



Русская Православная Церковь Заграницей | Russian Orthodox Church outside of Russia
Diocese of Great Britain and Western Europe | Великобританская и Западно - Европейская Епархия

Diocesan Chancellery - 58 Shrewsbury Road, Prenton, CH43 2HY

Annual General Meeting

held (virtually) on 16th January 2023

Agenda

1. Open with prayer
2. Those present and apologies
3. Annual Report
4. Financial Statement
5. Addition of Trustee
6. AOB
7. Close with prayer

Annual Report

**Submitted to the Annual General Meeting of the Trustees
of the Diocese of Great Britain and Western Europe (ROCOR)**

This report is presented to the Trustees by the Chancellor of the Diocese for its Annual Meeting on the 16th January 2023, held virtually. This meeting shall also receive the financial statement and report to be submitted to the Charity Commissioners of England and Wales no later than February 6th 2023.

Introduction

The Diocese was granted Charitable Status on November 9th 2020. As a new charity, it has been given certain flexibility in its early days to submit its Annual Report and Financial Statement by February 6th 2023 at the very latest. It will normally submit its reports to the Charity Commission at about this time as the accounting year concludes on December 31st each year. In future years, the timetable of accounting will be clearer. It is usual for Charities to have 10 months from April 6th each year to submit their accounts and reports to the Charity Commission. The Diocesan Chancellor sought specialist advice from the Charity Commissioners and was advised of a suitable timetable by Mr Mukhtar Abdi, an advisor assigned to the new charity last April.

Fulfilment of the Aims of the Diocese

- **Establishing places of worship and devotion of the Russian Orthodox Faith**

The Diocese maintains almost 40 places of worship across Great Britain, Ireland and Western Europe. Over the past two years the Diocese has opened new places of worship in Telford, Llanelli, St Leonards on Sea and Durham, a new Parish in Monaco and a new mission in Lucerne, Switzerland (three of these in the calendar year covered by this report). It has received into its care a parish in Arnhem, the Netherlands, and is expanding opportunities for worship throughout its eleven national territories. During the period covered by this report, with the end of the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions upon places of worship lifted completely, the Diocesan Chancellor is pleased to report that the Diocese has experienced marked growth and reinvigoration. New missions

have been well received and quickly seem to attract the faithful and older, established cathedrals and parishes have benefitted from a marked influx of faithful and an increased fervour. For instance, a parish in Pau, France, which had been served infrequently for many years, has now a full cycle of services and a growing congregation. Through the dedication of the Diocesan clergy during the pandemic period, the response to that dedication has been an evident growth. At present, during the sorrowful period of warfare in Ukraine, there have a number of receptions of Ukrainian clergy who have arrived as refugees into the territories of the Diocese; this has not only been an act aid in its own right, but has had a marked influence upon the capacity of the Diocese to meet the needs of an ever-growing number of worshippers — especially the extraordinary number of Ukrainian and other refugees that have markedly swelled the number of faithful in its parishes. An addition, the Diocese has undertaken the ordination of a large number of new priests and deacons, subdeacons and readers which has greatly contributed to the strengthening of its life right across its many countries. Clearly, there is much to be thankful for. Still, there are unmet needs across the territories of the Diocese and much work to do: a pressing need is the establishment of both male and female monastic life and it is hoped that 2023-24 will see progress in this area. The Diocesan Bishop has visited many of our parishes this year which continues to strengthen their resolve and fervour of faith.

- **Raising awareness of the Russian Orthodox Faith and encouraging missionary and outreach activities to enlighten others about the Russian Orthodox Faith**

The chief venue for this is the care and expansion of parochial life, which is the centre of mission and witness to Orthodoxy in the UK and in Europe, and which has been growing in dramatic ways as already described. In addition, the Diocese runs an ever-expanding website of more than 840 articles and pages that convey both doctrinal and catechetical information, as well as current news and activities, which is a significant means of reaching out to the wider population. The websites of the Diocesan parishes and missions are also well visited and used. New missions in new areas bring great blessings and soon attract new worshippers. Additionally, the Diocese and its parishes organise outreach through a wide variety of means including youth camps (including, this year, summer and camps for children of refugees) and collections for good causes. In 2022 the Diocese raised tens of thousands of pounds in aid for those suffering due to the situation in Ukraine; it raised over four thousand pounds for our communities in the Holy Land; it has sent funds to our Synod in New York to be distributed for charitable purposes; and other such activities. In 2022 it raised funds for the Orthodox Seminary in Jordanville, as well as the international Fund For Assistance of the ROCOR, which provides emergency relief and aid worldwide. The Diocese had a long visit from the wonderworking Kursk Root Icon which was both spiritually beneficial for the parishes but also drew many new people to come to venerate the icon and learn about Orthodox life and faith. Additionally, the London Cathedral began in late November to operate a Food Bank in Chiswick, which has had a vastly greater uptake than anticipated; and through this charitable work to aid those suffering from the cost of living crisis, it shares the love of God and actively demonstrates to its recipients the Orthodox faith 'in action' through care for neighbour.

- **Carrying out Russian Orthodox religious practices, devotional acts and pilgrimages**

Under the care of the Diocesan Bishop, the Diocese's large collection of parishes carry out the full suite of Orthodox Divine Services, which is the heart of its mission and aim. Through its labours, Orthodox faithful in the UK and ten other European nations have ready access to all the Orthodox services on a weekly and even daily basis. Further, it has sponsored a European Church Musicians' conference, first held in 2021 and which has become an annual event drawing singers from Orthodox parishes from Eastern Europe, Western Europe, Great Britain and even as far afield the United States of America, in order to train Orthodox choir conductors and singers and enhance the skills of those leading the traditional worship for which Russian Orthodoxy is known. In terms of

pilgrimages, a Diocesan pilgrimage to the Holy Land was organised in 2022 (and so again for 2023) together with other Holy Land pilgrimages organised on a parish-by-parish basis; a pilgrimage to the holy places of Ireland attracted a multinational group of pilgrims; the annual pilgrimage to the shrine of the Holy Martyrs of Lyons in France took place and again attracted large numbers; and many others (including to Mt Athos, Moldova, Greece, Durham, and elsewhere). All these activities strengthen and enhance the spiritual lives of the faithful and lead to deeper devotion — not least to the saints of the God-preserved lands of Western Europe and the British Isles. In recent months, the Diocesan Bishop was able to call together all his clergy to London for a Clergy Convocation: the first to take place since the pandemic and the first since the new Charity was formed. Though travel was somewhat hampered due to the current international situation, the event brought together more than 40 clerics from across the Diocese, from different national backgrounds and with different linguistic and cultural needs yet all united in their one faith in Christ and active in the mission of the Diocese to the world.

- **Providing religious education, training and resources to the Russian Orthodox Faith community**

Many of the Diocese's parishes have Saturday or Sunday Schools and organised youth groups and activities. The Cathedral in London sponsors an independent Orthodox school. Children's summer camps organised annually (four held in 2022) all include essential educational elements in Orthodox belief and practice; and service-orientated retreats for older youths provide the experience of 'putting faith into action' by, for example, supporting parishes through building activities (in St Leonards on Sea, they have thus constructed a new church). Clergy and Altar-server formation workshops were held throughout the year, in addition to the training of Readers and Subdeacons that regularly takes place within the parishes and the Diocesan Cathedrals. The Diocese additionally published in 2022 an updated edition of its *Liturgical Handbook*, which provides liturgical instruction and a host of related resources to Orthodoxy clergy and servers. It makes devotional materials available on its website, and through its parishes.

Conclusion

The Diocese is, at the conclusion of 2022, in a much stronger position both spiritually and materially. We should aim over the coming years to consolidate the achievements of the past year and a half and move towards the establishment of a permanent residence for the Bishop and the establishment of monastic life in the Diocese as spiritual resources and places of devotion and training. It is with deep gratitude to God that all these positive developments are reported to this meeting, and a real sense of hope enables us to embrace our future.

Archpriest Paul Elliott

Chancellor of the Diocese of Great Britain and Western Europe (ROCOR)

Diocese of Great Britain and Western Europe (ROCOR)

Financial Activities January - December 2021

	JAN 2021	FEB 2021	MAR 2021	APR 2021	MAY 2021	JUN 2021	JUL 2021	AUG 2021	SEP 2021	OCT 2021	NOV 2021	DEC 2021	TOTAL
Income													
Diocesan Income (Parish Assessments, Decree 1)	11,884.31	5,597.93	22,453.09	4,279.14	0.00	2,239.91	2,134.00	766.66	769.30	768.82	2,823.63	781.01	£54,497.80
Collections for Diocesan Support	257.36	387.91	823.04	2,041.19	1,893.13	2,706.75	1,033.03	1,080.54	870.50	1,525.99	1,411.79	783.48	£14,814.71
Diocesan Youth Fund	138.80	0.00	35.00	0.00	0.00	299.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	£473.79
Total Diocesan Income (Parish Assessments, Decree 1)	12,280.47	5,985.84	23,311.13	6,320.33	1,893.13	5,246.65	3,167.03	1,847.20	1,639.80	2,294.81	4,235.42	1,564.49	£69,786.30
Donations and legacies	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	50.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	1,700.05	£2,150.05
Uncategorised Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	780.00	0.00	0.00	52.50	0.00	£832.50
Total Income	£12,280.47	£5,985.84	£23,311.13	£6,420.33	£1,993.13	£5,296.65	£3,167.03	£2,677.20	£1,689.80	£2,344.81	£4,337.92	£3,264.54	£72,768.85
TOTAL	£12,280.47	£5,985.84	£23,311.13	£6,420.33	£1,993.13	£5,296.65	£3,167.03	£2,677.20	£1,689.80	£2,344.81	£4,337.92	£3,264.54	£72,768.85
Expenditures													
Chancery Operational Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	£0.00
Bank and accounting charges	41.40	0.00	28.80	14.40	14.40	14.40	74.40	0.00	28.80	14.40	14.40	29.40	£274.80
Printing, Postage and Stationery	120.66	236.23	0.00	67.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	36.60	57.06	0.00	0.00	£518.02
Web site and internet costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	388.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	£388.17
Total Chancery Operational Costs	162.06	236.23	28.80	470.04	14.40	14.40	74.40	0.00	65.40	71.46	14.40	29.40	£1,180.99
Charitable Contributions (General)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	£0.00
Charity in Support of Clergy	-4.49	655.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	780.00	0.00	0.00	186.15	218.47	£1,885.13
Total Charitable Contributions (General)	-4.49	655.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	780.00	0.00	0.00	186.15	218.47	£1,885.13
Hierarch Travel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	£0.00
Hierarch Travel (Diocesan expense)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,443.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	£1,443.14
Total Hierarch Travel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,443.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	£1,443.14
Hierarchical Maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	£2,100.00
Council Tax	238.00	0.00	0.00	254.46	251.00	251.00	251.00	251.00	251.00	251.00	251.00	251.00	£2,500.46
Dedicated-Donation Hierarch Support (from earmarked donations)	0.00	160.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	£160.00
Electricity and Gas	69.05	69.05	69.05	22.89	120.09	120.09	120.09	120.09	120.09	120.09	125.13	125.13	£1,200.84
Medical Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	261.90	0.00	261.90	0.00	130.95	261.90	0.00	130.95	261.90	£1,309.50
Residence Rent / Mortgage	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	0.00	2,150.00	2,150.00	2,150.00	2,150.00	2,150.00	£23,350.00
Water	0.00	0.00	0.00	255.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	255.51	0.00	0.00	£511.03
Total Hierarchical Maintenance	2,407.05	2,329.05	2,169.05	2,894.77	2,471.09	2,732.99	2,471.09	2,652.04	2,782.99	2,776.60	2,657.08	2,788.03	£31,131.83
Salary (Diocesan Bishop)	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	£12,000.00
Uncategorised Expenditure	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,645.38	138.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	£1,783.63
Total Expenditures	£3,564.62	£4,220.28	£3,247.85	£4,364.81	£3,485.49	£3,747.39	£5,190.87	£4,570.29	£5,291.53	£3,848.06	£3,857.63	£4,035.90	£49,424.72
NET OPERATING INCOME	£8,715.85	£1,765.56	£20,063.28	£2,055.52	£ - 1,492.36	£1,549.26	£ - 2,023.84	£ - 1,893.09	£ - 3,601.73	£ - 1,503.25	£480.29	£ - 771.36	£23,344.13

Diocese of Great Britain and Western Europe (ROCOR)

Financial Activities January - December 2021

	JAN 2021	FEB 2021	MAR 2021	APR 2021	MAY 2021	JUN 2021	JUL 2021	AUG 2021	SEP 2021	OCT 2021	NOV 2021	DEC 2021	TOTAL
Other Income													
Transit IN Collections	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	£0.00
IN - Collections or Assessments for Synod	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	62.16	£62.16
IN - Fund For Assistance	0.00	0.00	28.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.00	£68.00
IN - Holy Trinity Seminary, Jordanville	0.00	0.00	3,372.88	289.68	0.00	91.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	61.09	£3,815.01
IN - Jerusalem Ecclesiastical Mission	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,519.35	4,356.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	£5,876.01
IN - Other / Special transit collection	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,652.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	£2,652.35
Total Transit IN Collections	0.00	0.00	3,400.88	4,461.38	4,356.66	91.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	163.25	£12,473.53
Total Other Income	£0.00	£0.00	£3,400.88	£4,461.38	£4,356.66	£91.36	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£163.25	£12,473.53
Other Expenditures													
Transit OUT transfers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	£0.00
OUT - Holy Trinity Monastery, Jordanville	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,662.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	£3,662.56
OUT - Jerusalem Ecclesiastical Mission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,546.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	£6,546.69
Total Transit OUT transfers	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,662.56	0.00	0.00	6,546.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	£10,209.25
Total Other Expenditures	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,662.56	£0.00	£0.00	£6,546.69	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£10,209.25
NET OTHER INCOME	£0.00	£0.00	£3,400.88	£798.82	£4,356.66	£91.36	£ -6,546.69	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£163.25	£2,264.28
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	£8,715.85	£1,765.56	£23,464.16	£2,854.34	£2,864.30	£1,640.62	£ -8,570.53	£ -1,893.09	£ -3,601.73	£ -1,503.25	£480.29	£ -608.11	£25,608.41

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE DIOCESE OF GREAT BRITAIN AND WESTERN EUROPE
(ROCOR)

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and the related notes.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for the year (under s43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts (under section 43(3)(a) if the 1993 Act);
to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under s43 (7) (b) of the 1993 Act as amended),
and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

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

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act;
and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mr C Yew
C Yew & Company
Accountants
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SW17 7NF
24 January 2023