



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 21st September 2024

Agenda

Open with prayer

Those present and apologies

Annual Report

Financial Statement

Addition of Trustee

AOB

Close with blessing

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 at its meeting on the 21st September 2024 held virtually. This meeting also received the financial statement with the Financial Report to be submitted to the Charity Commissioners of England and Wales by October 31st 2024 at the latest.

Introduction

The Diocese has had Charitable Status since November 9th 2020. It will submit its Annual Report and Financial Statement by October 31st 2024 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 January 1st each year to submit their accounts and reports to the Charity Commission. The Diocesan Chancellor sought specialist advice from our appointed auditors and the reports are enclosed.

Fulfilment of the Aims of the Diocese.

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

Diocesan Chancellery, 58 Shrewsbury Road, Prenton, Wirral, United Kingdom. CH43 2HY

The Diocese maintains almost 40 places of worship across Great Britain, Ireland and Western Europe. In recent times the Diocese has opened new places of worship in Clifden in Ireland. Its new missions in Durham, Warmister and St Leonards seem to be progressing well as are the new Parishes in Monaco and Lucerne. The Parish in Telford underwent some challenges during the ill health of its Rector and the Parish in Alicante in Spain is grieving the loss of its beloved Rector Archpriest Ossius. There are, nevertheless expanding opportunities for worship throughout the many national territories of the Diocese with considerable growth in the parishes for example in Pau. The Diocesan Chancellor is pleased to report that the Diocese has experienced marked growth and exciting developments with the Diocesan Youth, with many adult baptisms and growing congregations. New missions have been well received and quickly seem to attract the Faithful and older, established Cathedrals and Parishes seem to have benefitted from an influx of the Faithful and an increased fervour. The ordination of new clergy and the continued presence of clergy from Ukraine displaced by the conflict there has had a marked influence upon the capacity of the Diocese to meet the needs of an ever-growing number of worshippers. Still, there are unmet needs across the territories of the Diocese and much work to do. There continues a pressing need to establish male and female monasteries. The new Convent of the Annunciation in Didcot will be a great blessing and it is hoped that the purchase of a large property in France on behalf of the Diocese will shortly bear fruit. 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 Diocesan website and the websites of the Diocesan parishes and missions are very well visited and used. These are means of reaching out to a wider group of people. New missions in new areas bring great blessings and soon attract new worshippers. There is outreach through a wide variety of means including youth camps, refugee camps, food banks and collections for good causes. The Diocese to aid refugees from Ukraine and assist our communities in the Holy Land, it has sent considerable funds to our Synod in New York to be distributed for charitable purposes. All these activities will be greatly enhanced by the visit of the Myrrh Streaming Icon of the Mother of God from Hawaii in November.

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

The Diocese continues to sponsor a European Music conference which was a great success in London (now repeated as an annual event). This drew singers from Orthodox parishes from Eastern Europe, Western Europe, Great Britain and the United States of America. This activity will greatly enhance the traditional worship for which Russian Orthodoxy is known. There have been many pilgrimages. A

Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land and many other pilgrimages throughout the territories blessed by the Diocesan Bishop. All these activities strengthen and enhance the spiritual lives of the Faithful and lead to more and more devotion not least to the saints of the God-preserved lands of Western Europe and the British Isles. Last November the Diocesan Bishop was able to call together all his clergy to Florence for a Clergy Convocation. This brought together more than 40 clerics from right across the Diocese, clerics from different national backgrounds and with different linguistic and cultural needs yet all united in their one faith in Christ.

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

Many of our parishes have Sunday Schools and youth activities. There have been youth camps held for example in Switzerland and young peoples work camps organised to support parishes for instance in building activities in St Leonards on Sea. Readers are regularly trained within the parishes and the Diocesan Cathedrals and larger parishes act as a resource for the training of new clergy. The Diocesan website and other websites blessed by the Diocesan Bishop continue to make available the many riches of the Orthodox devotional and liturgical tradition for a wider audience.

Conclusion

The Diocese is now 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 to 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 (ROCOP)

Diocese of Great Britain and Western Europe (ROCOR)

Financial Activities

January - December 2023

	TOTAL
Income	
Diocesan Convocation Income	6,021.65
Diocesan Income (Parish Assessments, Decree 1)	79,334.53
Collections for Diocesan Support	21,597.07
Diocesan Youth Fund	693.40
Hierarchical Support (Dedicated Donations)	100,000.00
Total Diocesan Income (Parish Assessments, Decree 1)	201,625.00
Donations and legacies	1,814.90
Hierarch Travel Reimbursement	-162.48
Sales	102.87
Total Income	£209,401.94
TOTAL	£209,401.94
Expenditures	
Chancellery Maintenance	0.00
Council Tax	2,729.97
Dedicated-Donation Hierarch Support (from earmarked donations)	460.00
Electricity and Gas	1,744.75
Medical Insurance	1,861.67
Residence Rent / Mortgage	26,800.00
Water	591.99
Total Chancellery Maintenance	34,188.38
Chancellery Operational Costs	0.00
Bank and accounting charges	1,384.68
Printing, Postage and Stationery	677.46
Web site and internet costs	2,674.35
Total Chancellery Operational Costs	4,736.49
Charitable Contributions (General)	0.00
Charity in Support of Clergy	5,105.82
Charity in Support of Individuals	584.55
Total Charitable Contributions (General)	5,690.37
Diocesan Convocation Expenses	9,267.28
Hierarch Travel	0.00
Hierarch Travel (Diocesan expense)	8,931.72
Hierarch Travel (to be reimbursed by parishes)	1,227.44
Total Hierarch Travel	10,159.16
Salary (Diocesan Bishop)	12,000.00
Uncategorised Expenditure	1,020.00
Total Expenditures	£77,061.68
NET OPERATING INCOME	£132,340.26
Other Income	
Transit IN Collections	0.00
IN - Fund For Assistance	135.00
IN - Jerusalem Ecclesiastical Mission	1,723.18

Diocese of Great Britain and Western Europe (ROCOR)

Financial Activities

January - December 2023

	TOTAL
IN - Other / Special transit collection	2,000.00
Total Transit IN Collections	3,858.18
Total Other Income	£3,858.18
Other Expenditures	
Transit OUT transfers	0.00
OUT - Collections or Assessments for Synod	8,065.82
OUT - Other / Special transit collection	2,000.00
Total Transit OUT transfers	10,065.82
Total Other Expenditures	£10,065.82
NET OTHER INCOME	£ -6,207.64
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	£126,132.62

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF DIOCESE OF GREAT BRITAIN AND WESTERN EUROPE
(ROCOR)
Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 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) of 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.



C Yew & Company
54 Glenburnie Road
London
SW17 7NF
3 September 2024