

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH

England & Wales · Charity number 1199568

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2022-07-06

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO (THE OBJECTS) ARE THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC RELIGION IN THE DIOCESE IN SUCH WAYS BEING CHARITABLE AS THE BISHOP SHALL FROM TIME TO TIME DIRECT AND FOR THE SERVICE AND SUPPORT WHETHER IN THE DIOCESE OR OUTSIDE THE DIOCESE IN SUCH WAYS AS AFORESAID OF ANY LAWFUL CHARITABLE PURPOSES WHETHER EDUCATIONAL OR OTHERWISE PROMOTED OR SUPPORTED BY THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

Activities: The advancement of the Roman Catholic religion in the Diocese of Portsmouth through its parishes, schools and other works.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Cameroon
- Guernsey
- Jersey
- Kenya
- Philippines
- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£21,854,729	£18,066,830	£99,382,527	218
2023-08-31	£99,749,573	£13,921,299	£85,828,274	217

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Anne-Marie Eden		2024-07-30
Christopher David Trickey		2023-03-16
Dr Catherine Mary Knowles		2023-03-16
MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER ELKS		2023-03-16
Paul Anthony Kilduff		2023-03-16
Rev Benjamin Graham Theobald		2023-03-16
Rev Canon PAUL JAMES SMITH		2023-03-16
Rev Christopher Michael Heaps		2023-03-16
Rev Gaston Forbah Afah		2024-05-02
Rev James Joseph McAuley		2023-03-16
Richard Taylor		2024-10-04
Rt Rev Philip Anthony Egan		2023-03-16

Linked charities

- ANTHONY ROBERT BARRON'S BEQUEST (1199568-1)
- PANGBOURNE ASSISTANCE FUND (1199568-2)
- THE PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (1199568-3)
- THE FATHER BERNARD MEDD MEMORIAL FUND (1199568-4)
- ST DOMINIC'S PRIORY COUNTESS OF CLARE FUND (1199568-5)
- DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH COMMON INVESTMENT FUND (1199568-6)
- CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH - PRIESTS RETIREMENT FUND (1199568-7)

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH

England & Wales - Charity number 1199568

Accounts



Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Annual Report 23/24

Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church





**Prayer of St Edmund of Abingdon
Patron of the Diocese**

Lord, into your hands and into the hands of your holy angels, I entrust this day my life, my relatives, my benefactors, my friends and my enemies, and all your people.

Enlighten my heart with the grace of your Holy Spirit; grant that I may ever be obedient to your commandments, never let me be separated from you, who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen

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About The Diocese of Portsmouth

Our Diocese is spread across five counties on England's South Coast, and the Channel Islands. We are the local church for the whole of Hampshire, Berkshire, the Isle of Wight, Jersey, the Bailiwick of Guernsey as well as the southern part of Oxfordshire and the eastern part of Dorset.

Charity Name	Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth
Charity Number	1199568 (England) 457 (Jersey) CH263 (Guernsey)
Sole Member	Bishop of Portsmouth Rt Rev Philip Anthony Egan
Charity Trustees	Bishop of Portsmouth Rt Rev Philip Anthony Egan Rev Gaston Forbah Afah (appointed 02 May 2024) Rev Mr Gerard Dailly (term ended 07 June 2024) Mr Bernard Davis (term ended 26 September 2024) Mrs Anne-Marie Eden (appointed 30 July 2024) Mr Michael Elks Rev Christopher Heaps Rev Mark Hogan (term ended 31 March 2024) Mr Paul Kilduff Dr Catherine Knowles Rev Canon James McAuley Rev Canon Paul James Smith Mr Richard Taylor (appointed 04 October 2024) Rev Benjamin Theobald Rev Canon Simon Thomson Mr Chris Trickey
Senior Officers	Rev Mr Anthony Darlison, Secretary to Trustees Mrs Heather Hauschild, Chief Operating Officer Mr Clive Field, Director of Finance
Registered Office	St Edmund House, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth, PO1 3QA
Auditors	HaysMac LLP 10 Queen Street Place, London, EC4R 1AG
Bankers	Lloyds Bank PLC 2-4 Palmerston Road, Southsea, PO5 3QH
Solicitors	Stone King LLP Upper Borough Court, Upper Borough Walls, Bath, BA1 1RG
Investment Managers	Evelyn Partners, 45 Gresham Street, London, EC2V 7BG
Principal Insurers	Catholic Insurance Services Suite 5, Oxford House, Oxford Road, Thame, OX9 2AH
Financial Year	01 September 2023 – 31 August 2024





From The Bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Anniversaries are always important. From a personal perspective, August 2024 marked the 40th anniversary of my ordination as a priest. I have much to thank God for, many experiences, many memories, many people I have loved and served. The priesthood is not mine, of course, but Christ's: I am only a vehicle. It is His priesthood that we celebrate.

But this year in our Diocese has been punctuated with numerous anniversaries. 2024 was the Golden Jubilee of our special link with the Archdiocese of Bamenda in Cameroon. This link continues to flourish after 50 years. During this time, parishioners from across our Diocese have raised more than £1 million for projects in Bamenda in faith, health, education and welfare. It was my predecessor Bishop Derek Worlock who first proposed the link to the then Bishop of Bamenda, Paul Verdzekov. Bishop Worlock had been inspired by the words of Ad Gentes 38 that bishops have a responsibility not only for the Diocese entrusted to them but for the universal Church. Consequently, in 1974, Father Ron Hishon and Father Michael Peters from our Diocese of Portsmouth volunteered

to work in Bamenda as Fidei Donum priests. Eight other priests followed in the succeeding decades. In recent times, this has worked the other way round too with five priests from Bamenda currently working over here. Bishops Worlock, Emery and Hollis made visitations to Bamenda. I myself made a brief visit in 2017 but my main memories of Bamenda come from the week-long visit in 2014 coinciding with the 40th anniversary of our link. In 2024 the Golden Jubilee celebrations culminated in July with a special Mass in our Cathedral attended by Archbishop Andrew Nkea of Bamenda, Father Bernardine Nsom and hundreds from within the Cameroonian community in the UK.



Bamenda Portsmouth 50th Anniversary

From The Bishop

Not all anniversaries are as triumphant. On 6th June 2024, I along with the Cathedral Dean – who himself celebrated the milestone earlier in the year of installation as new Canon of the Chapter – represented the Diocese at the national commemoration of the 80th anniversary of D-Day on Southsea Common in the presence of their Majesties King Charles and Queen Camilla. It served as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by so many to safeguard the freedoms we enjoy today and of the existential threat to humanity that still pervades from conflicts and divisions that dominate our headlines, whether in Ukraine, the Middle East or elsewhere in the world.



Bishop Philip Egan and Bishop Johnathan Frost (Anglican Bishop of Portsmouth) at the 80th Anniversary D-Day Celebrations

Milestones often present particular challenges. 2024 was a year in which the States of Jersey legislature came closer than ever to legalising euthanasia and assisted suicide on the island. In an impassioned Pastoral Message to Catholics in Jersey, I appealed to them to mobilise and speak out against proposals which, however finely crafted, are totally incompatible with the fundamental role of medical staff, doctors and nurses to preserve human life. I urged them to redouble their efforts in compassionate, palliative care for

the frail and terminally ill, a field in which the UK has a deserved, worldwide renown.

A few months before the publication of this Report, MPs in Westminster had voted in favour of proposals to legalise assisted suicide in England and Wales. The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill would make it legal for over-18s who are terminally ill to be given assistance to end their own life. Although not unexpected, this vote poses a grave danger with Britain crossing a line from which there will be no return.

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church says: *"Whatever its motives and means, direct euthanasia, ... putting an end to the lives of handicapped, sick, or dying persons ... is morally unacceptable. An act or omission which, of itself or by intention, causes death in order to eliminate suffering constitutes a murder gravely contrary to the dignity of the human person and to the respect due to the living God... (2277)."*

As the Bill now faces many more months of review and scrutiny, I have issued a plea to our worshipping community to pray earnestly and work tirelessly to contain its range and its reach. Indeed, given that some politicians who voted in favour are now wavering in their support, it is more important than ever for people to contact their MP and ensure that their voices are heard.

Critical conversations on the subject of medical ethics and religion formed the basis of a Symposium that the Diocese organised in March 2024 in Winchester. The title was: *'What does it mean to be Human?'* Against the backdrop of a challenged and overstretched Health Service, we brought together healthcare practitioners and people of all faiths and none to explore what prominent exponents in faith and medicine could discover from one another. There were two keynote two presentations: *What does it mean to be a Human Being?* by Mgr. Michael

Nazir Ali, former member of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority and Chair of its Ethics and Law Committee and How significant is the Sexual Revolution? by Ryan Christopher, Policy Officer and Director of ADF UK and co-founder of Humanum Institute. 120 people took part and joined a series of six workshops on current topics. By the end of the day, I believe we succeeded in helping 'moral strangers' begin to become 'moral friends', irrespective of their religious beliefs, with a far better understanding of one another and a real sense of mutual respect and appreciation.



What does it mean to be Human?



Visit to Springhill Catholic Primary School

For our 69 Catholic Schools (including 13 Independent schools for which we have canonical responsibility), this year has been a watershed moment. Following a period of review, our Board of Trustees approved a plan for the full academisation of our maintained schools into two Catholic Academy Trusts. We believed we had an ambitious plan that worked for all and which, we prayed, would enhance the 'Catholicity' of our schools, be advantageous to them, raise standards even higher and guarantee a solid basis for the future. Although changes in government funding have currently impacted on the ability to deliver on this policy, the Trustees remain committed to academisation and collective working approaches that ensure that no school is left unsupported. I have enormously enjoyed undertaking a school visits programme throughout the year and have been struck by the prayerful engagement of the children and young people during our period of lectio divina and eucharistic adoration. Our schools continue to be a great source of inspiration as they spread the Good News of Christ to many who encounter His message for the first time.

The Diocese of Portsmouth covers 2,500 square miles and so there are always challenges for the Bishop to connect and engage with the clergy, religious and faithful

throughout the mainland and on the islands. In 2024 we celebrated publication of the 450th edition of my weekly e-News, the digital round-up of stories, teachings and events from across the Diocese. I am very proud of the breadth of stories covered every Tuesday showcasing the vitality of our worshipping community from contributors across the parishes. Special mention must go to Deacon Craig Aburn, Bishop's Executive Assistant, who does such a good job in assiduously putting e-News together every week.

It was also a year that marked changes to the Diocesan Board of Trustees. Hereward Drummond recently completed his term as Secretary to the Trustees and Father Mark Hogan stepped down as a Trustee. We are most grateful to them for their years of faithful service in their respective roles. Hereward Drummond's successor is Deacon Tony Darlison, from St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs parish and I have appointed Father Gaston Afah, parish priest of Reading English Martyrs, as a Diocesan Trustee and as Episcopal Vicar for Evangelisation. Meanwhile, I have asked Father Mark to take on a new role as Episcopal Vicar for Parish Development. The Episcopal Vicar for Parish

Mission Development will support parish priests in the 'new' parishes to become more missional in their focus and ministry. He will work with Pastoral Areas and parishes to offer support, guidance and wisdom in assisting the parishes implement the Diocesan Ten-Year Mission-Plan, *You Will Be My Witnesses*, signposting them to resources, opportunities and support. He will also work with 5 or 6 parishes where the parish priest in the new parish has a passion to lead in a missional way, hosting monthly online "parish priest cohorts," arranging termly in-person gatherings, meeting annually with each priest in their local context to help review the year and plan for the following year, and with the various parish leadership teams.

There were changes too in the Vocations Vicariate where Father Christopher Heaps has taken on the role of Vocations Director from Canon Gerard Flynn after more than twenty years' excellent stewardship in that role.

No greater milestone exists on the road to priestly discernment than ordination. In July, the Diocese was blessed with two ordinations to the priesthood and three to the diaconate. Father Thomas Hiney and Father Ambrose Chou were ordained as



Seminarians Gathering, 2024

priests in the Cathedral and went on to serve as assistant priests in the Cathedral and in Jersey respectively. Rev. Stephen Patterson and Rev. Zacharias Parambi were ordained to the diaconate in the Cathedral and went on to serve respectively in the Windsor and Ascot Pastoral Area and the Portsmouth Pastoral Area. Rev. Ryan Browne, a student for the priesthood, was ordained by me to the diaconate at the English College Villa at Palazzolo. He has started serving in the Cathedral parish at the beginning of 2025.

Ordinations, July 2024



Fr Thomas Hiney & Fr Ambrose Chou



Dcn Stephen Patterson & Dcn Zacharias Parambi

I was pleased to fly to Guernsey and visit Canon Gerard Hetherington on the occasion of his Diamond anniversary of ordination. He was ordained in 1964 and served for 15 years as the Island's Dean. Some forty Dames and Knights from the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem made a special pilgrimage to visit him in Guernsey on this momentous occasion.

In last year's introduction to the Annual Report, I expressed deep gratitude to the munificence of clergy and parishioners for their collective efforts in pledging an incredible £9.5 million towards our 'Closer to Christ' campaign. At the time of writing this year, another milestone has been reached as we have well and truly smashed into double figures with £11.6 million pledges received. Such a show of solidarity and support is deeply humbling and will stand us in good stead to meet the campaign aims (1) supporting more seminarians for the future, (2) caring for our priests in active ministry, and (3) looking after our retired clergy following a lifetime of service. The fund will also sustain our parishes following the effects of the pandemic and economic uncertainty.

Of course, not all milestones are about looking back to past attainments, but they are about striving by God's grace for the future. We may be some way away from the Diocesan vision for 2032, as set out in our Ten-Year Mission Plan, *You Will Be My Witnesses*, but I am heartened by the progress being made to 'bed in' the 24 new Pastoral Areas. These were announced in 2022, and I am looking forward to hearing how local responses to the mission plan have been discerned through my continuing programme of Pastoral Area visitations over the course of the next six months.

We are, of course, looking forward to the once-in-a-generation opportunity that this year's Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope' affords us as a chance to restore hope, and as a

time of renewal and rebirth. In anticipation of the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis proclaimed 2024 to be a year of prayer in preparation. Spending at least five minutes per day in prayer using the Scriptures is the first of the Six Holy Habits I have been encouraging the faithful across the Diocese to adopt, devoting one of my Pastoral Letters this year to the subject of prayer. I am most grateful to Father Ansel D'Mello for supporting this endeavour and helping to prepare us for the Jubilee by producing a comprehensive set of online prayer resources.

Global events such as the Olympic Games in 2024 should naturally be occasions when ideological, cultural and religious differences are put aside, and I, like many, was disappointed by the derision of Christianity in the opening ceremonies. The disdain for our Christian faith is nowadays becoming more commonplace but it is especially pleasing to me, as the Convenor of Hampshire Church Leaders, to witness the power of Christian unity. This year, the Anglican Bishop of Portsmouth, Rt. Rev. Dr. Jonathan Frost and I

led a joint ecumenical pilgrimage to Taizé with 40 young people. In the Summer of 2024, we issued a joint communiqué after a spate of civil unrest in towns and cities throughout England following the shocking stabbings in Southport.

In conclusion, as we reflect upon the passage of time, we are reminded of the profound blessings, challenges, and growth that have collectively shaped our spiritual journey. The many significant milestones and special moments that have categorised this last year prompt us to honour the past, to embrace the present, and eagerly to anticipate the future.

In Corde Iesu

Rt. Rev. Philip A. Egan BA, STL, PhD
Bishop of Portsmouth

Six Holy Habits

Attending Sunday Mass

Spending five minutes a day in prayer

Keeping Fridays as a day of penance

Paying a visit to Christ in the Blessed Sacrament

Joining a small group for formation, prayer and fellowship

Going to Confession once a month

From Heather Hauschild, Chief Operating Officer

Serving the mission of our Diocese brings with it many joys and challenges. Over the past year, it has been a privilege to meet so many of you, witnessing firsthand the dedication, faith, and love that breathe life into our communities. As we reflect on the past year, we are reminded of the shared commitment that unites us in our mission to bring people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church.

Reflecting on Our Journey: Progress and Achievements:

There has been much to be thankful for and highlights are reflected elsewhere in this annual report. This section set out a few of the key areas of progress within the administrative support services that have shaped the last year:

Mission Plan Implementation:

Our Ten-Year Mission Plan (*You Will Be My Witnesses*) is now in its second year, and we have been inspired by the leadership of our priests, especially those serving as co-ordinating pastors, who are playing a key role in shaping the future of our parishes. The Vicar for Clergy has taken a significant leadership role in supporting the Co-ordinating pastors as they in turn lead the local response to the Mission plan.



Priestly Ordinations, 2024

We are also deeply encouraged by the courage and commitment shown by so many clergy and laypeople across our pastoral areas. We received many local plans by June 2024. It

is evident that these are work in progress. More recently Visiting the pastoral areas and hearing how local plans are developing has been a true highlight.

Days of Prayer:

Thanks to the Vicariate for Evangelisation, the Days of Prayer for employees during Lent and Advent provided a valuable opportunity to pause amidst the busyness of our work and reflect on how we place Jesus Christ at the heart of all that we do, guiding our mission and service.

Clergy Support:

The work of our Clergy Support team, led by the Vicar for Clergy, remains invaluable for many of our priests, ensuring they feel supported in their pastoral and spiritual responsibilities.

Strengthening Governance:

Good stewardship of the resources entrusted to us is at the heart of our mission. Building on the momentum from becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in 2023, we've made significant strides in strengthening our governance framework.

This year, we published 15 new and revised policies, along with a suite of guidance documents. A notable milestone was the introduction of the Priest Retirement Policy, which not only reaffirms the Bishop's responsibility for our retired clergy but also clarifies the support available through the special trust established for this purpose.

From Heather Hauschild, Chief Operating Officer

Enhancing Fundraising and Stewardship:

Supporting our parishes in their fundraising efforts has been a key focus. We promoted our Legacy Campaign and introduced digital giving across more than 60 parishes. This initiative has already generated nearly half a million pounds through contactless and online donations. Additionally, by reducing processing costs, we have ensured that more of every donation directly supports our mission.

The Closer to Christ Campaign formally ended early in the year, although some further donations have been secured since that time. The much-needed funds have enabled us to support 12 men in seminary, funded the ongoing work of the Bishop's office for support of clergy, and our retired priests. We are immensely grateful to the individuals and families who gave so generously to this campaign. We remain deeply grateful to all who contributed so generously.

While grant funding for local projects proved more challenging, where successful, these grants made a tangible difference to our volunteers and those they serve.

Financial and Operational Improvements:

The centralised finance system, introduced over a year ago thanks to the careful guidance of our Head of Finance, is now fully embedded. It has greatly enhanced the accuracy and clarity of our financial reporting. This year's annual audit ran smoothly, a significant improvement compared to previous years when disparate record-keeping systems were challenging and led to delays.

Prioritising Health and Safety:

Health and Safety has remained front and centre, thanks to the leadership of our estates team. We partnered with WorkNest as our competent person for health and safety, the IT system to streamline reporting and monitoring in an integral feature of the arrangements. To date, WorkNest has completed assessments at 46 of our 149 sites. This has resulted in

significant progress with workplace health and safety inspections and assessments and provided valuable support and guidance to several parishes on a range of health and safety issues.

Safeguarding Our Communities:

Safeguarding is a fundamental part of our mission, and we are proud of the work being done in this area. In our first audit by the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA), we received an encouraging assessment of 'Results Being Achieved'. The audit highlighted many areas of good practice including the dissemination of the Charter for the Care of Victims and Survivors, and our effective management of safeguarding concerns. The dedication and expertise of our safeguarding team and the many parish volunteers, have been instrumental in creating safer spaces for everyone.

Bamenda Partnership:

The visit of the Archbishop of Bamenda in July was a significant and inspirational moment, helping us to further strengthen the bonds of friendship and deepen our partnership with the Archdiocese of Bamenda. The work of the Bamenda committee is being refreshed under the chairmanship of Tim Foy. We thank the committee for all their dedication to a mutually enriching partnership.



Bamenda Portsmouth 50th Anniversary, 2024

Looking Forward: Our Priorities for 2025

Advancing the Mission Plan:

We remain committed to supporting the next phase of our Mission Plan, continuing to provide pastoral areas with the resources they need to grow and thrive. This includes the development of new materials to help parishes respond to local needs and realise our shared vision of a Church Beyond Walls. This includes refreshing our detailed pastoral area reviews as well as other practical material.

Developing a Comprehensive Estate Strategy:

Our estate strategy will be a significant focus, aimed at ensuring that our properties best serve the mission. In some cases, local areas will need to have difficult conversations about the future of certain buildings, particularly where smaller congregations, rising maintenance costs, and reduced income present challenges. We will approach these decisions with discernment and care, always seeking to support our parish life.

Securing Financial Sustainability:

While we have made progress in strengthening our financial position, long-term sustainability remains a challenge. Parish offertories often struggle to cover at best half of parish running costs. In the coming year, we will focus on raising awareness of these financial realities, encouraging greater giving, and improving investment and treasury management.

Enhancing Parish Support and Using new Technology:

Our Diocesan administration teams will be reintroducing Parish Support Visits from early spring, offering practical support on key areas of work. We also plan to invest in modernising our IT systems to improve efficiency and record-keeping. A top priority will be replacing the outdated PAMIS system and introducing a comprehensive HR system, Staffology, that includes payroll management.

Strengthening Governance and Compliance:

We will continue our commitment to robust governance, undertaking a full review of data protection practices, particularly in areas handling sensitive personal information. Our work to update our policies will continue.

Supporting Our Schools:

The Diocese remains fully committed to the academisation of our schools; however, the pace of change will be influenced by government direction. We expect to publish our updated Schools Strategy by mid-year, providing clarity and direction for the road ahead.



Annual Schools Mass, 2024

Outsourced IT Services

Following our decision to outsource IT services to ensure more reliable and effective support for the Diocese, we will be strengthening our IT infrastructure. This will include more measures to enhance cyber

security, recognising the increasing risks in this area, and exploring ways to bring all parishes into the diocesan network. Our aim is to provide consistent support, secure data backup, and greater safety across the Diocese, ensuring technology continues to be a key enabler of our mission.

Relationships with Religious Orders:

We are blessed by the presence of numerous religious orders in our Diocese, many of whom play vital roles in our parishes. Over time, informal arrangements have grown, and we are now working to establish a more structured framework to support these important relationships. We anticipate completing this process in the coming year.

Moving Forward Together:

The work of the Diocese is a shared journey, a mission sustained by the faith, generosity, and commitment of countless individuals. As we look to 2025, I am grateful for what we have achieved together and hopeful for what lies ahead.

Thank you for your continued support, prayers, and dedication to our shared mission. Together, we will continue to build a vibrant, faith-filled future.



Closer To Christ Campaign Raises More Than £11.5 Million For Diocese and Parishes

When the Closer to Christ campaign closed in May 2024, it had raised more than £11,600,000 since its launch in 2021.

Over 3,200 donors have taken part in the campaign, spread across 79 parishes, with donations ranging from £5 to £500,000. Donors were given the option to make a one-off gift or to spread their donations across one, three or five years. Most donors elected to make multi-year pledges and spread their donations.

It is important that our priests can carry on with their development and growth to meet the growing demands made on them. Our Diocese is blessed to have over 120 men in active service, providing pastoral care and support to parishes as far north as Oxford and as far south as the Channel Islands.

This crucial initiative was started to address significant needs in our parishes and ministry by supporting our priests from formation and into retirement and ensuring our parishes have the necessary resources to thrive in the future.

In 2023-24, the Diocese had 11 men in formation for the priesthood. Seminary formation takes between six and seven years to priestly ordination, at a cost of £30,000 a year.



While most priests retire at the age of 75, many remain very active, continuing to serve their communities, working in our parishes, schools and chaplaincies. It is our duty to make certain that no priest is worried about meeting essential costs during their senior years, so they can enjoy their well-deserved retirement. We have 37 priests in retirement and an additional 24 retirees expected over the next decade, so it is critical that extra resources are provided.

Read more about the work of the Priests' Retirement Fund on pages 44 - 45.

The Closer to Christ Campaign enables us to provide an appropriate level of support and care for these men who give their lives to the Church.

"Raising this sum is a truly remarkable achievement and speaks to the genuine commitment to the future of the Catholic faith across our Diocese," said Bishop Philip. "We are so humbled and encouraged by this wonderful success and so grateful to each one of you in reaching this very special moment for our Diocesan family."

The Closer to Christ Campaign provides us with a unique opportunity to realise our mission of bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church. This exciting initiative will build upon our Diocesan mission, enabling us to continue our journey to become ever more outward facing and evangelistic, while supporting our local parishes, who are the backbone of our Church.

Support the Closer to Christ Campaign

Anyone who wishes to extend or renew their Closer to Christ Campaign pledge can do so here - [Closer to Christ Campaign | Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth](#)



More Than Just 'Reading'

The Work of a Lay Reader.

Mo Griffiths, Lay Reader at St Thomas's Church in the Parish of Havant and Emsworth, shares more than 25 years of experience and why it's about so much more than simply 'reading'.



Mo Griffiths, Lay Reader

I have been a Minister of the Word for many years and it was all thanks to my parish priest at the time. He had the foresight to invite anyone in the parish to come to a workshop day to explore the various ministries. I chose reading and have never looked back.

Moving on a few years, I was then invited by a friend to attend a Summer School hosted by the Society of Saint Gregory. I had never heard of the Society but am so grateful that I was introduced to it. This was where I experienced formation and good practice and was able to learn from others in an encouraging environment. I became a member of the Society and still am, more than 25 years later.

For me, being a Minister of the Word is more than 'reading in church' and I find the title 'reader' is not always helpful. It's so much more than that - it's communicating and proclaiming Scripture so that everyone can hear and, hopefully, understand, and that takes preparation and practice.

What makes a good lay reader? Preparation, being familiar with the text and understanding it yourself, practice and taking every opportunity to develop by attending workshops and training days – I always learn something new. I like the layout of the new translation of the Lectionary, the sense lines make it better suited to proclamation. Like all Ministers of the Word, I am getting used to the changes and find careful preparation is essential so I don't trip up with remembering and speaking the familiar former translation instead of the new text.

A recent Diocesan Readers' event was informative and helpful and covered a lot of ground. The content was divided between the theological background – Theology of the Word of God, then looking at the structure of the Liturgy of the Word – Encounter and Dialogue – and finally coming to the Ministry of Reader itself, explaining the Lectionary and its purpose. During the breaks we chatted amongst ourselves and shared our own parish experiences and there was time for questions – and answers – throughout. Being a Minister of the Word is a privilege and rewarding and something I take great joy in. I would encourage anyone who is interested to look into it too.

"I often speak of the shortage of priests in the Diocese and the need to pray for vocations to the priesthood," says Bishop Philip. "Yet we are even more short of people: that is, can-do Catholics who are willing to take responsibility and to make the Church be what she is meant to be."

"It is heartening to hear Mo's testimony as a reader and minister of the Word of God. I thank God for the many lay leaders we have up and down the Diocese in our parish communities. But I pray that the Lord will grant us many more lay leaders like Mo for the various ministries and tasks that are needed."



Seeds of Hope

Our Catholic schools are key to the vitality and mission of the Diocese. They are places of learning and communities where the seeds of hope are planted and where all are enabled within Christ at the centre to grow spiritually, academically, morally and personally to become twenty first century citizens ready to embrace and transform the world in which they live.

The past year has been one of outstanding achievement in our schools and our thanks go to the 2,354 teachers and leaders in education who, together with an additional 1,877 support staff and 380 volunteer governors and directors, have delivered an enriching curriculum across a full spectrum of subjects to the 31,022 pupils in their care.

Last summer our schools once again celebrated an excellent set of GCSE, A Level, BTEC and other examination results, a clear testament to the ambition and commitment of every pupil, teacher, parent and carer within our Catholic school communities. With a well-deserved reputation for academic excellence and pastoral care, a staggering 91% of our schools are currently graded good or better in their most recent Ofsted or ISI Inspection. In line with the Bishop's vision for Catholic



education, our voluntary-aided schools will be incorporated into two Catholic Academy Trusts that will serve the north and south of the Diocese with a target date for full academisation by September 2027. All Hallows Catholic School in Farnham was typical of many with 38% of all A Level grades received being A* – A and 60% A* – B. No less than 17 pupils achieved all A* or A grades in their A Level examinations.

Educators have also assisted in the Church's mission of making Christ known to all people with 57,000 hours of Religious Education taught in our schools, along with the fostering of over 28,000 hours of prayer.

Headteacher, Mark Baines, said, "*The All Hallows Family is incredibly proud of the success of our Year 13 students and we thank them for their contributions to the thriving school community. My thanks go to the committed and excellent staff who have taught them, and to the parents and carers whose love and support has supported their child and the school throughout their studies.*"

Remarking just before Education Sunday at the start of the new school year in September 2024, Bishop Philip remarked: "*As Education Sunday approaches, we give thanks for all our Catholic schools, colleges and universities and for the school leaders, teachers, teaching assistants, chaplains and all those involved in the provision of Catholic education within them. I am inordinately proud as Bishop by the success achieved by the young people who make up our Catholic pupil population, success which goes beyond league tables. These are young people with ambition, integrity and moral purpose whose education is guided by the teachings, traditions, sacraments and spirituality of the Catholic Church and categorised by the Christian values of love, caring and service We pray that Christ the Teacher will continue to strengthen their faith and fill their hearts with courage and hope.*"

31,022 Pupils



28,000 timetabled hours of prayer in our Catholic schools

70 Schools



2,354 Teachers and educators working in our schools

380 Volunteer school governors



57,000 hours of Religious Education delivered

Singing For The Future

How the National Schools Singing Programme is helping our schools meet one of our Mission goals. Each week, nearly 500 children in our schools take part in uplifting singing, thanks to the launch of the National Schools Singing Programme in the Diocese.



NATIONAL SCHOOLS SINGING PROGRAMME

The Singing Programme, which is led by the Diocesan Choral Director, Neil Cannon, began last year teaching the music curriculum to pupils in Years 3-5 with a specialised vocal tutor.

"Singing is always a wonderful way to express and engage with our faith," says Neil. "As well as songs about pirates, festivals and all sorts of food, the pupils have explored traditional spirituals, Taize psalms and songs praising God for His Creation. The participation and enthusiasm of the pupils is always breathtaking and hearing their voices in full swing is a wonderful experience!"

Sessions include warm up songs and games that engage the whole body, focusing on posture, good breathing and vocal technique. Pupils have learnt about dynamics and how voices work, and have begun to read and sing music from the staff using the solfa system ('Doe a deer' ..!).

Six schools are now involved, with 480 children taught in 15 classes.

The programme also develops choirs and takes whole school singing practices. Here Mass

settings are sung, including the New Celtic Liturgy and the Peter Mass as well as Gospel acclamations and hymns to tie in with what is sung in local parishes. The programme also supported St Finian's Catholic Primary School in Cold Ash (see photograph) when Bishop Philip visited for a Holy Half Hour in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Pupils sang beautifully in Latin and in English, including O Salutaris, Tantum Ergo and the meditative O Sacrament Most Holy.

The Diocese programme is now seeking funding to support the appointment of an additional choral director so that even more schools can take part.



"The songs we learn as a child stick with us forever; I still know all the words to It's a Long Way to Tipperary that I learnt at primary school!" says Neil, "and so this work of instilling great music in our young people is a huge privilege and responsibility. The Singing Programme seeks to bring the very best liturgical music into our schools so that it may pour out into our parishes and leave a lasting legacy."

The National Schools Singing Programme

(NSSP) aims at enhancing music education for children in state schools across the UK, particularly within Catholic dioceses and Anglican cathedrals. It provides funding of £2.55 million to support the creation and development of singing programs, ensuring that children receive regular singing lessons led by professional choral directors. The program aims to foster a love for music and singing among children from all backgrounds, offering a structured pathway from whole-class singing to further musical achievements.

Join the National Schools Singing Programme

Any school that is interested in taking part in the NSSP should contact Neil at ncannon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.



Ongoing Formation For All

The Bishop's Spiritual Formation Team helps to encourage and explore our practice of praying. Here Chris Bryden, Team Leader, shares her experiences of supporting this important work.

"Spirituality encompasses everything to do with our experience of God, an experience which comes by living in a relationship with Him, and this relationship is grounded in prayer," explains Chris.

The Diocese's Spiritual Formation team is made up of ten spiritual companions who initiate and develop projects to support people in their spiritual practice. Spiritual directors can be lay people, clergy or religious; the team is drawn from very different backgrounds and experiences - teaching, prison chaplaincy, psychotherapy.

Most of them have trained as spiritual directors; this equips those who are called to this ministry to accompany others confidently and competently. Complete confidentiality is guaranteed in these conversations. Each member has their own spiritual director and supervisor outside of the group to support and advise them.

The Spiritual Formation team offers, through many different channels, to underpin the work and the lives of every member of the diocesan community: lay people, religious and clergy, and anyone who desires to grow in spirituality.

The Team produces a newsletter, 'Spirituality News', three times a year that covers opportunities for retreats, events, conferences, continuing professional development for Spiritual Directors both from within and from outside the diocese.

Chris adds: *"Any spiritual path should lead to*

transformation. Developing our engagement in a deep and meaningful way on our faith journey has the possibility to transform our lives and to help us to deepen our friendship with God."

What is a week of Accompanied Prayer?

This offers participants an opportunity to spend six days without the cost or difficulty of leaving home, but in as much of a retreat setting as they can establish in their daily life.

After an opening meeting on Sunday afternoon, each person is assigned to a Spiritual Director and asked to meet them either in person or on Zoom each day from Monday to Friday for 30 -45 minutes, at a time that suits the individual. Nothing else is expected of participants other than to commit to half an hour of personal prayer each day, and to bring a notebook, a Bible and an open mind. God is indeed a 'God of surprises', and he will honour your willingness to take part in the week.

Each meeting is confidential and the prayer guide will suggest helpful scripture passages, poetry, images and many different ways of praying, all with the aim of establishing or re-establishing an ongoing prayer habit which suits the individual and can be sustained.

Some comments from those who have experienced a Week of Accompanied Prayer:

- *My relationship with the Lord has been completely rekindled.*
- *New ways of praying have introduced me to*

a deeper, more focused form of praying and helped me to grow spiritually.

- *The week was a real eye opener...and an exciting new outlook on the life of Jesus.*
- *I have discovered a whole new way of prayer...being still, watching, waiting, feeling the presence of the Lord.*
- *I felt really 'held', guided and affirmed.*
- *I was able to show a more vulnerable side of me, to be open to what I see and feel.*
- *My prayer guide helped me to see how God is working in my life.*

During the last year, weeks of Accompanied Prayer have taken place in Fareham, Fleet and Windsor.

After a Week of Accompanied Prayer, if requested, the team can help to establish small ongoing faith sharing groups as part of the international fraternity of Christian Life (CLC).

The Spiritual Formation Team offers to:

- Connect individuals with their own fully trained personal Spiritual Director.
- Facilitate 'Weeks of Accompanied Prayer' in a parish setting.
- Offer 'Open Door Retreats' - an established nine week programme in Ignatian spirituality for small parish groups.
- Offer retreats for specific liturgical seasons, or groups such as Parish Pastoral Councils, or Evangelisation Strategy teams. Mostly delivered on Zoom.
- Produce a newsletter 'Spirituality News' three times a year covering opportunities for retreats, events, conferences, continuing professional development for Spiritual Directors both from within and from outside the Diocese. There are articles on different ways of praying, praying in different monastic traditions and seasonal prayer aids.

To find out more...

If you would like to know more about the Team and its work, please email

spirituality@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



A Focus On Mission and Service

2024 marked the culmination of a five-year journey to become permanent deacons when deacons in training Zac Parambi and Stephen Patterson were ordained into the Diaconate at Portsmouth Cathedral. Here Deacon Stephen describes their journey and what brought them to such a special place.



You may wonder how an accountant (now pharmacy assistant) and an historian and former IT manager ended up being ordained to the permanent diaconate!

Both Zac and I embarked on the journey to ordination through an unexpected question: had we ever considered the diaconate?

It ignited a glowing ember for both of us - the answer was a resounding 'yes'! But it needed that prompt to do something about it and explore further. Being open to the Holy Spirit and accepting the challenge gave us the opportunity to discover if we were indeed called. For more than five years, we have been involved in a transformative experience; a

deepening of our spiritual lives together with a growing understanding and awareness of the deacon's commitment to service.

From the initial call to start walking along the path, we have been filled with a sense of purpose and an opportunity to deepen our relationship with God and our communities. The formation process at St Mary's College Oscott in Birmingham - with 40 monthly sessions over four years after an initial year of discernment (the Propaedeutic year) - saw us experience wide-ranging and rigorous training which covered many facets of the faith: theology, church history, prayer, spirituality, ethics, and morality. It was also an opportunity for spiritual development

and increased pastoral awareness; each session being a balance of prayer; the Divine Office and Mass, with academic and practical training. Not only have we grown in our knowledge of many aspects of the Church, but the experience has also confirmed our dedication to seek to embody Christ's love and compassion in our daily lives.

I look back on our journey to ordination with a mixture of gratitude and humility. We are so grateful for the unwavering support of our families, especially our wives, mentors, and fellow aspirants: their encouragement has been a great source of strength.

There is a profound humility in knowing the responsibilities that lie ahead and the joy and challenges of diaconal ministry that we experience daily.



We are deeply aware of the trust placed in us to serve; to bring the light of Christ to those in need. This is something we cannot achieve without the grace of God and the support of those, like us, with their joys and sorrows, who we will travel alongside in faith, hope, and love.



What Does It Mean To Be Human?

How does the Church respond to questions about modern medical ethics and social care? With a Bill seeking to legalise euthanasia and assisted suicide introduced to Parliament in 2024, the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth's symposium 'What does it mean to be Human?' provided a timely discussion in March.



Over the course of the day, the legal, medical, moral and religious aspects of holistic patient care from conception to end of life were discussed and debated in a series of thought-provoking keynote addresses, workshops and panel discussions.

David Wells, the popular and internationally acclaimed author and motivational speaker, was host for the day and had this to say about the ambition of the Symposium:

"It is one thing to live out our faith on a Sunday morning in the shadow of our steeples and within earshot of our peeling bells. What I really admire about the intention behind this Symposium is the Diocese's commitment to blur the boundaries between what we profess together in our faith and the world around us. Our faith is often challenged, not by the reaction of others as to whether we go to Church or not, but how we live it out beyond the pews and pulpit in the board room, building site or, in this case, within the context of a challenged and overstretched Health Service. How is what we believe good news for a Health Service in crisis? How can



those working in the Health Service call us to be authentic in our faith? Today has been all about meeting and hearing from some extraordinary people and discovering that faith and medicine can indeed learn a great deal from one another."

Since the introduction of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, Bishop Philip has called on Catholics across the Diocese to voice their opposition by asking their MP to speak and vote against the proposed Bill.

Bishop Philip has expressed his great concern about the risks that legalising assisted suicide would bring to vulnerable groups, particularly in light of the significant pressures that already exist on the NHS and a recent Marie Curie report.

"I am a passionate advocate of assisted living, not assisted dying. It is my firm view that investing in palliative care is a better way to support people suffering at the end of life," said the Bishop. "Killing is always wrong, and suicide goes entirely against our natural instincts. To permit legally assisted killing and suicide is to cross a symbolic line. Like using a nuclear weapon, there would be no turning back."



Never More Needed – The Story Of Andover Foodbank

Volunteers collecting donations for the Andover Foodbank are often asked 'who in the Test Valley needs food?' The answer is: many people, and for the past 19 years, the Andover Foodbank has been helping to meet a need that increases every year.

In 2024, the Foodbank, which is based at St John the Baptist Church in Andover, fed over 7,000 people in need in and around the area by providing emergency food boxes.

The Foodbank is the only local charity in Andover that can provide immediate help to those in crisis. Emergency food boxes and other items are distributed to those identified by professional care workers at a network of around 70 local charities, agencies and organisations. Among them are familiar charities and groups such as housing

associations, Children's and Adult Social Services, Citizens Advice and the pastoral teams at schools. By signing up to partner the Foodbank, care workers at these organisations can help their clients to receive support but must then help them address their longer-term issues. The main reasons for people being in crisis are financial, through low income, debt and universal credit not covering the essentials that they require. The Foodbank recently partnered with Citizens Advice and has a case worker on site to provide advice and support to clients.



Each food box includes a supply of long-life food for three days. There are distribution points at the Foodbank and other locations where clients can exchange a voucher for a food box. The Foodbank can also supply toiletries, cleaning materials and baby products. Baby milk, food and nappies have been used extensively by local agencies to ensure that the youngest in our community receive the crucial support that they need in their early years. Clients can also receive market vouchers to allow them to select fresh produce from Andover market. For those who have been rehoused but do not have funds to furnish their new accommodation, the Foodbank offers 'welcome packs' containing basic crockery, cutlery, pans and other items. In recent years the Foodbank has partnered with the Fuel Bank Foundation and can provide fuel vouchers.

The Andover Foodbank has also developed seasonal projects, which are very popular with donors and recipients. In 2024, more than 2,000 chocolate eggs were delivered to children and vulnerable adults at Easter and over 450 summer bags provided food for children in the school holidays. At Christmas, over 1,200 children received gift boxes filled with toys and other items, while hampers or bags of long-life Christmas treats were distributed to over 660 families and 360 individuals. Again, the recipients for these items are identified by care workers, such as those at Children's Services, Finding Freedom and local schools. The gift boxes help to alleviate many financial pressures and allow people to celebrate Christmas rather than exist through it. After receiving gift boxes, a mother said: 'It took the stress out of Christmas a bit. The kids loved their items', and another family said: 'You have just lifted a huge weight off my shoulders.'

To meet the demand, the Andover Foodbank relies on donations of food and other items, together with financial donations which are used to run the operation and buy

additional food. Around 70 tonnes of food was distributed in 2024. Donations come from shoppers at supermarkets, companies, schools and groups. Weekly collections from churches across the area are vital.

The Andover Foodbank also provides an opportunity and place for local people to volunteer and gain experience. Volunteers include retired people, those between jobs and mothers with children at school. These include volunteers from churches and faith groups in Andover and the surrounding villages. The Andover Foodbank also welcomes work experience students, Duke of Edinburgh placements and team days from local companies. The Foodbank was awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service in 2023 and could not operate without the hard work of three managers and a dedicated and passionate team of volunteers.

The Andover Foodbank is a very simple project and truly a local charity – involving the community to help those in need within the community.



Becky's Legacy Lives On

Sometimes even the most modest of funding can make the world of difference.

In 2024, Becky's Café, at the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph's parish in Christchurch was awarded grants of nearly £1,000 from the Dorset Community Foundation (DCF) so it could continue providing camaraderie, friendship, support and a warm and inviting community facility for local people.



The Café, which is open every Thursday, has been running for two years and is well-established in the neighbourhood, offering home-made soup, sandwiches and cake with hot drinks, as well social activities and a chance to get together with others, in a warm space, to help combat loneliness and isolation. **The Café is named in memory of Becky Jordan, a much-loved young parishioner who died of cancer and who always said that 'things are better with friends, cake and tea around us'.**

The Café successfully applied for a similar grant from the DCF the previous year and once again the money was used to fund the supplies it needs, supplemented by the generosity of donations by volunteers and customers.

"We have built a wonderful team who make the food, serve and welcome everyone," explains Rosie Proctor, who manages the café with her husband Brian and a group of around 20

volunteers. *"The fact we are open all year has been particularly welcomed by all our guests and is a wonderful foundation on which to build next year's provision."*

Around thirty people from many different backgrounds visit the Café each week; some come because they are hungry, others because they are lonely, some are carers needing some care and respite themselves. Several of the café's regulars come with or to meet others they know through the Café.

"Younger families visit the church site to access help and advice at the Christchurch Food Bank, which is housed onsite in the old chapel and have told us how much it means to them, whether they come once or are regular patrons," says Rosie. *"We work with the Food Bank and Christchurch Community Partnership as well as local schools and the medical centre to enrich the quality of life to all those we can reach."*

Ministering In Life and Death Situations

Fr James Lewis talks about his life as a Roman Catholic Chaplain at Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth, and how saying 'yes' can sometimes lead to an unexpected, demanding and yet ultimately satisfying journey

A month before my priestly ordination, I was invited by Bishop Philip for a cup of tea and a chat. Fr Jeremy Garratt, whose parish I had been serving as a deacon, advised me that: *'Whatever job the Bishop asks you to do, say 'thank you Father, I would be very happy to do that'.*

To my surprise, Bishop Philip asked me to serve the people of Waterlooville and Horndean with Fr Jeremy and also to take on the role of Roman Catholic Chaplain at Queen Alexandra Hospital. This was not something that I had contemplated. I had had some previous experience in healthcare and working in hospitals but, as I was to find out, being a priest called in to minister to patients and their families - often in life and death situations - was very different to having a list of patients to wash and dress.

From the outset, I found myself stepping into unfamiliar environments, ministering to people who seemed to expect me to know what to do and to say. In those moments where I felt out of my depth, I would find myself seeking the Lord to guide my words and actions.

In the first weeks, there were challenging and sometimes overwhelming situations. I was visiting patients who had tried to end their lives, their loved ones standing by their bedside, often filled with disbelief. I was blessing babies that had sadly miscarried. It was then that I found that the rich liturgies that we have in the Church enabled me to bring God's word and sacraments into these

situations and provide consolation and hope. As chaplains, we hold a service each year for parents and their families who have suffered the loss of a baby. We acknowledge and give space for them to grieve and pray and meet with others who can understand a little of what they are going through. The charity SANDS offers help and support for parents who have experienced such painful loss.

There are also encounters that have been really joyful. I was called out to visit a mother who was 22 weeks pregnant and going into labour. After receiving the sacraments, her contractions dissipated for a week and she was able to give birth to a tiny baby called Hope. I baptised Hope the following day and after many weeks in intensive care, she was well enough to go home to her family. It has been an amazing joy and privilege to accompany this family.



Our fantastic team of chaplains at Queen Alexandra has continued to expand. I have the privilege to work alongside three full-time generic chaplains who support all patients and staff. We are led by an inspiring Anglican Chaplain called Connie, along with two Roman Catholics, Deacon Kim and Fr John. We also have seven local priests that assist with the emergency on-call service that tries to respond within an hour to urgent situations where patients need to receive the last rites. This service is provided 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I am so grateful to my brother priests for their love and charity and support in this.

Volunteers have returned to assist the chaplains in visiting and supporting patients on the wards. One of these is Jim Hordell, at present in his second year of Diaconate training.

"I love going into QA hospital as a volunteer," says Jim. "As my normal job is sitting behind a desk, it is great to feel one is making a difference to people's lives in a direct way."



Often when I arrive, a person is looking lost but I find a kind word and reminding them that they are loved and not forgotten, even though they are sick, often leads to a good conversation and a smile."

At the hospital, we celebrate Mass on Sundays at 4pm. This congregation has grown to 40-50, comprising of patients, nurses, doctors and families. With our Filipino choir made up of nurses, it is always a joyful and faith filled liturgy. Mass is also celebrated on Mondays at 12:30pm and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on a Friday at 3pm. The chapel is used more than any other church I have been to in England. At the start and end of each day, one sees hundreds of nurses and doctors praying in the chapel. It really is a faith filled hospital.

As someone who likes new encounters, meeting people where they are and journeying with them, it has been a very good fit for me. I am pleased that I took Fr Jeremy's advice and said 'yes!' to Bishop Philip to take on this role.

Spotlight On Ethnic Chaplaincies In The Diocese

Fr Claro Conde, Head of Ethnic Chaplaincy in the Diocese, shares his experiences of working with victims of human trafficking from China.



Fr Claro Conde, Head of Ethnic Chaplaincy

A couple of years ago, Father Jean-Patrice Coulon, the then Chaplain of Winchester Prison, asked me to see a prison inmate from China. I asked the help of Robert Slinn, who taught English in Beijing, has strong Chinese connections and is now settled in Winchester. Through him, I was able to contact some of the inmate's Chinese friends, who sent him money to buy Chinese food.

Like many Chinese asylum seekers, this person was a victim of human trafficking by notorious gangs. Some victims have to work in restaurants and take-away shops on

meagre wages. Some work as cockle pickers, like those who drowned in Morecambe Bay in 2004. Some work in illegal cigarette factories. Victims have to pay around £20,000 to the gangs, which means they have to work for more than two years to pay their debts here and in China. Many conscientious and devout Catholic British, Filipino and Chinese people in UK, like the late Mary Gould and the late Mary Doohan of the Little Way Association, a charity that aims to help the poor, needy and sick in developing countries throughout the world, helped to provide shelter and facilitated immigration visas so they could work here legally and so earn decent salaries.

Mr. Q.L. came from a poor region of Fujian in China. His maternal ancestors were probably baptised by Franciscan missionaries. Many Fujian Catholics who arrived in London gathered in restaurants or homes to pray the rosary. Later there were Masses at the Little Way Association chapel, where people gathered from all over the UK. There were lay sisters and relatives of priests who organised religious activities and taught Catechism to children and adults who wanted to become Catholics. Newly-ordained Chinese priests who had studied in Barcelona regularly visited me when I lived in Shanklin on the Isle of Wight and I was invited to visit China, which I did with my English and Chinese parishioners. There I met priests and lay people who suffered persecutions. In an 'underground' seminary, I was asked to give a talk to priests and seminarians through an interpreter. I described the persecution of the

Church during the time of Henry VIII and the underground priests. My audience identified themselves like St Edmund of Abingdon and other priest hole Saints.

I also became a link and contact for the Fujian Catholics in the UK, helping them integrate with the main Chinese community in this country.

In 1997, the end of British rule in Hong Kong brought a new wave of Catholics to fill our pews. Most of them go to their local churches here. They speak and understand not only English but also British culture as they had been under British rule for over 150 years. Recently, Hong Kong Bishop Joseph Ha did a 10-day pastoral visit to the United Kingdom and celebrated Cantonese Mass at St. James's Church in Reading.

The ministry for Chinese people all over the world is very complex, from the relationship between the Church and China to language

issues. Here in the UK, many young people are experiencing a spiritual vacuum coming from Communist, materialistic country and we encourage the local churches to offer them support and the opportunity to explore our faith. In Wantage, Berkshire, a Chinese scientist plays the organ for the choir. We have Chinese priests and nuns and lay people broadcasting from Taiwan, Rome and the USA on Catholic lessons, news and issues. We have now a Chinese deacon. We are also sowing seeds of vocations to the young. In Oxford, I met a young Chinese convert who is studying the New Testament.

In Hampshire, we have a social media network with about 200 members. Most of our materials are from different media in mainland China and are restricted.

Hopefully the Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025 will mean that Chinese Catholics will come with us on both a physical and a spiritual pilgrimage to Rome and other local churches.



Fifty Years of The Portsmouth-Bamenda Partnership

Fifty years ago, Bishop Worlock and Bishop Paul Verdzekov, of the then newly established Diocese of Bamenda, initiated the twinning of the two dioceses as a practical demonstration of St Pope Paul VI's Vatican II document 'Gaudium et Spes'. In 2024, we celebrate half a century of the partnership between the Diocese of Portsmouth and the Archdiocese of Bamenda in northwest Cameroon.

Back in 1974, the then Diocese of Bamenda was just four years old, with few priests to administer the Sacraments and share the Gospel message. Churches were few and very far between and the number of members of the laity trained in supporting the Catholic communities was low.

Initially, priests from our Diocese worked in Bamenda, teaching the Faith, establishing parishes, training the laity, building schools and opening youth ministries. Their mission was hugely successful and saw the young Church in Bamenda grow and develop. Many Cameroonian young men who responded to the call of the Holy Spirit to the priesthood cite one of those early missionary priests from our Diocese as an important factor in their vocation.

Today, we have the great privilege of welcoming priests from Bamenda into our own parishes. Their mission to us is one of renewal at a time when our communities become daily more secular.

"We have much to thank God for from this twinning," says Father Bernadine Nsom. "God willing, young men and women in our Diocese will be inspired by our missionary priests from Bamenda to respond positively and selflessly to God's call to them to follow His call for them to the priestly or religious life."

The Portsmouth Bamenda Committee (PBC) was established to oversee the delivery of projects funded by money raised in our Diocese. Every penny donated is used to support projects and develop and strengthen the special relationship with the Archdiocese of Bamenda.



Jubilee Mass

On Saturday 8 July 2024, Bishop Philip welcomed Archbishop Andrew Nkea of Bamenda to celebrate the Golden Jubilee Link between our two Dioceses. The Mass was concelebrated by priests from both Dioceses, including the five priests from Bamenda currently serving in our Diocese, or 'the Fabulous Five' as Bishop Philip referred to them in his sermon (Fathers Emmanuel, Elijah, Gaston, Benedikt and Anthony) and Fathers Peter Codd, Tony Gatt and Ron Hishon, all of whom served in Bamenda in the 1970s. Fathers Ron and Peter were two of the first missionary priests from Portsmouth, together with the late Father Frank Isherwood.

Cameroon truly came to the Cathedral that day with many native Cameroonians from across the UK and past and present members of the Portsmouth Bamenda Committee all participating in a truly joyful and colourful celebration of singing, dancing and drumming whilst also enjoying its delicious food.



Bamenda Today - Ongoing Civil Conflict

Bamenda has experienced great civil unrest for some ten years. This has included sectarian killings, the destruction of homes and community building, kidnappings by separatist rebels and has dominated daily life in Bamenda.

During this period, tens of thousands of individuals have been killed and over a million fled their homes and sought refuge with extended family in 'safer' areas and, all too often, have relied on the kindness of strangers.

Today the situation remains unstable and incidents of violence between the many separatist groups remain frequent and commonplace. Across Bamenda, daily life is challenging and on Mondays Bamenda City is a 'ghost town'. These lockdowns are often violently enforced, part of Operation Ghost Town Resistance, a campaign of mass general strikes instated by Anglophone activists in 2017 in protest of discrimination faced by English speakers in the majority-Francophone country.

Project Funding:

A core aspect of this special relationship are the practical projects that have been funded by money donated at the annual Bamenda Sunday collection. This remains an important and tangible part of the relationship, as they provide a lasting and tangible expression of the affection in which parishioners throughout the Diocese of Portsmouth hold the special relationship with the Archdiocese of Bamenda.

The ongoing conflict has meant that it has slowed the delivery of development aid projects. The frequent periods of lockdown due to civil unrest and Covid-19 have disrupted the daily rhythm of life and so delayed build-focused projects and made those involving training and skills development almost impossible to deliver, as it is often unsafe for participants to travel to training courses.

The last twelve months has seen a gradual improvement in the civil situation and the worst impact of Covid-19 has abated through a government delivered vaccination programme. This has enabled the PBC to restart its programme of funding projects in 2024.

Projects are proposed to Archbishop Andrew by the various Catholic parishes and communities within Bamenda. Potential projects that meet the criteria under the special relationship are then forwarded to the PBC, which in turn recommends projects for funding to the Diocesan Trustees for approval, in accordance with the PBC's term of reference. Although the current civil unrest prevents any members of the PBC travelling to Bamenda to oversee the delivery of these projects, the satisfactory delivery of each project is monitored by periodic update reports and regular updates through social media between the project leads in Bamenda and staff from the Archbishop's Office.

In the past year, money raised from last year's Bamenda Sunday collection has paid for:

- solar power for St Bede's Secondary School
- fitting out apartments in a new retirement home for clergy, and
- providing theatre equipment for the newly extended St Blaise Hospital, and
- assisted with the training of youth workers.

Future projects currently going through the assessment and approval process include:

- building of a new nursery school in St Felix Parish
- sponsoring training of youth leaders and facilitators, and
- supporting the strengths of the community health worker service.

In addition to the projects above, there are other important programmes underway across the Archdiocese, thanks to funding from elsewhere.

'Empower the Women, Develop the Nation!' is an initiative that sets out to remedy the situation of 15 single mothers and other vulnerable women through skills development, which has already started in five Deaneries. Participants were enrolled into different vocational training centred where they are expected to train for six months each. The support aims to achieve growth that works for all by increasing the opportunities to generate income, improved living conditions, decent jobs and entrepreneurship, investing in the poorest and most vulnerable and safeguarding economic gains.

Many parishes in town and some in the suburbs have met one of Archbishop Andrew's priorities that all the Bamenda parishes should have a Eucharistic Adoration chapel built next to the main church so that there can be perpetual adoration every day.



Looking Forward - The Next Fifty Years:

Looking to the future and to the next fifty years of our special relationship, both Bishop Philip and Archbishop Andrew are keen to make their relationship even more special by identifying opportunities for parishes in both Diocese to twin, either as a whole parish or as a school or other groups within the parish.

During the coming year, the aim is to pilot twinning in a few parishes and increase the number of Diocesan schools partnered with schools in Bamenda. In the last year the following schools have approached the PBC to be twinned with a school in Bamenda:

- St George's Secondary School, Southampton
- Notre Dame du Rosaire Primary School, Guernsey, and
- St Mary and St Michael Primary School, Guernsey.

Developing this type of close partnership was far from easy in 1974 as communications were difficult, costly and took a long time. Back then sending letters via the postal system was the only real option and it took several months before letters were delivered, if at all! But now, the positive impact of social media means that parishes, schools, groups can link via FaceTime, WhatsApp, etc easily and cheaply. So although the ongoing civil conflict continues to make visits to Bamenda very difficult, we can still visit 'virtually'!

"We thank God for all He has given us throughout the fifty years of our special relationship with the Archdiocese of Bamenda," says Bishop Philip. "Let us pray for the people of Cameroon, for a solution to the civil unrest and for the faithful of our sister Diocese of Bamenda. And please pray too for our own Diocese of Portsmouth, for the renewal of our clergy and laity, and for ourselves that we may bring many more people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church."

Support the Portsmouth and Bamenda Partnership

Anyone wishing to support the partnership between the Dioceses of Portsmouth & Bamenda can do so here: [Donate To Bamenda Commission](#) | [Give As You Live](#)



New Estates Team Rises To The Challenge

The Diocesan Estates Team manages approximately 500 estate management cases from urgent repairs to planned capital works every year, including a programme of £3 million of capital works for 40 Catholic schools throughout the Diocese, which this year saw replacement of windows, boilers and other essential replacement works required to keep our schools open.

Comprehensive business cases were produced in 2024 for 60 separate parish capital expenditure projects for approval by the relevant Committees. These ranged from historic building repair to a complete replacement of the curtain wall of once of our churches. Some 50 new and revised tenancies were signed over the course of the year alongside a comprehensive rent review that saw rental receipts increase by over £100,000 a year.

The Team is led by Daniel Bowyer, Director of Estates, who joined the Diocese in 2023, supported by two Estates Managers, Stephen Hardman and Heather Ward. Peter Escott is

the Estates Officer for our Priest Retirement Fund properties and Dean Myers is the School Estates Manager. Stephen Vernon supports the Team as their Administrative Officer. The Team has over 100 years of combined property experience from a complete range of property services.

"After a period of employee vacancies, 2024 saw the establishment and bedding in of the new Estates Team," says Daniel. "Over the past year, the Team has worked hard to attempt to catch up on historic workload, establish new working practices and support the parish-wide Health and Safety Audit that was conducted through WorkNest."



139 Churches

113 Parish Halls

102 Presbyteries

18 Priest Retirement Properties

100+ Investment Properties

525 In total 525 properties with an insured value in excess of £650 million

64,000+ people - pupils and staff in Catholic schools, parishioners, employees, volunteers, Priests and Deacons, retired Priests, tenants and licensees - use our buildings every year

Care After A Lifetime Of Service

Under Canon Law, the Bishop - and therefore the Diocese - has a responsibility of care to all priests, both in active ministry and those who have retired. Thanks to the generosity of donors, this duty of care has been delivered through the Priests' Retirement Fund, which ensures that retired priests receive the support and care they need following a lifetime of service.

In 2024, the Diocese was appointed trustee of the Priests' Retirement Fund (PRF) and the two charities have been formally linked by the Charity Commission.

The practical contact with retired priests is handled by Canon David Hopgood and his Team in the Department for Clergy Support. The PRF is led by a committee - now chaired by Monsignor John Nelson - which ensures that resources are available to support the work now and continue for the foreseeable future, including funds raised by the Closer to Christ Campaign.

During the past year key decisions have been made about future resilience, including the

backdated payment of National Insurance contributions for men who are recently ordained, where they may be unable to meet the full qualifying number of years due to their time in seminary. Some priests have not signed up to pay National Insurance or contribute to a pension scheme. All priests are encouraged join the relief funds, but not all choose to do so.

The Priests' Retirement Fund is one of the great success stories in the Diocese of Portsmouth. Thanks to the huge generosity of so many people in every parish, and extending over many years, the Fund is able to continue to serve the needs of those who responded to the call to serve God's people as priests.



Fr David Quarmby

Having the security that the PRF provides eases concerns and any anxiety a priest feels as he approaches retirement.

Ultimately, responsibility for the care of priests – working in parishes and retired – rests with the Bishop and this Fund enables Bishop Philip to make concrete that care of those who have reached a certain age. Thank you to everyone who continues to support us.

"Without doubt the Fund is under pressure as costs rise – especially when it comes to care of priests who need care in a nursing home," says Mgr John. "However, I can say with confidence that our retired priests receive all the help and support they need, in whatever shape and form required, and their appreciation is frequently expressed in different ways."

37 Retired priests

11 Living outside of the Diocese

12 Retired priests living in PRF/ Diocesan property

35 Retired priests receive some form of financial support from the PRF

£300k Received by the PRF from the Closer to Christ campaign to help care for retired priests (a further £240,000 due to be distributed in Q1 24/25)

£5.8 million value of the PRF assets, including property

Safeguarding – Everyone’s Responsibility

As a Diocese, we are committed to safeguarding as an integral part of the life and ministry of the Church. With Christ at the centre of our ministries, we seek to embed a culture where all those within our parishes and church communities are safe from harm and abuse. Safeguarding is identified as leadership priority by Bishop Philip and a responsibility that rests with us all. The Diocese’s Head of Safeguarding, Ruth Attfield, reviews the past 12 months, which included a successful audit our of practices and procedures by the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA).

In March 2024, we welcomed the CSSA audit team to the Diocese to undertake a planned baseline audit of our safeguarding practice and processes, measuring against the national standards. The audit report was published in June 2024.

Standard	Diocese Position June 2024
Embed safeguarding in the Church body’s leadership, governance, ministry & culture	Comprehensive assurance
Communicate the Church’s safeguarding message	Results being achieved
Engage with and care for those who report having been harmed	Results being achieved
Effectively manage allegations and concerns	Results being achieved
Manage and support subjects of allegations and concern (respondents).	Results being achieved
Implement robust human resource management.	Comprehensive assurance
Provide and access training and support for safeguarding	Comprehensive assurance
Quality assurance compliance to continuously improve practice	Results being achieved

The CSSA awarded the Diocese an overall grading of Results Being Achieved, an encouraging overall rating and reflective

of the leadership in safeguarding across the Diocese, the professionalism of the Safeguarding Team, calibre of the Safeguarding Committee (who provide oversight) and the collective commitment of our clergy, staff and volunteers.

The audit recognised a number of safeguarding strengths, including the provision of training for clergy and Parish Safeguarding Ministers, dissemination of the Charter for the Care of Victims and Survivors and the effective management of allegations and concerns. The expertise of the Safeguarding Team, culture of continuous improvement and establishment of safeguarding as a leadership priority were also commended. The audit also returned valuable recommendations, including the integration of safeguarding into the Diocese’s Ten-Year Mission Plan, completion of a training needs analysis, and a mechanism for succession planning for key safeguarding roles. The findings and recommendations from the audit have been reflected in our Safeguarding Implementation Plan (SIP) with monitoring and oversight of progress from both the Safeguarding Committee and the Trustee Board.

Receiving the CSSA Audit Report, Bishop Philip Egan remarked: *“The responsibility of safeguarding in our Diocese of Portsmouth does not rest with a single department. It lies at the very heart of all that we do and relies on*

every member of our working and worshipping communities playing their part. The work of safeguarding is never complete, but the audit findings are most encouraging and serve to strengthen our resolve and commitment to uphold the dignity and protect the welfare of everyone within our Church and to do all that we can to help victims in their journey towards healing.”

The central Safeguarding Team have been focused on delivering the priorities as identified within our Safeguarding Implementation Plan (SIP). The SIP drives the strategic work of the Team with oversight from the Safeguarding Committee and Trustee Board. *“We ensure that all concerns of a safeguarding nature are responded to promptly,”* explains Ruth Attfield, Head of Safeguarding. *“We are committed to the safety and wellbeing of all those within our church communities. Where an allegation of abuse is made against those working in the name of the Church, regardless of whether the allegation relates to their behaviour in their role within the Church or another setting, we will report this to the statutory authorities. This includes allegations where the identified perpetrator is deceased.”*

In April 2024, the Team launched the Learning Management System (LMS), the online learning portal developed by the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA). The LMS provides easy access to the mandatory safeguarding training, enabling training to be completed in an online learning environment. *“We have also continued the provision of face-to-face training with our commitment being to ensure safeguarding training is available for every pastoral area at least once in every 12-month period,”* says Ruth.

As a Registered Affiliate of the CSSA, our safeguarding practices align with the eight national Safeguarding Standards and we work in accordance with the national policies and associated best practice guidance for the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

652 DBS checks processed. (978 = 2022-23)

137 Parish Safeguarding Ministers providing support to parishes. (128 = 2022-23)

36 New Parish Safeguarding Ministers welcomed and received induction and initial training. (27 = 2022-23)

2,100 Volunteers (approximately)

574 People completed online training

36 Face-to-face training courses...

... delivered to **438** volunteers and lay people.

Managing The Money

Parish Finance Committees play a pivotal role in the financial stewardship of parish resources. This includes working together with the priest to ensure the parish remains financially sound while delivering the diocesan mission and ministry for the years ahead.

Consisting of parish members chosen by the priest who generously volunteer their time and expertise, many finance committees have evolved to support the parish priest in not just finance but property, health and safety and administration activity. As such, the Finance Committee can be a key bridge between the parish and the Diocese.

"The key roles of the committee include raising the funds required to run the parish and then ensuring these are spent as effectively and efficiently as possible to deliver our mission, by using the Diocesan financial policies and procedures," says Clive Field, Diocese Finance Director.

A committee should meet at least four times a year to discuss and monitor key responsibilities, including:

- Setting and monitoring an annual budget
- Ensuring accurate financial records and associated information is maintained
- Reviewing cashflow, income and expenditure
- An annual financial review to the parish
- Overseeing the upkeep and management of parish property
- Overseeing compliance with fire, health and safety regulations

- Providing input and advice on major financial expenditures to ensure the prudent management of resources
- The need to balance prudent financial management with the Church's mission to evangelise and serve the poor
- Encouragement to work collaboratively with clergy and parishioners.

Clive adds:

"While having a background in finance or business is useful, the committee's wide-ranging responsibilities means it benefits greatly from members with diverse skills, such as building management, construction, administration, engineering and health and safety compliance as well as accountancy or banking.

We are fortunate in our Diocese to have many volunteers who not only embody a wide range of skills and experience but also are a tangible example of collaboration between clergy and parishioners."

With thanks to the Chairs of the Parish Finance Committees for the parishes of Crowthorne and Sandhurst, Bracknell and Wokingham.

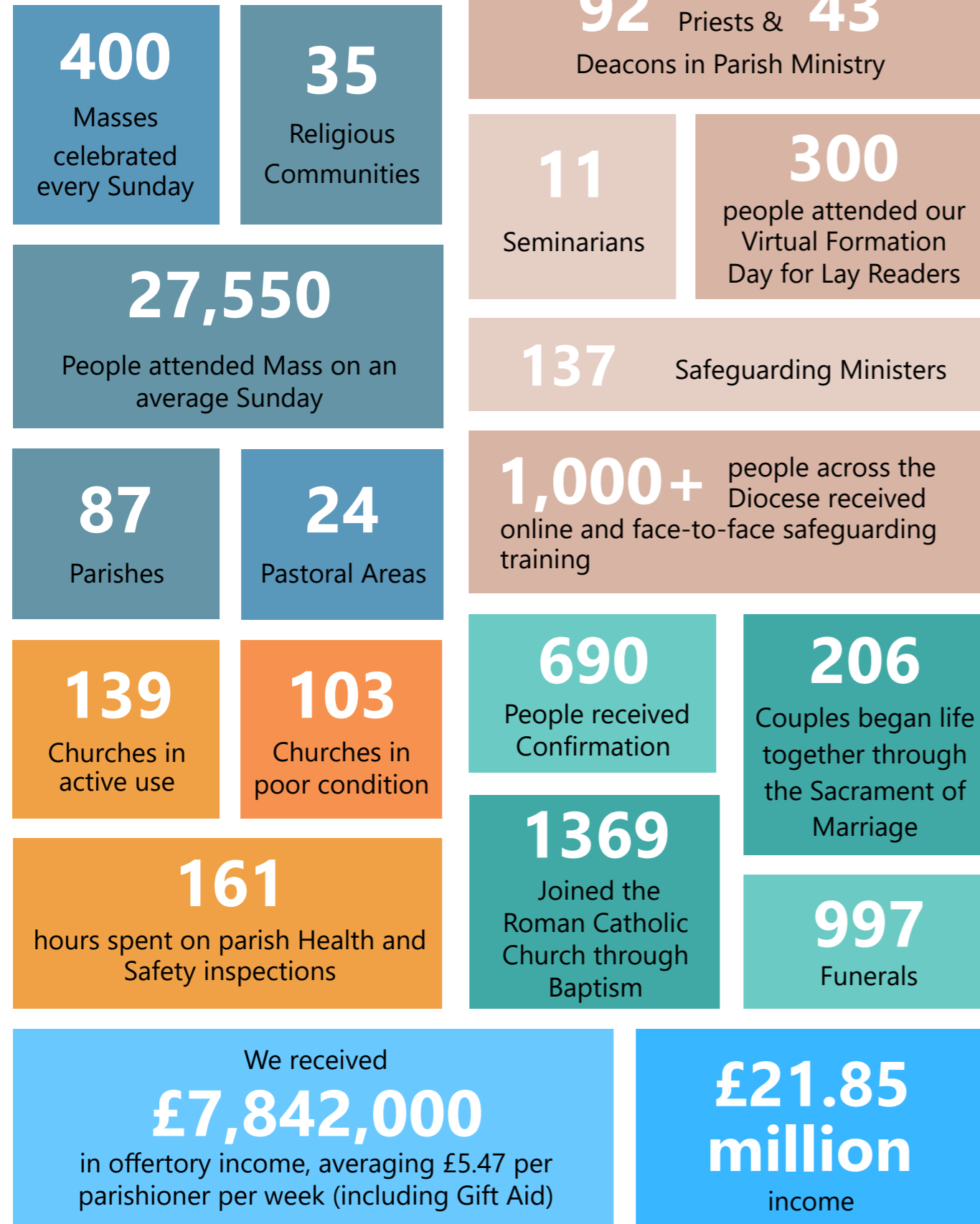
"Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, so that it may bear more fruit"

John 15:2



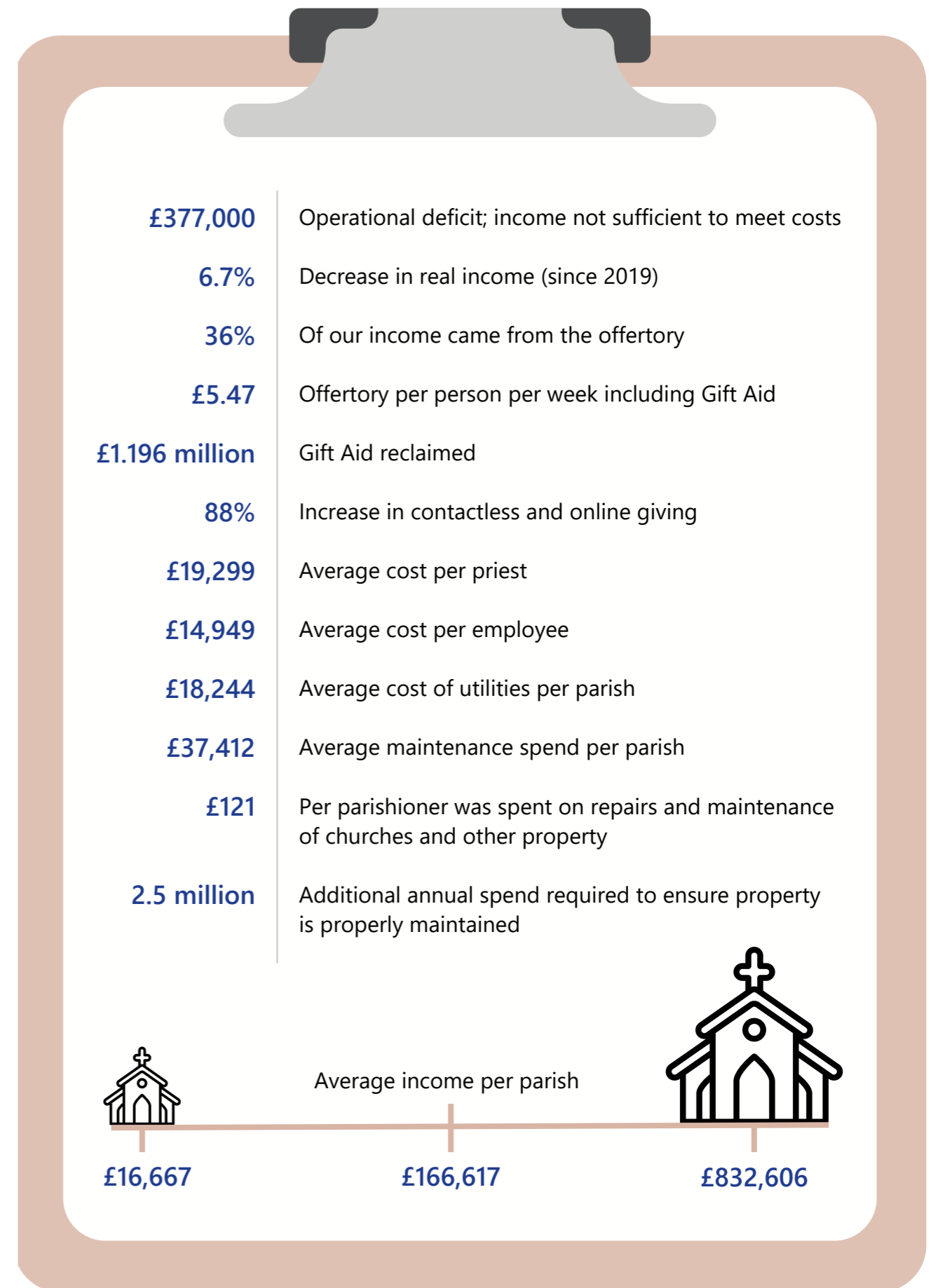
Our Year In Numbers

Pastoral Statistics for the 2024 Calendar Year



In the Diocese | People | Estates | Sacraments | Finance

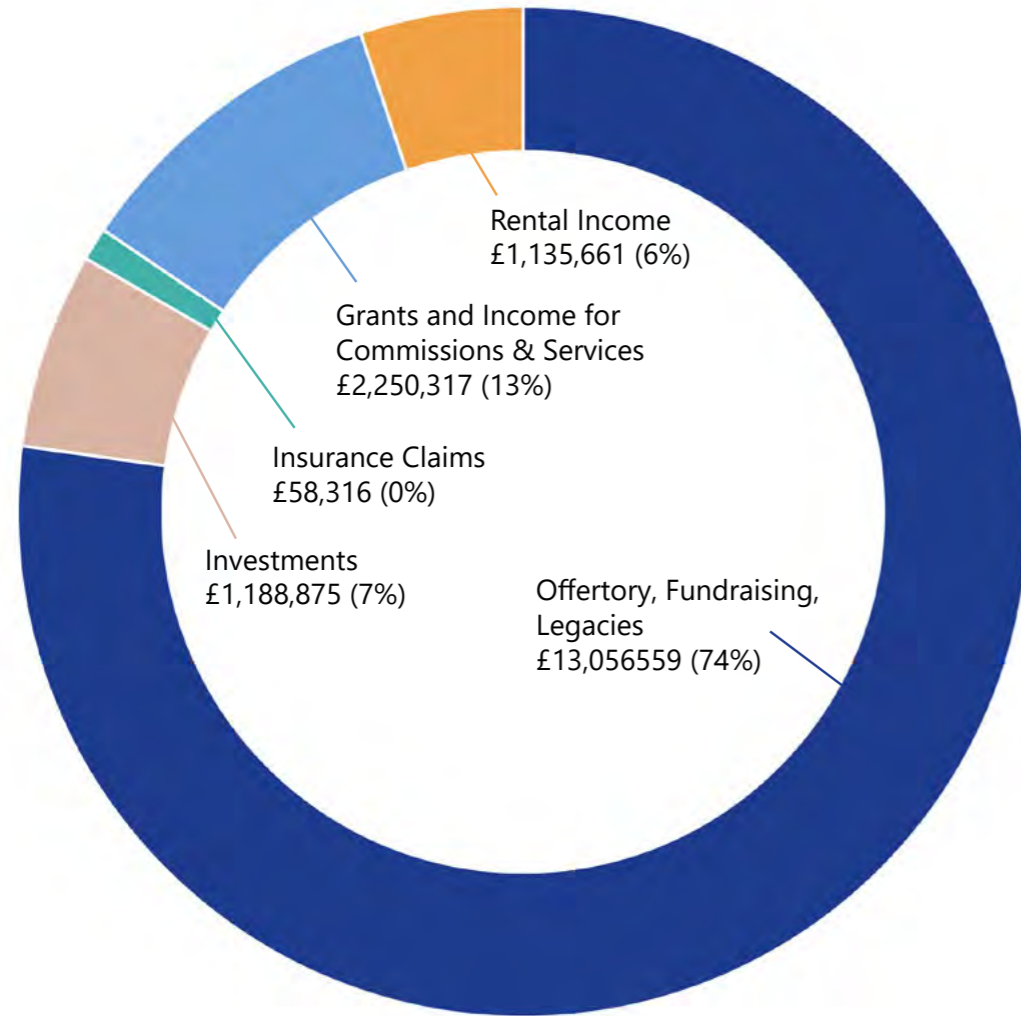
Our Finances at a Glance



Stewardship of Resources

Financial Review

How is the Diocese funded?



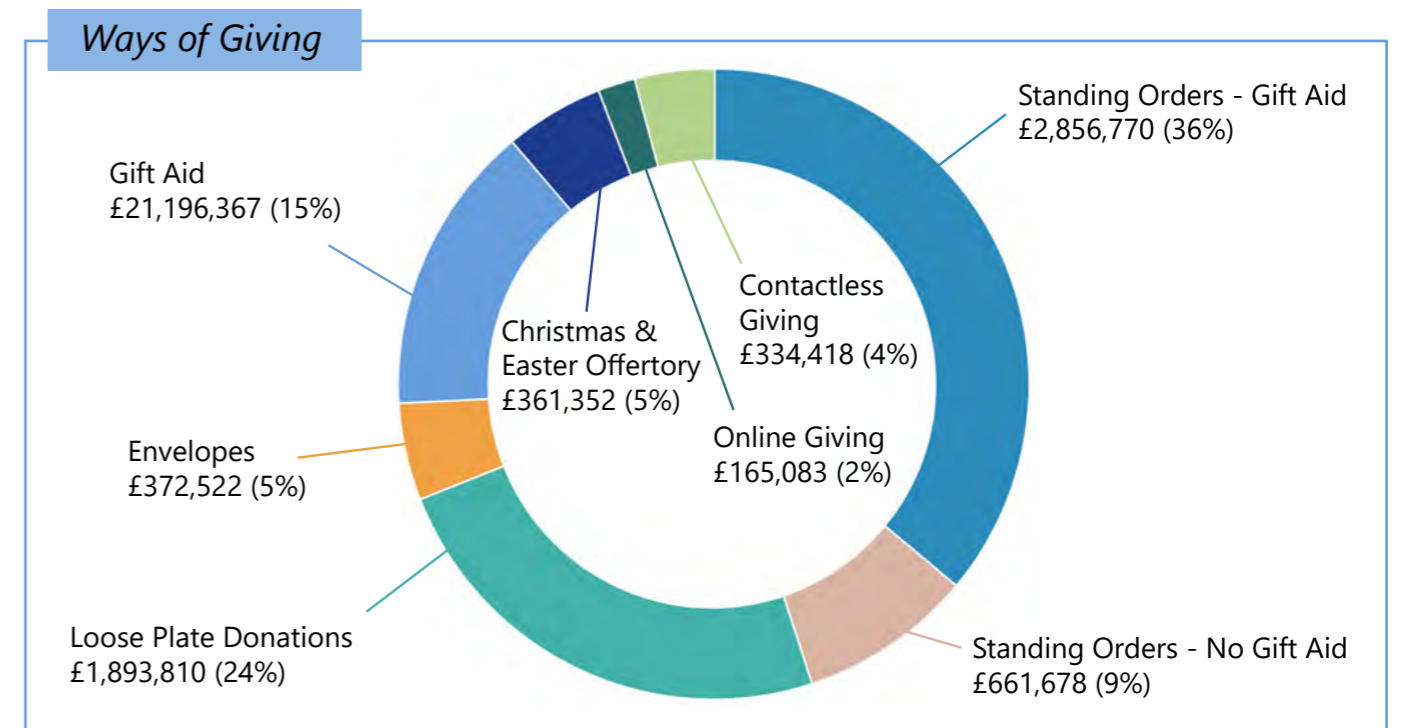
£13,056,559 | Gifts from the faithful are the Diocese's main source of income; the parish offertory, fundraising and legacies made up 74% of the diocese's actual income, in the last financial year (excluding a one off £4.165m donation of a church).

£5.47 | Assuming every one of the 27,550 people who attended Mass on an average Sunday in 2024 contributed to the offertory, giving equated to £5.47 per parishioner per week in the 2023-2024 financial year.

The £7.84 million received through the offertory was given in a variety of ways. Standing orders and cash donations remain the most popular methods, although the Diocese has seen an 88% increase in contactless and online giving over the last year.

Gift aid, a tax relief scheme from the UK Government on eligible charitable donations, increased our income by £1,196,367 making a significant contribution to the Diocese's overall financial position.

Stewardship of Resources - Financial Review



£1,188,875 | 7% of the Diocese's income was generated from its investments. This includes interest on cash deposits and stock investments; however, the majority was rental income from the Diocese's investment properties. Investment properties are generally parish properties, such as empty presbyteries, which are repurposed as investment properties in order to generate an income.

£1,135,661 | 6% of the Diocese income was generated through hiring out our 113 halls and other premises to a wide variety of community groups, activities and private use.

£2,250,317 | 13% of the Diocese's income came from other sources, such as grants for Caritas or parish projects, payments from schools for training and S48 inspections, and payments for chaplaincy to hospitals and universities.

£58,316 | was paid by the Diocese's insurers in response to insurance claims, this included £34K to cover repairs following storm damage in Jersey.

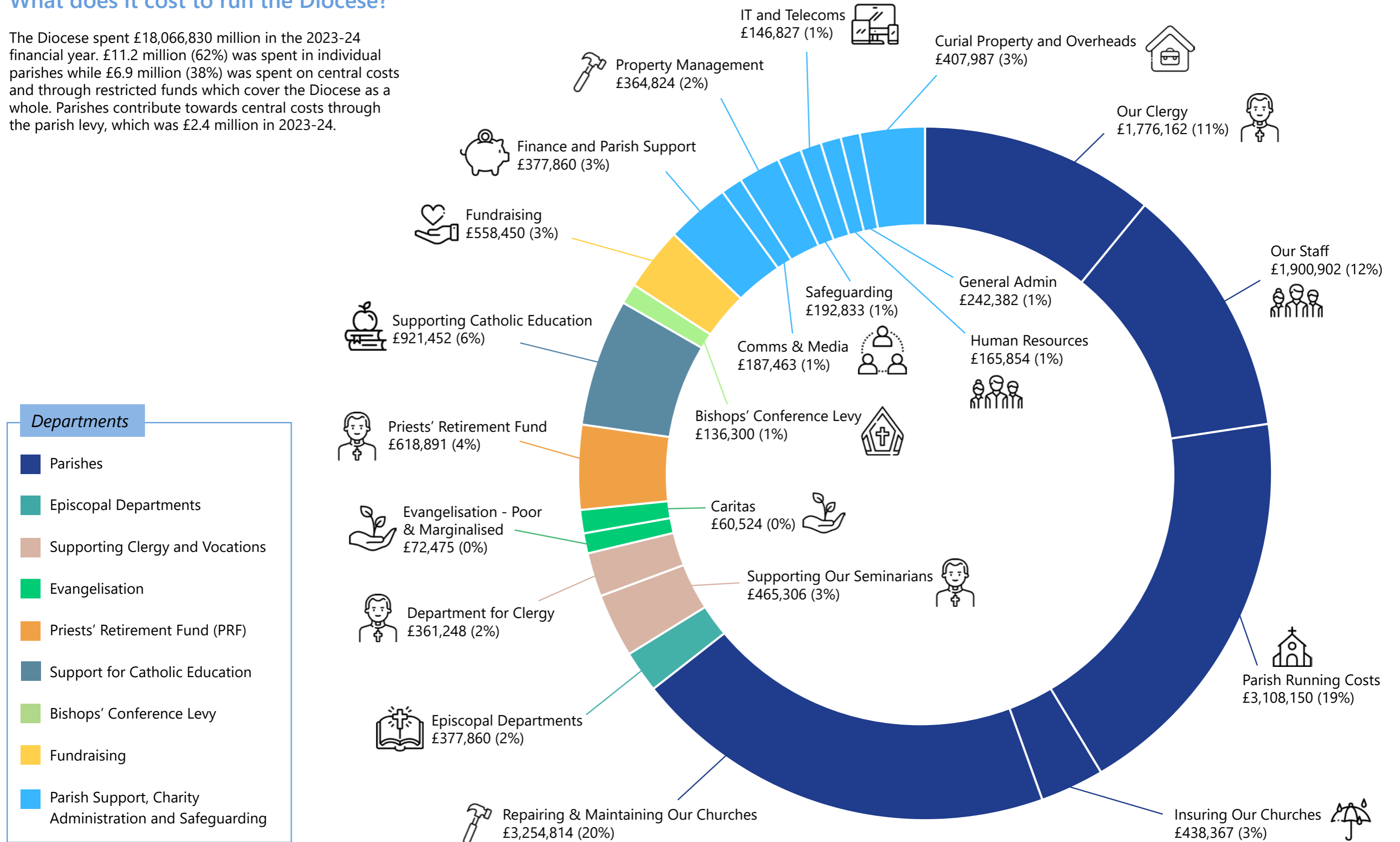
6.7% | Is the decrease in real income since 2019, our income has not kept pace with inflation whereas our costs have.

£4,165,000 | The Diocese's Statement of Accounts includes a £4,165,000 Donation of Tangible Assets. This has not been included in the chart opposite or in the calculation of percentages because it is not income the Diocese could actually spend.

The donation refers to the transfer of Corpus Christ Church and associated estate in Boscombe from the Jesuits to the Diocese following the Jesuits' withdrawal from the parish. Following the transfer, the Diocese has the responsibility for ongoing property maintenance and other costs associated with the church and other buildings.

What does it cost to run the Diocese?

The Diocese spent £18,066,830 million in the 2023-24 financial year. £11.2 million (62%) was spent in individual parishes while £6.9 million (38%) was spent on central costs and through restricted funds which cover the Diocese as a whole. Parishes contribute towards central costs through the parish levy, which was £2.4 million in 2023-24.



Departments

- Parishes
- Episcopal Departments
- Supporting Clergy and Vocations
- Evangelisation
- Priests' Retirement Fund (PRF)
- Support for Catholic Education
- Bishops' Conference Levy
- Fundraising
- Parish Support, Charity Administration and Safeguarding

Did the Diocese make ends meet in the 2023 - 2024 financial year?

No.

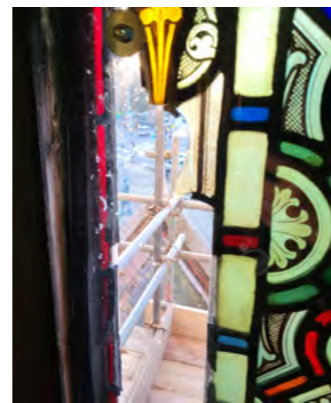
Setting aside the donation of a church (see section on income), the Diocese ended the 2023-24 financial year with a £377,000 deficit; income was not sufficient to meet costs.

38 parishes (44%) recorded an operational deficit for the year; using their finite reserves to cover costs. Of these, 7 parishes, recorded a deficit of more than £50,000, one to make a significant donation towards the restoration of the Cathedral, the other 6 to fund urgent works to parish property.

After ending 8 out of the last 10 years with an operational deficit, the Curia recorded an operational surplus of £483,000, taking into account Levy and other transfers, and excluding gains on investments, in the 2023-24 financial year. This was in part thanks to the contribution of the Closer to Christ campaign towards the previously under-funded central costs associated with funding seminarians, clergy support and providing for retired priests. It was also due to a cost reduction programme across the Curia, minimising costs wherever possible while still achieving key objectives.

Major Works: Cathedral West Window . . .

- **Where** – The Cathedral Parish of St John the Evangelist, Portsmouth. Grade II listed building.
- **When** – January to December 2023
- **Need for the project** – Jan 2024, damaged noted to stained glass section to the Cathedral Westworks (entrance). Immediate response - make safe fragile stained glass to 40m². Conservators (stained glass specialists) assessed the glass which to confirm extensive deterioration, which had been caused by weather events, and age. Stained glass specialists (conservators) Holywell Glas Limited.
- **What was done** – All stained glass were removed section by section and transported to Holywell Glass workshop in Frome. Repairs and preservation techniques were applied such as leading, cleansing and strengthening. The stained glass was reinstated in the last week of Advent Dec 2023 and was greeted by appraising winter sunshine to show off the splendour of the artwork and restoration for future generations.
- **Cost** – £120,000



Is the Diocese financially sustainable in the long term?

It depends.

If nothing changes, the Diocese would not be financially sustainable in the long-term. The key financial challenges the Diocese faces include:



Income generated through our parishes does not meet the cost of running all our parishes.



Income does not keep pace with inflation, while costs increase.



Reserves are very limited, and often restricted to specific purposes, the Diocese does not have a financial buffer.



The Curia does not have a source of funding which is independent from parishes and specific fundraising campaigns. The Parish Levy only covers 62% of central costs. The contribution of the Closer to Christ campaign towards central costs is finite and will run out within the next 10 years.



The Diocese is highly dependent on giving for its income; financial contributions are at risk as Church participation decreases.



There is a complex web of borrowing and overdrafts across the Diocese, reducing its financial flexibility.



Significant financial investment is needed to maintain the Diocese's existing estate portfolio, including churches, halls, presbyteries and other buildings, for the long term.

Despite these significant challenges, the Diocese is considered to be a going concern (financially sustainable) because clear plans are in place to address them.

A Ten-Year Mission Plan, *You Will Be My Witnesses*, is in place to breathe life into the Diocese and adapt our way of doing things to meet the needs of today and tomorrow.

Financial modelling has been undertaken and a 5-year financial strategy developed to address the Diocese's financial position.

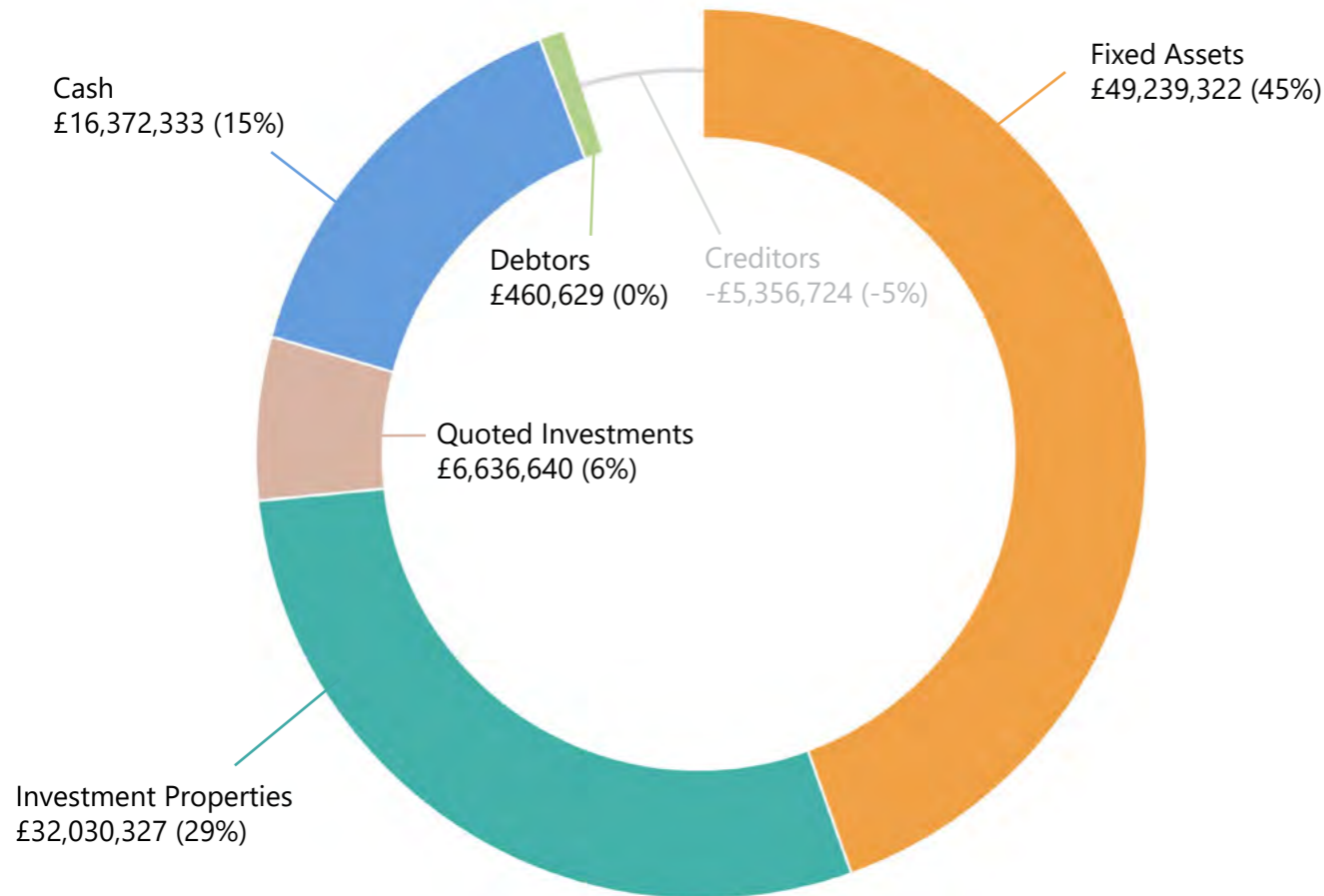
Pastoral Areas are being supported to develop local plans to prioritise their focus for the next 10-years and consider what they can afford to resource going forward.

A financial governance framework has been developed, including the implementation of Xero across all our parishes and the introduction of new policies and financial controls to ensure resources are more effectively stewarded going forward.

Does the Diocese really have £104 million assets to spend?

Not easily.

On paper, the Diocese has £104 million worth of gross assets. However, the majority of these could not easily be realised or spent. The Diocese has £99 million of net assets, because it also has £5.36 million worth of liabilities (money owed by the Diocese).



£49 million | The Diocese's accounts value our churches, halls and presbyteries at £49 million. This value was calculated several decades ago when the Diocese was first required to show these properties in its accounts. The value was dictated by technical accounting rules in force at the time. This value is unlikely to exist outside of our accounts.

In order for these assets to be realised (i.e. be spendable), the property would need to be sold. A market valuation is not included in our accounts because ecclesiastical property is generally unlikely to be sold, and the valuation process is often very complex. There is rarely an alternative use for the property, the land is often the most valuable part. Church property often comes under covenants which further affect the value, in some cases part or all of the asset would return to the original donor.

Sometimes, selling a property is necessary and, in this case, cash which could then be spent would be generated. However, it is never a quick or easy solution. There is a long timeline

to selling ecclesiastical property and a canonical process to follow to ensure the decision to dispose of a church is the best decision in the circumstances.

In other contexts, the Diocese's ecclesiastical property is valued at £693 million. However, this value would never be realisable and therefore is not reflected in our accounts. £693 million is the insured value of our ecclesiastical property; it is the estimated cost to rebuild our estate like-for-like. This value is important for our insurance, and also as a guide to budgeting property maintenance.

£32 million | The Diocese's investment property is valued at £32 million in our accounts. This is the estimated market value and could be realised by selling investment property to generate a lump sum. It is not spendable immediately, the process of selling property always takes time. In selling its investment property, the Diocese would forgo future investment income. More than £1 million worth of income was generated from investment property rentals in 2023-24. For many parishes income from their investments makes the difference between operating at a surplus or at a deficit.

£6.6 million | The Diocese holds £6.6 million of investments in securities in the Diocese of Portsmouth Common Investment Fund (DOPIF), which is managed by external investment managers. These assets are more easily accessible than our property assets, however, spending them means losing future investment income. A diverse set of assets also helps improve our financial resilience. An increasing number of parishes are liquidating their investments in order to spend the funds on maintaining parish property.

£16.37 million | The Diocese holds £16.37 million in cash across all its bank accounts, these assets are the most easily accessible to spend. If income ceased coming in, these cash reserves would cover around 11 months of normal spending.

Most cash reserves are designated to a particular parish or purpose. Not every parish has reserves. Of the Diocese's 87 parishes, 14 are overdrawn by a combined total of £1.2 million. A further 7 parishes have less than £10,000 in their bank accounts.

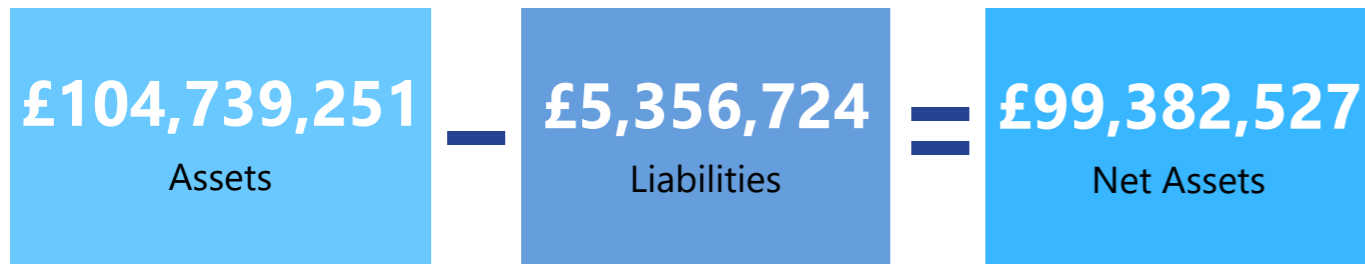
The Curia is overdrawn by £2.04 million due to running a deficit for 8 out of the last 10 financial years, as well as a web of historic debt within the Diocese, for example loans from the Curia to parishes to fund historic building projects.

£460,000 | The Diocese is owed £460,000 by other organisations (debtors), for example where rent or payments for chaplaincy services were due on the 31 August 2024. Once these debtors have paid, the asset converts into cash which could be spent.

£5.36 million | The Diocese has £5.36 million worth of liabilities. The majority of which relates to the £4.66 million of funding from the Department of Education (DfE) for the maintenance of property associated with voluntary aided Catholic schools. It is shown as a liability because it was not yet spent on the 31 August 2024 and would need to be repaid to the DfE if it is not spent within the funding timeframe.

The remaining £532k of liabilities are due to invoices which had not cleared by the 31 August 2024 and funds from second collections which had not yet been disbursed to the intended beneficiaries.

The Diocese's bank overdrafts are not shown under creditors in our accounts because they are balanced out by the cash held on other accounts. The £16.37 million of cash held by the Diocese is the net position.



For more information on Investments, Reserves and Risks see pages 72 - 74

Major Works: St Bede's, Basingstoke . . .

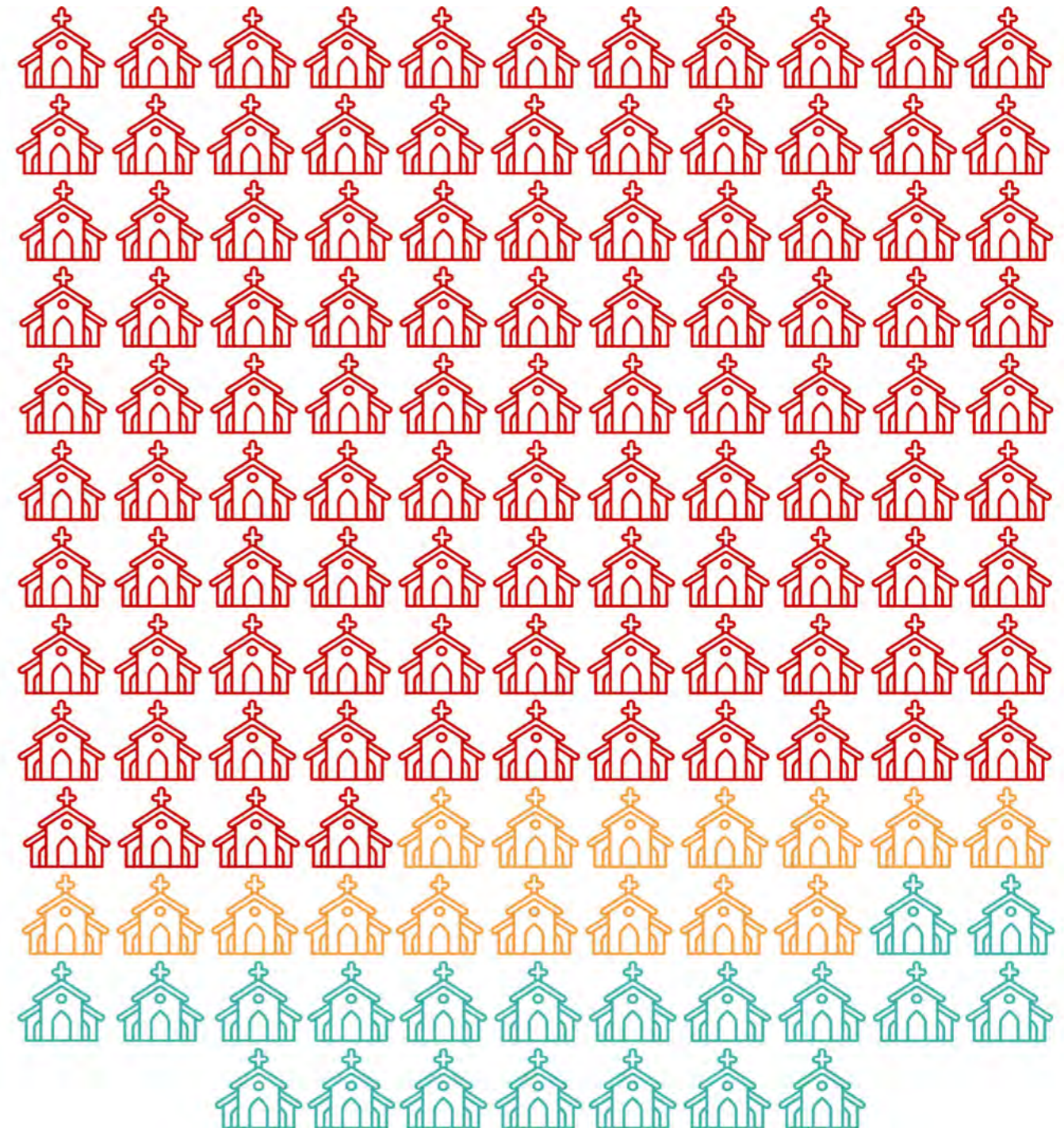
- **Where** – St Bedes church Basingstoke
- **When** – January 2024
- **Need for the project** – Water leaks into the cloister and hall
- **What was done** – Liquid Membrane was installed to the roof
- **Cost** – £12,500



What would it cost to keep all the churches in the Diocese in good condition?

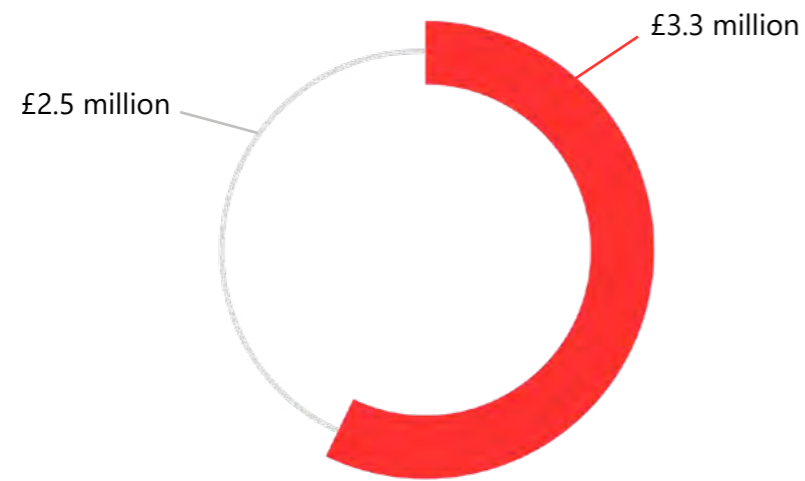
More than we can afford.

The Diocese spent an average £2.81 million per year maintain its estate over the last 5 years. Despite this, the condition of our estate is generally poor. Of our 139 churches, 103 (74%) are in poor condition and require significant investment in the short term.



103 Poor | 16 Fair | 20 Good

Essential Maintenance Shortfall



There is a significant backlog of maintenance to undertake. Our quinquennial property condition reports outline £29.2 million worth of essential works to be undertaken on our properties, which averages out at £5.8 million per year. This would be **£2.5 million** more than the **£3.3 million** we spent in 2023-24, a year we ended in deficit.

For each year that we do not spend enough to catch up, the cost to clear the backlog grows and the condition of our properties deteriorates further.

Carrying out essential maintenance work is not the same as maintaining buildings in good condition for the long term. A conservative estimate suggests that, once backlog maintenance has been addressed, 1% of the insured value of the building should be spent each year on maintenance to keep property in good condition for the long term.

The insured value of the Diocese’s property is £721 million, which suggests we should be spending £7.2 million per year on maintaining property. This would not include aesthetic or community projects such as putting in a stained-glass window or fitting a kitchen.

What does this look like per parishioner?

£284 giving (to cover all costs, not just maintenance)

£121 spent on maintaining buildings in 2023-24

£211 should have been spent to cover minimum essential maintenance

£261 should have been spent to keep buildings in good condition for the long term

How does the Diocese Provide for Priests in Retirement?

The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth – Priests’ Retirement Fund (PRF) provides for Diocesan secular priests in their retirement. £422k was spent providing accommodation, a grant, and/or a contribution towards the cost of care for the 35 retired priests currently supported by the PRF. The PRF has £5.8 million of assets, most of which is housing for retired priests. The PRF ended the 2023-24 financial year with a £29k surplus, taking into account £300k of funding from the Closer to Christ campaign received that year.

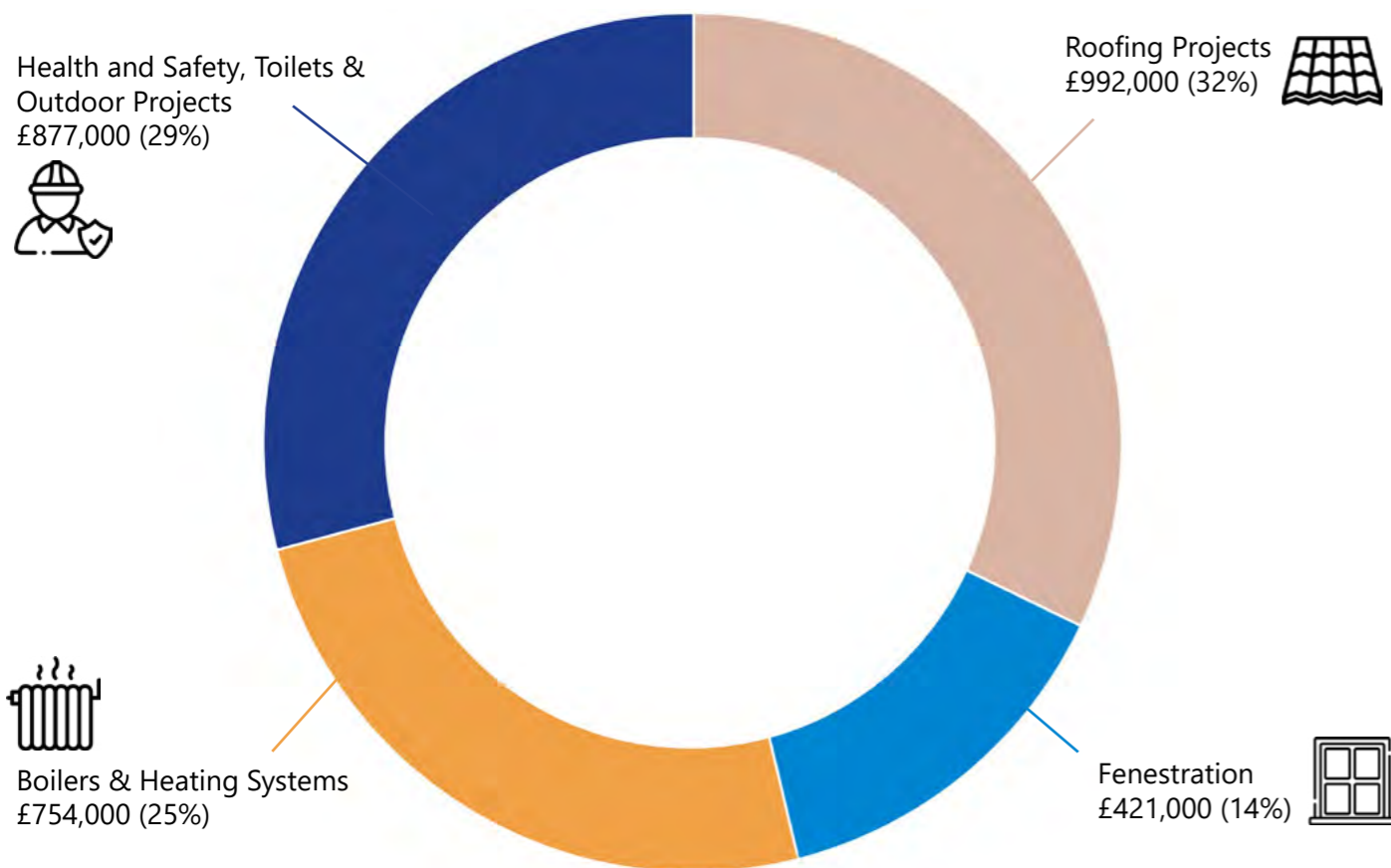
The number of retired priests will increase over the next few years, with retirement expected to significantly outpace ordinations. The primary source of income for the PRF in the 2023-24 financial year was the Closer to Christ campaign. An alternative source of funding or alternative model for supporting retired priests will be needed in the future at the end of the current fundraising campaign.



Where are the Diocese's Catholic Schools in the accounts?

The day-to-day operation of Catholic schools is the responsibility of each school or academy trust. School finances are separate from the Diocese and therefore not included in our accounts. The Diocese owns the land or buildings for 42 maintained schools and 14 academies. This property is not listed as an asset in our accounts, because it would not be possible to realise a value from the property.

The Diocese receives funding from the UK Department for Education (DfE) as a contribution towards maintaining voluntary aided Catholic school buildings. The DfE contributes 90% and the Diocese or the schools must provide funding for the remaining 10%.



Of the £344k of funding received through the Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) and the £2.7 million of VASCA funding in the 2023-24 financial year, £992k (33%) was spent on roofing projects, £421k (14%) on fenestration, £754k (25%) on boilers and heating systems and the remaining £877k (29%) spent on works related to Health & Safety, toilets and outdoor projects. The funds held are included in the Diocese's accounts.

The Department for Education also funds the maintenance of academies. This funding is paid directly to each academy trust and does not come through the Diocese's accounts. A financial advantage of the academy model is that, neither the Diocese nor the schools have an obligation to fund the 10% top-up required for voluntary aided schools.



Structure, Governance & Management and Financial Accounts

Structure, Governance & Management

Financial Review

Constitution

The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 06 July 2022 under charity number 1199568.

It is governed under a constitution, which was last amended on 20 March 2023. As an association CIO the Diocese has a sole member, the Bishop of Portsmouth whose responsibilities include appointing Trustees.

Trustees

- Bishop of Portsmouth Rt Rev Philip Anthony Egan
- Rev Gaston Forbah Afah (appointed 02 May 2024)
- Rev Mr Gerard Dailly (term ended 07 June 2024)
- Mr Bernard Davis (term ended 26 September 2024)
- Mrs Anne-Marie Eden (appointed 30 July 2024)
- Mr Michael Elks
- Rev Christopher Heaps
- Rev Mark Hogan (term ended 31 March 2024)
- Mr Paul Kilduff
- Dr Catherine Knowles
- Rev Canon James McAuley
- Rev Canon Paul James Smith
- Mr Richard Taylor (appointed 04 October 2024)
- Rev Benjamin Theobald
- Rev Canon Simon Thomson
- Mr Chris Trickey

The Board of Trustees meet five times during the year.

Linked Charities

The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth has over 90 special trusts, most of which relate to property. There are seven funds:

- Anthony Robert Baron's Bequest
- Diocese of Portsmouth Common Investment
- Pangbourne Assistance Fund
- St Dominic's Priory Countess of Clare Fund
- The Father Bernard Medd Memorial Fund
- The Portsmouth Diocesan Educational Foundation
- Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth – Priests' Retirement Fund

These special trusts are linked to the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth for the purposes of registration and reporting. The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth is the sole trustee of these special trusts.

Structure, Governance and Management - Financial Review

The Appointment of Trustees

Trustees are appointed in writing by the charity's sole member: the Bishop of Portsmouth. Trustee vacancies are advertised through appropriate diocesan communication channels, potential candidates are also approached directly. All candidates applying to become a trustee will be interviewed by the Bishop and Secretary to Trustees. Any successful applicants are co-opted as advisory members of the Board at the next full meeting for a period of six months. At the end of six months, they are appointed as trustees by the Bishop.

Senior priests are appointed as ex-officio trustees; their appointment lasts as long as they are in office. Other trustees are generally appointed for a five-year term, which may be repeated or extended.

Trustee Induction and Training

The Secretary to Trustees, in collaboration with the Governance Team, is responsible for ensuring that an appropriate induction programme is arranged for new trustees, within the first 3 months of appointment.

The induction is expected to include clarification of legal responsibilities, Charity Commission requirements of charity trustees, strategic issues, governance issues, familiarity with the Trust Deed and structure of the charity, and other relevant induction material to allow trustees to understand the Charity's purpose, activities, financial position and current risks.

Trustees are encouraged to undertake regular training throughout their appointment and to keep up to date with current legislation.

Trustee expenses

A number of trustees are priests of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. They are housed, remunerated and reimbursed expenses for carrying out their ministry in the same way as other priests in the Diocese.

However, no trustee received reimbursement from the Diocese for their role as trustee, nor did any trustee have a beneficial interest in any contract with the Charity. Trustees may claim expenses, such as mileage, incurred in connection with their duties as Trustees.

Management Team

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the overall management, oversight and strategic direction of the Diocese. To achieve this, they have appointed a Chief Operating Officer to whom the trustees have delegated the day-to-day responsibility of running the Diocese.

The Chief Operating Officer is supported by a senior management team to whom specific areas of responsibility have been delegated, such as finance, estates, safeguarding, HR, IT, communications, governance, fundraising, charity outreach, and clergy support.

Setting Pay

Remunerated roles in the Curia and central administration have been benchmarked against several charity sector benchmarks, including other dioceses. The Diocese is a lower quartile employer, although the Trustee Board may choose to apply a recruitment or retention premium to a particular post in certain circumstances.

Organisation

The Board of Trustees is supported in decision-making by making detailed scrutiny and recommendations provided by sub-committees which meet regularly throughout the year. These committees include:

- Finance, Audit and Risk Committee
- HR Remuneration and Nominations Committee
- Investment Committee
- Priest Retirement Fund Committee
- Art, Architecture and Patrimony Committee
- Vocation Committee
- Education Committee
- Evangelisation Committee
- Caritas Committee
- Portsmouth Bamenda Committee
- Safeguarding Committee

The Diocesan Curia is organised into a Framework for Collaboration, with three vicariates, that for Vocation, leading to that for Education, leading to that for Evangelisation, reflecting the threefold ministry of the Bishop.

Each Vicariate is responsible for one aspect of the Bishop's threefold ministry: Vocation, Education and Evangelisation. Each is headed by an Episcopal Vicar, who, together with the Vicars General, are the sole members of the Bishop's Council, all except one of whom have been appointed trustees. Each Vicariate Committee is chaired by the Episcopal Vicar for that vicariate.

The [Portsmouth Bamenda Committee](#) sits within the Vicariate for Evangelisation, and is responsible for furthering the Diocese's ecclesiastical partnership with the Archdiocese of Bamenda and overseeing grant funding for projects in the Archdiocese.

The [Caritas Committee](#) also sits within the Vicariate for Evangelisation and is responsible for overseeing the Diocese's charity and outreach through Caritas.

The purpose of the [Finance, Audit and Risk Committee](#) is to provide strategic oversight to the administration of the temporal goods of the Diocese and its parishes: its land and buildings, money, investments and the discharge of its legal and contractual obligations. The FAR Committee is chaired by the Vicar General, Moderator of the Curia.

The [HR and Remuneration and Nominations Committee](#) considers remuneration across the Diocese and makes recommendations to the Board. It is chaired by the Vicar General, Moderator of the Curia.

The [Investment Committee](#) is responsible for overseeing the performance of the Diocese's investment managers and ensuring that investment decisions are in sympathy with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

The [Art, Architecture and Patrimony Committee](#) reviews proposed alterations to churches to ensure the patrimony of the Diocese is managed responsibly.

The [Priests' Retirement Fund Committee](#) is responsible for ensuring the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth – Priests' Retirement Fund is managed responsibly and in accordance with the fund's charitable purposes and governing documents. It is chaired by a diocesan priest.

The [Safeguarding Committee](#) is responsible for matters which relate to safeguarding and is chaired by a non-clergy trustee.

The [Chancery and Tribunal](#) also form part of the Curia, the Judicial Vicar has been appointed as a trustee.

The structure of the Diocese presents a harmonious balance between the charity's legal responsibility and the Diocese's responsibility to Canon Law. The Council of Priests meets regularly to consult on matters of Canon Law and advise the Board of Trustees.

Relationship with Other Organisations

Other regulators

In addition to the Charity Commission for England and Wales, the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth is overseen by the Jersey Charity Commissioner and the Guernsey Registry.

The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adheres to the Code of Fundraising Practice.

The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth is registered as a data controller with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

Safeguarding in the Diocese is overseen by the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA).

Other organisations in the Diocese

The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth has a close relationship with the Portsmouth Diocesan Trust and Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust, which remain separate charities pending the final transfer of the Diocese's schools following the Diocese's incorporation to the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth on the 31 December 2022.

The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth is a company member of Caritas Jersey Limited, Jersey Charity number 150, a charitable company limited by guarantee and the hub of Catholic Social Action in Jersey.

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustee Board has due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in exercising its powers and duties. The Trustee Board ensures the Charity benefits the public by bringing meaning to people's lives, providing opportunities to strengthen relationships with God, providing a moral and ethical framework for life; through community and social cohesion in its pastoral work; and through its work supporting the poor and the marginalised.

Charitable Purposes

The purposes of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, as set out in its constitution, are the advancement of the Roman Catholic religion in the Diocese in such ways being charitable as the Bishop shall from time to time direct and for the service and support whether in the Diocese or outside the Diocese in such ways as aforesaid of any lawful charitable purposes whether educational or otherwise promoted or supported by the Roman Catholic Church.

The Charity therefore fulfils its purpose by offering religious and pastoral services, educational programmes, The Charity therefore fulfils its purpose by offering religious and pastoral services, educational programmes, and charitable support and assistance to all those living within its borders: approximately 235,000 self-identifying Catholics, of whom 25,000 are regular Mass-attending Catholics and roughly 3.2 million other residents. The principal vehicles for these ministries are parishes, chaplaincies and schools, as well as outreach activities coordinated by Caritas Portsmouth.

Fundraising Activity

The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth follows the Institute of Fundraising's Codes of Fundraising Practice and is registered with the Fundraising Regulator. No complaints about fundraising activity required escalation to the Fundraising Regulator. The Diocese has its own procedures in place for dealing with complaints. Within this process, we publish a clear procedure for escalation and timescales when a person lodging a complaint can expect us to respond. The fundraising activity of the Diocese takes various forms; including fundraising through campaigns, planned regular giving, via digital means and cash, securing grants from institutional, corporate or non-profit organisations and community fundraising. Anyone who is kind enough to consider donating to the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth can be assured that:

- We never sell personal data to other organisations or charities.
- We do sometimes ask third party organisations to help process our data but they will act under our instruction. We never allow these organisations to use parishioner and supporter data for their own purposes and the data remains our legal responsibility.
- At all times we ensure that it is treated with the same level of care as if we were handling it directly.
- We never undertake door-to-door fundraising.
- We provide information to parishioners and supporters on how to opt-out of future communications from the Diocese.
- We display the Fundraising Regulator badge on our website and fundraising collateral to demonstrate our commitment to best practice.

The Diocese ensures that vulnerable people are protected by adhering to the Codes of Fundraising Practice, ensuring that policies and procedures are in place for fundraising activities, and regularly working with the safeguarding and governance teams to ensure that good practice is followed in accordance with the law.

Building Partnerships

Relying on a range of income streams means that our work is more sustainable. The Diocese is especially grateful to receive funding from a variety of grant-givers, including Trusts and Foundations. Many of these grants recognise the substantial positive impact that parish and Diocesan projects have on the lives they are designed to support and to the wider community. The Trustee aim to build long-term partnerships and are grateful to all those funders who have supported the Charity over the past year.

Legacies

The Diocese attempts to make it as easy as possible for supporters to leave gifts in their Wills, producing information to highlight the wonderful benefit of giving a legacy, of any size, to a particular parish or where the need is greatest. In 2024 we launched an online and face-to-face will-writing service enabling making provision for the Church in supporter Wills even easier.

Although legal advice is not offered to supporters, information is provided to help them make the right decision for them, whether in writing, over the telephone or on the website.

The Trustees also take great care in administering the legacy gifts received, ensuring executors and family members are treated professionally with compassion, dignity and care.

Data Handling Statement

The Diocese of Portsmouth is committed to handling data in a fair and transparent manner and complying with data protection laws. The Diocese is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

Diversity, Equality and Inclusion

Our existing charity values reflect the need for diversity, equality and inclusion (DE&I). We also recognise that there will always be further improvements or enhancements that we can make to maximise DE&I within the Charity.

We are committed to ensuring that obstacles to participation are reduced and believe that diversity enriches our work, strengthens our mission, and enables us to better serve our community. By working together, we can build a more inclusive and compassionate Church.

Auditors

On 18 November 2024 the company's auditor changed its name from haysmacintyre LLP to HaysMac LLP.

Investments

At 31 Aug 24 the Diocese held £6.6 million in quoted investments, which increased in value by 13% since 01 September 2023, due to changing market conditions.

In July 2022, the Diocese established an Investment Committee to encourage our parishes to participate in investment decisions, to act as a forum for communication with our Investment Managers and to assist the Board of Trustees in their decision-making, The Committee has met quarterly since the date of its inception.

The Trustee Board have agreed on an investment policy for the portfolio, which can be summarised as follows:

The purpose of the investment policy is to maintain the purchasing power of the capital and income generated over the medium to long term (more than five years). The Investment Committee will provide any appointed external or in-house investment manager(s) with a mandate based upon the principles of Investment Targets and Risk Tolerance.

The Trustee Board have agreed on an ethical policy for the portfolio. The following is an extract from the investment policy: *"Where the issuer of a security (share, stock or bond) or deposit taker (bank) is directly and substantially (more than 5% of the activity of that entity) involved in activities which constitute grave moral evil such investments are to be entirely excluded because holding such securities would constitute formal co-operation in that evil. These would include but not be limited to, murder, procured abortion, contraception, sexual activity outside marriage and acts which undermine the dignity and sanctity of human beings (for example the exploitation of workers, migrants, the weak and the elderly) from conception to natural death, corrupting the young, heresy and sacrilege." The Bishop and Board of Trustees also require that our investment managers keep under review the environmental stewardship of entities in which the Diocese holds investments or deposits and instructs them to refer any activities which might constitute a breach of the duty of the stewardship of creation to them."*

Reserves

Our reserves policy is designed to ensure the stability of the ongoing operations, support for the clergy and employment of staff by the organisation and to provide a source of internal funds for organisational priorities such as maintaining the Diocesan Estate and listed buildings and also to provide financial support where required to facilitate the delivery of the mission of the Diocese.

The Reserves Policy has four components:

A **Curial Operating Reserve** – intended to provide an internal source of funds for the Curia in situations such as a sudden increase in expenses, one-time unbudgeted expenses, unanticipated loss in funding, or uninsured losses, to be equal to three months of net recurrent annual costs excluding parish levy (thus if net operating cost excluding levy is £2,350, the Curial Operating Reserve will be £600k).

At Year End 2024 unrestricted Curial Reserves stood at a negative £1.54 million. Steps being taken to address this deficit and bring reserves in line with those envisaged by the Reserves

Policy include revenues generated by the disposal of surplus assets in the Ten-Year Plan, *You Will Be My Witnesses*, and the budgetary discipline and cost reduction being implemented in the Curia which has seen the in-year deficit reduced by over £1 million from 2021-22 to 2023-24.

A **Parish Operating Reserve** – all parishes should seek to have at least 3 months of net recurrent annual costs held as reserves. At 31 Aug 2024, 14 out of 87 parishes did not have sufficient reserves to cover 3 months' recurrent expenditure. This situation will be addressed by improved reporting of parish's financial positions, rollout and associated training of budgeting for all parishes, and the implementation of the Ten-Year Mission Plan.

A **Diocesan Development Fund** - intended to provide temporary financial support for the repair or maintenance of the Diocesan estate and listed buildings to parishes or other bodies with insufficient funds at their disposal. It is the intention of the Diocese for the DDF to be used and replenished within a medium-term period (3 to 5 years). The target amount of the DDF should be £2 million.

A **Strategic Financial Reserve** - intended to provide funds for the strategic development of the Diocese in general and parishes in particular. These funds would be used to facilitate the delivery of agreed Strategic Objectives that require start-up funding. The target amount of the SFR should be £2 million.

The Diocesan Development Fund and Strategic Financial Reserve will be built up once progress has been made in addressing the Curial and Parish Operating Reserves.

Risks

A risk register is provided for Trustees to review at every meeting. Key risks are:

- Falling Mass attendance and participation in Church activities leading to a shortage of volunteers to support the running of parishes and outreach activities, fewer vocations to the priesthood, religious life and diaconate and falling offertory income. All of which has a significant impact on the long-term vitality of the Church.
- The growing backlog of estate maintenance, together with the deterioration of older, listed buildings (most notably the Cathedral) is a long-term liability. Our Ten-Year Mission Plan, *You Will Be My Witnesses*, sets out to increase participation in parish life and enable us to discern where to invest and what we can no longer maintain.
- The Diocese comprises 87 individual parish units which operate autonomously to a significant extent. The organisation is highly dispersed and also largely reliant on volunteers for much of the day-to-day activity. This all presents a significant risk of non-compliance with key policies required by regulators and legislation. Support and regular communication in a variety of forms is provided to parishes about policy and general guidance. However, further work is required to ensure that practical resources and training are provided to help parishes to navigate increasingly complex requirements.
- Cyber-security is a recognised global risk, key performance indicators have been developed based on the 12-point plan provided by the Diocese's insurer; progress is regularly measured against the KPIs.
- Although we have been blessed with vocations, the number of vocations to the priesthood is not keeping pace with expected clergy retirement in the medium term. Our Ten-Year Mission

Plan, *You Will Be My Witnesses*, is intended to enable ways of working which mitigate these anticipated challenges to some extent.

- Recruitment to key roles in central administration and in parishes is proving a significant challenge. Vacancies can, on occasion, be open for several months. Attracting and retaining candidates with the appropriate experience and expertise will require a re-evaluation of our structure and pay and reward strategy in the coming year.
- Patchy record keeping and poorly documented or understood long-standing arrangements between the Diocese and other Catholic organisations, such as religious orders and other groups, may result in uninsured liabilities. A programme is underway to work with each group to clarify and document arrangements.
- Decisions external to the Diocese impact the Diocese's plans, priorities and resources, examples include the change of government policy on the academisation of schools and the change in the CCSA's remit to exclude the provision of training, advice on complex safeguarding cases and development of national safeguarding policies.
- Inability to bring the Diocese's Ten-Year Mission Plan, *You Will Be My Witnesses*, to fruition due to ineffective consultation and resource limitations. A programme of visits by the Bishop and other leaders to each Pastoral Area is underway to discuss local plans, guidance to support consultation is being developed.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The purpose of this statement is to distinguish the Trustees' responsibilities for the accounts from those of the Auditors as stated in their Report. The Charities Act 2011 requires the Trustees to prepare for each financial period, financial statements which give a true and fair view of the Charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the period end. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring proper accounting records are kept which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the Diocese and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Trust Deeds and the disclosure regulations. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Diocese and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of an error, fraud, and other irregularities.

This Annual Report was approved by the Trustee Board at a meeting held on: 01/05/2025

Signed on 09/05/2025 by:



From the Auditors

Independent auditor's report to the Trustees of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, 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, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard is applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and the parent charity's affairs as of 31 August 2024 and the group's net movement in funds for the year then ended.
- have been properly prepared under the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared following the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for Opinion

We have been appointed as auditors under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder. We conducted our audit by 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 group following 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 group's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue. Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees for 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 Report of the Trustees. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, 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 there is a material misstatement in the financial statements 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 about which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charity, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the parent charity's financial statements 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 for the financial statements

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 group's and the parent 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 group or the parent charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements 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 under 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 based on these financial statements.

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:

Based on our understanding of the group and the environment in which it operates, we identified the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to Canon Law, employment law, safeguarding regulations and Charity Law, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of financial statements such as the Charities Act 2011 and Charities SORP.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls). Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Review of minutes of trustees' meetings.
- Inspect correspondence with regulators and tax authorities.
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud.
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities.
- Identifying and testing journals; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates. These are related to depreciation and investment property valuations.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulations. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, 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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements 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, under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and 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's Trustees as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

HaysMac LLP
10 Queen Street Place
Statutory Auditors
London EC4R 1AG

Date: **13 May 2025**

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

Statement of Financial Activities

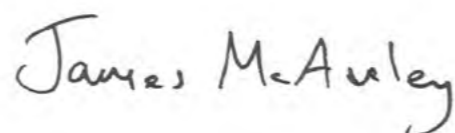
Notes	CURIA - TOTAL	PARISH - TOTAL	RESTRICTED - TOTAL	TOTAL - AUG 2024	14 MONTH PERIOD TO AUG 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies					
Donations and Offerories	18,612	12,796,287	3,259,463	16,074,361	14,380,499
Legacies	446,124	646,397	54,677	1,147,198	866,484
Other	742,044	1,417,513	90,760	2,250,317	1,727,748
Other trading activities:					
Rent – miscellaneous lettings	21,200	1,114,461	-	1,135,661	906,331
Income of trading subsidiaries	13	-	-	-	-
Investment income					
Investment income and interest receivable	1	2,091	147,727	8,549	158,367
Rent – investment properties	1	39,558	981,874	9,076	1,030,508
Other income:					
Insurance Claims	-	58,316	-	58,316	117,790
Transfer from Predecessor Entity	-	-	-	-	81,124,597
Total income	1,269,629	17,162,575	3,422,526	21,854,729	99,749,573
Expenditure on Raising funds					
Finance costs	(493)	(20,459)	(526,498)	(547,450)	(958,521)
Charitable activities					
Activities in furtherance of the Roman Catholic Faith	(4,123,679)	(11,142,330)	(2,253,371)	(17,519,380)	(12,061,438)
Total expenditure	2	(4,124,171)	(11,162,789)	(18,066,830)	(13,019,959)
Net (Expenditure)/Income before transfers	(2,854,543)	5,999,786	642,656	3,787,900	86,729,614
Realised and Unrealised Gains/Losses on investments					
	72,482	9,599,778	94,094	9,766,353	(901,340)
Net income/(expenditure)	(2,782,061)	15,599,564	736,750	13,554,253	85,828,274
Transfers between Funds	930,318	(416,065)	(514,253)	-	-
Transfers - Schools Building Fund Levy	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers - Diocesan Levy	2,407,224	(2,407,224)	-	-	-
Net movement on funds	555,481	12,776,275	222,497	13,554,253	85,828,274
Reconciliation of funds					
Fund balances brought forward	1,822,990	72,581,436	11,423,848	85,828,274	
Fund balances carried forward	2,378,471	85,357,711	11,646,345	99,382,527	85,828,274

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the period. All operations are continuing and there are no discontinued operations in either year. The comparative year's Statement of Financial Activities is included in note 15.

Balance Sheet

	Notes	CURIAL FUNDS £	PARISH FUNDS £	31-Aug-24 £	31-Aug-23 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	4	7,407,124	41,832,198	49,239,322	47,302,550
Investments	5	3,469,223	35,197,744	38,666,967	27,913,368
		<u>10,876,347</u>	<u>77,029,942</u>	<u>87,906,289</u>	<u>75,215,919</u>
Current Assets					
Debtors and prepayments	6	442,654	17,975	460,629	1,300,133
Cash at bank and in hand		5,532,143	10,840,191	16,372,334	15,908,427
		<u>5,974,796</u>	<u>10,858,166</u>	<u>16,832,962</u>	<u>17,208,560</u>
Creditors: due within one year	7	(5,083,904)	(272,820)	(5,356,724)	(6,596,205)
Net Current Assets		<u>890,892</u>	<u>10,585,346</u>	<u>11,476,238</u>	<u>10,612,355</u>
Parish Loan Accounts					
Due from parishes		2,271,631	(2,271,631)	-	-
Net Off Intra-curial		23,876	(23,876)	-	-
		-	-	-	-
Due to parishes		(2,491,524)	2,491,524	-	-
		<u>(196,017)</u>	<u>196,017</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>11,571,222</u>	<u>87,811,305</u>	<u>99,382,527</u>	<u>85,828,274</u>
Unrestricted Funds					
General Funds		(1,545,271)	-	(1,545,271)	(3,952,727)
Designated Funds	10	3,923,742	85,357,711	89,281,453	78,357,153
		<u>2,378,471</u>	<u>85,357,711</u>	<u>87,736,181</u>	<u>74,404,426</u>
Restricted Funds	9	9,018,978	1,615,108	10,634,086	10,438,324
Permanent Endowment Funds	8	173,773	838,486	1,012,259	985,524
RESERVES		<u>11,571,222</u>	<u>87,811,305</u>	<u>99,382,527</u>	<u>85,828,274</u>

Approved by the Trustee Board on 01/05/2025 and signed on their behalf on 09/05/2025 by:

Cash Flow Statement

	YE AUG 24 £	14 MONTH PERIOD ENDED AUG 2023 £		
Reconciliation of Net Incoming Resources to Cash Inflow from Operating Activities				
Changes in resources before revaluations	3,787,900	86,729,614		
Returns on investment	(1,188,875)	(626,125)		
Depreciation	816,716	507,263		
Loss/(gain) on disposal of Tangible Fixed Assets	675,808	(81,124,597)		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	839,504	180,134		
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(319,745)	(437,682)		
	<u>4,611,308</u>	<u>5,228,607</u>		
Net cash inflow from operating activities	<u>4,611,308</u>	<u>5,228,607</u>		
Cash flows from investing activities				
Returns on investment	1,188,875	626,125		
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	(4,165,000)	(5,981,847)		
Receipts from sales of tangible fixed assets	-	-		
Payments to acquire investments	(442,927)	(383,768)		
Receipts from sales of investments	191,386	1,897,316		
	<u>(3,227,666)</u>	<u>(3,842,174)</u>		
Cash flows from financing activities				
New bank loans received	-	-		
Movement on School Loans	(919,736)	964,389		
Bank loan repayments	-	(3,341,224)		
	<u>(919,736)</u>	<u>(2,376,834)</u>		
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	463,907	(990,401)		
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	15,908,427	16,898,828		
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	<u>16,372,334</u>	<u>15,908,427</u>		
Reconciliation of cash flow to movement in net funds/(debt)				
Increase in cash in the year	463,907	(990,401)		
Net cash outflow from movements in bank loans	919,736	2,376,834		
Change in net funds in the year	1,383,642	1,386,434		
Net funds at the beginning of the year	10,331,871	8,945,438		
Net funds at the year end	<u>11,715,514</u>	<u>10,331,871</u>		
Analysis of net funds/(debt)	01-Sep-23 £	Cash flows £	Other £	31-Aug-24 £
Cash and bank balances	15,908,427	463,907	-	16,372,334
Bank loans due within one year	(5,576,556)	919,736	-	(4,656,820)
Bank loans due after one year	-	-	-	-
	<u>10,331,871</u>	<u>1,383,643</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,715,514</u>

Statement of Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with statutory requirements and with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP 2015) (Second Edition, effective 01 January 2019 and with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (Effective 01 January 2015). The particular accounting policies adopted are described below. The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified to include certain tangible fixed assets at a valuation and fixed asset investments at market value. The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements represent the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth and its subsidiaries listed in note 14. The subsidiaries are not consolidated due to immateriality. The accounting period is the 12 months to 31 August 2024, whilst the comparative period is 14 months.

b) Preparation of accounts on a going concern basis

Having considered future budgets and cash flows, the trustees confirm that there are no material uncertainties about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. In coming to this conclusion trustees have considered the resources available to the Diocese, the move towards balanced curial budgets and the impact of the Ten-Year plan, "You Will Be My Witnesses".

c) Legacies, Donations and Grants

Legacies and donations are recognised when the Diocese becomes legally entitled to them, receipt is probable and they can reasonably be measured in financial terms. Receipts of property, investments or other gifts in kind are included at market value. Grants are recognised when receivable.

d) Investment Income

Investment income is accounted for as it accrues.

e) Taxation

As a registered charity, the Diocese is exempt from income tax, corporation tax and capital gains tax derived from its charitable activities. Gift aid is credited to the category of income to which it relates.

f) Expenditure

Costs of raising funds comprise those costs associated with attracting voluntary income and grants and the management of the Charity's investments. Costs of charitable activities consist

of all expenditure directly relating to the objects of the Charity. Support costs which cannot be directly allocated are apportioned between activities.

Employment benefits, including holiday pay, are recognised in the period in which they are earned. Termination benefits are recognised in the period in which the decision is made and communicated to the relevant employee(s). Governance costs include expenditure on management and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements together with an allocation of support costs. Irrecoverable VAT is included with the category of expenses to which it relates.

g) Schools Building Programme

Any grants obtained on behalf of school governors are netted off against total costs and only the residual cost to the Diocese is included in the financial statements.

h) Tangible Fixed Assets

Prior to 01 January 1997 the cost of fixed assets was written off in the year of acquisition and no comprehensive cost records were maintained. In order to arrive at a reasonable valuation of parish property, taking into account age, type, condition and life expectancy, the Trustees considered that the then insured values should be discounted by 90% and in subsequent years be depreciated at 2% per annum, on the building value only. Properties acquired after 31 August 1996 are capitalised at their actual cost of acquisition. When transferred from the predecessor entity property net book value (cost less depreciation) was treated as opening cost within the CIO.

The Diocese owns a number of properties that are occupied and run by independent charities in the form of Voluntary Aided Schools and Catholic Academies. The school properties (land and buildings) are vested in the name of the Trustees. The Trustees cannot take a unilateral decision to dispose of these properties. Disposal can only occur if the school governors and the Secretary of State for Education decide that all or part of a school site is no longer required for education. In most circumstances, where a disposal occurs, the Secretary of State or the local authority may be entitled to recoup any grant. Although no rights of ownership vest in the school governing body, most other rights and obligations, such as for the maintenance and repair of the school and its facilities, are passed to the governors. The Trustees therefore consider that there is no capital value to the Diocese in the stock of school buildings.

Thus school properties have not been capitalised. There is a potential value, or contingent asset, in the event of a closure of a school (either connected to a re-organisation or not). Such an asset is recognised only upon the occurrence of a closure/re-organisation and the site's development value becoming certain, such as upon the granting of planning permission. The recognition of this value is accounted for as an incoming resource in the year in which this value becomes measurable and certain. The inclusion of any value of school properties normally arises from a scheme under s554 Education Act and until then there is legally a duty to repay or recycle the proceeds from the sale of former school sites.

Prior to 04 September 1934, the date of the original Trust Deed of the predecessor entity, most parish properties were acquired on trusts related to individual parish missions and were formally brought under the legal control of the Trustees by virtue of Charity Commission schemes dated 04 and 07 February 1936. These assets are included in Parochial Funds. There are a few properties held on trusts created after 1934 which are different from those in the 1934 and 2002 trust deeds. These assets are also included in Parochial Funds.

The estimated cost of furniture, equipment and motor vehicles held at 31 August 1996 has been capitalised in the financial statements. Subsequent additions exceeding £5,000 are capitalised at cost. Individual works of art, historical treasures and plate are not capitalised.

A full year's depreciation is charged on additions and no depreciation is charged on disposals in the year.

Depreciation is calculated by the straight-line method to write off the cost/value less anticipated residual value, over the expected useful lives of assets as follows: -

- Freehold property (excluding land) - 50 years
- Leasehold property - 50 years or, if less, the term of the lease
- Furniture and Equipment - 5 to 20 years

i) Significant judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In preparing these financial statements the trustees have had to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts recognised in these financial statements. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Key areas subject to judgement and estimation are as follows: Fixed assets and investment properties.

j) Pensions

All eligible staff may join a personal pension scheme of their choice to which the Diocese makes a matching contribution of up to five percent of salary. As a defined contribution scheme, no liability falls upon the Diocese, as employer, to make good a shortfall of funding other than contributions due.

k) Financial instruments

The Diocese only enters into basic financial-instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivables/payables and investments in stocks and shares. The measurement basis used for these financial instruments is detailed below.

Investments

Investments are valued at fair value on the balance sheet date. Investment properties are stated at market value or a Trustees' valuation, as advised by a qualified property professional. Gains/

losses on investments are calculated as the difference between opening market value and closing market value after adjusting for additions and disposals during the period. No distinction is made between realised and unrealised gains in the financial statements.

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment. Loans receivable are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

Creditors

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method. The charity only enters into basic financial-instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivables/payables and investments in stocks and shares. The measurement basis used for these financial instruments is detailed below.

l) Parochial Funds

Each Parish is considered by Canon Law to be a juridical person with corresponding rights and obligations, including the holding and use of funds. The use of these parochial funds is the responsibility of the Parish Priest, Diocesan Finance Council and the Trustees in varying ways depending on the amount and significance of the funds. However, for the purposes of civil law parishes are not distinct legal entities and, unless there are distinct and express special trusts clearly evidenced in law, parochial funds are therefore shown as unrestricted but designated funds.

m) Permanent Endowment Funds

The capital of Permanent Endowment Funds must be maintained intact with any income arising being available for restricted or general charitable purposes of the Diocese, according to the terms of the original gift.

n) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds comprise accumulated surpluses and deficits on general funds. They are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general charitable objectives. Designated funds are funds set aside by the Trustees for specific purposes (see note 10). Restricted funds are used for specific purposes as stated by the grantor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund (see note 9).

Notes to the Accounts

1. Investment Income and Interest Receivable

	Year ended 31 August 2024 £	14 month period ended 2023 £
Arising on quoted investments	98,922	174,136
Rent on investment property	1,030,508	451,989
Bank interest	59,445	-
	<u>1,188,875</u>	<u>626,125</u>

2. Charitable Expenditure and Support Costs

	Support of Parish Life		Vocation			Education		Evangelisation		Fundraising	Total
	Locally Incurred Costs	Centrally Incurred Costs	Training New Clergy, Promoting vocations	Supporting Clergy in ministry	Supporting Retired Clergy	Supporting Catholic Education	Youth and University Chaplaincies	Supporting the Poor and Marginalised - Inspired by the Love of Christ	New Evangelisation		
Direct Costs	-	-	465,306	321,601	618,891	266,908	136,899	45,420	27,055	16,126	1,898,205
The Office of the Bishop	-	353,378	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	353,378
Chancery	-	1,721	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,721
Tribunal	-	22,761	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22,761
Hospital Chaplaincies	-	39,647	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39,647
Maintenance of Catholic Schools	-	-	-	-	-	517,645	-	-	-	-	517,645
Caritas	-	60,524	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60,524
Parish Costs											
Clergy	1,776,162	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,776,162
Staff	1,900,902	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,900,902
Church Running Costs	1,947,888	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,947,888
Office Running Costs	882,979	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	882,979
Investment Management Fees	20,459	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,459
General: books, events, donations, fees etc	277,283	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	277,283
Insurance	438,367	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	438,367
Repairs and Maintenance	3,254,814	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,254,814
Depreciation	663,934	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	663,934
Designated Funds	-	59,218	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	59,218
Endowment Funds	-	3,077	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,077
Restricted Funds	-	1,118,392	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	521,865	1,640,257
	<u>11,162,789</u>	<u>1,658,717</u>	<u>465,306</u>	<u>321,601</u>	<u>618,891</u>	<u>784,553</u>	<u>136,899</u>	<u>45,420</u>	<u>27,055</u>	<u>537,991</u>	<u>15,759,222</u>

2. Charitable Expenditure and Support Costs (continued) For full comparative figures see Note 16

	Locally Incurred Costs	Centrally Incurred Costs	Training New Clergy	Supporting Clergy in ministry	Supporting Retired Clergy	Supporting Catholic Education	Youth and University Chaplaincies	Supporting the Poor and Marginalised - Inspired by the Love of Christ	New Evangelisation	Fundraising	
Communications	46,866	46,866	9,373.15	9,373.15	9,373.15	9,373.15	9,373.15	9,373.15	9,373.15	28,119.46	187,463
Estates	182,412	-	-	-	91,206	91,206	-	-	-	-	364,824
People	153,096	-	1,595	1,595	1,595	3,190	797	797	2,392	797	165,854
IT	110,120	-	4,588	4,588	4,588	9,177	2,294	2,294	6,883	2,294	146,827
Finance	328,056	48,747	13,675	9,451	18,188	23,057	4,023	1,335	795	15,811	463,137
Governance	171,688	25,512	7,157	4,946	9,519	12,067	2,106	699	416	8,274	242,382
Curia Property and overheads	253,742	55,288	7,926	6,545	28,992	31,912	4,105	3,225	4,377	11,876	407,987
Safeguarding	189,205	-	518	518	518	518	518	518	518	-	192,833
Bishops Conference Levy	-	136,300									136,300
Total	12,597,973	1,971,430	510,138	358,618	782,870	965,052	160,116	63,662	51,809	605,163	18,066,830

Governance costs include
Auditors remuneration – Audit (including VAT)

	2024 £	2023 £
	54,750	51,000

3. Staff

The average number of total employees (not full-time equivalents) of the Diocese during the period and their aggregate emoluments are shown below

Staff Costs:

	Year ended 31 August 2024 £	14 month period ended 2023 £
Wages and salaries	3,355,545	2,166,835
Social security	241,689	153,767
Pension costs	125,004	74,660
Redundancy costs	53,399	-
	<u>3,775,637</u>	<u>2,395,262</u>

Monthly Average Number of Employees:

	No	No
Departments	50	54
Parishes	168	172
	<u>218</u>	<u>226</u>

3. Staff (continued)

Employees with emoluments greater than £60,000:

	2024	2023
£60,001 - £70,000	0	2
£70,001 - £80,000	1	0
£80,001 - £90,000	1	0
£90,001 - £100,000	2	0

Key management personnel received salary, benefits and pension contributions of £671,761 (2023: £368,324) during the year. Defined contribution pension payments of £34,144 were made to 7 key management personnel. (2023: £19,441 to 5)

4. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Buildings £	Leasehold Buildings £	Furniture & Equipment £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION				
At 31 August 2023	44,761,058	2,635,351	413,404	47,809,813
Additions	4,165,000	-	-	4,165,000
Disposals	(63,815)	(561,102)	(60,670)	(685,588)
Transfers from Investments	-	-	-	-
Transfers to Investments	(429,186)	(315,058)	-	(744,243)
At 31 August 2024	48,433,057	1,759,191	352,734	50,544,982
DEPRECIATION				
At 31 August 2023	458,345	35,138	13,780	507,263
Charge for the period	763,896	35,184	17,637	816,716
On disposals	(276)	(7,481)	(2,022)	(9,780)
Transfers to Investments	(4,339)	(4,201)	-	(8,540)
At 31 August 2024	1,217,626	58,640	29,394	1,305,660
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 August 2024	47,215,431	1,700,551	323,339	49,239,322
At 31 August 2023	44,302,713	2,600,213	399,624	47,302,550

The Diocese also owns a number of properties, which are occupied and run by independent charities in the form of Voluntary Aided Schools and Catholic Academies. The Trustees consider that these properties have no capital value to the Charity – see Accounting Policy (f). The total re-instatement cost of these schools is approximately £300m. A list of the schools in the Diocese is set out on the Diocesan website (www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

All fixed assets are used in direct furtherance of the Charity's objects.

5. Investments

	Investment Properties £	Quoted Investments £	Total £
Market value at 1 September 2023	22,058,924	5,854,444	27,913,368
Additions	-	442,927	442,927
Disposals	-	(191,385)	(191,385)
Transfer from Tangible Fixed Assets	735,704	-	735,704
Transfers to Tangible Fixed Assets	-	-	-
Revaluation gains	9,235,700	530,654	9,766,353
Market value at 31 August 2024	32,030,327	6,636,640	38,666,967

All quoted investments (other than cash) are quoted on a recognised UK Stock Exchange or are valued by reference to investments listed on a recognised Stock Exchange. No figure for the cost of the investment properties owned by the predecessor entity at 01 January 1997 is available; the value at which they were first recognised in the accounts was £1,014,500. £30,514,000 of investment properties were valued in Oct 24 by Broadlands, Savills, Simmons & Sons, Leaders, Ross Nicholas, Kelway Law, Hose Rhodes Dickson, Robin Austen, Romans, Zoopla and Charters.

The revaluation gain on investment property of £9,235,700 follows a comprehensive Estates Department review, during the year, of potential and actual investment properties across the diocese. The review has resulted in a number of functional properties being rented out for the first time and thus reclassified. It has also enabled the identification and reclassification of properties that were already rented, where the long terms plans and classification had previously been unclear. This review has encompassed the entire diocese and no further already-rented investment properties are expected to come to light in future years.

6. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Due after more than one year		
School and other loans	-	-
Due within one year		
School and other loans	87,832	275,955
Other debtors and prepayments	372,797	1,024,178
	460,629	1,300,133

7. Creditors

	2024 £	2023 £
Due within one year		
School and other loans	4,656,875	5,576,611
PAYE	52,091	56,027
Other creditors and accruals	647,758	963,567
	<u>5,356,724</u>	<u>6,596,205</u>

8. Permanent Endowment Funds

	Balance at 01 Sept 2023 £	Net Income/ Expenditure £	Transfers £	Movement On Investments £	Balance at 31 Aug 2024 £
Parochial Funds					
Properties	361,618	-	-	-	361,618
Other	190,854	7,052	-	5,894	203,801
Tanguy Masses	1,776	(8)	-	168	1,936
St Mary's Mission	226,826	(693)	-	5,330	231,463
Christchurch Parish Priest	39,669	-	-	-	39,669
	<u>820,743</u>	<u>6,352</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,392</u>	<u>838,487</u>
Curial Funds					
Curtin Masses	44,270	(1,257)	-	4,092	47,104
Dunne Masses	2,671	-	-	-	2,671
St Joseph Education Fund	117,842	(293)	-	6,450	123,998
	<u>164,782</u>	<u>(1,551)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,541</u>	<u>173,773</u>
	<u>985,525</u>	<u>4,801</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,933</u>	<u>1,012,260</u>

For full comparative figures see Note 17

9. Restricted Funds

	Balance at 1 Sep 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Movement On Investments	Balance at 31 Aug 2024 £
CURIAL						
Social Welfare	189,590	-	(24,206)	-	-	165,383
Clergy Training	889,731	10	154	-	-	889,895
Bamenda Fund	152,120	59,748	(56,519)	-	-	155,349
Clergy Assistance	151,780	-	-	-	-	151,780
Lourdes Fund	192,825	1,356	(5,509)	-	-	188,672
Youth Funds	783	-	-	-	-	783
Vicariate Triple Trust	64,941	-	(1,612)	-	-	63,329
Edmund Rice Fund	305,606	(1)	(7,568)	-	-	298,038
School Building Fund	(2)	418,320	(250,574)	-	-	167,744
Bernard Medd Fund	10,846	-	-	-	-	10,846
Refugee Support	1,066	-	(1,066)	-	-	-
Education Fund	152,815	-	6,572	-	15,162	174,548
Diocesan Caritas	45,143	42,380	(69,393)	-	-	18,130
Closer to Christ	633,404	1,605,695	(796,861)	(725,006)	-	717,231
Closer to Christ - Parish	-	630,542	(630,542)	-	-	-
	<u>2,790,647</u>	<u>2,758,050</u>	<u>(1,837,124)</u>	<u>(725,006)</u>	<u>15,162</u>	<u>3,001,729</u>
PRIEST'S RETIREMENT FUND						
Priest's Retirement Fund	5,988,092	348,047	(618,891)	300,000	-	6,017,249
	<u>5,988,092</u>	<u>348,047</u>	<u>(618,891)</u>	<u>300,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,017,249</u>
PAROCHIAL						
Parish Fund Raising	802,352	297,701	(326,105)	-	-	773,948
Barron Trust	426,373	11,556	(1,806)	-	39,683	475,806
Pangbourne Assistance Fund	189,605	(684)	(790)	-	17,361	205,492
Foundation Masses	159,930	(68)	-	-	-	159,862
Caritas Jersey Ltd	81,324	7,923	-	(89,247)	-	-
	<u>1,659,584</u>	<u>316,428</u>	<u>(328,701)</u>	<u>(89,247)</u>	<u>57,044</u>	<u>1,615,108</u>
	<u>10,438,323</u>	<u>3,422,525</u>	<u>(2,784,715)</u>	<u>(514,253)</u>	<u>72,206</u>	<u>10,634,085</u>

For full comparative figures see note 18

Curial**Social Welfare Fund**

This is a fund dating from 1952 for the promotion of Social Welfare generally.

Clergy Training Fund

A fund for the training of students to the priesthood, which is the recipient of a specific annual Diocesan collection for this purpose. A transfer is made to the General Fund from which the training costs are paid.

Bamenda Fund

A fund to provide assistance to the Diocese of Bamenda in Cameroon, Africa that is the recipient of a specific annual Diocesan collection. There is a Trustees' committee charged with monitoring and making the appropriate grants.

Clergy Assistance

This fund provides financial support for clergy in need and is the recipient of a specific annual Diocesan collection.

Lourdes Fund

A fund to support the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Youth Funds

Funds collected specifically for youth purposes including Lourdes Pilgrimages and Summer Schools.

Vicariate Triple Trust

The purpose of the Trust is primarily to assist parishes in providing church furnishings.

Edmund Rice Fund

This donation was received in 2005, primarily for education purposes in Reading and surrounding areas, and the local pastoral area is developing support for appropriate chaplaincies in the area.

School Building Fund

This Fund was established in 2001, to provide a central fund to meet the governors' liabilities on expenditures in Voluntary Aided schools. The equalisation fund is targeted as half from all parishes on the mainland, whether feeder parishes or not, and the balance being raised by the schools from parental contributions.

Dunne Masses

This Fund provides a Capital sum to derive an income to fund the saying of Masses in perpetuity.

Bernard Medd Fund

This Fund aims to provide Catechesis and summer schools for Youth.

Refugee Support

This Fund is to support and assist Refugees. Diocesan collections are made annually.

Diocesan Caritas

Caritas Diocese of Portsmouth supports and promotes the love of neighbour in the parishes and schools of the Diocese.

Closer to Christ

This is a Fundraising Campaign being run in each of our 87 parishes aiming to raising £13.5m

over five years with a third of the proceeds returning to the parishes and the remainder being split between funding seminarians, current clergy and our retired priests.

Education Fund

This fund is utilised for the support of schools and other educational purposes within the Diocese.

Parochial

Parish Fund Raising

These are funds that parishes raise for separate funds and charities, and account for as a restricted fund.

Investment Funds: Barron Trust, Pangbourne Assistance Fund

These are mainly legacies left specifically for expenditure within individual parishes or churches. The St Joseph Education Fund and Christchurch Parish Priest Fund have been reclassified as Permanent Endowments.

Foundation Masses

Legacies left for mass intentions of the deceased, are held as separate funds within the parishes.

Caritas Jersey Ltd

Caritas Diocese of Portsmouth supports and promotes the love of neighbour in the parish of Jersey.

10. Designated Funds

	Balance at 1 Sep 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Movement On Investments	Balance at 31 Aug 2024
	£	£		£		£
CURIAL						
Diocesan Caritas	41,427	56,799	(60,524)	-	-	37,701
Pastoral Development Fund	1,125,868	-	-	-	-	1,125,868
Living Our Faith Fund	1,789,031	(1,463)	-	(1,787,569)	-	-
Diocesan Buildings Fund	2,819,389		(59,218)			2,760,171
	<u>5,775,715</u>	<u>55,336</u>	<u>(119,742)</u>	<u>(1,787,569)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,923,740</u>
PAROCHIAL						
Living Our Faith Fund	942,587	-	-	(416,065)	-	526,522
Living Our Faith Jersey	9,577	-	-	-	-	9,577
Diocesan Buildings Fund	37,350,172	4,495,427				41,845,599
Other Parochial Funds	34,279,100	12,667,148	(11,162,789)	(2,407,224)	9,599,778	42,976,013
	<u>72,581,436</u>	<u>17,162,575</u>	<u>(11,162,789)</u>	<u>(2,823,289)</u>	<u>9,599,778</u>	<u>85,357,711</u>
	<u>78,357,152</u>	<u>17,217,911</u>	<u>(11,282,531)</u>	<u>(4,610,858)</u>	<u>9,599,778</u>	<u>89,281,451</u>

For full comparative figures see note 19

10. Designated Funds (Continued)**Diocesan Caritas**

Caritas Diocese of Portsmouth supports and promotes the love of neighbour in the parishes and schools of the Diocese. Some of its funding is restricted.

Pastoral Development Fund

This fund has been set up from the proceeds of the sale of a surplus property and will be supplemented from further disposals where there are surplus funds generated, in order to aid parishes with their own developments.

Living Our Faith Fund

A programme was initiated in 2008 to raise funds (i) to provide the Diocese with sufficient funds to support independently the training of students for the priesthood and the continuing care of its ordained clergy in their ministry, to fund adult formation programmes and resources and various capital projects, and (ii) to provide parish funds to meet local needs. Transfers within the curial element relate to the offsetting, approved by Trustees, of eligible expenditure, previously treated as unrestricted, against the fund, whilst transfers within the parish section relate to the offsetting of amounts owed by the parishes to the curia against Living Our Faith amounts owed to parishes.

Value of Diocesan Buildings

Fund Funds invested in buildings used by the diocese in furtherance of their charitable objects are not available to spend. The value of these operational fixed assets have been transferred into a designated fund to indicate that they are not expendable financial assets.

11. Allocation of Net Asset

	Fixed Assets	Investments	Cash & Debtors	Current & Long Term Liabilities	Parish Loan Accounts	Total - 31 Aug 24
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Permanent						
Endowment Funds						
Curial	-	121,356	49,746	-	2,671	173,773
Parochial	508,271	219,013	58,484	-	52,719	838,487
Restricted Funds						
Curial	4,689,165	729,377	1,660,161	(4,405)	1,944,680	9,018,979
Parochial	-	816,567	798,542	-	-	1,615,108
Unrestricted funds						
Curial	2,717,959	2,618,490	4,264,889	(5,079,499)	(2,143,369)	2,378,470
Parochial	41,323,927	34,162,164	10,001,140	(272,820)	143,299	85,357,710
Total Net Assets	49,239,322	38,666,967	16,832,962	(5,356,724)	-	99,382,527

For full comparative figures see note 20

12. Transactions With Trustees

Certain of the Trustees are also priests within the Diocese. As priests they receive income from their office together with living accommodation, living expenses and reimbursement of costs incurred on behalf of their parish on the same basis as other priests within the Diocese. No Trustees receive any remuneration or benefits from their trusteeships. No Trustees were paid for providing professional services to the Diocese. Total donations received from Trustees were £10,424. (2023 - £7,933)

13. Trading Subsidiaries

During the period the Diocese had wholly owned active subsidiary companies incorporated in England and Wales. They were as follows: -

The Portsmouth Diocesan Trading Co Limited (Company Number: 2746549)	- General commercial trading on behalf of the Diocese.
Catholic Resource Centre Limited (Company Number: 3141601)	- Sale of religious material.
Our Lady of Peace Catholic Club Limited (Company Number: 3340552)	- Management of licensed premises on behalf of Our Lady of Peace, Earley.
Caritas Jersey (Jersey Company Number: 116008)	- Catholic social action in Jersey

13. Trading Subsidiaries (continued)

Profit and Loss Account
For the Year Ended 31 August 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
TURNOVER	371,571	101,182
Cost of sales	(154,527)	(36,217)
GROSS PROFIT	217,044	64,965
Administrative expenses	(86,104)	-
	130,940	64,965
Amount gifted to the Charity	(150,579)	-
Transfer of Fixed Assets	-	-
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	-	-
(LOSS)/PROFIT AFTER TAXATION	(19,638)	
Reserves brought forward	11,983	(59,343)
RESERVES CARRIED FORWARD	(7,655)	5,622

Included within turnover are sales to the Diocese amounting to £81,518 (2023: £22,999).

Balance Sheet
As at 31 August 2024

	31-Aug-24 £	31-Aug-23 £
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	48,952	50,583
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stocks	7,529	9,137
Debtors	66,916	70,320
Cash at bank and in hand	175,434	45,759
	249,879	125,215
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	(151,080)	(26,676)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	98,799	98,539
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after one year	(11,906)	-
NET ASSETS	135,845	149,122
Share capital	143,500	143,500
Reserves	(7,655)	5,622
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	135,845	149,122

14. Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year. (2023: Nil).

15. Statement Of Financial Activities For The Year Ended 31 August 2023

Notes	CURIA - TOTAL £	PARISH - TOTAL £	RESTRICTED - TOTAL £	TOTAL - AUG 2023 £
Donations and legacies				
Donations and Offertories	53,842	6,073,228	8,253,429	14,380,499
Legacies	433,563	260,600	172,321	866,484
Other	444,116	887,201	396,431	1,727,748
Other trading activities:				
Rent – miscellaneous lettings	37,865	868,466	-	906,331
Income of trading subsidiaries	13	-	-	-
Investment income				
Investment income and interest receivable	1	3,278	133,603	37,255
Rent – investment properties		29,967	422,022	-
Other incoming resources:				
Insurance Claims		-	117,790	-
Gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets		-	-	-
Other Income - transfer from predecessor entity		1,088,769	74,233,542	5,802,286
Total income	2,091,399	82,996,452	14,661,722	99,749,573
Expenditure on Raising funds				
Finance costs	(7,887)	-	(950,634)	(958,521)
Charitable activities				
Activities in furtherance of the Roman Catholic Faith	(2,413,354)	(8,060,017)	(1,588,068)	(12,061,438)
Total expenditure	2	(2,421,241)	(8,060,017)	(13,019,959)
Net (Outgoing)/Incoming Resources before transfers	(329,842)	74,936,435	12,123,021	86,729,614
Realised and Unrealised Gains on investments	(232)	(884,629)	(16,479)	(901,340)
Net income/(expenditure)	(330,074)	74,051,806	12,106,541	85,828,274
Transfers between Funds	682,693	-	(682,693)	-
Transfers - Schools Building Fund Levy	-	-	-	-
Transfers - Diocesan Levy	1,470,370	(1,470,370)	-	-
Net movement on funds	1,822,990	72,581,436	11,423,848	85,828,274
Reconciliation of funds				
Fund balances brought forward				-
Fund balances carried forward	1,822,990	72,581,436	11,423,848	85,828,274

16. Charitable Expenditure And Support Costs For The Year Ended 31 August 2023

	Support of Parish Life		Vocation			Education	Evangelisation			Total	
	Locally Incurred Costs	Centrally Incurred Costs	Training New Clergy, Promoting vocations	Supporting Clergy in ministry	Supporting Retired Clergy	Supporting Catholic Education	Youth and University Chaplaincies	Supporting the Poor and Marginalised - Inspired by the Love of Christ	New Evangelisation		Fundraising
Direct Costs	-	-	61,965	47,118	689,339	177,306	94,992	31,877	14,970	16,661	1,134,229
The Office of the Bishop	-	140,251	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	140,251
Chancery & Cathedral	-	1,784	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,784
Tribunal	-	16,402	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,402
Hospital Chaplaincies	-	27,265	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27,265
Maintenance of Catholic Schools	-	-	-	-	-	181,358	-	-	-	-	181,358
Caritas/ERF	-	63,252	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	63,252
Parish Costs											
Clergy	1,315,411	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,315,411
Staff	1,270,828	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,270,828
Church Running Costs	1,628,268	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,628,268
Office and Presbytery Running Costs	776,628	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	776,628
Investment Management Fees	10,100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,100
General: books, events, donations, fees etc	293,113	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	293,113
Insurance	286,136	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	286,136
Repairs and Maintenance	1,752,005	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,752,005
Depreciation	388,031	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	388,031
Designated Funds		53,605									53,605
Endowment Funds		1,066									1,066
Restricted Funds		1,977,206	561,496								2,538,702
	7,720,520	2,280,830	623,461	47,118	689,339	358,664	94,992	31,877	14,970	16,661	11,878,434
Support Costs											
Communications	19,921	19,921	3,984.12	3,984.12	-	3,984.12	3,984.12	3,984.12	3,984.12	15,936.48	79,682
Estates	82,525	-	-	-	41,263	41,263	-	-	-	-	165,051
People	85,811	-	899	899	449	1,797	899	1,348	449	449	92,999
IT	69,042	-	2,892	2,892	1,446	5,784	2,892	4,338	1,446	1,446	92,176
Finance	215,441	56,069	1,729	1,315	19,236	10,008	2,651	890	418	465	308,221
Governance	125,066	32,549	1,004	763	11,167	5,810	1,539	516	243	270	178,926
Curia Property and overheads	542,924	149,344	8,926	9,210	56,952	53,928	14,807	10,156	6,645	14,368	20,796
Safeguarding	103,381	-	1,024	2,047	-	1,024	7,165	2,047	2,047	-	118,735
Bishops Conference Levy	-	84,939									84,939
Total	8,964,630	2,623,652	643,918	68,228	819,852	482,261	128,928	55,156	30,202	49,595	13,019,959

17. Permanent Endowment Funds Comparative Figures For The Year Ended 31 August 2023

	Balance at 06 Jul 2022	Transfer from Predecessor Entity	Net Income / Expenditure	Transfers	Movement On Investments	Balance at 31 Aug 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Parochial Funds						
Properties	-	361,618	-		-	361,618
Other	-	188,093	3,658		(896)	190,854
Tanguy Masses	-	1,787	-		(11)	1,776
St Mary's Mission	-	225,753	1,196		(123)	226,826
Christchurch Parish Priest	-	39,669	-		-	39,669
	-	816,920	4,853	-	(1,030)	820,743
Curial Funds						
Curtin Masses	-	43,437	1,103		(270)	44,270
Dunne Masses	-	2,671	-		-	2,671
St Joseph Education Fund	-	116,529	1,739		(426)	117,842
	-	162,636	2,843	-	(697)	164,782
	-	979,556	7,696	-	(1,727)	985,525

18. Restricted Funds Comparative Figures For The Year Ended 31 August 2023

	Balance at 06 Jul 2022	Transfer from Predecessor Entity	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Movement On Investments	Balance at 31 Aug 2023
	£	£	£	£	£		£
CURIAL							
Social Welfare	-	185,383	4,206	-		-	189,590
Clergy Training	-	922,245	30	(32,545)		-	889,731
Bamenda Fund	-	119,517	32,604	(1)		-	152,120
Clergy Assistance	-	161,759	-	-		(9,980)	151,780
Lourdes Fund	-	191,205	5,603	(3,984)		-	192,825
Youth Funds	-	783	-	-		-	783
Vicariate Triple Trust	-	63,329	1,612	-		-	64,941
Edmund Rice Fund	-	298,039	7,568	-		-	305,606
School Building Fund	-	0	278,383	(181,358)	(97,027)	-	(2)
Bernard Medd Fund	-	10,644	202	-		-	10,846
Refugee Support	-	1,066	-	-		-	1,066
Education Fund	-	149,904	3,913	-		(1,002)	152,815
Diocesan Caritas	-	31,937	45,000	(31,794)		-	45,143
Closer to Christ	-	1,237,783	1,231,922	(950,634)	(885,667)	-	633,403
Closer to Christ - Parish	-	-	320,020	(320,020)		-	-
	-	3,373,595	1,931,062	(1,520,335)	(982,694)	(10,982)	2,790,647
PRIEST'S RETIREMENT FUND							
Priest's Retirement Fund			6,352,132	(664,040)	300,000	-	5,988,092
	-	-	6,352,132	(664,040)	300,000	-	5,988,092
PAROCHIAL							
Parish Fund Raising	-	586,383	583,591	(367,622)		-	802,352
Barron Trust	-	428,995	-	-		(2,623)	426,373
Pangbourne Assistance Fund	-	192,571	4,682	(6,500)		(1,147)	189,605
Foundation Masses	-	159,862	68	-		-	159,930
Caritas Jersey Ltd	-	81,324	-	-		-	81,324
	-	1,449,135	588,341	(374,122)	-	(3,770)	1,659,584
	-	4,822,729	8,871,535	(2,558,496)	(682,694)	(14,752)	10,438,322

19. Designated Funds Comparative Figures For The Year Ended 31 August 2023

	Balance at 06 Jul 2022	Transfer from Predecessor Entity	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Movement On Investments	Balance at 31 Aug 2023
	£	£	£		£		£
CURIAL							
Education Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diocesan Caritas	-	30,379	58,699	(47,651)	-	-	41,427
Insurance Risk Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pastoral Development Fund	-	1,125,868	-	-	-	-	1,125,868
Living Our Faith Fund	-	1,790,819	1,680	(3,301)	-	(167)	1,789,031
Diocesan Buildings Fund	-	2,872,259	-	(52,868)	-	-	2,819,391
	-	5,819,325	60,379	(103,820)	-	(167)	5,775,717
PAROCHIAL							
Living Our Faith Fund	-	955,545	79	(13,036)	-	-	942,587
Living Our Faith Jersey	-	9,577	-	-	-	-	9,577
Diocesan Buildings Fund	-	37,738,202	-	(388,030)	-	-	37,350,172
Other Parochial Funds	-	36,182,201	7,041,545	(8,059,785)	-	(884,861)	34,279,100
	-	74,885,525	7,041,624	(8,460,851)	-	(884,861)	72,581,436
	-	80,704,850	7,102,003	(8,564,671)	-	(885,028)	78,357,153

20. Allocation Of Net Assets Comparative Figures For The Year Ended 31 August 2023

	Fixed Assets	Investments	Cash & Debtors	Current & Long Term Liabilities	Parish Loan Accounts	Total - 31 Aug 23
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Permanent						
Endowment Funds						
Curial	-	106,143	54,897	-	3,742	164,782
Parochial	508,271	191,525	68,229	-	52,719	820,743
Restricted Funds						
Curial	5,902,089	152,926	1,543,761	(515,783)	1,695,746	8,778,739
Parochial	-	734,244	904,414	-	20,926	1,659,584
Unrestricted funds						
Curial	2,832,785	3,464,565	4,709,473	(5,582,719)	(3,601,114)	1,822,989
Parochial	38,059,406	23,263,965	9,927,786	(497,702)	1,827,981	72,581,436
Total Net Assets	47,302,550	27,913,368	17,208,560	(6,596,205)	-	85,828,274

Thank You and Acknowledgements

Many of the stories of supporting the wider community and furthering our Mission contained within this Report would not have been possible without the kindness and generosity of our volunteers, parishioners, individual donors, Trusts and other supporters.

Sadly, we cannot thank everyone individually here, but we are indebted to each and every one of those who played their part.

Leave A Gift In Your Will

Every time someone leaves a gift in their Will to the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, they are entrusting us to ensure that it makes a positive difference to our clergy, church communities and to our overarching mission to bring people closer to Christ through his Church. Every gift, no matter what size, has a lasting impact. We are truly indebted to all those who choose to support us in this way. If you would like to support the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth with a gift in your Will, it won't cost you a penny in your lifetime but will have an enduring impact for generations to come.

Making provision for the Diocese isn't costly or complicated. To start a conversation, please get in touch with us at fundraising@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Keep in Touch

Bishop Philip invites you to sign up for his free weekly e-newsletter for all the latest news and forthcoming events www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews

Website: www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH

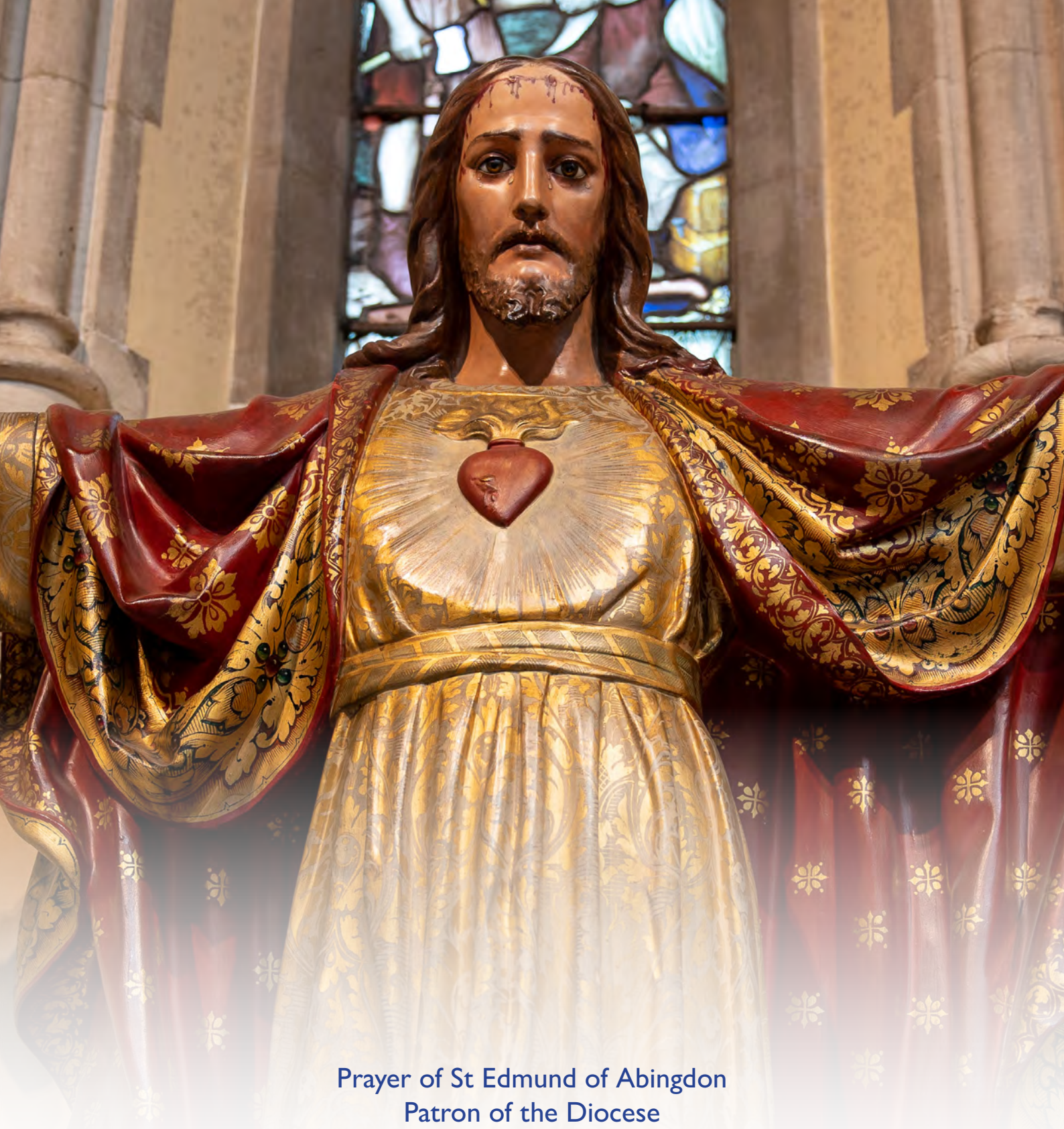
England & Wales - Charity number 1199568

Accounts



Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth
Annual Report 22/23





**Prayer of St Edmund of Abingdon
Patron of the Diocese**

Lord, into your hands and into the hands of your holy angels, I entrust this day my life, my relatives, my benefactors, my friends and my enemies, and all your people.

Enlighten my heart with the grace of your Holy Spirit; grant that I may ever be obedient to your commandments, never let me be separated from you, who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen

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About the Diocese of Portsmouth

Our Diocese is spread across five counties on England's South Coast, and the Channel Islands. We are the local Church for the whole of Hampshire, Berkshire, the Isle of Wight, Jersey, and the Bailiwick of Guernsey as well as the Southern Part of Oxfordshire and the Eastern part of Dorset.

Charity Name	Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth
Charity Number	1199568 (England) 457 (Jersey) CH263 (Guernsey)
Sole Member	Bishop of Portsmouth Rt Rev Philip Anthony Egan
Charity Trustees*	Bishop of Portsmouth Rt Rev Philip Anthony Egan Rev Mr Gerard Dailly Mr Bernard Davis Mr Michael Elks Rev Christopher Heaps (appointed 08 December 2022) Rev Mark Hogan (resigned 31 March 2024) Mr Paul Kilduff Dr Catherine Knowles Rev Canon James McAuley (appointed 15 September 2022) Mrs Sue Masser (resigned 08 December 2022) Rev Canon Paul James Smith Rev Benjamin Theobald Rev Canon Simon Thomson Mr Chris Trickey Rev Gaston Forbah Afah (appointed 02 May 2024)
Senior Officers	Mr Hereward Drummond, Secretary to Trustees (resigned 07 December 2023) Rev Mr Anthony Darlison, Secretary to Trustees (appointed 15 February 2024) Mrs Heather Hauschild, Chief Operating Officer Mr Clive Field, Director of Finance
Registered Office	St Edmund House, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth, PO1 3QA
Professional Advisors	
Auditors	Haysmacintyre LLP 10 Queen Street Place, London, EC4R 1AG
Bankers	Lloyds Bank PLC 2-4 Palmerston Road, Southsea, PO5 3QH
Solicitors	Stone King LLP Upper Borough Court, Upper Borough Walls, Bath, BA1 1RG
Investment Advisors	Charles Stanley & Co LTD 25 Luke Street, London, EC2A 4AR
Principal Insurers	Catholic Insurance Services Suite 5, Oxford House, Oxford Road, Thame, OX9 2AH
Financial Year	06 July 2022 – 31 August 2023

* Where date of appointment not indicated, trustees were appointed upon establishment of the CIO on 06 July 2022





From the Bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Year 2023 began with the poignant news of the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI (1927-2022). An inspirational shepherd, his death was a great loss both for the Catholic community and for humanity as a whole. I marked it for the Diocese with a special Requiem Mass in the Cathedral and by issuing a Pastoral Letter. During his long and intense life of service as a spiritual leader and statesman, Pope Benedict demonstrated a unique and inspiring moral authority to the world.

In my Foreword to last year's Annual Report, I referenced the extensive consultation that had been taking place over many months with clergy, laity, parishes and individuals to produce the draft version of our Ten-Year Mission Plan *You Will Be My Witnesses*. During the year 2022-23 covered by this Report, I am pleased to say that the fruits of that consultation were realised in the final publication

and adoption of the plan. *You Will Be My Witnesses* is an inspiring mission strategy which is already being put into practice, with many responding to its threefold call for deeper faith, for works of mission and service, and for wise stewardship. It will guide the pastoral life of our Diocese for the next ten years. I believe that no other Diocese in England and Wales has a comprehensive vision like this and many brother bishops have commented favourably on what has been achieved.

As part of the plan, in July I grouped the 140 churches of our 87 parishes into 24 new or amended Pastoral Areas with the expectation that over the next ten years these Pastoral Areas will themselves become unified parishes. This process is intentionally organic and it will take some time to achieve, but in time it will bring new opportunities as communities work more closely together in service of the Church's mission. The process will also take much courage and sacrifice.

In order to prepare well for this next decade and the challenges of implementing our ambitious plan, I designated 2023 as a Year of Prayer to the Holy Spirit. The Year of the Holy Spirit was instituted as a personal call to all of us in the Diocese to help our conversion, to deepen our faith, to support our spiritual renewal and to guide us through this time of transition. Throughout the year, through Pastoral letters and E-News, I encouraged all clergy, religious and laity to make deep personal changes to themselves and in their communities.

At the heart of this renewal, I invited people to commit to Six Holy Habits:

To keep Sunday special, a family day, by attending Mass;

To spend 5 minutes a day in prayer using the Scriptures;

To do penance on Fridays, and to serve the poor and needy;

Every fortnight to make a Holy Half Hour before the Blessed Sacrament;

To go to Confession once a month or so; and

To join a small group for formation, prayer and fellowship.

In last year's Report I referenced the huge amount of work that was involved in enabling the Diocese to become a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). It is pleasing to report that on 22 Dec 22, the transfer of the assets of PRCDTR to the new CIO was successfully completed. This structure replaces the former Diocesan Trust and has simplified our governance arrangements. It has also enabled us to meet the requirements for all the jurisdictions in which we operate, including the Bailiwick of Jersey, the Bailiwick of Guernsey and the United Kingdom.

One of the highlights of the year was a special Jubilarians Mass at the Cathedral in December 2022. In it, we prayed for and honoured a cohort of Priests

who were celebrating significant anniversaries that year. These are men who have made a personal commitment and sacrifice in accepting a life of priestly vocation both in the UK and overseas. At the Mass, we gave God thanks for 350 collective years of service of the Lord and His Church, not least for Canon Peter Wilkie, who was celebrating the 70th anniversary of his ordination. Canon Peter, who was our longest living priest, died on Easter Monday this year at the age of 94.

There were two ordinations to the priesthood during the year: Fr Edward Hauschild in March and Fr David Bateman in July. In the summer, Rev Anthony Darlison, recently appointed as Secretary to the Board of Trustees, was ordained as a permanent Deacon. There were other ordinations to the diaconate too of those in formation for the priesthood : Rev. Ambrose Chou (at Oscott), Rev. Tom Hiney (at the Beda College in Rome) and Br. Francisco Hintikka Cong. Orat. Let us pray that these men will be filled with a missionary zeal that will endure long into the future.



In the previous year, there were still restrictions on overseas travel because of the pandemic, but by 2022-2023, these had been lifted. We were thus able to resume the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. In turn in September, it was a joy to welcome to the mother-church of our Diocese, the Cathedral of St John the Evangelist in Portsmouth, the blessed relics of Saint Bernadette of Lourdes as part of an unprecedented tour of England, Scotland and Wales. There was a full programme for the visit covering the 24 hours when the relics were displayed. This included a Mass for the anointing of the sick, sung Vespers, a torchlight procession, the Rosary, private veneration and an all-night Vigil. Many thousands of people, including those who might otherwise not have been able to travel on pilgrimage, took advantage of this once in a lifetime opportunity. The all-night Vigil took on an added significance and poignancy as it was the day that the death of Queen Elizabeth II was announced, thus giving people a place of calm to gather, pray and reflect on her life of faith, service and duty which touched us all.

In August, I took a group of 50 to World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal. It was a moving and memorable pilgrimage, one that I know touched the hearts and minds of the young. While there, we visited the Church of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima in Lisbon, where on display for veneration were relics of St John Paul II, of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, and Sts. Jacinta and Francisco Marto. I was one of three Bishops presiding over Holy Hours at the event, which attracted an estimated 20,000 pilgrims who came through the doors of the church – or who at least tried to; at times the parish reached capacity and forced pilgrims to wait in long lines outside. At one point, as queues grew outside, the organisers made the decision to bring the relics out to the crowds, so that they could pray, even as sessions continued within the Church.

Closer to home, the Annual Schools Mass saw a full Cathedral of young people from over 40 of our schools celebrating together. Uplifting music was provided by St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School, Wokingham. The event was rounded off with a picnic in Victoria Park.

I continued with many of the usual matters that fill a bishop's diary, including the regular visitations of our parishes, and private visits to active and retired priests in their parishes and homes in order to offer support and foster fraternity. I encouraged the work of CAFOD and Caritas in their care of the poor and needy. In late Spring, I enjoyed a pub-lunch with Bishop Crispian near his home in Somerset. In Holy Week, I said Mass in the prison on the Isle of Wight. Throughout the weekends of Eastertide and beyond, many hundreds of youngsters came to the Cathedral to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Then in the summer, at the invitation of the Commodore, I was given a special tour of the Naval base. During the year, I managed also to visit all the seminaries to see our students in formation and to learn first-hand of their progress.

The Closer to Christ Campaign continued to be widely and generously supported by parishioners during 2022/23. It drew to a close in April 2024. The campaign began with active fundraising in 2021 and millions of pounds have been made in pledges by over 3,000 families, religious orders and other organisations across the Diocese. The campaign has provided critical financial support to parishes. It also provides funds for the training of future priests as well as ongoing formation and support to priests in active ministry and the care of our retired priests who have served the diocese over many decades. I am humbled by the generosity of so many and grateful for the time and dedication of our priests who have led the initiative in their parishes.



Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to extend most sincere gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the life of the Diocese over the course of this past year. Our Diocese of Portsmouth has huge potential. This is thanks to the many wonderful clergy, laity and religious who form our Diocese.

Let us pray that we will continue to release the charisms and gifts of all so as to draw many more people closer to Christ through His Church. Thankful to God for our mission-plan, I pray the Lord will prosper and reward the good work done in His Name.

In Corde Iesu

+ Philip

Rt Rev Philip A, Egan BA, STL, PhD
Bishop of Portsmouth



May He fill us with joy, and through the intercession of our patrons Mary Immaculate and St Edmund of Abingdon and the patron of our youth, Bl Pier Giorgio Frassati, may the Lord bring us all one day to the happiness of heaven.

(cf. Eph 2: 8).

Bishop Philip's Pastoral Letter
Year of the Holy Spirit 2023



Watch here:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9sUvxHcak

Our Year In Numbers

Pastoral statistics are for the 2023 calendar year

26,392

People attended Mass on an average Sunday (82% of pre-Pandemic levels)

389

Masses celebrated every Sunday

35

Religious Orders

115

Priests &

40

Deacons in Parish Ministry

87

Parishes

24

Pastoral Areas

135

Churches in active use

128

Safeguarding Ministers

667

Received Confirmation

270

Couples began life together through the Sacrament of Marriage

75%

of parishes met or surpassed their fundraising target in the Closer to Christ campaign

1476

Joined the Roman Catholic Church through Baptism

973

Funerals

12

Candidates for the Diocesan Priesthood

Together, we received

£4.7M

in offertory income, averaging £5.15 per parishioner per week (including Gift Aid)

£12.44M income*

*£12.44m income figure excludes £81.12 million donation from predecessor entity and £6.18 million from PRF



St Bernadette Relics Come to Portsmouth

Watch here:



www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HY8iT2GioM



Ongoing formation for all:

Helping People Hear God's Call

Clare Ryan, Vocations Promotions Assistant, talks about the vital role played by the Diocese's Vocations Promotion Team in seeking candidates for the priesthood and religious life and embedding an authentic culture of vocations across all parish communities.

"The main goal that we find foundational to our work is to help all the lay faithful rediscover to their baptismal call to a life of heroic virtue and holiness. To me, there is no more incredible arena in which to be working than helping people walk the journey of exploring the call of Christ for their lives.

We try hard to connect the next generation of Diocesan priests to the worshipping community by profiling seminarians in regular Vocations newsletters in which we follow their respective passages through formation. Not only do these newsletters draw a spotlight on those called to priesthood, but they also focus on the need for prayer for vocations. Every issue of the newsletter includes targeted prayer resources for use (personally or in a parish), as appropriate for the stage of the liturgical year.

The Vocations Promotions team try to instil the need for all within the Diocesan worshipping community to be co-responsible for educating and inspiring people about religious and consecrated life: We produce regular resources for parish 'cut-and-paste' use. "These include a suggested weekly Parish Newsletter Vocations insert and a weekly intercession, helping 'Vocations' to become part of the natural weekly vocabulary across all parishes. Scripture tells us to 'Ask the Lord of the harvest... '(Mt 9:38) and it is our job is to ensure people are actually asking. Much of the rest is up to the Holy Spirit!"

We organise face-to-face visits to different parishes in the first weekend of the month to raise the profile of vocations via a 'Vocations Roadshow'—especially focusing on vocation to the priesthood. We make ourselves available for conversations with the parishioners before and after each Mass. Parishioners are invited to consider inviting people to consider specific vocations and most of all to pray for vocations. It is only when this work is based firmly on prayer that vocations will flourish. As a direct result of these visits, we have personally signed up 332 new members on our mailing list for the monthly Vocations newsletter. At one particular Vocations Roadshow last year, a young man had the courage to contact the Vocations Director and Bishop and has applied to become a trainee Priest for our Diocese. We are aware of two others who were equally stirred by a Roadshow visit but, as students studying away from home, have decided to apply in their hometown Dioceses.

We host a monthly Seeker Evening on the First Friday of the month for those who are trying to discern the Lord's call in their lives. Just our willingness to accompany a young - or not so young - person in the initial stages of their discernment is so important. We have been able to refer some Seekers to Spiritual Directors through these meetings and we have had two Seekers who have progressed to conversations with the Vocation Director and our Bishop looking at the Diocesan Priesthood."

12

Men in Seminary (training in four seminaries – Oscott College, Sutton Coldfield; Allen Hall, Chelsea; Venerable English College, Rome and Beda College, Rome)

£30,000

Annual cost of training a man in Seminary

Another Seeker has been pursuing religious life and is now discerning with a religious community. This group joins the Seminarians and Bishop Philip for an annual BBQ and Night prayer during the summer as a way of connecting and having those informal conversation about discernment.

It's not just parishes where we are active of course: we visited five schools and four University Chaplaincies over the course of the year and produced supporting resources about formation to the Priesthood for teachers and careers advisors. For Good Shepherd Sunday, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, we send a pack to every Parish and school in the Diocese with some suggested topics for discussion and prayers for that weekend, along with a series of posters for display and an open offer to help with promotion through the year. We also arrange for available seminarians to visit Diocesan parishes over the same weekend to offer first-hand testimony and reflection on their vocation journeys and use this as an occasion to thank parishioners for the munificence towards to the development and training of seminarians as part of the Closer to Christ campaign."

Deacon Tom Hiney gives a personal testimonial of his life in priestly formation at the Venerable English College in Rome

Watch here:

<https://youtu.be/46Mfu2ohy0g>



How Do I Discern What my Vocation is?

Personal Prayer - especially silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, when we invite God to speak to us.

Celebrating the Eucharist - regularly going to Mass.

Celebrating Reconciliation (Confession) - it is necessary to understand and to deal with the things that keep us from giving ourselves completely to God.

Discovering the lives of the Saints - seeking inspiration in how to live generously; how to trust in God's infinite goodness and in His will for us.

Accompaniment- talking and being with those who already live the Vocation you are discerning.

The Vocations team are here to support you.

vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

"Teach me good discernment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments."

Psalm 119:66



Locally-led Evangelisation:

Insight Into Accompaniment

Liza Nahajski, who heads up the Diocese's Pre-Discipleship Schemes, shares a highly personal account of the privilege and responsibility of being a Spiritual Accompanier in a conversation with Caroline, who she supported last year through her own spiritual journey.

"To convert somebody, go and take them by the hand and guide them."

St. Thomas Aquinas

Liza Nahajski




Caroline



"In the late summer of 2022 Father Mark contacted me. A woman was considering becoming a Catholic but didn't know anyone in her local Church community who was at Mass. Could I meet up with her?"

Caroline and I messaged each other and arranged to meet for coffee. We had to describe our appearance so we could spot each other! We enjoyed meeting and it was good to chat and share details of our lives. I listened to Caroline's story and discovered more of what had led to her interest in exploring becoming a Catholic. The Holy Spirit engages with us in different ways throughout our lives and her experience on a pilgrimage to Taizé as a young woman was significant. She also counted several Christians in her circle of friends including a couple from our parish and their son who was at University with Caroline. These people had all accompanied Caroline over forty years of friendship without pushing their faith but never hiding it. Accompaniment is often a long journey involving many people.

I cannot remember if it was on this occasion or the next time we met that I asked Caroline the question we ask in Ananias Training. "What is your relationship with God at this point in your life?" Caroline liked this question as it was not about belief. She is a spiritual person and her search for truth had brought a great interest in other spiritualities. At its core, accompaniment is all about listening. It was important to give Caroline the opportunity to talk through her journey at her own pace."



I've been surrounded by atheists for the majority of my life and so therefore didn't have many people with whom I could explore and discuss spiritual issues. By the time I met Liza I was fairly sure I wanted to 'step on the path' following almost a year of reading. I was taking a risk by opening up to her - an 'act of faith' if you like - but I decided to trust in God and see what happened. I have a problem with the word 'belief' and prefer 'trust'. I'd tried other paths because I wanted to recreate what I had experienced in Taizé, but ultimately there was always something missing. Finally, I decided there was only Christianity left to explore and had long wondered if this is what I'd been searching for all along. Why did I not listen to the feelings I had in Taizé? I appreciate that this is difficult for people brought up as Christians to understand. I always knew that there was something in Christianity worth exploring further, but the fear of ridicule from those around me was strong. It wasn't until I was much older and secure in my thinking, that I was prepared to go 'public'. My change in mindset was greatly helped by practicing meditation, which calmed me, made me more aware of what was happening in my mind, and helped me come to the realisation that there was something bigger. From here I discovered contemplative prayer, a key milestone on my journey towards faith."

Sometimes in the Church we can be unaware of how uncomfortable and strange Mass can seem. Caroline was interested to celebrate Mass but a little anxious about 'getting it wrong'. I joined her at the quieter Saturday evening Mass and suggested that we sat at the back so she didn't feel uncomfortable and explained that people are not really as focused on what others do as she might have thought. I invited her to come up for a blessing, a part of Mass which she later said she came to really value. We went together to Mass a couple of times after this. Caroline then decided to join the Journey in Faith programme. It was a diverse group of people and a positive experience of exploration. Over the following months we would meet and discuss the course, including aspects which she struggled with. Sometimes they were the very same things I can sometimes struggle with – we both found it helpful to be open about things we found difficult.

In the Spring of 2023 Caroline was invited to take the journey into the Catholic Church. The move to make this commitment can be quite an anxious time, so I was on-hand to support her. Over Easter I was delighted to sponsor Caroline at the Easter Vigil and to stand in for her Godparents who were sadly not well enough attend Church, but watched proceedings on livestream."

"I feel that my baptism was just the beginning and my faith is deepening in a slow, but profound way as I take part in the Mass and other church activities, through both the Word and other's interpretation of it. I love listening to new insights expressed by others, and I'm also happy and comfortable to express my own."

"I'm so glad to have found this friendship with Caroline. The Journey in Faith group is blessed to have her with them again this year as she can accompany others on a journey she has recently taken herself. She also accompanies me in my faith. She reads a great deal and we continue to have discussions in which we explore together our growing relationships with God."

Leadership focused on Mission and Service:

Safeguarding - A Responsibility that rests with us all

As a Diocese, we are committed to safeguarding as an integral part of the life and ministry of the church. With Christ at the centre of our ministries, we seek to embed a culture where all those within our parishes and church communities are safe from harm and abuse. Safeguarding is identified as a leadership priority by Bishop Philip and a responsibility that rests with us all.

We ensure that all concerns of a safeguarding nature are responded to promptly. Our approach is one of zero tolerance; where an allegation of abuse is made against those working in the name of the Church, regardless of whether the allegation relates to their behaviour in their role within the Church or another setting, we will report this to the statutory authorities. This includes allegations where the identified perpetrator is deceased.

Our Head of Safeguarding and the central Safeguarding Team have been focused on delivering the priorities as identified within our Safeguarding Implementation Plan (SIP). The SIP drives the strategic work of the team with oversight from the Safeguarding Committee and Trustee Board.

In June 2023 we became a Registered Affiliate of the CSSA, which means our safeguarding practices align with the eight national Safeguarding Standards, and we work in accordance with the national policies and associated best practice guidance for the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

Our affiliation with the CSSA is one way in which we demonstrate our commitment to safeguarding and, as part of this arrangement, our safeguarding functions and services will be subject to an external audit regime with a view to identifying our areas of strength and our areas for development.

We welcome the audit process as another way in which we can demonstrate our transparency and openness to develop and evolve to those within our Diocese and to the wider public. The output of our baseline audit in March 2024 will dictate the priorities for the 12 months ahead.

“Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.”

Psalm 91:1

978

DBS checks processed

2100

Volunteers working with vulnerable adults or children (approximately)



128

Safeguarding Ministers providing support to parishes

27

New Parish Safeguarding Ministers welcomed

Mary Barnard, Parish Safeguarding Minister at St Joseph's Newbury:

“ I was approached to take on the PSM role by our previous PSM. I was very aware that the Catholic Church's response to dealing with abuse allegations had historically been unacceptable; I was motivated to play my part locally to make things better. I am often heard to remark that I do my best to ensure that nothing goes wrong on my watch!

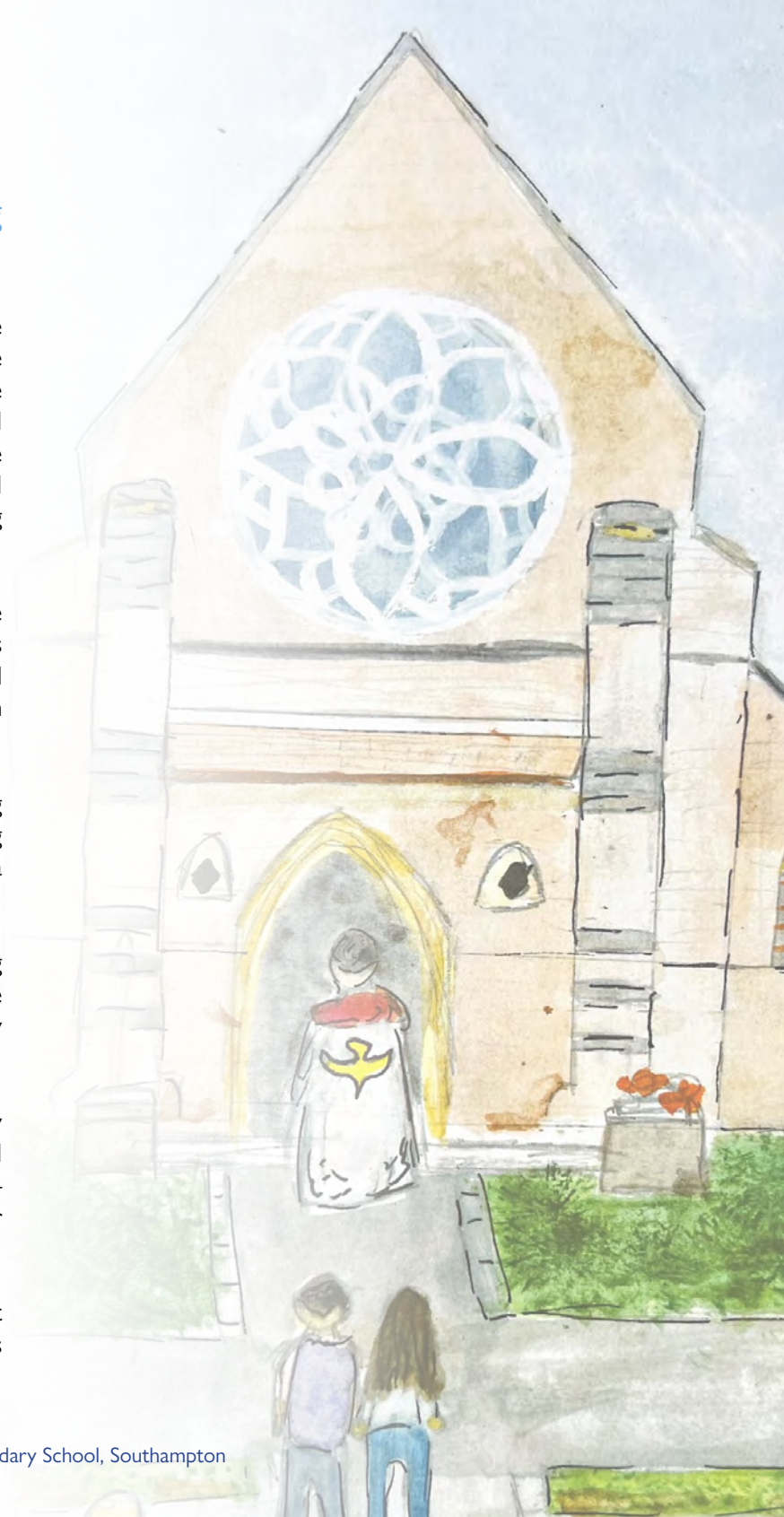
A regular weekly job is collecting the attendance registers for the choir, altar servers, children's liturgy and First Communion sessions and ensuring they are securely stored in the parish office.

Rarely a week passes when I am not working on the safe recruitment process, obtaining references and doing the DBS ID checks for a new parish volunteer.

I feel that an important part of my role is keeping a watchful eye on parish activities, checking the weekly newsletter for events for which I may need to have a gentle chat with the organiser.

I recently organised a safeguarding training day for all those in roles requiring a DBS check. I was delighted that others asked to attend – maybe the promise of homemade cake was their motivation?

There is no doubt that being a PSM is quite a lot of work; but it is rewarding and it really matters to me to get it right. ”



Artwork by Caitlin Dugdale from St. Anne's Catholic Secondary School, Southampton

27 face-to-face safeguarding

training courses delivered across the

Diocese to over 200 members

of the clergy and 318 volunteers.



572

People completed online safeguarding training

9

Online training sessions for Parish Safeguarding Ministers

Our Young Church:

Spiritual development and lifelong learning in our schools

Across the Diocese in all of our schools, we keep Christ at the centre not just of everything we do, but of everything we learn. We turn to him as a friend and as a teacher. The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth strives to hand down the wealth of the Church's Wisdom and Tradition through the education, formation, and personal spiritual growth of the pupils, their families, and the staff in our schools.

A quarter of the maintained schools are now academies and constitute a major component of the education system in England and Wales. Some of our schools operate in the most deprived areas and improve the outcomes for many young people.

First and foremost, our Catholic Schools are places of academic excellence providing all-round education. Schools had hoped for a less disrupted year of education over the period of this Report, but continued Covid cases and a series of teachers strikes added to the challenges faced by school leaders. Fortunately, the systems established during pandemic enabled online lessons to take place where needed.



The A-Level and GCSE results were testament to the relentless focus that our schools have on ensuring that the young people attending our Catholic schools are enabled to achieve their potential.

Our Catholic schools recorded record results and are among some of the highest achieving schools in the South of England, particularly in areas of high deprivation. Our Ofsted outcomes also demonstrate the high expectations within our schools with 95% of the schools being judged to be good or better against the national picture of 89%.

70
Schools

31,244
Pupils attending
Catholic Schools



2313
Teachers

1869
Support
Staff

386
Volunteers
Governors &
Directors

The introduction of the Catholic Schools Inspectorate in September 2022 saw our schools being inspected against a national framework for Catholic Life and Mission, Religious Education and Collective Worship for the first time. Across the Diocese 90% of the schools were graded as good or better in this first year.

To support the introduction of the Inspectorate framework, training was provided by the Catholic Academies and Schools Office for school leaders and a four-session formation course was run across the year attended by 35 of our recently appointed Foundation Governors.

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) was a key focus in our schools this year. Many embed CST into the heart of their curriculum driving all aspects of school life. This has enabled the pupils and staff to understand more fully the purpose of their charitable works as well as providing the impetus to challenge national and local initiatives that appear contrary to Gospel values. Many of our schools this year have found themselves not only providing food for local food banks but establishing food banks in school for families and staff in need. The food banks have been supplemented by produce grown in schools through a focus on the environment stimulated by a talk from Bishop John Arnold and our partnership working with Caritas. The plight of those impacted by the continued war in the Ukraine has also touched all our schools. They feel privileged to have been able to welcome several Ukrainian pupils into their school communities.

Pupils and staff from across the Diocese welcome opportunities to meet together and to share learning, best practice and celebration. This happens through training courses, briefings and conferences arranged by the Catholic Academies and Schools Office, along with opportunities to come together in prayer. This year pupils and staff gathered at the Cathedral for two special celebrations. The first early in the academic year brought schools together to welcome the relics of St. Bernadette as they toured cathedrals and churches throughout England and Wales. The Annual Schools' Mass with the Bishop at the Cathedral when over 350 staff, governors and pupils celebrated Mass, focused in the light of the Ukrainian conflict on the theme of peace. The opportunity to gather afterwards in the park with Bishop Philip for a picnic did much to foster the sense of a diocesan family coming together to celebrate.



6990

Pupils received free school meals (more than double in the previous year)

48%

of pupils are non-White British

101

Pupils in care supported

5460

Hours of Religious Education

164,000

Minutes of Prayer



Snapshot of a School:

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School, Havant



Every year, a quarter of all Christmas jumpers are thrown away after a single wear, or never worn again. So, to do their bit to combat the effects of the cost-of-living crisis and reduce waste, **St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School** held a 'Christmas Jumper Swap'. By swapping jumpers, the schools have raised awareness of the need to source clothing responsibly and to reuse and recycle whenever possible. Pupils also crafted blankets for rough sleepers from cleaned empty crisp packets and even made warm coats for their four-legged companions! These items have been supplemented with donated rucksacks containing essential items for the homeless to help them contend with life on the streets.

Throughout the past year, the school has been asking for donations to support its partnership with One Church's 'Love Your Neighbour Foundation', which provides food and support to families in the local community. Once enough items have been collected, children from the school go to the main food distribution centre to help sort and pack the items, ready for delivery to those who need it most. Even the youngest pupils are committed to supporting their local community. Pre-school classes have been developing a link with a local Care Home which involves regular visits during which they distribute hand-made gifts and pictures to residents and put smiles on their faces through performances and singing.

"Be who you were created to be, and you will set the world on fire."

St. Catherine of Siena





Our Young Church:

A Pilgrim's Progress

Dr Emily Budzynski-Seymour has just finished her PhD researching children's physical development at Southampton Solent University. Here she shares the lasting impact that joining the Diocese's annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes in the footholds of the French Pyrenees in Summer 2023 has had on her. This was Emily's first pilgrimage and she volunteered to help elderly and less mobile pilgrims get the most from their experience. Emily writes:

“ Although both my brother and sister have visited Lourdes, I had never been presented with the opportunity. So, I decided to sign up as a youth helper thinking that it would be a good experience for me, though I was not sure of quite what to expect.

When I arrived at the airport I met Bishop Philip, some of the Diocese's Seminarians and, of course, my fellow pilgrims and the other youth helpers. Once we landed in France all the youth helpers mobilised into action and started to assist with wheelchairs and luggage, helping to create a smooth and speedy transfer to the coach and on to our final destination.

Throughout the first few days we volunteered our help to anyone who needed it, which mainly consisted of ensuring pilgrims were safely transported to various activities across Lourdes with its notoriously challenging terrain for wheelchair users or those with restricted mobility . It did not take long for friendships between the youth helpers and the pilgrims to grow. I was tremendously privileged to look after a lovely couple who would wait for me in Reception before each activity, The other youth helpers developed a similar rapport with their charges and we all tended to be assigned to the same pilgrims throughout our stay.

“With all the strength of my soul I urge you young people to approach the Communion table as often as you can. Feed on this bread of angels whence you will draw all the energy you need to fight inner battles”

Bl Pier Giorgio Frassati (Patron of Youth)



Throughout the trip, we did have some time to ourselves and it was an opportunity to build up friendships. Together with one of the other youth workers I'd grown most close to, I decided to witness the nightly Torchlight or Marian Procession for a second time, as it had been such a powerful and moving moment of communion and contemplation for us both.

We also took the time to buy, bless and say a rosary together. This was particularly impactful for me as I had not done it since my school days. Since returning from Lourdes, I have prayed the rosary many times, evidence of the enduring and profound impact of this trip has had on me and my faith.

The Pilgrimage also provided the opportunity to spend time with Priests and Seminarians from the Diocese, and gain insight and inspiration from the details they recounted of their own personal journeys to explore the call of Christ.



Overall, the abiding and pervading feelings I experienced during the pilgrimage of my trip were a shared sense of being part of a community and a deep sense of welcome. It felt like something had been triggered within me and my faith had been activated. Since returning I have tried to keep that same feeling alive by more active participation in my own church community, and prioritising personal prayer to manifest and intensify my life of union with God. ”





“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.”

Matthew 25:35

Missionary Communities:

Hope Away From Home

In last year’s Annual Report, we featured news of the creation of a Refugee Sanctuary Hub at **St Peter’s Church, Winchester**. The Hub was born out of parishioner response to the War in Ukraine and a determination to show the best of humanity to those who have experienced war, persecution, violence and terror and who have been forced to flee their home countries.

With the War in Ukraine now raging for over two years, demand for the service sees no signs of abating. Recent hostilities in the Middle East, together an influx of refugees from Eritrea, Sudan, Afghanistan, Iran and many other countries continue to make the

Hub a vital lifeline for asylum-seekers and refugees in transition and a supportive stepping stone onto the next stage of their lives.

Whilst it is easy to think that when refugees arrive in the UK their journey to safety is over, most still must contend with discrimination, isolation and destitution. More than 40 parishioners have volunteered their time over the course of the past year to welcome and support displaced refugees, which in 2023 included 50 men being temporarily accommodated in a nearby hotel while their asylum cases were being assessed.

80

Refugees Supported



18

Different nations under one roof at the Sanctuary Hub



Each volunteer receives a bespoke programme of training which covers areas including working in a trauma-informed way, communicating sensitively, active listening and befriending.

Among the services provided in the past year by the Hub have been equine therapy sessions (in conjunction with Winchester City of Sanctuary), a befriending service (in conjunction with the St Vincent De Paul Society), Ukraine Independence Day and Christmas celebrations, football matches and regular fortnightly briefings for refugees and their host families. Tetiana Volkohon, a Ukrainian refugee who has been using the Hub since it first opened in May 2022, started volunteering last year to help welcome and support others who have found themselves in a similar situation to her own. Tetiana writes:

“ I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all at St. Peter’s Sanctuary Refugee Hub. The team has done tremendous work in integrating the Ukrainian community and continues to provide ongoing support. It is a safe space where you can make friends, find a listening ear and resolve settling-in issues. I have found purpose in volunteering myself - helping others has ultimately had a profoundly positive effect on me. The support offered, from arranging medical appointments to horse therapy, painting sessions, poetry days, and conversation classes, has been invaluable. However, above all, it’s the warmth and welcome of the British people that stands out the most. A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved! ”

Parish Priest of St Peter’s Winchester, Father Mark Hogan, is especially proud of this volunteer-led service. “In the words of Pope Francis”, he says,

“ Having doubts and fears is not a sin... the sin is to allow these fears to determine our responses, to limit our choices, to compromise respect and generosity, to feed hostility and rejection. The sin is to refuse to encounter the other, the different, the neighbour, when it is in fact a privileged opportunity to encounter the Lord, to overcome our fears so as to encounter the other, to welcome, and to know him or her. The Sanctuary Hub has been a place of great blessing, not just for those whom we’ve welcomed into our “parish home” but for those of us who’ve encountered Christ standing at the door and knocking. ”



40

Volunteers offering time and talent



Church Beyond Walls:

Faith in Action

Caritas Portsmouth lies at the heart of the Diocese's mission working with people of all faiths and those who have none. Inspired by Scripture, Catholic Social Teaching and by the experiences and hopes of those most disadvantaged in society and living in poverty, Caritas supports parishes and partners through project initiation and development to enable the gifts and charisms of those in the Diocese to care for people most in need within our communities.

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

(Matthew 25:40)

With pockets of extreme deprivation in both urban and rural areas of our Diocese, exacerbated by the continued cost of living crisis, supporting people struggling with financial insecurity remains a priority. Among the initiatives we have implemented are the creation of a 'Warm Space' at Immaculate Conception Church, Southampton and the provision of hot meals for those in need as part of the InSight Project at St John's Cathedral and in collaboration with FoodCycle at St Joseph's, Havant. Between them, these last two initiatives have provided more than 2,500 hot meals over the course of the year. Caritas also established itself as an official referral agency for people needing the temporary or permanent support of a Trussell Trust Foodbank.

Many initiatives also support people who are hidden, lost or lonely, whether that is due to financial instability, mental health or change in circumstance, such as relationship breakdown. Social isolation can be a particular issue for children during the school holidays when they lose their routine social interaction, and for some access to free school meals. Caritas Holiday Clubs give children the opportunity

to come together, enjoy a home-cooked meal and participate in a wide range of activities including arts and crafts, cooking, sport and recreation. As well as hosting three Holiday Clubs in the Diocese, Caritas has also created a 'Holiday Club Pack' containing everything a parish needs to get new Clubs off the ground.

We have been able to support two families from Syria and Afghanistan through Community Sponsorship Refugee Resettlement Programme. The Caritas volunteers involved in welcoming and integrating these families found the experience very rewarding and joined our webinar 'Welcome the Stranger' in Refugee Week with speakers from RESET and St John of God, to share their experience and highlight the continuing need for supporting people from areas such as Syria and Afghanistan as well as those needing to find safety from the Ukraine. Supporting people newly arrived from Hong Kong has been an ongoing project for Caritas in Southampton. Established members of the local Hong Kong community have gone on to become Caritas volunteers, supporting Holiday and Gardening clubs.





The Community Hub at Immaculate Conception Southampton has greatly benefited from the support of the Albert Gubay Foundation, enabling an updated fire alarm system, installation of disabled toilets and refurbishment of the kitchen facilities.

Schools have been particularly active in environmental projects and Caritas worked directly with 12 schools throughout the year in a variety of outdoor projects increasing the biodiversity of school grounds. Working with our schools, we have

planted 170 trees, created a number of bee and butterfly gardens and supported the development of forest schools. Ongoing eco-school and gardening clubs have seen home grown vegetables being used in school kitchens as well as being donated to local foodbanks. Caritas also hosted its first Schools Eco-Conference in June, enabling pupils from across the Diocese to gather together share their experiences and ideas and agree collective actions to play their part in combating the effects of climate change.

InSight Project: Sue Cregan, Project Manager of the InSight Project at St John's Cathedral, reflects on a busy year.

"InSight began seven years ago. It is a weekly community support group for those who feel marginalised in society. We provide a safe and non-judgmental place to come and feel valued in a setting underpinned by an ethos of respect and tolerance where lasting friendships are formed.

Guests and volunteers interact over jigsaws, table tennis, colouring and craft. We also have the benefit of a dedicated support worker, employed by the charity Circle of Support, who offers help with council tax and housing queries as well as signposting and counselling to improve mental health and wellbeing.

We then serve and share a home cooked two-course meal using food kindly donated by Tesco and Waitrose. Thanks to these donations, our guests are able to take home fresh fruit and vegetables, along with baked goods. For those in crisis, we can offer a food parcel providing meals for several days as well as clothes and toiletries.

The combination of the friendly, informal atmosphere we work hard to cultivate and the hearty food available makes the group a much anticipated and beloved weekly highlight for those who otherwise have little else to look forward to. Over the course of the past 12 months, we have served 2,938 hot meals, provided 162 emergency parcels to those in crisis and clocked up 2,579 hours of volunteer time – all this at a total cost of £1,422, less than 50 pence per meal.

Our wonderful volunteers feel they are truly living their faith during the time they give on a Tuesday. One volunteer explained to me how she felt compelled to serve at InSight following the death of a close friend who had taken her own life, which just goes to show that the service we provide is a lifeline for so many, and not just our guests."





InSight
@ St. John's Cathedral

Henn
NATURAL
YOGURT

Church Beyond Walls:

Coffee in the Crypt

Bournemouth Oratory Sacred Heart Church in the heart of the town centre serves a demographically diverse community with specific issues around poverty, homelessness and social isolation, which presents several distinct social and economic challenges. Bournemouth is a vibrant, culturally diverse university town, but also suffers from levels of substance misuse and drug mortality which are higher than the national average.

The parish has a long-standing commitment of delivering important outreach services; both Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meet weekly supporting up to 150 people struggling with addiction; and the St Vincent de Paul Society organises a monthly lunch club, attended by 50 elderly and vulnerable people. The Parish Halls also serve the Portuguese, Spanish, and Filipino communities in the town who gather to celebrate Mass and socialise, sharing their culture and language in a safe, central space.

However, the Parish's community vision has always been to go much further – there was a genuine desire to make full use of the Grade II listed Halls (Undercroft) not only to provide for the spiritual needs of local people but to increase partnerships with local agencies to develop it as a Community Hub for numerous outreach services, specifically targeted towards those most marginalised in society, and designed to strengthen social networks, protect dignity and promote independence.

Feedback from extensive local consultation in 2021 revealed that loneliness and social isolation characterised far too many lives, particularly among the older generation. With this in mind, the Parish embarked on the most ambitious capital development project since construction of the Oratory in 1875 to transform the cavernous, under-used Undercroft beneath the Church into an accessible, flexible, multi-purpose and welcoming space able to deliver regular and structured group activities. The generosity of



parishioners and assiduous fundraising by Father Peter Edwards and members of the Parish Project Team resulted in raising a staggering £500,000 in donations and grants to enable the transformation of the space to get underway.

The first phase of works involved sensitive reconfiguration of the nineteenth century entrance to the Undercroft to make it fully accessible to those with limited mobility and wheelchair users. Forming the basement to the Church above, sound transmission both ways severely limited usage times of the Halls due to noise transfer. Therefore, effective soundproofing was necessary to disconnect sound transmission from the hall to the Church, and vice versa. A separate, private space was created to accommodate a partnership with Dorset-based charity Faithworks, enabling them to host and provide counselling to families in crisis.

The second phase of the project has been the creation of a community café, ingeniously named Café Neri after the Christian Missionary Saint and founder of the Congregation of the Oratory. Building on a relationship cultivated with Autism Unlimited and the Council's Community Outreach and Support Team, the Parish is gearing up to provide the opportunity for young people with learning difficulties to gain work experience in the hospitality sector, equipping them with the skills to land permanent paid employment.

Graham Whithead of Autism Unlimited writes: "We are delighted to be associated with the development of the Oratory's Halls. The new café will offer a safe and supportive environment for those aged 18 – 25 with special educational needs and disabilities. People like 18-year-old Sean, who is autistic and has specific learning difficulties. Sean desperately wants to be independent, but employment prospects and opportunities to integrate into the local community are scarce. We have worked with him to create an individualised plan, tailored to his specific needs, which has seen him start a work placement in a local café, receive training in healthy eating and personal

wellbeing and, I am pleased to say, Sean is about to live independently for the first time.

In partnership with the Oratory, we will be able realise the potential of many more young people like Sean, providing pathways to employability, engaging them in real-world community integration and positively impacting their life chances."

"In order to make others feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged, the church must have open doors so that all might enter."

Pope Francis



Café Neri will open its doors to the community in Summer 2024.





Prudent Stewardship:

A Lasting Impact in our Diocese for generations to come

The Closer to Christ campaign, launched in 2021, continues to raise the necessary funding towards two central aims: to support Diocesan Priests through all stages of their ministry and to revitalise our local parish communities. These aims include funding Seminarians through their formation for the Priesthood, supporting the wellbeing of Priests in active ministry, providing support for our retired Priests in recognition of their life of service to the Church: as well as rejuvenating our parishes' resources after the impact of the Covid pandemic, ensuring that they have the necessary resources for parish life and mission.

We are thankful for the Priests and parishes right across the Diocese who have entered into this campaign with generosity reflecting their love for the Church and their hope for the future. Nearly 2,500 pledges have been received, with households giving an average pledge of £3,811. Three out of every four parishes that have taken part to date have not only achieved their goal but surpassed it, some by significant amounts.

54

Parishes have launched the campaign



£9,239,428

Total Pledge Value



Bishop Philip introduces the Closer to Christ fundraising campaign

Watch here:



<https://vimeo.com/684214906>

“ It has been a pleasure for us to donate a principal gift in memory of Barry Burns to encourage the priests of our Diocese, whether in the seminary, actively serving or in retirement, who have dedicated their lives to bringing people closer to Christ. Knowing pledged funds of £10 million will be used to ensure that our Diocesan priests receive the support they need for the different stages of their vocation is heart-warming. ”

Angela Nunn



£3,774

Average Donation Value



2448

Campaign Donors

It's not too late to play your part in the campaign!



Closer to Christ campaign – The Priest’s Perspective



Fr Michael Fava



Fr Matthew King

“I conducted the Closer to Christ Campaign at St Joseph’s, Newbury in spring 2023 as part of the cohort of parishes in Group five.

Given my relatively recent appointment at that time, I was still getting to grips with parish life, and the thought of embarking on this initiative certainly filled me with a sense of dread. However, given that I and the other Priests that serve our Diocese are the main beneficiaries of this fund, I recognised that it was important that I played my part.

I was also encouraged by the fact that our parish would be guaranteed to receive a share of the funds if we reached our target of £85,000, as I knew this would help convince the worshipping community of the value of engaging with the Campaign, and help us as a parish to conduct any projects we wished to carry out.

I was absolutely delighted with the final outcome as we have been able to raise over £200,000 which far exceeded what I thought we would reach when we set out on this journey. I’m grateful for the support provided by the Campaign Team and for everyone in the Parish who has contributed to the success, whether this be through prayer or through making a pledge.”

The congregations of St. Mary and St. Columba, Gosport, began their campaign in July 2023. Led by Fr. Matthew King, they set out to raise £65,000 in pledges. Father Matthew, keen to realise the Parish’s share of money raised, championed the cause from the front and due to his dedication and the generosity of individuals and families throughout the worshipping community, over £70,000 was pledged.

This funding has been earmarked by the Parish Finance Committee to be used for various works across the two churches and to augment their outreach to the community at large.

Father Matthew remarked: “I am amazed at the immense generosity of parishioners in Gosport raising up these mighty pledges in response to this appeal for the future of the Diocese and the ongoing mission of the Church. I look forward to working with the Gosport Finance Committee and parishioners in exploring how best to put these funds to work for the mission of the parish and bringing people closer to Christ.”

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace”

(1 Peter 4:10)



Prudent Stewardship:

Improving Financial Literacy and Accountability

Following a Finance Roadshow in 2023 to over 200 representatives from Parish Finance Committees in which the financial plan to ensure long-term sustainability together with the financial challenges facing the Diocese were shared, we set about delivering on our pledged commitment, published in last year's Annual Report, to bolster our financial recovery with the procurement of a diocesan-wide financial system.

In recognising that the majority of those charged with recording and reporting financial performance at parish level are not financial professionals and many are volunteers, we wanted an intuitive and user-friendly system which would assist parishes with their oversight and planning and which would enable more effective support by the central Finance team.

In a little over three months, we deployed a new Financial IT system called XERO, a commercial and widely-adopted accounting package, supported by face-to-face training in every parish which has had an immediate impact on productivity. Parishes can now understand and manage their finances better, in less time, and make more timely and informed financial decisions using accurate data. Implementation of the new system will also mean we can meet the strengthened IT requirements of the Financial

Reporting Council's revisions to the International Standard on Auditing.

Before the rollout of the Xero accounting package, at least a third of parishes in the Diocese were using traditional spreadsheets and, of the remaining parishes, a number of different systems had been set up over many years, with little or no interoperability with the central Diocesan Finance accounting system. Together these various solutions were responsible for recording more than 75% of the total turnover of the Diocese however a more efficient system was needed to record and report on finances both for the central administration and for parishes.

Over 100 members of clergy, staff, and volunteers have received comprehensive face-to-face training in their parishes in the new cloud-based accounting system, redressing previous reluctance and under-use of accounting software and tools by dispelling real and perceived views about technical complexity, building confidence, resilience and financial transparency across the organisation. Operating on a single system allows parishes to support one another and to raise queries and request additional training from the central Finance team, building on the close working relationships fostered through the system rollout.

100

People trained in new paperless accounting software



87

Parishes now have automated all financial processing ability

12%



Cost reduction achieved through moving to a single system, saving £1400

Not only has the wholesale move to a single system proved to more efficient, improved the financial literacy of parish staff and volunteers, and provided leadership with an immediate financial measurement tool, it has also proved to be more economic. An overall saving of 12% has been calculated against previous operating systems, in addition to the cost savings achieved through reductions in staff time.

“ This system will make tasks which have been quite manual much simpler. I love it and makes things much easier and brings us up to the standard of a modern, efficient accounts office. ”

Parish feedback

“ In October 2023 we completed the roll out – begun in July - of a new parish accounting system, Xero. Training has been provided to users in each of our 87 parishes. Xero has made financial processing easier and more efficient for parish employees and volunteers, enhanced financial reporting at both the parish and diocesan levels, as well as being structured to support the implementation of the ten-year “You Will be My Witnesses” Mission Plan. ”

Charles Blishen - Head of Finance

“As recipients of God’s grace, we are called to use our gifts to serve one another.”

Peter 4:10



From The Chief Operating Officer

In the last year the Diocese has completed some significant work as part of a long-term programme of renewal in our spiritual life and also as part of our responsibilities as a Charity. The ambitions set out as part of our annual plan for the year have largely been achieved with grateful thanks for the commitment, energy and passion of our clergy employees, volunteers and trustees. Our mission to Bring People Closer to Jesus Christ Through his Church underpins all we do, and we thank you for your prayers and support in the many challenges and joys that this last year has brought.



Heather Hauschild



The publication of our Ten-Year Mission Plan *You Will Be My Witnesses* was an important milestone, marking the end of a journey of discernment, consultation and discussion and setting out a collective ambition to renew our Diocese. Of course, publication of the document is also the beginning of another journey to realise the fruits of the plan that can only be achieved by God's Grace and courageous collaboration. Accessible formats, including online and print and summary leaflets were produced to provide the widest possible reach and audience.



Consultation on the final configuration of the 24 pastoral areas took place in the early part of 2023 following the publication of the draft plan in 2022. Pastoral area leads were appointed and have met regularly for extended day meetings to share concerns and examples of how the implementation of the plan may be approached. The Bishop's Office for Clergy Support have taken the lead in planning and co-ordinating these events.



Pastoral area reviews were published to assist with local planning.



The transfer to the Charitable Incorporated Organisation took place in December 2022, just nine months after the project was formally commenced, which meant we could comply with the new legislation enacted in Guernsey at the beginning of the 2023 calendar year. Incorporation has simplified our charitable structure, which had become overly complex and enabled us to meet the requirements for all the jurisdictions in which we operate.



The Priest Retirement Fund was designated a Special Trust under the new arrangements. A formal subcommittee of the Trustees, with particular responsibilities set out by the Charity Commission, was established to oversee the new arrangements and the ongoing care of retired priests.



Our ambitious IT Blueprint continued apace, with a further 41 parishes enrolling onto our central IT procurement and support service. (64 of our 87 parishes are now included) Enrolled parishes not only benefit from cost savings, a helpdesk service and improved connectivity, but greater security against ever increasing and more sophisticated cyber-threats.



The implementation of this project as a whole in 2022 – 2023 - most especially in terms of the IT training delivered to clergy, parish staff and volunteers - was recognised with the 'Special Recognition in Tech Leadership' accolade at the South Coast Tech Awards, the first time a charity has ever been considered in this long-established annual Tech Industry awards programme.



The rollout of the cloud-based Xero accounting software and associated training within a three-month period demonstrated our determination to drive best practice in financial administration. It has enabled the sharing of skills, automated some key processes and all financial reporting and was widely welcomed by parishes.



We delivered on our promise to create an intranet resource (an internal internet) for those closely involved in the Diocese's operation. This has helped support engagement between parishes and the central Curia team and is supplemented by regular Admin News bulletins to parish employees and volunteers who have signed up to receive it.



We attained the incredible milestone of £10 million in pledges for our Closer to Christ campaign by October 2023. Thanks to the the leadership of our priests and the incredible generosity of some committed individuals and families. In excess of a further £1 million has been pledged at the time of writing.



We filled some long-standing vacancies, reshaped our Estates team and appointed a new Head of Communications and Fundraising to refocus our work particularly in fundraising outside of our major campaign. Our health and safety programme has been a significant focus with the first priority to understand our baselines for compliance and secondly to address some of the gaps that have been identified.



An insurance revaluation exercise was undertaken, funded by our insurers to ensure that our churches are insured at the correct value. Phase 2 will be the completion of the same exercise for our presbyteries, hall and investment properties.



Work has been undertaken to engage with the States of Guernsey Department for Education on plans for local schools. This followed a couple of attempts to introduce policy which would have had an adverse impact on local catholic education. The work thus far has been productive in establishing mutual understanding and a collaborative approach to future proposals for change.



The new inspection framework for schools was rolled out and a schools 10-Year Mission Plan was developed to complement and expand on the schools element of *You will be my Witnesses*. A re-evaluation of the academisation strategy was one of the key features of this work.



Unfortunately, the National Schools Singing programme which we identified as a priority was not delivered and remains an ambition for the coming year.



Notwithstanding significant gaps in our Estates team last year, we enabled the delivery of 30 major capital projects to voluntary-aided schools across the Diocese totaling £3 million, and produced 67 Business Cases, including 37% of all those lodged with the Southern Historic Church Commission, to support the conservation and development of buildings in our care.



We were challenged by the temporary closure of two churches due to roof failure and concerns about safety. This highlighted the need to ensure routine maintenance is addressed and brought into focus some of the funding challenges that parishes will increasingly face.



The identification of RAAC (Reinforced Aerated Autoclaved Concrete) in one of our schools triggered significant engagement with the Department for Education (DFE) and condition surveys were commissioned for all other schools, supported by DFE funding.

Looking ahead, in the coming year, we will continue to support the implementation phase of our Ten-Year Mission Plan *You Will Be My Witnesses*. The most important aspect of this is the discernment and development of Local Plans reflecting the three principal themes that we develop Christ centred missionary communities underpinned by prudent stewardship of our resources so that our diocese is renewed for generations to come. As part of this Plan, we will:



Support the Bishop's visits to 24 Pastoral Areas planned for 2024/25 with the provision of information, and responses to local plans. As part of this we will provide support for the implementation of Local Plans, for example, with parish consultations for change.



Work with our clergy to progress a core part of the mission plan which is about meeting the challenges of our secular age by investing in clergy support and ongoing formation for leadership and mission.



Work with our Schools to implement full Academisation by 2027.



Implement our Communication Plan to support the Ten-Year Mission Plan, this includes improving our website and undertaking a review of all our channels of communication.



Develop better fundraising support for parishes, promulgating details of existing, new, and emerging sources of voluntary income and offering a bid-writing service for grant applications. This will enable parishes to develop local mission and outreach projects as well as ensuring longer terms sustainability.



Focus on the safety of people who come to our churches by implementing new arrangements for Health and Safety planning, monitoring and reporting across our 386 sites.



Further develop our approach to safeguarding taking account of the feedback from the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) Audit that took place in March 2024. Our response to wider aspects of safeguarding will be developed to highlight the challenges for families and children associated with domestic violence, neglect and substance misuse, modern day slavery and exploitation.



Continue to improve our governance by updating our policy framework and developing associated resources to assist parishes with day-to-day responsibilities. This also enables assurance to be provided to regulators that the diocese as a charity is compliant with legislation.



Roll out our online training platform, Astute Learning, giving access to online training in areas from Data Protection to Personal Safety at Work. Currently we have 76 parish employees and volunteers enrolled on online training courses.



Strive to use the benefits of digital technology to improve efficiency through procurement of an up-to-date system for human resources, a client relationship management system to underpin our fundraising efforts and a health and safety estate-based system.



A replacement parish administration system (PAMIS) is also overdue, but we are aware that the pace of implementation of all these systems will need to be carefully considered taking into account the ease of implementation and the capacity to train support and embed new systems.



Continue, through the leadership of Caritas, to implement our environmental strategy in response to Pope Francis exhortation to consider the connection between the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor as part of our approach to net Zero. In the next year this means a focus on Live Simply, working with schools to address energy usage through solutions such as solar panels and LED lighting and incorporating a more intentional approach to environment when capital projects are evaluated.

You Will Be My Witnesses – Our Ten-Year Mission Plan

Much prayer, courage, love and generosity will be needed as we seek new ways of working together to revitalise the life and Mission of the Church. The priorities set out in the Mission Plan Action Plan will underpin all that we do in the coming years.

To be a Christ-centred Church; putting Christ at the centre of our hearts and our lives.

BRINGING
PEOPLE
CLOSER TO
JESUS CHRIST
THROUGH HIS
CHURCH

To be missionary communities; going out on Christ's service and mission.

To be prudent stewards of Christ's Church; making wise choices to leave a sustainable legacy for future generations.

Download our Ten-Year Mission Plan, *You Will Be My Witnesses*

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/you-will-be-my-witnesses/



Our Finances at a Glance

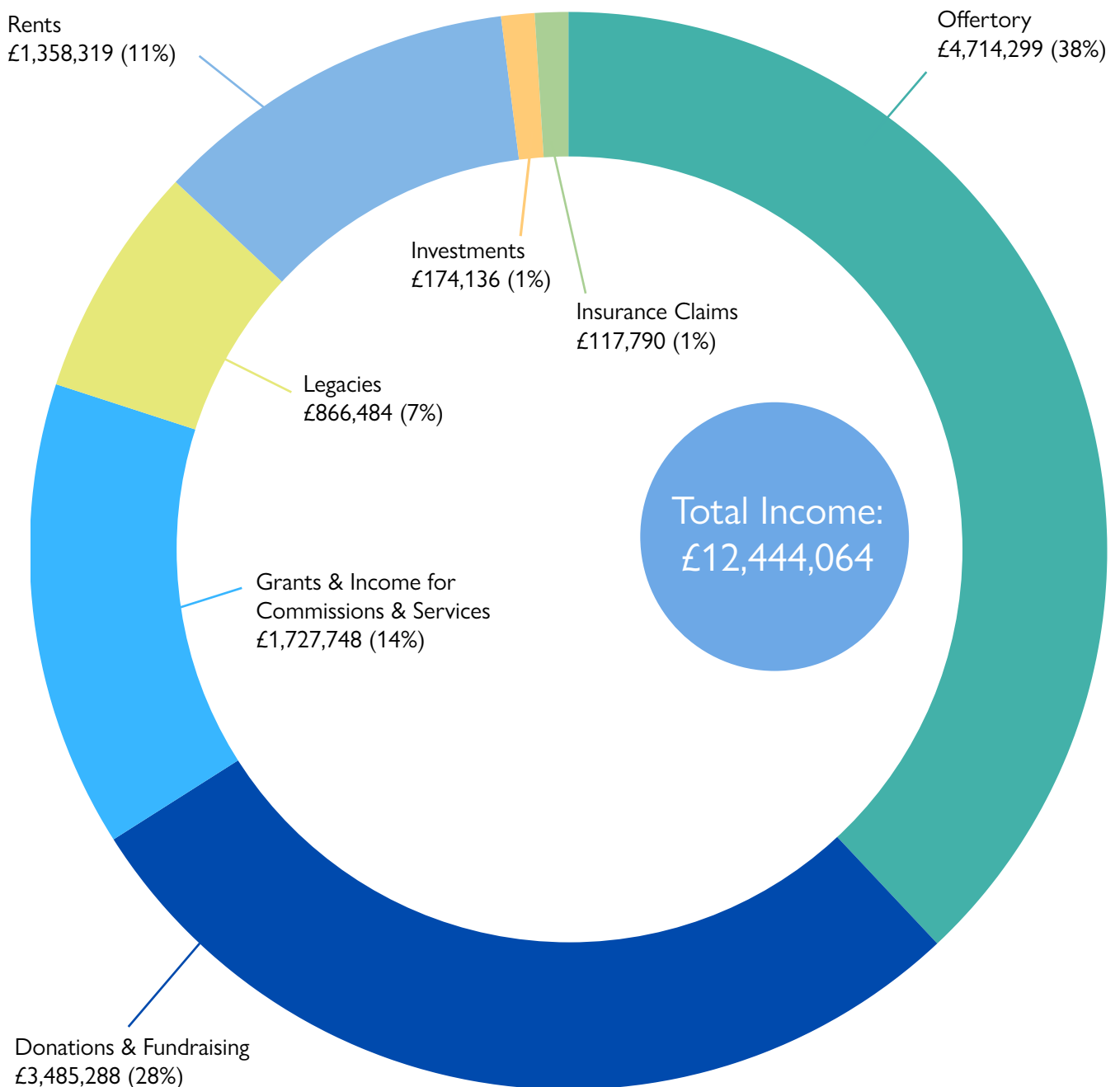


*Including Gift Aid

**Offertory excluding GA as a percentage of total parish income



Sources of Income

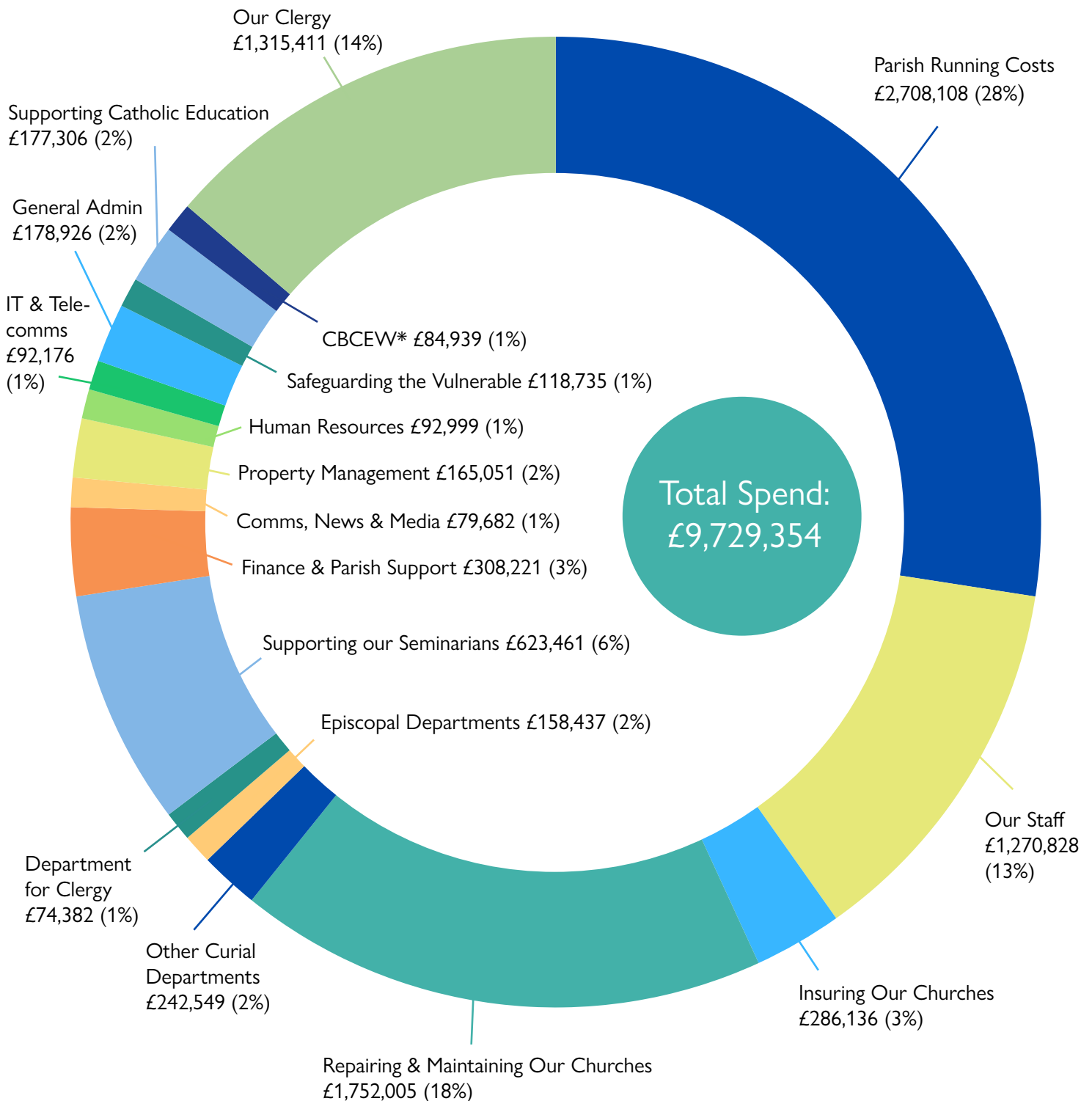


Excludes donation from predecessor and donation of PRF.

Comparisons

Any comparisons of these figures to previous financial years must recognise that the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth was only operating for 8 months following the transfer of assets from the predecessor entity on 22 December 2022 (the remaining 4 months of the year are reported within the Annual Accounts for Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust – Registered).

How we spent our Money



* Catholic Bishop's Conference of England and Wales

** This chart excludes annualised depreciation and expenditure relating to restricted funds.

Financial Review

Overview

The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth's (CDP) income for the year to 31 August 2023 (during which period CDP was operating for 8 out of 12 months) was £18.63m. It should be noted that this includes £6.18m relating to the donation of assets from the Priest's Retirement Fund (PRF) which formally became part of CDP from 16th March 2023. Expenditure meanwhile increased to £12.71m, leading to an operating surplus of £5.92m (Operating Deficit = £262k if the donation of PRF assets is excluded).

Key Comparators: Mass attendance, inflation

Average weekly Mass attendance in the Diocese in 2019 was 32,294, falling to 17,306 in 2021 and then recovering, beyond expectations, to 25,321 in 2022. In 2023 attendance recovered further to 26,392, now standing at 82% of pre-pandemic levels. In terms of another key indicator, inflation, the Office of National Statistics retail price index shows that prices have increased by 29% since September 2019 with an increase of 9% in the 12 months to August 2023.

Analysis in real terms

Comparing overall Diocesan annualised income for the eight months to August 2023 with that of the 2022 adjusted-for-inflation figures, we see a real increase in income of 14.3%; meanwhile a similar comparison of expenditure reveals a 14.4% increase. Caution is required due to the annualised nature of the eight-month figures for the newly incorporated entity, but this does suggest that alongside increased income from the Closer to Christ Campaign and Legacies, there has been an increase in activity and thus both income and expenditure have increased following an end to the Pandemic.

Income

Fundraising: Closer to Christ Campaign

The Closer to Christ fundraising campaign raised £1.5M of cash and £4.6M of pledges between January and August 2023. By August 2023, 54 parishes across the Diocese had launched their campaigns.

Parish offertory income

Offertory income includes income received via planned giving (standing orders, direct debits and envelopes), in addition to loose plate donations, contactless and online donations. In the eight months to 31 August 2023, annualised offertory income amounted to £7.1M. This included £3.43M in standing orders, £0.36M in Envelopes, £1.9M from loose plate donations, £210K from contactless donations and £162K from online giving. Offertory income declined from £7M in 2019 to £6.8M in 2022. Whilst the 2023 figure is higher in absolute terms than 2022, it represents a decline in real terms. Offertory income excluding gift aid represents 46% of total parish income.

Offertory per person per week

The average weekly Mass count of 26,392 in 2023 has generated an Offertory gift per person per week of £5.15 (including Gift Aid on eligible offerings), but remains almost unchanged from the previous year, and lower in real terms.

Expenditure

Parish Priests

The cost of supporting a parish priest includes their stipend, as well as Stole Fees, Christmas and Easter Offerings, travel expenses, housekeeping expenses, and the cost of supply priests. For the eight months from incorporation, these costs, annualised, have increased from £1.8M in 2022 to £2.14M in 2023, although this is in the context of 9% inflation and reflects the fact that generous Christmas 2022 offering expenditure (shown in January 2023 on a cash basis) would receive an undue weighting when converting the 8 months accounts to an annual basis.

Repairs and Maintenance

The Annualised cost of Parish Utilities (£2.2M) and repairs & Maintenance (£2.6M) of our buildings is a significant strain on our resources. Average offertory giving per parishioner per year (excluding Gift Aid) is £231; £81 of this goes towards the heating, lighting, repair and maintenance of our estate.

Schools Funding

The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth received Schools Funding from DFC of £343,248 and from VASCA of £2,701,014 between 1 Jan and 31 Aug 23; this 90% funding was topped up with 10% contributions from the Diocese. £1,034,364 was spent on Roofing Projects, £600,000 on new classroom pods, £100k on RAAC and the balance on School Condition surveys, internal works, Health & Safety related works and outdoor projects.

Levy

The calculation of the Annual Levy – money paid by the parishes to help fund the costs incurred by the Diocese to meet the legal requirements of compliance re-Safeguarding, Finance, Estates, HR and IT - was reviewed for the first time in a decade and changed to a more progressive calculation (ie the financial larger parishes paid a larger % of their income). During this period, it has been set at £1.9m every year despite a significant increase in annual costs resulting in the Curia reporting deficits in 9 out of the last 10 years. The levy was increased by 10% to £2.1m. However the recalculation also resulted in 46 parishes paying less than in previous years.

Central Costs

After many years of increases in annual expenditure, new controls have been implemented to reduce costs wherever possible and minimize any unavoidable increases. As such, during the year central expenditure has been reduced by 10% (£420k); in addition, a road map for improved financial governance across the Diocese has been approved including the review and updating of all Financial Policies and Procedures as well as the introduction of a new Finance IT system for parishes that is more effective and efficient than the previous system and which facilitates regular reporting to enhance financial control.

Cash

The cash position of the Diocese has improved by £3.9 million to £15.9 million mainly due to cash held for capital projects within the Diocese's Voluntary Aided schools but also due to the cash donated to the Closer to Christ campaign during the year rising to £1.45m.

During the year, the Diocese repaid the £4.47m Lloyds bank loan before the significant increase in the bank lending rates. In addition, nearly £1.95m was spent on the repair and maintenance of the Diocese's 400 assets (churches, presbyteries, church halls and parish centres).

Parish Surplus/Deficit

For the eight months from incorporation to 31 August 2023, 43 parishes recorded an operational deficit and therefore are using up their reserves. Of the 43 parishes that recorded a deficit, three recorded a deficit of greater than £50K, one of which had undertaken urgent capital works, whilst the other two were parishes with significant reserves that had incurred exceptional expenditure. The proportion of parishes that incurred deficits underlines the need for a financial governance framework, whereby parishes will be supported in drawing up and reporting against budgets and five-year capital expenditure plans.

Parish Bank Overdrafts

Across the 87 parishes, there are 217 parish bank accounts. Of these, 25 bank accounts were overdrawn with a total overdrawn balance of £1.64M, whilst 17 Parishes were overdrawn when considering their combined bank balances.

Assets

Despite the market driven fall in the value of quoted investments and investment properties held by the Diocese, overall net assets increased from £80.8M at 31 August 2022 to £85.8M at August 2023, this was due to a £294K operating surplus combining the final PRC DTR and opening CDP CIO accounts and the transfer of the PRF assets to the Trusteeship of Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth.

The Diocese owns £ 92.5 million of assets at historic cost: £48M of churches and other buildings used for our charitable activities, £22M of investment properties, £6M of investment in securities, £16M of cash and £1M of debtors (owed to the Diocese). Net assets are lower than the total assets owned by the Diocese because of the £6.6M worth of liabilities (owed by the Diocese). However, were these buildings to be valued at rebuild cost, the value would be around £643M.

Investments

In December 2022 the Board of Trustees approved the sale of approximately 50% of the investment portfolio to repay the £4.47 million Lloyds bank loan before the significant increase in the bank lending rates.

As a result, at 31 August 2023 the Diocese held £ 5.9 million in quoted investments, which had fallen in value by 1% since the transfer of assets from the Charitable Trust on 22nd December 2022, owing to the ongoing global energy price inflation, and war in Ukraine.

In July 2022, the Diocese established an investment committee to encourage our parishes to participate in investment decisions, to act as a forum for communication with our Investment Managers and to assist the Board of Trustees in their decision-making, The Committee has met quarterly since its inception.

The Trustee Board has agreed on an Investment Policy for the portfolio, which can be summarised as follows:

The purpose of the Investment Policy is to maintain the purchasing power of the capital and income generated over the medium to long term (more than five years). The Investment Committee will provide any appointed external or in-house investment manager(s) with a mandate based upon the principles of Investment Targets and Risk Tolerance.

The Trustee Board has agreed on an Ethical Policy for the portfolio. The following is an extract from the Investment Policy:

“Where the issuer of a security (share, stock or bond) or deposit taker (bank) is directly and substantially (more than 5% of the activity of that entity) involved in activities which constitute grave moral evil such investments are to be entirely excluded because holding such securities would constitute formal co-operation in that evil. These would include but not be limited to, murder, procured abortion, contraception, sexual activity outside marriage and acts which undermine the dignity and sanctity of human beings (for example the exploitation of workers, migrants, the weak and the elderly) from conception to natural death, corrupting the young, heresy and sacrilege.” The Bishop and Board of Trustees also require that our investment managers keep under review the environmental stewardship of entities in which the Diocese holds investments or deposits and instructs them to refer any activities which might constitute a breach of the duty of the stewardship of creation to them.”

Reserves

Our Reserves Policy is designed to ensure the stability of the ongoing operations, support for the clergy and employment of staff by the organisation and to provide a source of internal funds for organisational priorities such as maintaining the Diocesan Estate and listed buildings and to provide financial support where required to facilitate the delivery of the mission of the Diocese.

The Reserves Policy has four components:

A Curial Operating Reserve – intended to provide an internal source of funds for the Curia in situations such as a sudden increase in expenses, one-time unbudgeted expenses, unanticipated loss in funding, or uninsured losses, to be equal to three months of net recurrent annual costs excluding parish levy (thus if net operating cost excluding levy is £2,350K, the Curial Operating Reserve will be £600K).

At Year End 2023 unrestricted Curial Reserves stood at a negative £3.95 million. Steps being taken to address this deficit and bring reserves in line with those envisaged by the Reserves Policy include revenues generated by the disposal of surplus assets in the Ten-Year Plan *You Will Be My Witnesses* and the budgetary discipline and cost reduction being implemented in the Curia which has seen the in-year deficit reduced by over £ 1 million from 2021-22 to 2022-23.

A Parish Operating Reserve – all parishes should seek to have at least 3 months of net recurrent annual costs held as reserves. At 31 January 2024, 18 out of 87 parishes did not have sufficient reserves to cover 3 months' recurrent expenditure. This situation will be addressed by improved reporting of parish's financial positions, roll-out and associated training of budgeting for all parishes, and the implementation of the Ten-Year Mission Plan.

A Diocesan Development Fund - intended to provide temporary financial support for the repair or maintenance of the Diocesan estate and listed buildings to parishes or other bodies with insufficient funds at their disposal. It is the intention of the Diocese for the DDF to be used and replenished within a medium-term period (3 to 5 years). The target amount of the DDF should be £2million.

A Strategic Financial Reserve - intended to provide funds for the strategic development of the Diocese in general

and parishes in particular. These funds would be used to facilitate the delivery of agreed Strategic Objectives that require start-up funding. The target amount of the SFR should be £2 million.

The Diocesan Development Fund and Strategic Financial Reserve will be built up once progress has been made in addressing the Curial and Parish Operating Reserves.

Risks

A Risk Register is provided for Trustees to review at every meeting. Key risks are:

- The financial position of many parishes; reductions in weekly attendance and participation in the life of the church have been reflected in falling offertory income. Attempts are being made to address this through a focus on evangelisation, the Ten-Year Mission Plan, *You Will be My Witnesses* and providing donation options, such as our Free Wills service and contactless donations, which are easy and intuitive to use.
- The growing backlog of estate maintenance, together with the deterioration of older, listed buildings (most notably the Cathedral) is a long-term liability. Our Ten-Year Mission Plan, *You Will Be My Witnesses*, sets out to increase participation in parish life and enable us to discern where to invest and what we can no longer maintain.
- The Diocese comprises 87 individual parish units which operate autonomously to a significant extent. The organisation is highly dispersed and also largely reliant on volunteers for much of the day-to-day activity. This all presents a significant risk of non-compliance with key policies required by regulators and legislation. This risk is being addressed through the roll-out of key policies, the implementation of systems which give greater visibility of parish finances, and the consolidation of parishes from 87 to 24 Pastoral Areas which will reduce the challenges faced by a dispersed and fragmented parish structure.
- Cyber-security is a recognised global risk. Much effort has been made to mitigate the risk through training and monitoring. Key performance indicators have been developed based on the 12-point plan provided by the Diocese's insurer; progress is regularly measured against the KPIs.
- Although we have been blessed with vocations, the number of vocations to the priesthood is not keeping pace with expected clergy retirement in the medium term. Our Ten-Year Mission Plan, *You Will Be My Witnesses*, is intended to enable ways of working which mitigate these anticipated challenges to some extent.
- The governance of the complex charity structure has become increasingly complicated. The incorporation of the charity in 2022 provided an opportunity to streamline the arrangements as part of our risk management strategy.
- Recruitment to key roles in central administration and in parishes is proving a significant challenge. Vacancies can, on occasion, be open for several months. Attracting and retaining candidates with the appropriate experience and expertise will require a re-evaluation of our structure and pay and reward strategy in the coming year.

Future Plans

Organisational priorities for the year ahead are detailed in the Chief Operating Officer's Report on page 38.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 6 July 2022 under charity number 1199568.

It is governed under a constitution, which was last amended on 20 March 2023. As an association CIO the Diocese has a sole member, the Bishop of Portsmouth, whose responsibilities include the appointment of Trustees.

Trustees

- Bishop of Portsmouth Rt Rev Philip Anthony Egan
- Rev Mr Gerard Dailly
- Mr Bernard Davis
- Mr Michael Elks
- Rev Christopher Heaps (appointed 8 December 2022)
- Rev Mark Hogan (resigned 31 March 2024)
- Mr Paul Kilduff
- Dr Catherine Knowles
- Rev Canon James McAuley (appointed 15 September 2022)
- Mrs Sue Masser (resigned 8 December 2022)
- Rev Canon Paul James (PJ) Smith
- Rev Benjamin Theobald
- Rev Canon Simon Thomson
- Mr Chris Trickey
- Rev Gaston Forbah Afah (appointed 02 May 2024)

The Trustee Board met four times during the year.

Linked Charities

The Diocese of Portsmouth incorporated to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 31 December 2022. All activities, assets and liabilities of the Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust transferred to the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth on 22 December 2022.

The Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocesan Properties Limited, charity number 1168798, was a charitable company limited by guarantee which held the Diocese's property in Jersey. This arrangement has been wound up as part of the Diocese's incorporation with the Diocese's property in Jersey transferred to the Catholic Diocese in Portsmouth on 20 January 2023.

The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth has over 90 special trusts, mostly relating to property. There are 7 funds:

- Anthony Robert Baron's Bequest
- Diocese of Portsmouth Common Investment

- Pangbourne Assistance Fund
- St Dominic's Priory Countess of Clare Fund
- The Father Bernard Medd Memorial Fund
- The Portsmouth Diocesan Educational Foundation
- Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth – Priest Retirement Fund

These special trusts are linked to the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth for the purposes of registration and reporting. The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth is the sole trustee of these special trusts.

Appointment of Trustees

Trustees are appointed by written resolution of the charity's sole member: the Bishop of Portsmouth.

Trustee vacancies are advertised through appropriate communication channels, and potential candidates are also approached directly. All candidates applying to become a Trustee will be interviewed by the Bishop and Secretary to Trustees. Any successful applicants are co-opted as advisory members of the Board at the next full meeting for a period of six months. Following completion of this six-month period, they are appointed as Trustees by the Bishop.

Senior clergy are appointed as ex officio Trustees; their appointment lasts as long as they are in office. Other Trustees are generally appointed on a five-year term basis, which may be repeated or extended.

Trustee Induction and Training

The Secretary to the Trustees is responsible for ensuring that an appropriate induction training programme is arranged for new Trustees, within 3 months of their appointment.

The induction is expected to include clarification of legal responsibilities, Charity Commission requirements of charity Trustees, strategic and governance issues, familiarity with the Trust Deed and structure of the Charity, as well as other relevant induction material to allow Trustees to understand the Charity's purpose, activities, financial position and current risks.

Trustees are encouraged undertake regular training throughout their appointment which they feel is relevant to their role, and to keep up to date with current legislation.

Trustee Expenses

A number of Trustees are clergy of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. They are housed and remunerated by the Diocese and are reimbursed reasonable expenses for carrying out their ministry in the same way as other priests in the Diocese.

However, no Trustee received any remuneration from the Charity, nor had any beneficial interest in any contract with the Charity. Trustees may claim expenses, such as mileage, incurred in connection with the discharge of their duties as Trustees.

Management Team

The Trustees are responsible for the overall management, oversight and strategic direction of the Diocese. To achieve this, they have appointed a Chief Operating Officer (COO) who has delegated responsibility for the day to day running of the Diocese. The COO is supported by a Senior Leadership Team who have delegated areas of responsibility such as Finance, Estates, Safeguarding, IT, HR, Communications, Governance, Fundraising, Charity Outreach and Clergy Support.

Setting Pay

Remunerated roles in the Curia and central administration have been benchmarked against several charity sector benchmarks, including other dioceses. The Diocese is a lower quartile employer, although the Trustee Board may choose to apply a recruitment or retention premium to a particular post in certain circumstances.

Organisation

The Trustee Board is supported in decision-making by detailed scrutiny and recommendations provided by Sub-Committees which meet regularly throughout the year: Finance, Audit and Risk; HR and Remuneration; Education Vicariate; Vocations Vicariate; and Evangelisation Vicariate.

The Diocesan Curia is organised into a Framework for Collaboration, with three Vicariates each responsible for delivering one aspect of the Bishop's threefold ministry: Vocations, Education and Evangelisation.

Each is headed up by an Episcopal Vicar who, together with the Vicars General, are the sole members of the Bishop's Council, all of whom have been appointed Trustees. Each Vicariate Committee is chaired by the Episcopal Vicar for that particular Vicariate.

The [Portsmouth Bamenda Committee](#) sits within the Vicariate for Evangelisation and is responsible for furthering the Diocese's ecclesiastical partnership with the Archdiocese of Bamenda and overseeing grant funding for projects in the Archdiocese.

The [Caritas Committee](#) also sits within the Vicariate for Evangelisation and is responsible for overseeing the Diocese's charity and outreach through Caritas.

The purpose of the [Finance, Audit and Risk Committee](#) is to provide strategic oversight to the administration of the temporal goods of the Diocese and its parishes: its land and buildings, money, investments and the discharge of its legal and contractual obligations. The FAR Committee is chaired by the Vicar General, Moderator of the Curia.

The [HR and Remuneration Committee](#) considers remuneration across the Diocese and makes recommendations to the Board. It is chaired by the Vicar General, Moderator of the Curia.

The [Investment Committee](#) is responsible for overseeing the performance of Diocese's investment managers and ensuring that investment decisions are in sympathy with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

The [Art, Architecture and Patrimony Committee](#) reviews proposed alternations to churches to ensure the patrimony of the Diocese is managed responsibly.

The [Priest Retirement Fund Committee](#) is responsible for ensuring the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth – Priests Retirement Fund is managed responsibly and in accordance with the fund's charitable purposes and governing documents.

The [Safeguarding Committee](#) is responsible for matters which relate to safeguarding and is chaired by a non-clergy trustee.

The [Chancery and Tribunal](#) continue to operate independently of the Curia, the Judicial Vicar has been appointed as a Trustee.

The structure of the Diocese presents a harmonious balance between the charity's legal responsibility and the Diocese's responsibility to Canon Law. The Council of Priests meets regularly to consult on matters of Canon Law and advises Trustees.

Relationship with Other Organisations

Other Regulators

In addition to the Charity Commission for England and Wales the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth is overseen by the Jersey Charity Commissioner and the Guernsey Registry.

The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adheres to the Code of Fundraising Practice.

Safeguarding in the Diocese is overseen by the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency; the CSSA national safeguarding policies are in operation across the Diocese.

Other Organisations within the Diocese

The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth has a close relationship with the Portsmouth Diocesan Trust and Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust; which remain separate charities pending the final transfer of the Diocese's schools.

Caritas Jersey LTD, charity number 150, is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is the hub of Catholic Social Action in Jersey. The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth is in the process of becoming one of the company members.

The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth works closely with Catholic schools across the Diocese, mostly through the Vicariate for Education.

Other Organisations outside the Diocese

In carrying out its work and mission, The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth works in collaboration with many and varied organisations such as the Catholic Trust for England and Wales (CATEW), the Bishop's Conference for England and Wales (CBCEW), CAFOD, other Catholic dioceses, hospitals, prisons, universities, foodbanks, and a variety of other charities and organisations.

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustee Board has due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in exercising its powers and duties.

The Trustee Board ensures the Charity benefits the public by bringing meaning to people's lives, providing opportunities to strengthen relationships with God, providing a moral and ethical framework for life; through community and social cohesion in its pastoral work; and through its work supporting the poor and the marginalised.

Charitable Purposes

The purposes of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, as set out in its constitution, are the advancement of the Roman Catholic religion in the Diocese in such ways being charitable as the Bishop shall from time to time direct and for the service and support whether in the Diocese or outside the Diocese in such ways as aforesaid of any lawful charitable purposes whether educational or otherwise promoted or supported by the Roman Catholic Church.

The Charity therefore fulfils its purpose by offering religious and pastoral services, educational programmes,

and charitable support and assistance to all those living within its borders: approximately 235,000 self-identifying Catholics, of whom 25,000 are regular Mass-attending Catholics and roughly 3.2 million other residents. The principal vehicles for these ministries are parishes, chaplaincies and schools, as well as outreach activities coordinated by Caritas Portsmouth.

Fundraising Activity

The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth follows the Institute of Fundraising's Codes of Fundraising Practice and is registered with the Fundraising Regulator.

No complaints about fundraising activity required escalation to the Fundraising Regulator. The Diocese has its own procedures in place for dealing with complaints. Within this process, we publish a clear procedure for escalation and timescales when a person lodging a complaint can expect us to respond.

The fundraising activity of the Diocese takes various forms; including fundraising through campaigns, planned regular giving, via digital means and cash, securing grants from institutional, corporate or non-profit organisations and community fundraising.

Anyone who is kind enough to consider donating to the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth can be assured that:

- We never sell personal data to other organisations or charities. We do sometimes ask third party organisations to help process our data but they will act under our instruction. We never allow these organisations to use parishioner and supporter data for their own purposes and the data remains our legal responsibility. At all times we ensure that it is treated with the same level of care as if we were handling it directly.
- We never undertake door-to-door fundraising.
- We provide information to parishioners and supporters on how to opt-out of future communications from the Diocese.

We display the Fundraising Regulator badge on our website and fundraising collateral to demonstrate our commitment to best practice.

The Diocese ensures that vulnerable people are protected by adhering to the Codes of Fundraising Practice, ensuring that policies and procedures are in place for fundraising activities, and regularly working with the safeguarding and governance teams to ensure that good practice is followed in accordance with the law.

Building Partnerships

Relying on a range of income streams means that our work is more sustainable. The Diocese is especially grateful to receive funding from a variety of grant-givers, including Trusts and Foundations. Many of these grants recognise the substantial positive impact that parish and Diocesan projects have on the lives they are designed to support and to the wider community. The Trustees aim to build long-term partnerships and are grateful to all funders who have supported the Charity in the course of the past year.

Legacies

The Diocese attempts to make it as easy as possible for supporters to leave gifts in their Wills, producing information to highlight the wonderful benefit of giving a legacy, of any size, to a particular parish or where the need is greatest. In 2024 we launched an online and face-to-face will-writing service enabling making provision for the Church in supporter Wills even easier.

Although legal advice is not offered to supporters, information is provided to help them make the right decision for them, whether in writing, over the telephone or on the website.

The Trustees also take great care in administering the legacy gifts received, ensuring executors and family members are treated professionally with compassion, dignity and care.

Data Handling Statement

The Diocese of Portsmouth is committed to handling data in a fair and transparent manner and complying with data protection laws. The Diocese is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

Diversity, Equality and Inclusion

Our existing charity values reflect the need for diversity, equality and inclusion (DE&I). We also recognise that there will always be further improvements or enhancements that we can make to maximise DE&I within the Charity.

We are committed to ensuring that obstacles to participation are reduced and believe that diversity enriches our work, strengthens our mission, and enables us to better serve our community. By working together, we can build a more inclusive and compassionate Church.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The purpose of this statement is to distinguish the Trustees' responsibilities for the accounts from those of the Auditors as stated in their Report. The Charities Act 2011 requires the Trustees to prepare for each financial period, financial statements which give a true and fair view of the Charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the period end. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring proper accounting records are kept which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the Diocese and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Trust Deeds and the disclosure regulations. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Diocese and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of an error, fraud, and other irregularities.

This Annual Report was approved by the Trustee Board at a meeting held on 2nd May 2024.

Signed on 05 June 2024 by:

+ Philip James McAuley

From The Auditors

Independent auditor's report to the Trustees of The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth for the year ending 31 August 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, 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, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard is applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and the parent charity's affairs as of 31 August 2023 and the group's net movement in funds for the year then ended.
- have been properly prepared under the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared following the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We have been appointed as auditors under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder. We conducted our audit by 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 group following 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 group's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue. Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees for 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 Report of the Trustees. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, 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 there is a material misstatement in the financial statements 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 about which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charity, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the parent charity's financial statements 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 for the financial statements

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 group's and the parent 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 group or the parent charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements 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 under 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 based on these financial statements.

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:

Based on our understanding of the group and the environment in which it operates, we identified the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to Canon Law, employment law, safeguarding regulations and Charity Law, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of financial statements such as the Charities Act 2011 and Charities SORP.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls). Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Review of minutes of trustees' meetings.
- Inspect correspondence with regulators and tax authorities.
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud.
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities.
- Identifying and testing journals; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates. These are related to depreciation and investment property valuations.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulations. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, 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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements 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, under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and 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's Trustees as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Haysmacintyre LLP

Haysmacintyre LLP
10 Queen Street Place
Statutory Auditors
London EC4R 1AG

Date: 05 June 2024

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

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

Statement Of Financial Activities

For the 14 month period ended 31 August 2023

Notes	UNRESTRICTED			TOTAL - AUG 2023	
	CURIA - TOTAL	PARISH - TOTAL	RESTRICTED - TOTAL		
	£	£	£	£	
Donations and legacies					
Donations and Offertories	53,842	6,073,228	8,253,429	14,380,499	
Legacies	433,563	260,600	172,321	866,484	
Other	444,116	887,201	396,431	1,727,748	
Other trading activities:					
Rent – miscellaneous lettings	37,865	868,466	-	906,331	
Investment income					
Investment income and interest receivable	1 3,278	133,603	37,255	174,136	
Rent – investment properties	29,967	422,022	-	451,989	
Other incoming resources:					
Insurance Claims	-	117,790	-	117,790	
Other Income - transfer from predecessor entity	16	1,088,769	74,233,542	5,802,286	81,124,597
Total income		<u>2,091,399</u>	<u>82,996,452</u>	<u>14,661,722</u>	<u>99,749,573</u>
Expenditure on Raising funds					
Finance costs		(7,887)	-	(950,634)	(958,521)
Charitable activities					
Activities in furtherance of the Roman Catholic Faith		(2,413,354)	(8,060,017)	(1,588,068)	(12,061,438)
Total expenditure	2	<u>(2,421,241)</u>	<u>(8,060,017)</u>	<u>(2,538,702)</u>	<u>(13,019,959)</u>
Net (Outgoing)/Incoming Resources before transfers		<u>(329,842)</u>	<u>74,936,435</u>	<u>12,123,021</u>	<u>86,729,614</u>
Realised and Unrealised Gains on investments		(232)	(884,629)	(16,479)	(901,340)
Net income/(expenditure)		<u>(330,074)</u>	<u>74,051,806</u>	<u>12,106,541</u>	<u>85,828,274</u>
Transfers between Funds		682,693	-	(682,693)	-
Transfers - Diocesan Levy		1,470,370	(1,470,370)	-	-
Net movement on funds		<u>1,822,990</u>	<u>72,581,436</u>	<u>11,423,848</u>	<u>85,828,274</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Fund balances brought forward					-
Fund balances carried forward		<u>1,822,990</u>	<u>72,581,436</u>	<u>11,423,848</u>	<u>85,828,274</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the period. All operations are continuing and there are no discontinued operations.

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

Balance Sheet

As at 31 August 2023

		CURIAL FUNDS	PARISH FUNDS	31-Aug-23
		£	£	£
Fixed Assets	Notes			
Tangible assets	4	8,734,874	38,567,677	47,302,550
Investments	5	3,723,635	24,189,734	27,913,368
		<u>12,458,508</u>	<u>62,757,410</u>	<u>75,215,919</u>
Current Assets				
Debtors and prepayments	6	436,737	863,396	1,300,133
Cash at bank and in hand		5,871,394	10,037,033	15,908,427
		<u>6,308,131</u>	<u>10,900,428</u>	<u>17,208,560</u>
Creditors: due within one year	7	(6,098,503)	(497,702)	(6,596,205)
Net Current Assets		<u>209,629</u>	<u>10,402,726</u>	<u>10,612,355</u>
Creditors: due after more than one year	7	-	-	-
Parish Loan Accounts				
Due from parishes		2,438,406	(2,438,406)	-
Net Off Intra-curial		(159,415)	159,415	-
		-	-	-
Due to parishes		(4,180,618)	4,180,618	-
		<u>(1,901,626)</u>	<u>1,901,626</u>	<u>-</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>10,766,511</u>	<u>75,061,763</u>	<u>85,828,274</u>
Unrestricted Funds				
General Funds		(3,952,727)	-	(3,952,727)
Designated Funds	10	5,775,717	72,581,436	78,357,153
		<u>1,822,990</u>	<u>72,581,436</u>	<u>74,404,426</u>
Restricted Funds	9	8,778,740	1,659,584	10,438,324
Permanent Endowment Funds	8	164,782	820,742	985,524
RESERVES		<u>10,766,511</u>	<u>75,061,763</u>	<u>85,828,274</u>

Approved by the Trustee Board on 2nd May 2024 and signed on their behalf on 05 June 2024 by:

+ Philip James McAuley

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

Statement of Cash Flows

For the 14 month period ended 31 August 2023

	YE AUG 23			
Reconciliation of Net Incoming Resources to Cash Inflow from Operating Activities	£			
Changes in resources before revaluations		86,729,614		
Returns on investment		(174,136)		
Depreciation		507,263		
Loss/(gain) on disposal of Tangible Fixed Assets		-		
Transfer from predecessor entity		(81,124,597)		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		180,134		
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		(437,682)		
		<u>5,228,607</u>		
Net cash inflow from operating activities		<u>5,228,607</u>		
Cash flows from investing activities				
Returns on investment		174,136		
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		(5,981,847)		
Receipts from sales of tangible fixed assets		-		
Payments to acquire investments		(383,768)		
Receipts from sales of investments		1,897,316		
		<u>(3,842,174)</u>		
Cash flows from financing activities				
Movement on School Loans		964,389		
Bank loan repayments		(3,341,224)		
		<u>(2,376,834)</u>		
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(990,401)		
Transfer from Predecessor		16,898,828		
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		<u>15,908,427</u>		
Reconciliation of cash flow to movement in net funds/(debt)				
Decrease in cash in the year		(990,401)		
Net cash inflow from movements in bank loans		2,376,834		
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		1,386,434		
Net funds at the beginning of the year		-		
Net funds at the year end		<u>1,386,434</u>		
Analysis of net funds/(debt)	TRF FROM PREDECESSOR	Cash flows	Other	31-Aug-23
	£	£	£	£
Cash and bank balances	16,898,828	(990,401)	-	15,908,427
Loans due within one year	(7,953,390)	2,376,834	-	(5,576,556)
Loans due after one year	-	-	-	-
	<u>8,945,438</u>	<u>1,386,434</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,331,872</u>

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

Statement of Accounting Policies

For the 14 month period ended 31 August 2023

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with statutory requirements and with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP 2015) (Second Edition, effective 1 January 2019 and with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (Effective 1 January 2015). The particular accounting policies adopted are described below. The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified to include certain tangible fixed assets at a valuation and fixed asset investments at market value. The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements represent the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth and its subsidiaries listed in note 14. The subsidiaries are not consolidated due to immateriality. The accounting period is 14 months due to the incorporation of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 6th July 2022.

b) Preparation of accounts on a going concern basis

Having considered future budgets and cash flows, the trustees confirm that they have no material uncertainties about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. In coming to this conclusion trustees have considered the resources available to the diocese, the move towards balanced curial budgets and the impact of the 10- year plan, "*You will be My Witnesses*".

c) Legacies, Donations and Grants

Legacies and donations are recognised the Diocese becomes legally entitled to them, receipt is probable and they can reasonably be measured in financial terms. Receipts of property, investments or other gifts in kind are included at market value. Grants are recognised when receivable.

d) Investment Income

Investment income is accounted for as it accrues.

e) Taxation

As a registered charity, the Diocese is exempt from income tax, corporation tax and capital gains tax derived from its charitable activities. Gift aid is credited to the category of income to which it relates.

f) Expenditure

Costs of raising funds comprise those costs associated with attracting voluntary income and grants and the management of the Charity's investments. Costs of charitable activities consist of all expenditure directly relating

to the objects of the Charity. Support costs which cannot be directly allocated are apportioned between activities.

Employment benefits, including holiday pay, are recognised in the period in which they are earned. Termination benefits are recognised in the period in which the decision is made and communicated to the relevant employee(s). Governance costs include expenditure on management and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements together with an allocation of support costs. Irrecoverable VAT is included with the category of expenses to which it relates.

g) Schools Building Programme

Any grants obtained on behalf of school governors are netted off against total costs and only the residual cost to the Diocese is included in the financial statements.

h) Tangible Fixed Assets

Prior to 1 January 1997 the cost of fixed assets was written off in the year of acquisition and no comprehensive cost records were maintained. In order to arrive at a reasonable valuation of parish property, taking into account age, type, condition and life expectancy, the Trustees considered that the then insured values should be discounted by 90% and in subsequent years be depreciated at 2% per annum, on the building value only. Properties acquired after 31 August 1996 were capitalised at their actual cost of acquisition. When transferred from the predecessor entity property net book value (cost less depreciation) was treated as opening cost within the CIO.

The Diocese owns a number of properties that are occupied and run by independent charities in the form of Voluntary Aided Schools and Catholic Academies. The school properties (land and buildings) are vested in the name of the Trustees. The Trustees cannot take a unilateral decision to dispose of these properties. Disposal can only occur if the school governors and the Secretary of State for Education decide that all or part of a school site is no longer required for education. In most circumstances, where a disposal occurs, the Secretary of State or the local authority may be entitled to recoup any grant. Although no rights of ownership vest in the school governing body, most other rights and obligations, such as for the maintenance and repair of the school and its facilities, are passed to the governors. The Trustees therefore consider that there is no capital value to the Diocese in the stock of school buildings.

Thus school properties have not been capitalised. There is a potential value, or contingent asset, in the event of a closure of a school (either connected to a re-organisation or not). Such an asset is recognised only upon the occurrence of a closure/re-organisation and the site's development value becoming certain, such as upon the granting of planning permission. The recognition of this value is accounted for as an incoming resource in the year in which this value becomes measurable and certain. The inclusion of any value of school properties normally arises from a scheme under s554 Education Act and until then there is legally a duty to repay or recycle the proceeds from the sale of former school sites.

Prior to 4 September 1934, the date of the original Trust Deed of the Charity, most parish properties were acquired on trusts related to individual parish missions and were formally brought under the legal control of the Trustees by virtue of Charity Commission schemes dated 4th and 7th February 1936. These assets are included in Parochial Funds.

There are a few properties held on trusts created after 1934 which are different from those in the 1934 and 2002 trust deeds. These assets are also included in Parochial Funds.

The estimated cost of furniture, equipment and motor vehicles held at 31 August 1996 has been capitalised in the financial statements. Subsequent additions exceeding £5,000 are capitalised at cost. Individual works of art, historical treasures and plate are not capitalised.

Depreciation is calculated by the straight-line method to write off the cost/value less anticipated residual value, over the expected useful lives of assets as follows: -

- Freehold property (excluding land) - 50 years
- Leasehold property - 50 years or, if less, the term of the lease
- Furniture and equipment - 5 to 20 years

i) Significant judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In preparing these financial statements the Trustees have had to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts recognised in these financial statements. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Key areas subject to judgement and estimation are as follows: useful lives applied to fixed assets and investment property valuations.

j) Pensions

All eligible staff may join a personal pension scheme of their choice to which the Diocese makes a matching contribution of up to five per cent of salary. As a defined contribution scheme, no liability falls upon the Diocese, as employer, to make good a shortfall of funding other than contributions due.

k) Financial instruments

The Diocese only enters into basic financial instruments transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivable and payable and investments in stocks and shares. The measurement basis used for these financial instruments is detailed below.

Investments

Investments are valued at fair value on the balance sheet date. Investment properties are stated at market value or a Trustees' valuation, as advised by a qualified Chartered Surveyor. Gains/losses on investments are calculated as the difference between opening market value and closing market value after adjusting for additions and disposals during the period. No distinction is made between realised and unrealised gains in the financial statements.

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment. Loans receivable are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

Creditors

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method. The charity only enters into basic financial instruments transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivable and payable and investments in stocks and shares. The measurement basis used for these financial instruments is detailed below.

l) Parochial Funds

Each Parish is considered by Canon Law to be a juridical person with corresponding rights and obligations, including the holding and use of funds. The use of these parochial funds is the responsibility of the Parish Priest, Diocesan Finance Council and the Trustees in varying ways depending on the amount and significance of the funds. However, for the purposes of civil law parishes are not distinct legal entities and, unless there are distinct and express special trusts clearly evidenced in law, parochial funds are therefore shown as unrestricted but designated funds.

m) Permanent Endowment Funds

The capital of Permanent Endowment Funds must be maintained intact with any income arising being available for restricted or general charitable purposes of the Diocese, according to the terms of the original gift.

n) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds comprise accumulated surpluses and deficits on general funds. They are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general charitable objectives. Designated funds are funds set aside by the Trustees for specific purposes (see note 10). Restricted funds are used for specific purposes as stated by the grantor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund (see note 9).

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

Notes to the Accounts

For the 14 month period ended 31 August 2023

31 August
2023
£

1. Investment Income And Interest Receivable

Arising on quoted investments	174,136
Rent on investment property	451,989
	<hr/>
	£626,125
	<hr/> <hr/>

2. Charitable Expenditure And Support Costs

	Support of Parish Life		Vocation			Education		Evangelisation			Total
	Locally Incurred Costs	Centrally Incurred Costs	Training New Clergy, Vocations	Clergy in ministry	Retired Clergy	Catholic Education	Youth and University Chaplaincies	Supporting the Poor & Marginalised	New Evang'n	Fund-raising	
Direct Costs	-	-	61,965	47,118	689,339	177,306	94,992	31,877	14,970	16,661	1,134,229
											-
The Office of the Bishop	-	140,251	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	140,251
Chancery & Cathedral	-	1,784	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,784
Tribunal	-	16,402	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,402
Hospital Chaplaincies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27,265
Maintenance of Catholic Schools	-	-	-	-	-	181,358	-	-	-	-	181,358
Caritas/ERF	-	63,252	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	63,252
Parish Costs											-
Clergy	1,315,411	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,315,411
Staff	1,270,828	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,270,828
Church Running Costs	1,628,268	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,628,268
Office and Presbetry Running Costs	776,628	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	776,628
Investments in DOPIF	10,100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,100
General: books, events, donations, fees etc	293,113	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	293,113
Insurance	286,136	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	286,136
Repairs and Maintenance	1,752,005	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,752,005
Depreciation	388,031	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	388,031
											-
Designated Funds		53,605									53,605
Endowment Funds		1,066									1,066
Restricted Funds		1,977,206	561,496								2,538,702
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	7,720,520	2,280,830	623,461	47,118	689,339	358,664	94,992	31,877	14,970	16,661	11,878,434

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Locally Incurred Costs	Centrally Incurred Costs	Training New Clergy, Vocations	Clergy in ministry	Retired Clergy	Catholic Education	Youth and University Chaplaincies	Supporting the Poor & Marginalised	New Evang'n	Fund-raising	
Communications	19,921	19,921	3,984.12	3,984.12	-	3,984.12	3,984.12	3,984.12	3,984.12	15,936.48	79,682
Estates	82,525	-	-	-	41,263	41,263	-	-	-	-	165,051
People	85,811	-	899	899	449	1,797	899	1,348	449	449	92,999
IT	69,042	-	2,892	2,892	1,446	5,784	2,892	4,338	1,446	1,446	92,176
Finance	215,441	56,069	1,729	1,315	19,236	10,008	2,651	890	418	465	308,221
Governance	125,066	32,549	1,004	763	11,167	5,810	1,539	516	243	270	178,926
Curia Property and overheads	542,924	149,344	8,926	9,210	56,952	53,928	14,807	10,156	6,645	14,368	20,796
Safeguarding	103,381	-	1,024	2,047	-	1,024	7,165	2,047	2,047	-	118,735
Bishops Conference Levy	-	84,939	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84,939
Total	8,964,630	2,623,652	643,918	68,228	819,852	482,261	128,928	55,156	30,202	49,595	13,019,959

£

Governance costs include

Auditors remuneration – Audit (including VAT) £51,000

3. Staff

The average number of total employees (not full-time equivalents) of the Diocese during the period and their aggregate emoluments are shown below

	31 August 2023
Staff Costs:	£
Wages and salaries	2,040,316
Social security	145,009
Pension costs	73,580
	<hr/>
	£2,258,904
	<hr/>

Monthly Average Number of Employees:

No

Departments 54

Parishes 163

217

Employees with emoluments greater than £60,000:

	2023
£60,001 - £70,000	2
£70,001 - £80,000	0
£80,001 - £90,000	0
£90,001 - £100,000	0

Key management personnel received salary, benefits and pension contributions of £368,324 during the period. Defined contribution pension payments of £19,441 were made to 5 key management personnel.

4. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Buildings £	Leasehold Buildings £	Furniture & Equipment £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION				
At 7 July 2022				
Transfers from Predecessor Entity	39,572,214	624,844	413,404	40,610,461
Additions	3,971,339	2,010,508	-	5,981,847
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Transfers from Investments	1,220,000	-	-	1,220,000
Transfers to Investments	(2,495)	-	-	(2,495)
At 31 August 2023	<u>44,761,058</u>	<u>2,635,352</u>	<u>413,404</u>	<u>47,809,813</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 7 July 2022				
Charge for the period	458,345	35,138	13,780	507,263
On disposals	-	-	-	-
Transfers to Investments	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2023	<u>458,345</u>	<u>35,138</u>	<u>13,780</u>	<u>507,263</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 August 2023	<u>44,302,713</u>	<u>2,600,213</u>	<u>399,624</u>	<u>47,302,550</u>
At 7 July 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The Diocese also owns a number of properties, which are occupied and run by independent charities in the form of Voluntary Aided Schools and Catholic Academies. The Trustees consider that these properties have no capital value to the Charity – see Accounting Policy (f). The total re-instatement cost of these schools is approximately £300m. A list of the schools in the Diocese is set out on the Diocesan website (www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

All fixed assets are used in direct furtherance of the Charity's objects.

5. Investments

	Investment Properties	Quoted Investments	Total
	£	£	£
Market value at 7 July 2022	-	-	-
Transfer from Predecessor Entity	25,602,517	5,943,191	31,545,708
Additions	-	383,768	383,768
Disposals	(1,500,000)	(397,264)	(1,897,264)
Transfer from Tangible Fixed Assets	2,495	-	2,495
Transfer to Tangible Fixed Assets	(1,220,000)	-	(1,220,000)
Revaluation Losses	(826,088)	(75,252)	(901,340)
Market value at 31 August 2023	<u>22,058,924</u>	<u>5,854,444</u>	<u>27,913,368</u>

All quoted investments (other than cash) are quoted on a recognised UK Stock Exchange or are valued by reference to investments listed on a recognised Stock Exchange. No figure for the cost of the investment properties owned at 1 January 1997 is available; the value at which they were first recognised in the predecessor entity accounts was £1,014,500. £11.9M of investment properties were valued in Dec 23 by Savills, Simmons & Sons, Leaders, Ross Nicholas, Kelway Law, Hose Rhodes Dickson, Robin Austen, Zoopla and Charters; the remainder have been valued using indicators based on overall market movements since the last valuation.

	31 August 2023 £
6. Debtors	
Due within one year	
School and other loans	£275,955
Legacies Receivable *	-
Other debtors and prepayments	£1,024,178
	<hr/>
	£1,300,133
	<hr/> <hr/>

*We estimate the Charity was entitled to Legacies of £192,000, where probate had been received by the year end, but which are not accrued due to lack of a reliable estimate.

7. Creditors

31 August
2023
£

Due within one year

School and other loans	£5,576,611
PAYE	£56,027
Other creditors and accruals	£963,567
	<hr/>
	£6,596,205
	<hr/> <hr/>

A Lloyds CBILS five year loan of £4,000,000 was taken out by the predecessor entity in February 2021, with interest and capital repayments beginning in March 2022. This loan was repaid in full on 3 January 2023.

8. Permanent Endowment Funds

	Balance at 06 Jul 2022	Transfer from Predecessor Entity	Net Incoming / (Outgoing) Resources	Transfers	Movement On Investments	Balance at 31 Aug 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Parochial Funds						
Properties	-	361,618	-	-	-	361,618
Other	-	188,093	3,658	-	(896)	190,854
Tanguy Masses	-	1,787	-	-	(11)	1,776
St Mary's Mission	-	225,753	1,196	-	(123)	226,826
Christchurch Parish Priest	-	39,669	-	-	-	39,669
	-	816,920	4,853	-	(1,030)	820,743
Curial Funds						
Curtin Masses	-	43,437	1,103	-	(270)	44,270
Dunne Masses	-	2,671	-	-	-	2,671
St Joseph Education Fund	-	116,529	1,739	-	(426)	117,842
	-	162,636	2,843	-	(697)	164,782
	-	979,556	7,696	-	(1,727)	985,525

9. Restricted Funds

	Balance at 06 Jul 2022	Transfer from Predecessor Entity	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Movement On Investments	Balance at 31 Aug 2023
	£	£	£	£	£		£
CURIAL							
Social Welfare	-	185,383	4,206	-	-	-	189,590
Clergy Training	-	922,245	30	(32,545)	-	-	889,731
Bamenda Fund	-	119,517	32,604	(1)	-	-	152,120
Clergy Assistance	-	161,759	-	-	-	(9,980)	151,780
Lourdes Fund	-	191,205	5,603	(3,984)	-	-	192,825
Youth Funds	-	783	-	-	-	-	783
Vicariate Triple Trust	-	63,329	1,612	-	-	-	64,941
Edmund Rice Fund	-	298,039	7,568	-	-	-	305,606
School Building Fund	-	0	278,383	(181,358)	(97,027)	-	(2)
Bernard Medd Fund	-	10,644	202	-	-	-	10,846
Refugee Support	-	1,066	-	-	-	-	1,066
Education Fund	-	149,904	3,913	-	-	(1,002)	152,815
Diocesan Caritas	-	31,937	45,000	(31,794)	-	-	45,143
Closer to Christ	-	1,237,783	1,231,922	(950,634)	(885,667)	-	633,403
Closer to Christ - Parish	-	-	320,020	(320,020)	-	-	-
	-	3,373,595	1,931,062	(1,520,335)	(982,694)	(10,982)	2,790,647
PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FUND							
Priests' Retirement Fund	-	-	6,352,132	(664,040)	300,000	-	5,988,092
	-	-	6,352,132	(664,040)	300,000	-	5,988,092
PAROCHIAL							
Parish Fund Raising	-	586,383	583,591	(367,622)	-	-	802,352
Barron Trust	-	428,995	-	-	-	(2,623)	426,373
Pangbourne Assistance Fund	-	192,571	4,682	(6,500)	-	(1,147)	189,605
Foundation Masses	-	159,862	68	-	-	-	159,930
Caritas Jersey Ltd	-	81,324	-	-	-	-	81,324
	-	1,449,135	588,341	(374,122)	-	(3,770)	1,659,584
	-	4,822,729	8,871,535	(2,558,496)	(682,694)	(14,752)	10,438,322

Curial

Social Welfare Fund

This is a fund dating from 1952 for the promotion of Social Welfare generally.

Clergy Training Fund

A fund for the training of students to the priesthood, which is the recipient of a specific annual Diocesan collection for this purpose.

Bamenda Fund

A fund to provide assistance to the Diocese of Bamenda in Cameroon, Africa that is the recipient of a specific annual Diocesan collection. There is a Trustees' committee charged with monitoring and making the appropriate grants.

Clergy Assistance

This fund provides financial support for clergy in need and is the recipient of a specific annual Diocesan collection.

Lourdes Fund

A fund to support the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Youth Funds

Funds collected specifically for youth purposes including Lourdes Pilgrimages and Summer Schools.

Vicariate Triple Trust

The purpose of the Trust is primarily to assist parishes in providing church furnishings.

Edmund Rice Fund

This donation was received in 2005, primarily for education purposes in Reading and surrounding areas, and the local pastoral area is developing support for appropriate chaplaincies in the area.

School Building Fund

This Fund was established in 2001, to provide a central fund to meet the governors' liabilities on expenditures in Voluntary Aided schools. The equalisation fund is targeted as half from all parishes on the mainland, whether feeder parishes or not, and the balance being raised by the schools from parental contributions. A transfer from Unrestricted Funds of £203,091 has been made to make up for a shortfall in funds raised.

Bernard Medd Fund

This Fund aims to provide Catechesis and summer schools for Youth.

Refugee Support

This Fund is to support and assist Refugees. Diocesan collections are made annually.

Diocesan Caritas

Caritas Diocese of Portsmouth supports and promotes the love of neighbour in the parishes and schools of the Diocese.

Closer to Christ

This is a Fundraising Campaign being run in each of our 87 parishes aiming to raising £13.5M over five years with a third of the proceeds returning to the parishes and the remainder being split between funding seminarians (23%), current clergy (23%) and our retired priests (20%).

Priests' Retirement Fund (PRF)

For the relief of retired diocesan priests.

Parochial

Parish Fundraising

These are funds that parishes raise for separate funds and charities, and account for as a restricted fund.

Investment Funds: Barron Trust, Pangbourne Assistance Fund

These are mainly legacies left specifically for expenditure within individual parishes or churches.

Foundation Masses

Legacies left for mass intentions of the deceased, are held as separate funds within the parishes.

Caritas Jersey Ltd

Caritas Diocese of Portsmouth supports and promotes the love of neighbour in the parish of Jersey.

10. Designated Funds

	Balance at 06 Jul 2022	Transfer from Predecessor Entity	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Movement On Investments	Balance at 31 Aug 2023
	£	£	£		£		£
CURIAL							
Education Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diocesan Caritas	-	30,379	58,699	(47,651)	-	-	41,427
Insurance Risk Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pastoral Development Fund	-	1,125,868	-	-	-	-	1,125,868
Living Our Faith Fund	-	1,790,819	1,680	(3,301)	-	(167)	1,789,031
Diocesan Buildings Fund	-	2,872,259	-	(52,868)	-	-	2,819,391
	-	5,819,325	60,379	(103,820)	-	(167)	5,775,717
PAROCHIAL							
Living Our Faith Fund	-	955,545	79	(13,036)	-	-	942,587
Living Our Faith Jersey	-	9,577	-	-	-	-	9,577
Diocesan Buildings Fund	-	37,738,202	-	(388,030)	-	-	37,350,172
Other Parochial Funds	-	36,182,201	7,041,545	(8,059,785)	-	(884,861)	34,279,100
	-	74,885,525	7,041,624	(8,460,851)	-	(884,861)	72,581,436
	-	80,704,850	7,102,003	(8,564,671)	-	(885,028)	78,357,153

Diocesan Caritas

Caritas Diocese of Portsmouth supports and promotes the love of neighbour in the parishes and schools of the Diocese. Some of its funding is restricted.

Pastoral Development Fund

This fund has been set up from the proceeds of the sale of a surplus property and will be supplemented from further disposals where there are surplus funds generated, in order to aid parishes with their own developments.

Living Our Faith Fund

A programme was initiated in 2008 to raise funds (i) to provide the Diocese with sufficient funds to support independently the training of students for the priesthood and the continuing care of its ordained clergy in their ministry, to fund adult formation programmes and resources and various capital projects, and (ii) to provide parish funds to meet local needs.

Value of Diocesan Buildings

Fund Funds invested in buildings used by the diocese in furtherance of their charitable objects are not available to spend. The value of these operational fixed assets have been transferred into a designated fund to indicate that they are not expendable financial assets.

11. Allocation of Net Assets

ALLOCATION OF NET ASSETS	Fixed Assets	Investments	Cash & Debtors	Current & Long Term Liabilities	Parish Loan Accounts	Total - 31 Aug 23
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Permanent						
Endowment Funds						
Curial	-	106,143	54,897	-	3,742	164,782
Parochial	508,271	191,525	68,229	-	52,719	820,743
Restricted Funds						
Curial	5,902,089	152,926	1,543,761	(515,783)	1,695,746	8,778,739
Parochial	-	734,244	904,414	-	20,926	1,659,584
Unrestricted funds						
Curial	2,832,785	3,464,565	4,709,473	(5,582,719)	(3,601,114)	1,822,989
Parochial	38,059,406	23,263,965	9,927,786	(497,702)	1,827,981	72,581,436
Total Net Assets	47,302,550	27,913,368	17,208,560	(6,596,205)	-	85,828,274

12. Transactions with Trustees

Certain of the Trustees are also Priests within the Diocese. As Priests they receive income from their office together with living accommodation, living expenses and reimbursement of costs incurred on behalf of their parish on the same basis as other priests within the Diocese. No Trustees receive any remuneration or benefits from their trusteeships. No Trustees were paid for providing professional services to the Diocese. Total donations received from Trustees were £7,933.

13. Connected Charity

The property of the following connected charity was transferred into and placed under the Trusteeship of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth following the Charity Commission's Order of 16 March 2023:

Charity	Charity Number	Address
Priests' Retirement Fund	1061194	St Edmund House Bishop Crispian Way Portsmouth PO1 3QA

14. Trading Subsidiaries

During the period the Diocese had wholly owned active subsidiary companies incorporated in England and Wales. They were as follows: -

The Portsmouth Diocesan Trading Co Limited

General commercial trading on behalf of the Diocese.
(Company Number: 2746549)

Catholic Resource Centre Limited

Sale of religious material.
(Company Number: 3141601)

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Club Limited

Management of licensed premises on behalf of Our Lady of Peace, Earley.
(Company Number: 3340552)

The subsidiaries are not consolidated within the financial statement due to immateriality.

Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Company Limited (Company Number: 9003096) acts as Member of Caritas Jersey Limited, a Jersey registered charitable company, whose results and assets and liabilities are reported within the financial statements. This subsidiary was dormant through the period.

Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocesan Properties Limited (Company Number: 9611450) was incorporated on 28th May 2015 and ownership of the Diocese's freehold properties in Jersey was transferred to it from The Portsmouth Diocesan Trust during the year in order better to comply with Jersey property law. On 20th January 2023, the assets of this trading subsidiary passed to the successor entity, Catholic Diocese Portsmouth and Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocesan Properties Limited has subsequently been dissolved.

14. Trading Subsidiaries (continued)

Consolidated Profit and Loss Account For the Year Ended 31 August 2023	31 August 2023 £
TURNOVER	151,244
Cost of sales	(54,327)
	<hr/>
GROSS PROFIT	96,917
Administrative expenses	(0)
	<hr/>
	96,917
Amount gifted to the Charity	(34,489)
Transfer of Fixed Assets	
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	-
	<hr/>
(LOSS)/PROFIT AFTER TAXATION	62,428
Reserves brought forward	(56,806)
	<hr/>
RESERVES CARRIED FORWARD	5,622

Included within turnover are sales to the Diocese amounting to £34,489

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Consolidated Balance Sheet	31 August
As at 31 August 2023	2023
	£
FIXED ASSETS	
Tangible assets	50,583
	<hr/>
CURRENT ASSETS	
Stocks	9,137
Debtors	70,320
Cash at bank and in hand	45,759
	<hr/>
	125,215
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	(26,676)
	<hr/>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	98,539
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after one year	-
	<hr/>
NET ASSETS	149,122
	<hr/> <hr/>
Share capital	143,500
Reserves	5,622
	<hr/>
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	149,122
	<hr/> <hr/>

15. Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions during the period.

16. Donation from Predecessor Entity

	Notes	CURIAL FUNDS	PARISH FUNDS	22-Dec-22	31-Aug-22
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	4	2,872,259	37,738,202	40,610,461	41,058,848
Investments	5	3,905,773	27,639,935	31,545,708	37,912,134
		<u>6,778,032</u>	<u>65,378,137</u>	<u>72,156,169</u>	<u>78,970,983</u>
Debtors: due after more than one year	6	-	-	-	28,809
Current Assets					
Debtors and prepayments	6	1,554,414	(74,146)	1,480,267	1,256,217
Cash at bank and in hand		7,436,936	9,461,893	16,898,828	10,787,078
		<u>8,991,349</u>	<u>9,387,747</u>	<u>18,379,096</u>	<u>12,043,295</u>
Creditors: due within one year	7	(9,157,867)	(252,802)	(9,410,669)	(6,652,044)
Net Current Assets		<u>(166,517)</u>	<u>9,134,944</u>	<u>8,968,427</u>	<u>5,391,251</u>
Creditors: due after more than one year	7	-	-	-	(3,546,311)
Parish Loan Accounts					
Due from parishes		5,326,850	(5,326,850)	-	-
Due to parishes		(7,154,019)	7,154,019	-	-
		<u>(1,986,516)</u>	<u>1,986,516</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>4,625,000</u>	<u>76,499,598</u>	<u>81,124,597</u>	<u>80,844,732</u>
Unrestricted Funds					
General Funds		(4,730,556)	-	(4,730,556)	(4,892,151)
Designated Funds	10	5,819,325	74,233,542	80,052,867	80,243,523
		<u>1,088,769</u>	<u>74,233,542</u>	<u>75,322,311</u>	<u>75,351,372</u>
Restricted Funds	9	3,373,596	1,449,135	4,822,731	4,503,159
Permanent Endowment Funds	8	162,636	816,919	979,555	990,200
RESERVES		<u>4,625,001</u>	<u>76,499,596</u>	<u>81,124,597</u>	<u>80,844,732</u>

Thank you & Acknowledgements

Many of the stories of supporting the wider community and furthering our mission contained within this Report would not have been possible without the kindness and generosity of our volunteers, parishioners, individual donors, Trusts and other supporters.

Sadly, we can't thank everyone individually here, but we are indebted to each and every one of those who played their part.

Leave a Gift in your Will

Every time someone leaves a gift in their Will to the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, they are entrusting us to ensure that it makes a positive difference to our clergy, church communities and to our overarching mission to bring people closer to Christ through his Church. Every gift, no matter what size, has a lasting impact. We are truly indebted to all those who choose to support us in this way.

If you would like to support the Church with a gift in your Will, it won't cost you a penny in your lifetime, but will have an enduring impact for generations to come. Once you have considered your loved ones, you may choose to leave a legacy to a specific cause, Pastoral Area or parish in the Diocese; or, as good stewards, we will apply any gift given for the Diocese's general charitable purposes where there is the greatest need. Making provision for the Diocese isn't costly or complicated.

To start a conversation, please get in touch with at fundraising@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Keep in Touch

Bishop Philip invites you to sign up for his free weekly e-newsletter for all the latest news and forthcoming events www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews

Website: www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



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Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

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*This service is regulated by the Financial Services Authority. All options are conducted and completed by regulated Will-writers and STEP-certified lawyers.



octopuslegacy

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

Philippians 4:13

