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- ◆ making enquiries of trustees as to their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- ◆ considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- ◆ performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- ◆ performed substantive testing of expenditure including testing the authorisation thereof; and
- ◆ assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts (continued)

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- ◆ agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- ◆ reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the accounts is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and with regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

22 June 2023

Buzzacott LLP
Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

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

Statement of financial activities Year to 31 August 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	1	—	477,886	477,886	—	477,825	477,825
Other trading activities							
. Fundraising activities		—	10,724	10,724	—	10,377	10,377
Investments and interest receivable	2	1,879	186,151	188,030	1,043	120,149	121,192
Charitable activities	3	—	59,160	59,160	—	45,240	45,240
Refund in respect to sale of property during the prior year		—	50,000	50,000	—	—	—
Other sources	4	5,803	33,398	39,201	3,198	18,364	21,562
Total income		7,682	817,319	825,001	4,241	671,955	676,196
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	5	380	18,457	18,837	334	14,107	14,441
Charitable activities							
. Charitable donations payable	6	—	73,880	73,880	—	78,711	78,711
. Support of the Parishes and their ministry	7	35	602,865	602,900	546	529,955	530,501
Total expenditure		415	695,202	695,617	880	622,773	623,653
Net income before investment gains							
	9	7,267	122,117	129,384	3,361	49,182	52,543
Unrealised gains on investment properties		—	105,000	105,000	—	—	—
Realised and unrealised (losses) gains on listed investments	14	(3,689)	(183,131)	(186,820)	8,912	333,333	342,245
Net income and net movement in funds		3,578	43,986	47,564	12,273	382,515	394,788
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward at 1 September 2021		56,156	5,582,844	5,639,000	43,883	5,200,329	5,244,212
Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2022		59,734	5,626,830	5,686,564	56,156	5,582,844	5,639,000

All recognised gains and losses are included in the above statement of financial activities.

All of the charity's activities derived from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

Balance sheet 31 August 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		995,333		897,112
Investments	14		4,195,402		4,066,248
			5,190,735		4,963,360
Current assets					
Debtors	15	144,296		148,045	
Cash at bank and in hand		687,161		791,288	
		831,457		939,333	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(335,628)		(263,693)	
Net current assets			495,829		675,640
Total net assets			5,686,564		5,639,000
The funds of the charity:					
Funds and reserves					
Income funds:					
Restricted funds	17		5,626,830		5,582,844
Unrestricted funds					
. Commune Depositum	18		21,655		21,655
. Central funds			38,079		34,501
			5,686,564		5,639,000

Approved by the trustees
and signed on their behalf by:

Rt Rev Paul Gunter OSB

Trustee

Approved on: 21/06/2023

Statement of cash flows Year to 31 August 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	A	93,285	(80,533)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Investment income received		188,030	121,192
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(174,469)	(89,473)
Proceeds from the disposal of listed investments		320,571	192,156
Purchase of investments		(460,997)	(283,692)
Net cash used in investing activities		(126,865)	(59,817)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(33,580)	(140,350)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2021	B	821,126	961,476
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2022	B	787,546	821,126

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year to 31 August 2022

A Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Net movement in funds (as per the statement of financial activities)	47,564	394,788
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	76,071	80,218
Losses (gains) on the revaluation and disposal of listed investments	186,820	(342,245)
Gains on the revaluation of investment properties	(105,000)	—
Losses on the disposal of tangible fixed assets	176	—
Investment income	(188,030)	(121,192)
Decrease (increase) in debtors	3,749	(42,921)
Increase (decrease) in creditors	71,935	(49,181)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	93,285	(80,533)

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash at bank and in hand	687,161	791,288
Cash held by investment managers	100,385	29,838
Total cash and cash equivalents	787,546	821,126

No separate reconciliation of net debt has been prepared as there is no difference between the net cash (debt) of the charity and the above cash and cash equivalents.

Principal accounting policies 31 August 2022

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the accounts are laid out below.

Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared for the year to 31 August 2022 with comparative information provided in respect to the year to 31 August 2021.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the notes to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

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

The accounts are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest pound.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Preparation of the accounts requires the trustees and management to make significant judgements and estimates.

The items in the accounts where these judgements and estimates have been made include:

- ◆ Estimating the useful economic life of tangible fixed assets for the purpose of determining an annual depreciation charge;
- ◆ Determining the probability of the receipt of legacies which are measurable and to which the charitable company is entitled;
- ◆ Estimating the fair value of investment properties; and
- ◆ Estimating future income and expenditure flows for the purpose of assessing going concern (see below).

Assessment of going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these accounts. The trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of at least one year from the date of approval of these accounts.

Whilst the current macroeconomic and geopolitical climate may create challenges, given the charity's, as well as individual parishes', current levels of reserves and continuing income, the trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

Income recognition

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity has entitlement to the income, the amount of income can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Income comprises donations, legacies, investment income, interest receivable, income from the sale of books votives and candles, funerals and church yard income, parish centre, hall and room hire, and other miscellaneous income.

Donations and Gift Aid tax recoverable are recognised when the charity has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations pledged but not received, the amount is accrued for where the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

In accordance with the Charities SORP FRS 102 volunteer time is not recognised.

Legacies are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the legacy, the executors have established that there are sufficient surplus assets in the estate to pay the legacy, and any conditions attached to the legacy are within the control of the charity. Entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, but the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material. In the event that the gift is in the form of an asset other than cash or a financial asset traded on a recognised stock exchange, recognition is subject to the value of the gift being reliably measurable with a degree of reasonable accuracy and the title of the asset having being transferred to the charity.

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Income from sale of books votives and candles, funerals and church yard income, parish centre, hall and room hire, and other miscellaneous income, including refund income received in respect to the sale of a property in the prior year, is measured at fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts.

Income recognition (continued)

Income from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been credited to the statement of financial activities when the salaries covered by a claim have become payable and the amount receivable has been quantified.

Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure comprises direct costs and support costs. All expenses, including support costs, are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. The classification between activities is as follows:

- a. The cost of raising funds relates to expenditure incurred in organising and holding small scale fundraising events, managing investment properties and costs in connection with the management of the charity's listed investments.
- b. The costs of charitable activities comprise expenditure on the charity's primary purposes as described in the trustees' report and include:
 - ◆ Charitable donations which comprise gifts to other charitable causes with aims and objectives which are consistent with those of the charity i.e. the advancement and maintenance of the Roman Catholic religion and the relief of poverty. Donations are made from Special Collections held within each parish for each specific cause. In addition, each parish makes contributions towards the costs of the Roman Catholic Diocese in which it is situated and assists with meeting the expenses of the repair and maintenance of local Roman Catholic Schools.
 - ◆ Expenditure on the support of the charity's seven parishes includes expenditure on the upkeep of parish buildings (including churches and parishes), staff and related costs, the living and personal expenses of parish priests and other parish running costs.

Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs represent indirect charitable expenditure. In order to carry out the primary purposes of the charity it is necessary to provide support in the form of financial procedures, provision of office services and equipment.

Governance costs comprise the costs involving the public accountability of the charity (including audit costs) and costs in respect to its compliance with regulation and good practice. Governance costs are apportioned using percentages based on the expenditure incurred on the activities of the charity.

All expenditure on support of the charity's seven parishes are allocated to the support of the parishes and their ministry as costs in respect to raising funds and giving donations are considered to be minimal.

Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing more than £1,000 and with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised.

a Inalienable land and buildings

The freehold of the land and buildings legally owned by the charity and occupied rent free on behalf of the trustees of the governing body of Catholic voluntary-aided schools, which are separate charities and publicly funded, are valued at £nil. The trustees consider that no meaningful value can be attributed to these assets, since they are not used directly by the charity, do not generate income and cannot be disposed of in the open market or put to alternative use while such occupation, which may be indefinite, continues.

b Churches and similar properties

The trustees are the legal owners of churches and similar land and buildings situated within the seven parishes operated by the charity. In the event of the charity ceasing its work in any of these parishes, the trustees would consider themselves obliged to allow such assets to be used indefinitely to meet the needs of the parish for its church and similar property. As such assets are not, therefore, susceptible to a meaningful valuation and there is no reliable information as to their cost, they are excluded from the accounts.,

c Functional freehold property

Freehold properties used for the direct charitable work of the charity are included in the accounts at cost or deemed cost. Deemed cost is based on a mixture of original cost and historic valuations.

Functional freehold properties are depreciated at a rate of 2% per annum on a straight line basis in order to write the buildings off over their estimated useful economic life to the charity.

d Freehold building improvements

Improvements to functional freehold buildings are included in the accounts at cost as incurred. The improvements, once complete, are depreciated at 10% per annum on a straight line basis, in order to write the cost of these improvements off over their expected useful life.

e Other tangible fixed assets

Other tangible fixed assets are capitalised and depreciated at the following annual rates in order to write them off over their estimated useful lives:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ◆ Furniture and equipment | 10% to 25% per annum based on cost |
| ◆ Motor vehicles | 25% to 20% per annum based on cost |

Fixed asset investments

Listed investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price.

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

Fixed asset investments (continued)

As noted above, the main form of financial risk faced by the charity is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular sectors or sub sectors.

Fixed asset investments comprising long term deposits are stated at the value of the initial deposit as this will be returned in full upon maturity.

Fixed asset investments comprising freehold land and buildings are included in the accounts at a valuation based on market value. Professional valuations are carried out every five to six years on a rolling basis.

Realised and unrealised revaluation gains (or losses) on both listed and property investments are credited (or debited) to the statement of financial activities in the year of valuation.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount, less any provision for non-recoverability. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand or have a maturity of less than three months from the date of acquisition. Deposits for more than three months but less than one year have been disclosed as short-term deposits. Cash placed on deposit for more than one year is disclosed as a fixed asset investment.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash payment where such discounting is material.

Fund structure

Restricted funds comprise monies raised for, or their use restricted to, a specific purpose, or contributions subject to donor-imposed conditions.

Unrestricted funds represent those monies which are freely available for application towards achieving any charitable purpose that falls within the charity's charitable objects.

1 Income from: Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
General collections	—	355,296	355,296	—	326,429	326,429
Special collections	—	29,138	29,138	—	11,440	11,440
Roof restoration project appeal	—	19,848	19,848	—	24,348	24,348
Legacies	—	29,000	29,000	—	27,204	27,204
Other donations	—	34,402	34,402	—	74,593	74,593
Grants receivable	—	—	—	—	5,000	5,000
Syrian refugee sponsorship	—	260	260	—	1,395	1,395
Youth project	—	7,440	7,440	—	6,016	6,016
Chaplaincy	—	2,502	2,502	—	1,400	1,400
	—	477,886	477,886	—	477,825	477,825

2 Income from: Investments and interest receivable

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Income from listed investments	1,879	74,833	76,712	1,043	39,769	40,812
Rental income	—	111,264	111,264	—	80,298	80,298
Bank interest and other income	—	54	54	—	82	82
	1,879	186,151	188,030	1,043	120,149	121,192

3 Income from: Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Sales of books, candles and votives	—	6,597	6,597	—	1,348	1,348
Funerals and church yard income	—	39,764	39,764	—	42,172	42,172
Parish centre, hall and room hire	—	12,799	12,799	—	1,720	1,720
	—	59,160	59,160	—	45,240	45,240

4 Income from: Other sources

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	—	—	—	—	9,065	9,065
Miscellaneous income	5,803	33,398	39,201	3,198	9,299	12,497
	5,803	33,398	39,201	3,198	18,364	21,562

5 Expenditure on: Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Fundraising costs	—	2,536	2,536	—	345	345
Investment property costs	—	1,171	1,171	—	1,230	1,230
Investment management fees	380	14,750	15,130	334	12,532	12,866
	380	18,457	18,837	334	14,107	14,441

6 Expenditure on: Charitable donations payable

The charity makes donations to charitable causes in accordance with its policy for donations set out in the trustees' report. Donations payable during the year were as follows:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Diocesan levies	—	34,711	34,711	—	49,153	49,153
Special collections	—	24,740	24,740	—	10,721	10,721
Syrian refugee sponsorship	—	1,145	1,145	—	2,729	2,729
Miscellaneous donations under £1,000 each	—	13,284	13,284	—	16,108	16,108
	—	73,880	73,880	—	78,711	78,711

7 Expenditure on: Support of the Parishes and their ministry

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Church expenses, clergy living and personal costs and sundry parish costs	—	323,900	323,900	—	272,521	272,521
Staff costs (note 10)	—	89,577	89,577	—	77,681	77,681
Priests' salary and NI equivalent	—	16,000	16,000	—	21,100	21,100
Depreciation	—	76,071	76,071	—	80,218	80,218
Transport costs	—	14,629	14,629	—	9,814	9,814
Youth project	—	6,885	6,885	—	4,531	4,531
Support costs (note 8)	—	70,187	70,187	—	60,399	60,399
Miscellaneous expenses	35	5,616	5,651	546	3,691	4,237
	35	602,865	602,900	546	529,955	530,501

8 Support costs

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Office costs	—	24,931	24,931	—	21,405	21,405
Bank charges	—	1,795	1,795	—	505	505
Governance	—	14,450	14,450	—	16,434	16,434
Professional	—	29,011	29,011	—	22,055	22,055
	—	70,187	70,187	—	60,399	60,399

9 Net income before investment (losses) gains

This is stated after charging:

	2022 £	2021 £
Staff costs (note 10)	89,577	77,681
Auditor's remuneration		
. Statutory audit services	14,300	14,100
. Other services	150	2,855
Depreciation	76,071	80,218

10 Employees, staff costs and key management personnel

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	87,805	76,644
Social security costs	1,291	887
Pension costs	481	150
	89,577	77,681

The average number of employees during the year was 11 (2021 – 11).

No employee earned £60,000 per annum or more (including taxable benefits) during the year (2021 – none).

Wages and salaries include amounts relating to redundancy which have not been shown separately in order to preserve the confidentiality of the redundancy agreements.

The trustees consider that they comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

The Parish Priest at each Parish is also a trustee. The trustees receive no remuneration or additional reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees to the charity. The Parish Priests are all members of Douai Abbey, the Community of St Edmund of the English Benedictine Congregation of the Order of St Benedict, Charity Registration Number 236962, and their living and personal expenses are borne by that charity.

11 Trustees' remuneration

Many of the trustees are parish priests in the parishes operated by the charity. As such, certain living and personal expenses during the year are borne by the charity. No trustee received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees during the current or previous year.

12 Taxation

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust is a registered charity and therefore is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Freehold buildings improvements £	Furniture and equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
At 1 September 2021	894,273	578,040	168,290	92,520	1,733,123
Additions	142,779	18,257	13,433	—	174,469
Disposals	—	—	—	(8,495)	(8,495)
At 31 August 2022	<u>1,037,052</u>	<u>596,297</u>	<u>181,723</u>	<u>84,025</u>	<u>1,899,097</u>
Cost	445,793	596,297	181,723	84,025	1,307,838
Deemed cost: valuation	591,259	—	—	—	591,259
	<u>1,037,052</u>	<u>596,297</u>	<u>181,723</u>	<u>84,025</u>	<u>1,899,097</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2021	227,345	373,631	147,708	87,327	836,011
Charge for year	15,945	46,419	10,945	2,762	76,071
Eliminated on disposal	—	—	—	(8,318)	(8,318)
At 31 August 2022	<u>243,290</u>	<u>420,050</u>	<u>158,653</u>	<u>81,771</u>	<u>903,764</u>
Net book values					
At 31 August 2022	<u>793,762</u>	<u>176,247</u>	<u>23,070</u>	<u>2,254</u>	<u>995,333</u>
At 31 August 2021	<u>666,928</u>	<u>204,409</u>	<u>20,582</u>	<u>5,193</u>	897,112

It is likely that there are material differences between the open market values of the charity's freehold land and buildings and their book values. These arise from the specialised nature of some of the properties and the effects of inflation. The amounts of such differences cannot be ascertained without incurring significant cost, which, in the opinion of the trustees, is not justified in terms of the benefits to the users of the accounts.

As permitted by FRS 102, the charity has continued to adopt a policy of not revaluing its tangible fixed assets. The historical cost of the properties included above at a valuation cannot be ascertained with any accuracy. Other tangible fixed assets are stated at cost.

Certain of the charity's properties are subject to covenants which restrict their use and disposal.

14 Investments

	Investment properties £	Listed investments £	2022 £
Market value at 1 September 2021	2,008,000	2,028,410	4,036,410
Additions at cost	—	460,998	460,998
Disposal proceeds	—	(320,571)	(320,571)
Realised gains	—	26,259	26,259
Disposals at book value	—	(294,312)	(294,312)
Net unrealised investment losses	105,000	(213,079)	(108,079)
Market value at 31 August 2022	2,113,000	1,982,017	4,095,017
Cash held by investment managers for reinvestment			100,385
			4,195,402
Cost of listed investments			1,832,135

	Investment properties £	Listed investments £	2021 £
Market value at 1 September 2020	2,008,000	1,594,629	3,602,629
Additions at cost	—	283,692	283,692
Disposal proceeds	—	(192,156)	(192,156)
Realised gains	—	13,016	13,016
Disposals at book value	—	(179,140)	(179,140)
Net unrealised investment gains	—	329,229	329,229
Market value at 31 August 2021	2,008,000	2,028,410	4,036,410
Cash held by investment managers for reinvestment			29,838
			4,066,248
Cost of listed investments			1,624,259

At 30 August 2022, the following material listed investments were held:

Holding	Market value at 30 August 2022 £	Percentage of portfolio %
Equity Trustees' Fund Services	99,770	5.03%

Investment properties comprise certain of the charity's properties situated at Ormskirk, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Kemerton and Scarisbrick.

14 Investments (continued)

The trustees obtained valuations from Armitstead Barnett LLP, Chartered Surveyors, in relation to two properties and adjacent land at Ormskirk (St Anne's Social Centre and adjacent land, and the former site of St Anne's School) as at 9 January 2020, the valuations being carried out on an open market value basis. On the basis of the advice obtained, the properties were valued at £400,000 and £60,000 respectively. In the opinion of the trustees there has been no material change in the value between the date of the last formal valuation and the balance sheet date.

The charity's investment property situated at Stratford-Upon-Avon, St Gregory's Hall (including the adjoining car park) was valued by ehB Reeves, Chartered Surveyors of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire on 27 February 2023 on the basis of open market value. The valuation was £535,000 for St Gregory's Hall and £625,000 for the adjoining car park. In the opinion of the trustees, the valuations as at 27 February 2023 are not materially different to the values as they stood at 31 August 2022.

The Coach House at Stratford-Upon-Avon was valued on an open market value basis at £168,000 by Reeves and Partners Chartered Surveyors of Coventry as at 26 February 2018. In the opinion of the trustees, there has been no material change in the valuation of the Coach House between the date of the last formal valuation and the balance sheet date.

The charity's property based at Kemerton was valued by Andrews Estate agents on 6 February 2023 on the basis of open market value as at that date at £325,000. In the opinion of the trustees, the valuation as at 6 February 2023 is not materially different to the value of the property as it stood at 31 August 2022.

15 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations	92,031	100,814
Prepayments and accrued income	52,265	47,231
	144,296	148,045

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Diocesan levies payable	80,824	54,716
Expense creditors	5,481	3,616
Accruals and other creditors	72,490	48,528
Amount owed to the Archdiocese of Liverpool	156,833	156,833
Amount due to Douai Abbey Trust	20,000	—
	335,628	263,693

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (continued)

In 2007 the trustees decided that the Parish Centre attached to St Anne's, Ormskirk should cease to be managed by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool. This followed considerable discussion regarding financial viability and the recognition of the need to expend considerable sums of money in connection with health and safety enhancements. The amount owed to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool following the decision to terminate the management contract of St Anne's Parish Centre totals £156,833 (2021 – £156,833).

17 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trusts to be applied for specific purposes:

	At 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	(Losses)/ gains £	At 31 August 2022 £
Parishes:					
. Our Lady of St Joseph, Alcester	208,650	51,289	(24,414)	(2,397)	233,128
. St Mary's, Douai	400,727	99,214	(71,960)	(27,433)	400,548
. St Benet's, Kemerton	587,072	82,690	(52,751)	90,000	707,011
. St Anne's, Ormskirk	817,894	170,684	(171,454)	(13,761)	803,363
. St Elizabeth's, Scarisbrick	253,879	103,179	(61,902)	(52,349)	242,807
. St Gregory the Great, Stratford	2,974,717	263,252	(248,404)	(64,384)	2,925,181
. St Mary's, Studley	339,905	47,011	(64,317)	(7,807)	314,792
	5,582,844	817,319	(695,202)	(78,131)	5,626,830

	At 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains £	At 31 August 2021 £
Parishes:					
. Our Lady of St Joseph, Alcester	161,956	74,281	(32,721)	5,134	208,650
. St Mary's, Douai	325,444	89,629	(74,239)	59,893	400,727
. St Benet's, Kemerton	580,665	54,590	(48,183)	—	587,072
. St Anne's, Ormskirk	770,112	178,350	(162,054)	31,486	817,894
. St Elizabeth's, Scarisbrick	254,370	38,014	(38,505)	—	253,879
. St Gregory the Great, Stratford	2,801,550	174,665	(197,591)	196,093	2,974,717
. St Mary's, Studley	306,232	62,426	(69,480)	40,727	339,905
	5,200,329	671,955	(622,773)	333,333	5,582,844

The restricted funds represent the net assets held by each individual parish.

18 Commune Depositum

At 31 August 2022, funds amounting to £21,655 (2021 – £21,655) and representing the original funds deposited by the parishes, had been set aside in a fund known as the Commune Depositum. These funds are to be used towards funding any unforeseen events or emergencies or special projects.

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Fund balances at 31 August are represented by:						
Tangible fixed assets	—	995,333	995,333	—	897,112	897,112
Investments						
. Investment properties	—	2,113,000	2,113,000	—	2,008,000	2,008,000
. Listed investments and cash held for reinvestment	51,054	2,031,348	2,082,402	53,244	2,005,004	2,058,248
Net current assets	8,680	487,149	495,829	2,912	672,728	675,640
Total net assets	59,734	5,626,830	5,686,564	56,156	5,582,844	5,639,000

The total unrealised gains on listed investments as at 31 August 2022 constitute movements on revaluation and are as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Unrealised gains on listed investments at 31 August 2022	149,882	404,151
Reconciliation of movements in unrealised gains on listed investments:		
Unrealised gains at 1 September 2021	404,151	30,425
In respect to disposals in year	(41,190)	44,497
Net (losses) gains arising on revaluation in the year	(213,079)	329,229
Total unrealised gains at 31 August 2022	149,882	404,151

It is not possible to determine the historic cost of investment properties with reasonable accuracy. As such, the effect of cumulative unrealised gains in respect to investment properties has not been reported in the above.

20 Connected charities and related party transactions

The Douai Abbey Parishes Trust is connected to two other charities by virtue of the fact that the charities have some trustees in common.

Name	Charity Reg. No	Charitable objectives
The Community of St Edmund of the English Congregation of the Order of St Benedict established at Douai Abbey, Woolhampton, Berkshire (Douai Abbey Trust).	236962	The advancement and maintenance of the Roman Catholic religion.
The Benedictine Trust	1086872	To further the religious and other charitable work of the Roman Catholic Church in Scarisbrick.

During the year ended 31 August 2022, rent of £12,000 (2021 – £12,000) for the use of St Mary's Church was paid to Douai Abbey Trust from Douai Abbey Parishes Trust.

During the year ended 31 August 2021, £6,259 was paid to Douai Abbey Trust in respect of roof works at St Mary's Church carried out by the Abbey. There were no further amounts paid in respect of this work during the year ended 31 August 2022.

20 Connected charities and related party transactions (continued)

During the year ended 31 August 2022, the parish church of Our Lady and St Joseph's, Alcester, signed a loan agreement with four other parishes within the charity and Douai Abbey Trust to fund the construction of a new church hall. The loan received from Douai Abbey Trust amounted to £20,000 (2021 – £nil). At the balance sheet date, £20,000 (2021 – £nil) remained outstanding.

During the year ended 31 August 2022, the charity received aggregate donations from trustees of the charity amounting to £1,500 (2021 – £1,750).

Accounts

**Douai
Abbey
Parishes
Trust**

Annual Report and Accounts

31 August 2021

Charity Registration Number
1063237

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Reference and administration details of the charity, its trustees and advisers

Trustees	Rt Rev Paul Gunter OSB (Chairman) Rev Alexander Austin OSB Rev Peter Bowe OSB (resigned on 7 October 2021) Mr John Elliott Rev Francis Hughes OSB Mr Stephen Jones Rt Rev Geoffrey Scott OSB Rev Hugh Somerville-Knapman OSB (appointed on 7 October 2021) Rev Godric Timney OSB Rev Benedict Thompson OSB Rev Gabriel Wilson OSB (appointed on 7 October 2021)
Administrative address	Douai Abbey Upper Woolhampton Reading RG7 5TG
Charity registration number	1063237
Auditor	Buzzacott LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
Principal bankers	HSBC Bank plc 69 Pall Mall London SW1Y 5EY National Westminster Bank plc 135 Bishopsgate London EC2M 3UR
Principal investment managers	Rathbones Investment Management Limited 8 Finsbury Circus London EC2M 7AZ
Solicitors	Charles Lucas & Marshall 28 High Street Hungerford Berkshire RG17 0NH

Trustees' report Year to 31 August 2021

The trustees present their statutory report together with the accounts of the Douai Abbey Parishes Trust (the Trust) for the year ended 31 August 2021.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 27 to 33 of the attached accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Introduction

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust (the "Trust") is a charity established and governed by a trust deed dated 3 June 1997. It is registered with the Charity Commission, Charity Registration No. 1063237.

The Trust was established in 1997 by the separation of the activities of parishes, appropriated to Douai Abbey, from the other activities of Douai Abbey Monastery which are accounted for within Douai Abbey Trust, a registered charity.

The seven parishes accounted for within the charity are as follows:

- ◆ Our Lady and St Joseph, Alcester
- ◆ St Mary's, Douai Abbey
- ◆ St Benet's, Kemerton together with two special trusts – The Roman Catholic Church Trust of 1842 and The Roman Catholic Poor School Trust for 1852.
- ◆ St Anne's, Ormskirk
- ◆ St Elizabeth's, Scarisbrick together with a special trust – The Benedictine Trust of 1860.
- ◆ St Gregory the Great, Stratford-upon-Avon
- ◆ St Mary's, Studley

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans and relevant policies

Activities, specific objectives, achievements and future plans

The activities of the charity can be divided into four principal areas: the administration of the Sacraments and maintenance of Divine Service, the education of young people in accordance with the Roman Catholic faith, pastoral work in propagation of the Roman Catholic faith and charitable work in connection with any of the foregoing activities. Each of these is briefly considered in turn below.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans and relevant policies (continued)

Activities, specific objectives, achievements and future plans (continued)

Administration of the Sacraments and maintenance of Divine Service

The **Woolhampton** parish comprises three churches located at Woolhampton (St Mary's), Pangbourne (Our Lady and St Bernadette's) and Theale (St Luke's). Mass is celebrated every weekend in each church and during the week on rotation. Ministers of Communion also take communion to the sick in their homes.

Bi-annual courses are run for First Holy Communicants and Confirmation candidates. Weddings and baptisms are regularly celebrated. As the parish has slowly become more cohesive we have focused on formation and growth of spiritual awareness; over the last year there have been regular meetings for sharing of faith, study and reflection. The parish provides RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) training for adults, runs children's Liturgy groups in two of the three churches attached to the parish.

At **Alcester** Mass is celebrated regularly in Our Lady and St Joseph's Church. The church is the focus for the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy throughout the year. Two Sunday Masses are celebrated here and these are both well-attended, characterised by liturgical preaching and the solemn celebrations that unfold during the Liturgical Year. Holy Mass is offered during the week as well. Confessions are heard at Alcester on a Saturday morning.

Nearby is Coughton Court, the home of the Throckmorton family, where there is a church owned by the family trust. Although this church is privately owned, the sacraments, especially weddings and baptisms take place there under the jurisdiction of the parish of Alcester and are celebrated as required by the parish priest of Alcester. There are also occasional funerals.

Regular Masses for all pupils continue at Our Lady's Primary School, including those in accordance with the celebrations of the Liturgical Year, similarly marking the various stages of each term. Masses are also offered for the school in church on a number of occasions during the year, especially on holydays of obligation and at weekends. Preparation for the Sacraments of First Confession and First Communion is held annually within the parish during the main Sunday Mass. The Sacrament of Confirmation is administered to young people on a regular basis.

The preparation for this is steered by Our Lady's RC School and in the parish simultaneously. Catechists prepare children attending non-Catholic schools in the presbytery. There is a Children's Liturgy at the main Sunday Mass throughout the year, including during school holidays. The number of children attending and the number of adults involved is growing. The Christmas and Easter celebrations are highlights of the year and draw large numbers and considerable participation.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans and relevant policies (continued)

Activities, specific objectives, achievements and future plans (continued)

Administration of the Sacraments and maintenance of Divine Service (continued)

Since 2017, the parish has been undertaking fundraising activities towards the restoration of the former school in the grounds of the church that lay semi-derelict for decades. The context of Covid since 2020 inevitably slowed down the project considerably. Supported by grants, as well as by loans from other parishes that form the same Trust (DAPT), as well as from Douai Abbey Trust (DAT), it is hoped that the hall will be opened during 2022 as a viable community asset for the town of Alcester, as well as for the activities of the parish moving forward.

The **Ormskirk** parish is served by two priests and two deacons. There is much involvement of lay volunteers as readers, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, church cleaners, catechists, and musicians. There are about 4,000 parishioners in the parish of whom about 500 + regularly attend the three Masses on Sundays and about 30 on weekdays. Under usual circumstances at Easter and Christmas the congregation can number in excess of 1,500. Other special services are held at various times and for particular occasions. Many non-Catholics attend the services.

This year the parish has been greatly affected by the Coronavirus which has curtailed our activities since March. For months we were unable to celebrate church services in public. We managed to develop a system to live-stream some of the Masses but we could not hold Baptisms, First Holy Communion services, Weddings or Funeral services in church. We were able to take services at the crematorium or hold short burial services at the graveside.

During the past 12 months there were 30 baptisms, 4 weddings and 46 funerals. There were 76 First Communions. There are about 30 young people who serve on the altar and assist in the liturgy. The two priests are on call 24 hours a day. They are chaplains to the local hospital in Ormskirk. There are many care homes in the parish and the priests make regular visits to them. The priests visit the sick and housebound in their homes.

St Anne's parish is a vibrant community and very much involved in the life of Ormskirk. The church itself is obviously the place of worship for Roman Catholics but many others come to use the church. In gathering as we do, the building becomes the centre of our outreach to the people of the town.

St Elizabeth's **Scarisbrick** is a small, rural parish, covering a wide area of farmland and a few small hamlets. Sunday Mass attendance averages between 60 and 75 in the wake of the Covid pandemic, and like almost all parishes St Elizabeth's has seen numbers attending drop, though not as severely as most other places. On special occasions more than 100 may be in attendance. We estimate that the Catholic population of the parish is about just over 200.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans and relevant policies (continued)

Activities, specific objectives, achievements and future plans (continued)

Administration of the Sacraments and maintenance of Divine Service (continued)

The parish is an incorporated parish of Douai Abbey. From 1 September 2021, Father Hugh Somerville Knapman OSB took over as parish priest, though he has resided in the presbytery at Scarisbrick and been working in the parish since March 2019. Until then the parish had been administered from St Anne's, Ormskirk. In the past year there was one Mass on Sundays and several Masses are celebrated during the week. On important feast days there is also Mass in the church. Baptisms, weddings and funerals are normally celebrated throughout the year though Covid restrictions have caused a significant delay in many cases. From September 2021 a series of baptisms and weddings will be conducted to clear the Covid backlog. During the year there was an unusually high number of funerals.

In normal circumstances special services are held in church at various times, such as children's services at Christmas for all the primary schools in the Scarisbrick area, the annual Civic service which we share with the other Christian denominations, and the Harvest Festival in September, which traditionally has a high profile in this rural, farming area.

This year the parish has continued to be affected by Covid. For a majority of the year, the parish was unable to hold the usual church services and activities. The parish community, however, has taken care to support the vulnerable and needy. The parish income has been adversely affected by Covid and the resulting restrictions on church services, though many parishioners ensured they continued to make offerings. In the future the parish will need to encourage greater use of standing orders.

Stratford has seen 10 baptisms, 3 weddings, 21 funerals, 20 confirmations but no first holy communions. There are now 42 parishioners housebound. In recent years, it has sponsored the conversion of the Priory Stables into two studio apartments which have been completed and let out to tenants. The parish church was completely renovated with the re-ordering of the sanctuary and restoration of the Victorian stenciling in the apse. A new lighting system and web camera was installed and the church re-decorated. There was a major parish celebration for the 40th anniversary of the parish priest's ordination and there was a visitation by Bishop Kenny in March. During this, there were live-streamed masses and zoomed bible studies and socials. The parish bulletin was e-mailed to parishioners and the SVP ensured that the isolated and vulnerable were cared for. There was also a great deal of telephone support and co-operation with the foodbank and other churches in the care of the local community. Plans for the redevelopment of Our Lady of Peace at Shottery are ongoing.

At **Studley** we have many baptisms and have begun a Baptism Preparation Course which is very popular with parents. Our Marriage Preparation Course continues to be very well attended as it is now open to all couples in the area. During the pandemic lockdowns, marriages and baptisms were put on hold. However once again, weddings and baptisms are taking place.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans and relevant policies (continued)

Activities, specific objectives, achievements and future plans (continued)

Administration of the Sacraments and maintenance of Divine Service (continued)

St Benet's, **Kemerton**, has a weekend Mass attendance of about 60, down from 90 pre-pandemic, with 3 to 9 people for weekdays. Funerals, weddings and baptisms continue to be held at the church.

Education

In the **Woolhampton** parish a major thrust is the theological and spiritual formation of our people, and small group helps the parish priest in preparing and organising a series of teachings and reflections on current topics. A small group of parishioners works with the parish priest to make the bishops' initiative of the Year of the Word of God 2020 effective in a variety of ways, and further initiatives on Zoom have been taken under the Covid-19 restrictions.

Within close proximity to the church at **Ormskirk** are two schools: St Anne's Primary School with about 450 pupils, and St Bede's High School with about 700 pupils. Both are highly successful and over-subscribed. Father Godric Timney OSB, the parish rector, is a foundation governor of both schools and priest chaplain to St Bede's. Father Boniface Moran OSB, the assistant priest, is chaplain to St Anne's. Both priests visit the schools on a regular basis.

The Parish Centre provides a venue not only for the many parish associations and outside bodies but also for groups of children and young people. We have scouts, cubs, beavers, guides, brownies and rainbows, and the parish employs a part-time youth minister to support activities for teenagers. He successfully runs the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme but, again, this year their activities have been curtailed because of the pandemic. The annual pilgrimage for young people had to be cancelled because of Covid. Usually about 20 young people participate in this pilgrimage. In the parish we run programmes in preparation for celebrating the sacraments of Baptism and First Eucharist, Reconciliation and Marriage.

At **Scarisbrick**, St Mary's Primary School adjoins the church land. It is a small school with about 100 pupils. The normal relationship between the parish and school was adversely affected by the Covid restrictions that applied to both the school and the parish, and most of the usual shared activities were unable to take place.

In normal years the parish uses the archdiocesan course to prepare children to make their First Confession and First Holy Communion, with lay catechists taking a leading role.

At **Stratford** there is a primary school of about 199 pupils but this is likely to expand as there is a severe shortage of places for Catholics. The Parish Priest is a foundation governor.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans and relevant policies (continued)

Activities, specific objectives, achievements and future plans (continued)

Education (continued)

At **Studley** the parish school is an Extended Services School working with the local social service and other schools. It has a Rainbows Group helping children cope with bereavement and marital breakdown. It is an Eco and Healthy school and has just received the Gifted and Talented Award. It is part of COMENIAS, the British Council global links and has active links with schools in Germany, Finland, South Africa and Palestine, as well as being recognised for its stress on cultural diversity. The school has been rated 'Outstanding' by OFSTED.

In **Kemerton** Father Francis Hughes visits St Gregory's School, Cheltenham.

Pastoral work

In **Woolhampton** the PCT (Parish Care Together) quietly provides both physical and spiritual support to the needy of the area regardless of church affiliation. The elderly and otherwise housebound attend a Christmas tea at Douai Abbey and another Easter gathering.

A small, local charity fund, set up by a very generous donor in 1996, enables the parish to help those in need to meet exceptional expenses, eg. a child's school trip, an electric wheelchair, costs of painting a bathroom, of a washing machine or a new stair carpet etc. The two church halls are let to various organisations within the local communities, including a good number of charities and local groups. The parish has chosen as its social outreach the local Thatcham charity, Young People and Children First, and some fundraising events have taken place, although they have been severely limited by Covid restrictions.

In **Ormskirk**, the priests minister to the people of the parish through the celebration of the sacraments, through the various programmes and talks held in the parish, by visiting people in their homes, as well as being available to people at St Anne's Priory. There is a parish RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) programme for those wishing to join the Catholic Church, two prayer groups which have been meeting weekly for a number of years, and a bereavement support group. However, these groups have not been able to operate as usual over this year.

Other groups which play an important part in parish life but which cannot be readily categorised include the following: the Union of Catholic Mothers, the Knights of St Columba, the Justice and Peace Group, the St Anne's Players. We have thriving uniformed groups (scouts, guides, etc.) with long waiting lists.

Our Pastoral Centre can be booked for functions and the use of the Centre is not restricted to just our own Catholic parishioners. The rooms in the Centre have been refurbished to a high standard of décor.

The **safeguarding** of children and vulnerable adults, and health and safety requirements are taken seriously by the parish, and nominated persons are very conscientious in ensuring the high profile of these two areas.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans and relevant policies (continued)

Activities, specific objectives, achievements and future plans (continued)

Pastoral work (continued)

Volunteers now look after the church grounds, including the graveyard, and have saved the parish thousands of pounds in doing this. During the pandemic, volunteers have worked hard to set up a parish environmental group with the aim of using the church grounds to both educate parishioners and involve them in care of the grounds.

In normal circumstances the clergy at **Scarisbrick** are on call for parishioners 24 hours a day. The usual parish gatherings were suspended for most of the year due to Covid restrictions. In the late summer of 2021 farewell services were held for Father Godric and Father Boniface after 12 years of serving the parish. There is good communication among parishioners, as befits a rural community, and they support each other readily in times of need.

A parish Finance Committee, consisting of the parish priest and members of the parish with appropriate skills normally meets several times a year, to assist the parish priest in his financial responsibilities. During a normal year the Parish Pastoral Council would meet regularly with the clergy, to forward the mission and life of the parish, and to organise social events and other matters relating to the life of the parish. Covid prevented both bodies from meeting as normal. With the arrival of a new parish priest in September 2021 and the gradual lifting of Covid restrictions, a new finance committee and parish pastoral council will be instituted.

We regularly support charities locally, nationally and, when necessary, the parishioners are quick to respond to international appeals. St Elizabeth's has very good relations with the other Christian denominations in the village.

Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, and health and safety requirements, are taken seriously by the parish. Nominated persons are very conscientious in ensuring the high profile of these two areas. We work harmoniously with the safeguarding department of the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

Stratford has a congregation of about 3,000 and a Mass attendance of about 750 which includes a large number of visitors from all over the world in the summer. About 42 parishioners are housebound and receive Holy Communion at home.

The new parish room and toilets have been completed and are well used. The Priory car park has been completed and earns a good income when not used for services. The Old School has been completely renovated with enlarged windows and a large new kitchen built. It has been let out to The Boston Tea Party for a good rent. There have been various courses and days of recollection including a vigil on creation.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans and relevant policies (continued)

Activities, specific objectives, achievements and future plans (continued)

Pastoral work (continued)

At **Studley** the parish priest continues to provide Mass for the primary school and to help with preparation for the Sacraments. He visits the sick in their homes, the local hospital and the two nursing homes in the parish. The Catholic Women's League has been disbanded due primarily to the age range of the members. However, some of the former members still undertake the visiting of elderly people in the parish, whether Catholic or not. At Christmas, through various fundraising events, they provide essential groceries for those who live on their own or have no one else to provide for them. Once again, due to the pandemic, school masses did not take place, but we managed to fit the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation in between lockdowns. School masses have begun again in the parish church.

In **Kemerton**, the St Benet's Pastoral Council meets regularly to discuss needs and organise events.

Other charitable work

In **Ormskirk** some of the parish groups are directly geared to help those in need in the locality. The SVP Society is particularly worthy of mention. Much quiet support is provided throughout the year. We have raised money by collections and social events for CAFOD and other charities, both local and distant. St Anne's parish plays a prominent part in the life of the Ormskirk Community and contributes to town events. We are members of the Ormskirk Churches Together.

Repairs to the church roof have been put on hold for the time being. The church roof appeal has not been very active over the year but funds have continued to grow slowly.

Over the past four years St Anne's parish has worked with the Home Office to provide a home for a Syrian refugee family. The family has now settled in very well and a wonderful support group of parishioners keeps in touch with them on a regular basis.

Through collections in church the **Scarisbrick** parish has contributed to national and local charities, including CAFOD, Nugent Care and the St Vincent de Paul Society which supports local people in need. Before Covid, weekly collections of food supported St Marie's Centre for the homeless in Southport. A priest who used to reside in St Elizabeth's presbytery now lives in a monastery outside Lima in Peru and the parish has raised money to support the work of the monks there working with the poor.

Studley parish's involvement with the Arden Food Bank Project has come to an end due to cessation of the charity's activities, but many other charities have been supported over the year including CAFOD, Father Hudson's Society and the Sisters of Charity. We also support the Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) in Redditch whose members include parishioners from Studley. The SVP helps a number of families in the parish, regardless of faith, both financially and physically.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans and relevant policies (continued)

Activities, specific objectives, achievements and future plans (continued)

Other charitable work (continued)

At **Stratford**, a supper for the homeless now takes place in the parish room every Tuesday and is well attended and the SUP and CAFOD continue to be very active in the parish.

The **Kemerton** parish supports Tewkesbury Foodbank and Gloucestershire Nightstop (two local charities) by holding fundraising events. The housebound are visited each week with Holy Communion.

Policy for donations

The parishes each donate to other charitable causes whose aims and objectives are consistent with those of the charity i.e. the advancement and maintenance of the Roman Catholic religion and the relief of poverty. Donations are made from special collections held within each parish for each specific cause. In addition, each parish makes contributions towards the costs of the Roman Catholic Diocese in which it is situated and assists with meeting the expenses of the repair and maintenance of local Roman Catholic Schools.

Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults

Like all other organisations who serve in the community, the trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all those the charity serves in any way. This means that the trustees, volunteers and staff engaged in the work of the charity in Great Britain must obtain clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The trustees are fully committed to implementing all policies and procedures of the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA). Each parish has a Child Protection Officer which operates under the safeguarding authorities of the relevant Roman Catholic Diocese of which the parish is a part.

Investment policy

The charity has both investment properties and a portfolio of listed investments.

The trustees' overall policy with regard to the charity's listed investments is to maximise total return through a diversified portfolio, with the aim of providing the level of income advised by the trustees and, at the same time, with a view to ensuring capital appreciation exceeding inflation over any five year period. The trustees are conscious of the potential short to medium term impact of the Coronavirus pandemic and current geopolitical events. The trustees are meeting regularly with the investment manager in order to remain apprised of the situation.

Similarly, the trustees acknowledge that the Coronavirus pandemic may have impacted on property values in 2020 although it is believed that these have now recovered to pre Covid-19 levels. The charity has no plans to dispose of its investment properties and regards them as long term investments.

Activities, objectives, achievements, future plans and relevant policies (continued)

Activities, specific objectives, achievements and future plans (continued)

Covid-19

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the shape and nature of our world. It has impacted not only the basic nature of our social interactions but has also had a significant economic impact at every level in ways which have been outside of the charity's control.

The impact on the various parishes of Covid-19 has been similar. The level of activity possible within the parish has reduced with parish buildings being closed to the public for part of the year. Some visits by the parish priest to parishioners, including the housebound and elderly, were replaced by telephone calls. Whilst in each parish, a number of parishioners contribute to the weekly offertory by standing order, the exact numbers vary with a few of the parishes being dependent on cash contributions which have decreased as a result of the impact of Covid-19. There has been a continued impact on fundraising events and weddings in the year to 31 August 2021.

As noted above, the trustees are conscious of the potential impact of the pandemic on investment returns in the short to medium term. As a result of the foregoing, income for the year to 31 August 2021 has reduced slightly compared to income in 2020, and is substantially reduced over that for 2019. There is an expectation that there will continue to be some impact on the income for the year to 31 August 2022.

Expenditure has also been impacted with staff being furloughed and contracts for cleaning and similar services being placed on hold. Building projects and maintenance have been deferred wherever possible. Costs in connection with events that have been cancelled are minimal and overheads are being reduced wherever possible. In certain parishes the Diocesan levy has also been reduced.

The expectation in some parishes is that the accounts for the year to 31 August 2022 may also show deficits albeit, hopefully, smaller ones. However, each of the parishes has cash within bank accounts and some have the ability to raise monies from the sale of investments. As such, it is expected that these deficits will be funded from reserves and whilst managing Covid-19 will be challenging, the trustees do not expect material concerns to arise over the charity's financial position or for the charity's going concern to be threatened.

Financial review

Results for the year

A summary of the charity's income and expenditure can be found on page 24 of the attached accounts.

Financial review (continued)

Results for the year (continued)

Income for the year totalled £676,196 (2020 – £690,450). The main source of income to the charity is the weekly collection carried out in each parish. In the year to 31 August 2021 general collections accounted for £326,429 (48%) (2020 – £335,229 (49%) of the charity's income, whilst special collections used to fund donations and grants accounted for a further £11,440 (2020 – £29,216). Other significant income sources include the proceeds from small scale fundraising events; legacies; income from parish centre, room and hall hire; investment income; and interest receivable. As expected, income has continued to remain significantly less than pre-pandemic levels as result of Covid-19 disruption.

Expenditure in the year totalled £623,653 (2020 – £673,667) with the major expenses being in connection with the upkeep of parish churches, presbyteries and similar buildings and the necessary living and personal expenses of the priests serving the seven parishes. The decrease in expenditure is largely a result of significant refurbishment works which were completed at Ormskirk parish in the prior year.

Net income for the year before investment gains therefore amounted to £52,543 (2020 – net income of £16,783). Net gains on the revaluation and disposal of listed investments of £342,245 (2020 – net losses of £45,698 and the realised loss on the sale of an investment property in Scarisbrick of £10,912), resulted in an overall net increase in funds for the year of £394,788 (2020 – net decrease of £39,827).

Reserves policy

It is the trustees' current policy to retain free reserves (i.e. those unrestricted funds not represented by tangible fixed assets, designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed) of between six months' and two years' expenditure on unrestricted funds. This is not regarded as excessive when viewed in the light of the need to retain sufficient funds at a central level to cover the administrative costs of the charity and, importantly, provide short term loans to parishes in the event of special projects, unforeseen events and/or emergencies.

Financial position

At 31 August 2021 the free reserves of the charity amounted to £56,156 (2020 – £43,883). The unrestricted funds of the charity represent:

- ♦ The original funds deposited by the parishes to form a central fund, and designated as the Commune Depositum, amounting to £21,655 (2020 – £21,655). Despite being designated, these funds are set aside in order to meet emergencies rather than for specific purposes. They are regarded, therefore, as free reserves.
- ♦ Central funds, held to cover the central administrative costs of the charity and provide short term loans to individual parishes should these be required, amounting to £34,501 (2020 – £22,228).

The trustees note that free reserves are in excess of the target set out in the reserves policy above. However, they do not consider the level of free reserves to be excessive.

Financial review (continued)

Financial position (continued)

The restricted funds amounting to £5,582,844 (2020 – £5,200,329) represent the net assets (including land and buildings) of the seven parishes that form part of the charity. Under Canon Law each parish is a separate financial entity and as such each is treated as a separate restricted fund (note 17). As noted above, it is expected that over the next year restricted fund expenditure will exceed restricted fund income as each parish incurs deficit. However, these will be funded from reserves and whilst managing the aftermath of the Covid-19 will be challenging, the trustees do not expect material concerns to arise over the charity's financial position or for the charity's going concern to be threatened.

Governance, structure and management

Governance and management

The Abbot of Douai Abbey is Chairman of the Trust. The Abbot appoints a minimum of two other trustees, who must be practicing Roman Catholics and of whom at least one shall be a priest working in one of the Trust's parishes and at least one shall be a layperson who is active in one of the Trust's parishes.

The names of the trustees in office at the date on which this report was approved and of those who served during the year are set out on page 1 of this Annual Report and Accounts. Brief biographical details on each of the trustees in office at the date on which this report was approved are given below:

Reverend Paul Gunter OSB

Father Paul Gunter became Parish Priest of Alcester in 2016. At the same time, he serves as Secretary for the Department of Christian Life & Worship of the Conference of Bishops of England & Wales beginning in 2012. Father Paul has been a monk of Douai Abbey since 1985 and was ordained priest in 1991 after graduating in theology from Heythrop College, University of London. Over ten years of parish ministry followed, at Cheltenham in the Diocese of Clifton 1992-1999, where he was contemporaneously chaplain of Cheltenham General Hospital from 1992-1999, chaplain of St Benedict's School Cheltenham 1997-1999, and deanery representative of the Clifton Diocesan Council of Priests 1995-1999; then parish priest of Studley in the Archdiocese of Birmingham from 1999-2002. In 2002, he went to Rome pursuing further studies in Liturgy, gaining a license in 2004 and a Doctorate in 2006, both from the Pontifical Institute of Liturgy. He is an associate professor there, having lectured there from 2006-2016, at the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum 2008-2014, and at the same time was a Consultor to the Office of the Liturgical Celebrations of the Supreme Pontiff 2008-2013. Since the end of the financial year, Father Paul has been appointed as Abbot of the Community at Douai Abbey.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Governance and management (continued)

Reverend Alexander Austin OSB

Reverend Alexander Austin is parish priest of St Gregory's, Stratford upon Avon. He has degrees in Social and Political Science, in Theology and a master's degree in Christian Spirituality. A priest since 1980, he taught art and Religious Education at Douai School for fifteen years where he was also a housemaster and school chaplain. At the same time he also undertook pastoral work in the monastery for many years including the roles of infirmarian and guestmaster, as well as serving as a councillor to three different abbots. He was novice master at the Abbey for eight years whilst simultaneously serving as assistant priest at Woolhampton and Burghfield Common. In 2000 he left the monastery to become parish priest of Pershore from where he moved in 2002 to become parish priest of St Mary's, Studley. He has been at Stratford since 2010 and is a governor and chaplain to St Gregory's Primary School and to St Benedict's Secondary School in Alcester. He also serves on the Birmingham Diocesan Historic Churches and Art Commission.

Mr John Elliott

John Elliott is a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators. John joined The Bird Group of Companies Limited as Divisional Chief Accountant in 1977 and currently is a Director and Group Company Secretary. He is also Treasurer of the Stratford-upon-Avon & District Manufacturers' Association and Treasurer of St Gregory's Roman Catholic Parish.

Reverend Francis Hughes OSB

Reverend Francis Hughes, formerly assistant at St Osburg's, Coventry, Pangbourne and Theale, St Anne's Ormskirk, St Joseph's Centre for the Deaf, Manchester, and Parish Priest of Scarisbrick is parish priest of St Benet's Kemerton. A graduate of University College, Galway in Chemistry and Mathematics, he has worked as a teacher. He studied Theology at Oxford and has a MA in Canon Law from the University of London. He completed courses in counselling at the Richmond Fellowship and Manchester University and in Deaf Studies with the Open University. He has worked with the Deaf Community as chaplain and pastoral worker and has been a governor for St Mary's School, Scarisbrick. He has been Prior and Junior Master at Douai Abbey and was also a governor for St Gregory's School, Cheltenham. He currently assists the Clifton Marriage Tribunal.

Mr Stephen Jones

Steve Jones is a graduate of the University of Liverpool with a degree in Computational and Statistical Science. In the 1980's he worked as a software engineer specialising in Financial Systems for small and medium sized businesses. In the 1990's Steve specialised in Payroll and HR systems becoming one of the UK's experts in the interpretation and application of Profit Related Pay and Salary Sacrifice schemes. In 1996, Steve set up Fairbanks Environmental Ltd with long-time friend and Civil Engineer, Bob Conlin, to employ data analysis to identify leaks within the underground storage systems at retail petrol stations.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Governance and management (continued)

Mr Stephen Jones (continued)

Fairbanks enjoyed national and international success, employing 200 UK staff, and providing its services to major petrol retailers in 35 countries, both directly and through a network of distributors. In 2016 Fairbanks was sold to the US based Dover Corporation. Steve continued as Managing Director of Dover's Data Analysis Business Unit for a further two years, before retiring in 2018.

Right Reverend Geoffrey Scott OSB

Right Reverend Geoffrey Scott of the English Benedictine Community of Douai Abbey is Chairman of the Douai Abbey Parishes' Trust. He has worked as a teacher, headmaster, chaplain and parish assistant. He is at present librarian at Douai Abbey and is a trustee of a number of charities. He was Abbot throughout the year to 31 August 2021.

Revd A Somerville Knapman OSB, MPhil, MA (Theol), STB, BA

Joining the monastery in early 2001, he was ordained a priest in April 2007 after studying in Oxford and Rome. His recently completed theological research at Bristol University was published by Paulist Press of New York in the autumn of 2018. Before entering the monastery, he studied at the University of Sydney and worked in education and then in a civilian role in communications for the New South Wales Police in Sydney, Australia. Currently he serves as the priest in residence at the parish of Scarisbrick in Lancashire and is the Community webmaster. He is engaged in doctoral studies and undertakes various publishing projects for the Community under the imprint of The Weldon Press. He is on the editorial board of the Douai Magazine.

Very Reverend Godric Timney OSB

Father Godric Timney OSB, the Rector of St Anne's, is a member of the Benedictine Community of Douai Abbey. Father Godric is Cathedral Prior of Worcester and is an Honorary Canon of Worcester Cathedral. He is also a trustee of the Archdiocese of Liverpool, a member of the Archbishop's Council, Dean of the Pastoral Area of Ormskirk and Maghull, a trustee of the Douai Abbey Parishes Trust. He spent nearly 28 years in secondary education and from 2003-2006 was Chairman of the National Conference of Priests of England and Wales. He is Chairman of the Conference of Vicars for Religious and has been involved in parish and Catholic ministry for 48 years.

Reverend Benedict Thompson OSB

Reverend Benedict Thompson is parish priest of the Studley parish. He is an Associate of the Royal College of Music, London; a Licentiate of Trinity College of Music, London; a graduate of National Opera Studio, London; and a former Principal Tenor with English National Opera. He studied Theology at St Benet's Hall, Oxford and counselling at Westminster Pastoral Foundation, London. He is a former Monastic Choir Master and was assistant bursar to Father Peter in 1997-1998; assistant Priest, Douai Abbey Parish between 2000-2001; Chaplain to Southampton General Hospital between 2001-2004 and was appointed as parish priest of Douai Abbey Parish in 2005 and subsequently as parish priest of Studley in 2010.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Governance and management (continued)

Reverend Gabriel Wilson OSB

Reverend Gabriel Wilson was a teacher of English from 1992 to 2008 and an Advanced Skills Teacher in Hertfordshire. He has served at Douai Abbey since 2008, as Director of the Abbey's Pastoral Programme (Retreats) until 2021, Vocations Director since 2014 and has been parish priest of Woolhampton since July 2021.

Training of trustees

At each of the meetings of the trustees throughout the year, held in the various parishes, recent changes and developments in charity law, in financial strategy, and in questions relating to health and safety are discussed and, if necessary, implemented. A number of the trustees attend in-service training days provided by the dioceses and by the local education authorities in which they are situated. The trustees remain satisfied with the quality of financial and legal advice given to them by their professional advisers, and are able to bring to this Trust the expertise they possess through their work with other trusts and charitable bodies.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and accounts 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 accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that year. In preparing accounts the trustees are required to:

- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ◆ observe the methods and principles of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- ◆ make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ◆ state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts;
- ◆ prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the relevant Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the trust deed. They 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.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Structure and management reporting

The overall responsibility for the charity lies ultimately with the trustees who meet three times a year.

At **Woolhampton** (Douai Abbey) a parish administrator is responsible for general financial record keeping and the management of the parish office. There is a Finance Committee of five members, and a Parish Pastoral Council with members from each of the three local church committees. This facilitates communication between each of the local churches. Each church maintains its own individual committee which deals with local matters.

At **Kemerton** there is a Parish Finance Committee composed of the parish priest, the treasurer and five other parishioners. The Finance committee decided that there is no need to meet so often and that on-line discussions would be sufficient to decide on extraordinary expenditure.

At **Studley** the parish is run by a Parish Committee which is supported by mission, social and finance committees.

At both **Stratford** and **Scarisbrick**, there is a Finance Committee, a parish committee and a pastoral group which helps to run the parish.

At **Alcester** there is a Parish Finance Committee which meets monthly. Another recently formed group, the Parish Development Committee, propels projects for maintenance and general purposes, as well as for parish community building projects. There is a qualified coordinator for safeguarding and a data-controller responsible for GDPR.

At **Ormskirk** the parish priest administers the parish on behalf of the Douai Abbey Parishes Trust. The Parish Pastoral Council meets regularly and offers advice and practical help in organising events. The Finance Committee oversees financial matters and one of the members, a qualified accountant, prepares the accounts for our professional auditors. Health and Safety and Risk Assessments are regularly discussed at the meetings.

Key management personnel

The trustees consider that they alone comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

The Parish Priest at each parish is also a trustee. The trustees receive no remuneration or additional reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees to the charity. The Parish Priests are all members of Douai Abbey, the Community of St Edmund of the English Benedictine Congregation of the Order of St Benedict, Charity Registration Number 236962, and their living and personal expenses are borne by that charity.

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Employees

The charity strives to be an equal opportunities employer and applies objective criteria to assess merit. It aims to ensure that no job applicant or employee receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of age, race, colour, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation or disability.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific operational areas of the charity, its investments and its finances. The trustees believe that by monitoring reserve levels, by ensuring controls exist over key financial systems, and by examining the operational and business risks faced by the charity, they have established effective systems to mitigate those risks. The trustees review a risk management matrix annually, which includes such potential risks as the loss of key staff, disaster recovery and reputational risk.

With the exception of the risks and challenges presented by Covid-19 which are discussed above, the key risks for the charity, as identified by the trustees, are described below together with the principal ways in which they are mitigated:

- ◆ **Loss of key management**
The trustees are aware that they are very dependent on certain key people and the implications of losing these people would be serious. The trustees consider that strong support from financial advisers, training of trustees, and ongoing discussion of ways of lightening the load of the Abbot will all mitigate this risk. In addition the English Benedictine Congregation, of which the Abbey is a member, has developed structures of congregational support, including the lending of personnel, to assist any parishes who find themselves in difficulties.
- ◆ **Dependence of income from investments**
The charity relies to a large extent on the returns from its investment portfolio to cover its outgoings. The performance of the investment portfolio and the investment strategy are reviewed in meetings of the trustees and in regular meetings with the investment managers, taking into account current and future political and economic uncertainties. This risk and its mitigations are especially important at the present time in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ◆ **Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults**
Like all other organisations who serve in the community, the trustees recognise the absolute necessity of ensuring the protection and safety of all those the charity serves in any way. This means that members engaged in any ministry in Great Britain must obtain clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The trustees are fully committed to implementing all policies and procedures of the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA).

Governance, structure and management (continued)

Volunteers

The trustees are very grateful to the many volunteers who have given their time to the charity within the individual parishes over the past year and who have provided invaluable assistance.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Paul C F Gunter

Trustee

Approved by the trustees on: 1st June 2022

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Douai Abbey Parishes Trust

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Douai Abbey Parishes Trust (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statements of cash flows, the principal accounting policies and the notes to the accounts. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the accounts:

- ◆ give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2021 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- ◆ have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- ◆ have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the accounts, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the accounts is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the accounts are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report and accounts, other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the accounts or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- ◆ the information given in the trustees' annual report is inconsistent in any material respect with the accounts; or
- ◆ sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- ◆ the accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- ◆ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the accounts, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these accounts.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts (continued)

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- ◆ the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- ◆ we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with those charged with governance and other management, and from our knowledge and experience of the sector;
- ◆ we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the accounts or the operations of the charity, including Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011;
- ◆ we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of trustees and inspecting legal correspondence. We corroborated our enquiries through our review of trustees' minutes; and
- ◆ identified laws and regulations were communicated within the engagement team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit;

We assessed the susceptibility of the Charity's accounts to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- ◆ making enquiries of trustees as to their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- ◆ considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- ◆ performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- ◆ performed substantive testing of expenditure including testing the authorisation thereof; and
- ◆ assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts (continued)

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- ◆ agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- ◆ reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the accounts is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and with regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

28 June 2022

Buzzacott LLP
Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

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

Statement of financial activities Year to 31 August 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	1	—	477,825	477,825	—	480,284	480,284
Other trading activities							
. Fundraising activities		—	10,377	10,377	—	14,470	14,470
Investments and interest receivable	2	1,043	120,149	121,192	1,462	120,988	122,450
Charitable activities	3	—	45,240	45,240	—	57,341	57,341
Other sources	4	3,198	18,364	21,562	—	15,905	15,905
Total income		4,241	671,955	676,196	1,462	688,988	690,450
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	5	334	14,107	14,441	330	13,460	13,790
Charitable activities							
. Charitable donations payable	6	—	78,711	78,711	—	116,126	116,126
. Support of the Parishes and their ministry	7	546	529,955	530,501	620	543,131	543,751
Total expenditure		880	622,773	623,653	950	672,717	673,667
Net income before investment gains (losses)	9	3,361	49,182	52,543	512	16,271	16,783
Realised loss on sale of investment property		—	—	—	—	(10,912)	(10,912)
Realised and unrealised gains (losses) on investments	14	8,912	333,333	342,245	(1,229)	(44,469)	(45,698)
Net income (expenditure) and net movement in funds		12,273	382,515	394,788	(717)	(39,110)	(39,827)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward at 1 September 2020		43,883	5,200,329	5,244,212	44,600	5,239,439	5,284,039
Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2021		56,156	5,582,844	5,639,000	43,883	5,200,329	5,244,212

All recognised gains and losses are included in the above statement of financial activities.

All of the charity's activities derived from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

Balance sheet 31 August 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		897,112		887,857
Investments	14		4,066,248		3,611,764
			4,963,360		4,499,621
Current assets					
Debtors	15	148,045		105,122	
Cash at bank and in hand		791,288		952,343	
		939,333		1,057,465	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(263,693)		(312,874)	
Net current assets			675,640		744,591
Total net assets			5,639,000		5,244,212
The funds of the charity:					
Funds and reserves					
Income funds:					
Restricted funds	17		5,582,844		5,200,329
Unrestricted funds					
. Commune Depositum	18		21,655		21,655
. Central funds			34,501		22,228
			5,639,000		5,244,212

Approved by the trustees
and signed on their behalf by:

Paul C F Gunter

Trustee

Approved on: 1st June 2022

Statement of cash flows Year to 31 August 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities	A	(80,533)	51,794
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Investment income received		121,192	122,450
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(89,473)	(242,353)
Proceeds from the disposal of listed investments		192,156	264,518
Proceeds from the disposal of investment property		—	189,079
Purchase of investments		(283,692)	(204,166)
Net cash (used in) provided by investing activities		(59,817)	129,528
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(140,350)	181,322
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2020	B	961,476	780,154
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2021	B	821,126	961,476

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year to 31 August 2021

A Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash (used in) provided by operating activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Net movement in funds (as per the statement of financial activities)	394,788	(39,827)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	80,218	74,208
(Gains) losses on the revaluation and disposal of listed investments	(342,245)	45,698
Loss on disposal of investment property	—	10,912
Investment income	(121,192)	(122,450)
(Increase) decrease in debtors	(42,921)	1,713
(Decrease) increase in creditors	(49,181)	81,540
Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities	(80,533)	51,794

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash at bank and in hand	791,288	952,343
Cash held by investment managers	29,838	9,133
Total cash and cash equivalents	821,126	961,476

No separate reconciliation of net debt has been prepared as there is no difference between the net cash (debt) of the charity and the above cash and cash equivalents.

Principal accounting policies 31 August 2021

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the accounts are laid out below.

Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared for the year to 31 August 2021 with comparative information provided in respect to the year to 31 August 2020.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the notes to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

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

The accounts are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest pound.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Preparation of the accounts requires the trustees and management to make significant judgements and estimates.

The items in the accounts where these judgements and estimates have been made include:

- ◆ Estimating the useful economic life of tangible fixed assets for the purpose of determining an annual depreciation charge;
- ◆ Determining the probability of the receipt of legacies which are measurable and to which the charitable company is entitled;
- ◆ Estimating the fair value of investment properties; and
- ◆ Estimating future income and expenditure flows for the purpose of assessing going concern (see below).

Assessment of going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these accounts. The trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of at least one year from the date of approval of these accounts.

Assessment of going concern (continued)

The impact on the various parishes of Covid-19 has been similar. The level of activity possible within the parish has reduced with parish buildings being closed to the public for part of the year. Some visits by the parish priest to parishioners, including the housebound and elderly, were replaced by telephone calls. Whilst in each parish, a number of parishioners contribute to the weekly offertory by standing order, the exact numbers vary with a few of the parishes being dependent on cash contributions which have decreased as a result of the impact of Covid-19. There has been a continued impact on fundraising events and weddings in the year to 31 August 2021.

As noted above, the trustees are conscious of the impact of the pandemic and current geopolitical events on investment returns in the short to medium term. As a result of the foregoing, income for the year to 31 August 2021 has reduced slightly compared to income in 2020, and is substantially reduced over that for 2019. There is an expectation that investment income for the year to 31 August 2022 will recover.

Expenditure has also been impacted with staff being furloughed for part of the year and, similarly, contracts for cleaning and similar services being placed on hold. Building projects and maintenance have been deferred wherever possible. Costs in connection with events that have been cancelled are minimal and overheads are being reduced wherever possible. In certain parishes the Diocesan levy has also been reduced.

The expectation in some parishes is that the accounts for the year to 31 August 2022 may also show small deficits. However, each of the parishes has cash within bank accounts and some have the ability to raise monies from the sale of investments. As such, it is expected that these deficits will be funded from reserves and whilst managing the aftermath of Covid-19 will present challenges, the trustees do not expect material concerns to arise over the charity's financial position or for the charity's going concern to be threatened.

The trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

Income recognition

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity has entitlement to the income, the amount of income can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Income comprises donations, legacies, investment income, interest receivable, income from the sale of books votives and candles, funerals and church yard income, parish centre, hall and room hire, and other miscellaneous income.

Income recognition (continued)

Donations and Gift Aid tax recoverable are recognised when the charity has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations pledged but not received, the amount is accrued for where the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

In accordance with the Charities SORP FRS 102 volunteer time is not recognised.

Legacies are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the legacy, the executors have established that there are sufficient surplus assets in the estate to pay the legacy, and any conditions attached to the legacy are within the control of the charity. Entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, but the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material. In the event that the gift is in the form of an asset other than cash or a financial asset traded on a recognised stock exchange, recognition is subject to the value of the gift being reliably measurable with a degree of reasonable accuracy and the title of the asset having being transferred to the charity.

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Income from sale of books votives and candles, funerals and church yard income, parish centre, hall and room hire, and other miscellaneous income is measured at fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts.

Income from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been credited to the statement of financial activities when the salaries covered by a claim have become payable and the amount receivable has been quantified.

Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure comprises direct costs and support costs. All expenses, including support costs, are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. The classification between activities is as follows:

- a. The cost of raising funds relates to expenditure incurred in organising and holding small scale fundraising events, managing investment properties and costs in connection with the management of the charity's listed investments.
- b. The costs of charitable activities comprise expenditure on the charity's primary purposes as described in the trustees' report and include:
 - ◆ Charitable donations which comprise gifts to other charitable causes with aims and objectives which are consistent with those of the charity i.e. the advancement and maintenance of the Roman Catholic religion and the relief of poverty. Donations are made from Special Collections held within each parish for each specific cause. In addition, each parish makes contributions towards the costs of the Roman Catholic Diocese in which it is situated and assists with meeting the expenses of the repair and maintenance of local Roman Catholic Schools.
 - ◆ Expenditure on the support of the charity's seven parishes includes expenditure on the upkeep of parish buildings (including churches and parishes), staff and related costs, the living and personal expenses of parish priests, etc.

Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs represent indirect charitable expenditure. In order to carry out the primary purposes of the charity it is necessary to provide support in the form of financial procedures, provision of office services and equipment.

Governance costs comprise the costs involving the public accountability of the charity (including audit costs) and costs in respect to its compliance with regulation and good practice. Governance costs are apportioned using percentages based on the expenditure incurred on the activities of the charity.

All expenditure on support of the charity's seven parishes are allocated to the support of the parishes and their ministry as costs in respect to raising funds and giving donations are considered to be minimal.

Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing more than £1,000 and with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised.

a Inalienable land and buildings

The freehold of the land and buildings legally owned by the charity and occupied rent free on behalf of the trustees of the governing body of Catholic voluntary-aided schools, which are separate charities and publicly funded, are valued at £nil. The trustees consider that no meaningful value can be attributed to these assets, since they are not used directly by the charity, do not generate income and cannot be disposed of in the open market or put to alternative use while such occupation, which may be indefinite, continues.

b Churches and similar properties

The trustees are the legal owners of churches and similar land and buildings situated within the seven parishes operated by the charity. In the event of the charity ceasing its work in any of these parishes, the trustees would consider themselves obliged to allow such assets to be used indefinitely to meet the needs of the parish for its church and similar property. As such assets are not, therefore, susceptible to a meaningful valuation and there is no reliable information as to their cost, they are excluded from the accounts.

c Functional freehold property

Freehold properties used for the direct charitable work of the charity are included in the accounts at cost or deemed cost. Deemed cost is based on a mixture of original cost and historic valuations

Functional freehold properties are depreciated at a rate of 2% per annum on a straight line basis in order to write the buildings off over their estimated useful economic life to the charity.

d Freehold building improvements

Improvements to functional freehold buildings are included in the accounts at cost as incurred. The improvements, once complete, are depreciated at 10% per annum on a straight line basis, in order to write the cost of these improvements off over their expected useful life.

e Other tangible fixed assets

Other tangible fixed assets are capitalised and depreciated at the following annual rates in order to write them off over their estimated useful lives:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ◆ Furniture and equipment | 10% to 25% per annum based on cost |
| ◆ Motor vehicles | 25% to 20% per annum based on cost |

Fixed asset investments

Listed investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price.

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

As noted above, the main form of financial risk faced by the charity is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular sectors or sub sectors.

Fixed asset investments comprising long term deposits are stated at the value of the initial deposit as this will be returned in full upon maturity.

Fixed asset investments comprising freehold land and buildings are included in the accounts at a valuation based on market value. Professional valuations are carried out every five to six years on a rolling basis.

Realised and unrealised revaluation gains (or losses) on both listed and property investments are credited (or debited) to the statement of financial activities in the year of valuation.

Programme related investments

Programme related investments are included on the balance sheet at cost less any impairment. Impairments (including loans subsequently converted to grants) are charged to resources expended on charitable activities.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount, less any provision for non-recoverability. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand or have a maturity of less than three months from the date of acquisition. Deposits for more than three months but less than one year have been disclosed as short term deposits. Cash placed on deposit for more than one year is disclosed as a fixed asset investment.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash payment where such discounting is material.

Principal accounting policies 31 August 2021

Fund structure

Restricted funds comprise monies raised for, or their use restricted to, a specific purpose, or contributions subject to donor imposed conditions.

Unrestricted funds represent those monies which are freely available for application towards achieving any charitable purpose that falls within the charity's charitable objects.

1 Income from: Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £
General collections	—	326,429	326,429	—	335,229	335,229
Special collections	—	11,440	11,440	—	29,216	29,216
Roof restoration project appeal	—	24,348	24,348	—	25,731	25,731
Legacies	—	27,204	27,204	—	27,400	27,400
Other donations	—	74,593	74,593	—	39,718	39,718
Grants receivable	—	5,000	5,000	—	10,250	10,250
Syrian refugee sponsorship	—	1,395	1,395	—	5,639	5,639
Youth project	—	6,016	6,016	—	7,101	7,101
Chaplaincy	—	1,400	1,400	—	—	—
	—	477,825	477,825	—	480,284	480,284

2 Income from: Investments and interest receivable

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £
Income from listed investments	1,043	39,769	40,812	1,455	52,614	54,069
Rental income	—	80,298	80,298	—	67,231	67,231
Bank interest and other income	—	82	82	7	1,143	1,150
	1,043	120,149	121,192	1,462	120,988	122,450

3 Income from: Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £
Sales of books/candles/votives	—	1,348	1,348	—	6,947	6,947
Funerals and church yard income	—	42,172	42,172	—	31,095	31,095
Parish centre, hall and room hire	—	1,720	1,720	—	19,299	19,299
	—	45,240	45,240	—	57,341	57,341

4 Income from: Other sources

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	—	9,065	9,065	—	8,428	8,428
Miscellaneous income	3,198	9,299	12,497	—	7,477	7,477
	3,198	18,364	21,562	—	15,905	15,905

5 Expenditure on: Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £
Fundraising costs	—	345	345	—	824	824
Investment property costs	—	1,230	1,230	—	1,896	1,896
Investment management fees	334	12,532	12,866	330	10,740	11,070
	334	14,107	14,441	330	13,460	13,790

6 Expenditure on: Charitable donations payable

The charity makes donations to charitable causes in accordance with its policy for donations set out in the trustees' report. Donations payable during the year were as follows:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £
Diocesan levies	—	49,153	49,153	—	47,934	47,934
Special collections	—	10,721	10,721	—	24,741	24,741
Syrian refugee sponsorship	—	2,729	2,729	—	6,475	6,475
Donation to RTU, India	—	—	—	—	20,742	20,742
Miscellaneous donations under £1,000 each	—	16,108	16,108	—	16,234	16,234
	—	78,711	78,711	—	116,126	116,126

7 Expenditure on: Support of the Parishes and their ministry

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £
Church expenses, clergy living and personal costs and sundry parish costs	—	272,521	272,521	620	293,307	293,927
Staff costs (note 10)	—	77,681	77,681	—	80,107	80,107
Priests' salary and NI equivalent	—	21,100	21,100	—	20,100	20,100
Depreciation	—	80,218	80,218	—	74,208	74,208
Transport costs	—	9,814	9,814	—	12,162	12,162
Youth project	—	4,531	4,531	—	5,401	5,401
Support costs (note 8)	—	60,399	60,399	—	54,886	54,886
Miscellaneous expenses	546	3,691	4,237	—	2,960	2,960
	546	529,955	530,501	620	543,131	543,751

8 Support costs

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £
Office costs	—	21,405	21,405	—	21,909	21,909
Bank charges	—	505	505	—	242	242
Governance	—	16,434	16,434	—	16,456	16,456
Professional	—	22,055	22,055	—	16,279	16,279
	—	60,399	60,399	—	54,886	54,886

9 Net income before investment gains (losses)

This is stated after charging:

	2021 £	2020 £
Staff costs (note 10)	77,681	80,107
Auditor's remuneration		
. Statutory audit services	14,100	13,601
. Other services	2,855	2,855
Depreciation	80,218	74,208

10 Employees, staff costs and key management personnel

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	76,644	79,436
Social security costs	887	512
Pension costs	150	159
	77,681	80,107

The average number of employees during the year was 11 (2020 – 13).

No employee earned £60,000 per annum or more (including taxable benefits) during the year (2020 – none).

The trustees consider that they comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

The Parish Priest at each Parish is also a trustee. The trustees receive no remuneration or additional reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees to the charity. The Parish Priests are all members of Douai Abbey, the Community of St Edmund of the English Benedictine Congregation of the Order of St Benedict, Charity Registration Number 236962, and their living and personal expenses are borne by that charity.

11 Trustees' remuneration

Many of the trustees are parish priests in the parishes operated by the charity. As such, certain living and personal expenses during the year are borne by the charity. No trustee received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as trustees during the current or previous year.

12 Taxation

Douai Abbey Parishes Trust is a registered charity and therefore is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Freehold buildings improvements £	Furniture and equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
At 1 September 2020	843,446	547,750	159,934	92,520	1,643,650
Additions	50,827	30,290	8,356	—	89,473
At 31 August 2021	894,273	578,040	168,290	92,520	1,733,123
Cost	303,014	578,040	168,290	92,520	1,141,864
Deemed cost: valuation	591,259	—	—	—	591,259
	894,273	578,040	168,290	92,520	1,733,123
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2020	211,399	328,115	135,247	81,032	755,793
Charge for year	15,946	45,516	12,461	6,295	80,218
At 31 August 2021	227,345	373,631	147,708	87,327	836,011
Net book values					
At 31 August 2021	666,928	204,409	20,582	5,193	897,112
At 31 August 2020	632,047	219,635	24,687	11,488	887,857

It is likely that there are material differences between the open market values of the charity's freehold land and buildings and their book values. These arise from the specialised nature of some of the properties and the effects of inflation. The amounts of such differences cannot be ascertained without incurring significant cost, which, in the opinion of the trustees, is not justified in terms of the benefits to the users of the accounts.

As permitted by FRS 102, the charity has continued to adopt a policy of not revaluing its tangible fixed assets. The historical cost of the properties included above at a valuation cannot be ascertained with any accuracy. Other tangible fixed assets are stated at cost.

Certain of the charity's properties are subject to covenants which restrict their use and disposal.

14 Investments

	Investment properties £	Listed investments £	2021 £
Market value at 1 September 2020	2,008,000	1,594,629	3,602,629
Additions at cost	—	283,692	283,692
Disposal proceeds	—	(192,156)	(192,156)
Realised gains	—	13,016	13,016
Disposals at book value	—	(179,140)	(179,140)
Net unrealised investment gains	—	329,229	329,229
Market value at 31 August 2021	2,008,000	2,028,410	4,036,410
Cash held by investment managers for reinvestment			29,838
			4,066,248
Cost of listed investments			1,624,259

14 Investments (continued)

At 30 August 2021, the following material listed investments were held:

Holding	Market value at 30 August 2021 £	Percentage of portfolio %
Brown Advisory funds US Sustainable Growth C Inc	136,911	6.75
Legg Mason Global Funds	110,526	4.45

Investment properties comprise certain of the charity's properties situated at Ormskirk, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Kemerton and Scarisbrick.

The trustees obtained valuations from Armitstead Barnett LLP, Chartered Surveyors, in relation to two properties and adjacent land at Ormskirk (St Anne's Social Centre and adjacent land, and the former site of St Anne's School) as at 9 January 2020, the valuations being carried out on an open market value basis. On the basis of the advice obtained, the properties were valued at £400,000 and £60,000 respectively. In the opinion of the trustees, the valuations as at 9 January 2020 are not materially different to the values at 31 August 2021.

The charity's investment property situated at Stratford-Upon-Avon, St Gregory's Hall (including the adjoining car park) was valued by ehB Reeves, Chartered Surveyors of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire on 2 May 2019 on the basis of open market value. The valuation was £500,000 for St Gregory's Hall and £645,000 for the adjoining car park. The Coach House was valued on an open market value basis at £168,000 by Reeves and Partners Chartered Surveyors of Coventry as at 26 February 2018. In the opinion of the trustees, there has been no material change in the valuations since the date of the professional valuations to the balance sheet date.

The charity's property based at Kemerton was valued by Andrews Estate agents in November 2018 on the basis of open market value as at that date at £235,000. In the opinion of the trustees there has been no material change in the value between the balance sheet date and the date of the formal valuation.

15 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations	100,814	51,297
Due from connected charity (note 20)	—	2,800
Prepayments and accrued income	47,231	51,025
	148,045	105,122

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Diocesan levies payable	54,716	33,078
Expense creditors	3,616	3,745
Accruals and other creditors	48,528	119,218
Amount owed to the Archdiocese of Liverpool	156,833	156,833
	263,693	312,874

In 2007 the trustees decided that the Parish Centre attached to St Anne's, Ormskirk should cease to be managed by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool. This followed considerable discussion regarding financial viability and the recognition of the need to expend considerable sums of money in connection with health and safety enhancements. The amount owed to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool following the decision to terminate the management contract of St Anne's Parish Centre totals £156,833 (2020 – £156,833).

17 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trusts to be applied for specific purposes:

	At 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains £	At 31 August 2021 £
Parishes:					
. Our Lady of St Joseph, Alcester	161,956	74,281	(32,721)	5,134	208,650
. St Mary's, Douai	325,444	89,629	(74,239)	59,893	400,727
. St Benet's, Kemerton	580,665	54,590	(48,183)	—	587,072
. St Anne's, Ormskirk	770,112	178,350	(162,054)	31,486	817,894
. St Elizabeth's, Scarisbrick	254,370	38,014	(38,505)	—	253,879
. St Gregory the Great, Stratford	2,801,550	174,665	(197,591)	196,093	2,974,717
. St Mary's, Studley	306,232	62,426	(69,480)	40,727	339,905
	5,200,329	671,955	(622,773)	333,333	5,582,844

	At 1 September 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Losses £	At 31 August 2020 £
Parishes:					
. Our Lady of St Joseph, Alcester	144,354	49,079	(30,739)	(738)	161,956
. St Mary's, Douai	317,281	112,767	(98,140)	(6,464)	325,444
. St Benet's, Kemerton	558,036	78,668	(56,039)	—	580,665
. St Anne's, Ormskirk	776,108	179,010	(180,580)	(4,426)	770,112
. St Elizabeth's, Scarisbrick	267,690	35,681	(38,089)	(10,912)	254,370
. St Gregory the Great, Stratford	2,847,722	191,982	(210,746)	(27,408)	2,801,550
. St Mary's, Studley	328,248	41,801	(58,384)	(5,433)	306,232
	5,239,439	688,988	(672,717)	(55,381)	5,200,329

The restricted funds represent the net assets held by each individual parish.

17 Restricted funds (continued)

Within the restricted fund income of Ormskirk Parish is £1,775 (2020 – £7,101) being grants received in respect to a youth project. £4,531 (2020 – £5,326) was spent on the project during the year.

18 Commune Depositum

At 31 August 2021, funds amounting to £21,655 (2020 – £21,655) and representing the original funds deposited by the parishes, had been set aside in a fund known as the Commune Depositum. These funds are to be used towards funding any unforeseen events or emergencies or special projects.

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £
Fund balances at 31 August are represented by:						
Tangible fixed assets	—	897,112	897,112	—	887,857	887,857
Investments						
. Investment properties	—	2,008,000	2,008,000	—	2,008,000	2,008,000
. Listed investments and cash held for reinvestment	53,244	2,005,004	2,058,248	43,637	1,560,127	1,603,764
Net current assets	2,912	672,728	675,640	246	744,345	744,591
Total net assets	56,156	5,582,844	5,639,000	43,883	5,200,329	5,244,212

The total unrealised gains on listed investments as at 31 August 2021 constitute movements on revaluation and are as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Unrealised gains on listed investments at 31 August 2021	404,151	30,425
Reconciliation of movements in unrealised gains on listed investments:		
Unrealised gains at 1 September 2020	30,425	61,010
In respect to disposals in year	44,497	691
Net gains arising on revaluation in the year	329,229	(31,276)
Total unrealised gains at 31 August 2021	404,151	30,425

It is not possible to determine the historic cost of investment properties with reasonable accuracy. As such, the effect of cumulative unrealised gains in respect to investment properties has not been reported in the above.

20 Connected charities

The Douai Abbey Parishes Trust is connected to two other charities by virtue of the fact that the charities have some trustees in common.

Name	Charity Reg. No	Charitable objectives
The Community of St Edmund of the English Congregation of the Order of St Benedict established at Douai Abbey, Woolhampton, Berkshire (Douai Abbey Trust).	236962	The advancement and maintenance of the Roman Catholic religion.
The Benedictine Trust	1086872	To further the religious and other charitable work of the Roman Catholic Church in Scarisbrick.

During the year ended 31 August 2021, rent of £12,000 (2020 – £12,000) for the use of St Mary's Church was paid to Douai Abbey Trust from Douai Abbey Parishes Trust. £6,259 was also paid to Douai Abbey Trust in respect of roof works at St Mary's Church carried out by the Abbey (2020: £nil).

During the year ended 31 August 2021, the charity received donations from Council trustees of the charity totalling £1,750 (2020 - £1,750).