THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE ORDER OF PREACHERS

England & Wales · Charity number 231192

Details

Other names	THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE ORDER OF PREACHERS KNOWN MORE COMMONLY AS THE DOMINICANS, THE DOMINICANS, The Dominican Council
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1964-02-18
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Blackfriars Priory St. Giles Oxford OX1 3LY
Phone	01865288231
Email	provincial.bursar@english.op.org
Website	english.op.org

Activities

Objects: THE PROMOTION OF EDUCATION AND THE ROMAN CATHOLIC RELIGION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF SCHOOLS CHURCHES AND PRIORIES FOR THESE PURPOSE AND THE UPKEEP OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ORDER OF PREACHERS.

Activities: To promote the Roman Catholic religion by preaching, teaching, pastoral care, chaplaincy work, writing, and other apostolic projects and to maintain the members engaged in such work.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- Scotland
- Cambridgeshire
- Camden
- Leicester City
- Oxfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-09-30	£4,302,459	£4,497,063	£32,282,203	24
2023-09-30	£4,328,672	£4,440,465	£30,590,241	25
2022-09-30	£4,433,847	£3,990,081	£30,786,606	26
2021-09-30	£5,550,097	£3,371,762	£32,550,534	10
2020-09-30	£3,233,764	£3,152,855	£27,982,247	18

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Nicholas Michael Crowe OP	Chair	2023-04-27
Dr David Goodill OP		2020-03-31
Rev John O'Connor		2024-04-12
Rev Toby Lees		2024-04-12
THE DOMINICAN COUNCIL		1944-05-25

Linked charities

- PROVINCE SICK FUND (231192-1)
- PROVINCE RELIGIOUS FUND (231192-2)
- A B LEITH CHARITABLE TRUST (231192-3)

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THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE ORDER OF PREACHERS

England & Wales - Charity number 231192

Accounts

THE DOMINICAN FRIARS

ANNUAL REPORT 2024






The English Province of the Order of Preachers.
Registered charity 231192 (England and Wales) and SC039062 (Scotland)

THE DOMINICAN FRIARS

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

FOR THE PERIOD 1ST OCT 2023 – 30TH SEPT 2024

The English Province of the Order of Preachers.
Registered charity 231192 (England and Wales) and SC039062 (Scotland)

The Dominican Friars in Britain



KEY FACTS

Houses: 4 in England,
1 in Scotland
(+ 2 canonically associated in Caribbean)

Total English-Province Friars: 76

- 55 in UK
- 8 in Caribbean
- 5 assig. outside the Province
- 3 working overseas
- 5 on leave / in care

Bishops: 1

Priests: 64
(of which 8 in Caribbean)

Cooperator Brothers: 2

Novices / Student Brothers: 7
(+4 assigned from other provs.)

www.english.op.org

THE DOMINICAN FRIARS (est. 1216) are an international Catholic religious order with a specialisation in preaching, teaching and pastoral work. Officially titled the 'Order of Preachers', they are known as 'Dominicans' after their founder, St Dominic.

THE 'PROVINCE OF ENGLAND'

The friars first established themselves in Britain in 1221, as the 'Province of England'. The Province (one of around 40) endures to this day. It is legally constituted as a single charity 'The English Province of the Order of Preachers', with responsibility for the friars' work in England, Wales and Scotland.

PRIORIES

The Province is made up of a number of priories, which are local communities of friars with a large degree of self-government. Currently these are in Oxford, London, Cambridge, Leicester, and Edinburgh. The Dominican houses in Grenada and Jamaica in the West Indies are also canonically dependent on this Province, and supported by grants, though not part of this charity.

OBJECT OF THE CHARITY

The Province Trust Deed lists ten charitable purposes, which for the purpose of registration as a Charity are summarised as 'the promotion of education and the Roman Catholic religion and the establishment and maintenance of schools, churches and priories for these purposes and the upkeep of members of the Order of Preachers'.

OUR MISSION: THE AIMS OF THE CHARITY

The ultimate aim and purpose of the Catholic Church and therefore of the Order of Preachers is 'the salvation of souls' (cf. *CIC* 1752; *LCO* 1 §2). In furtherance of this goal, the Order of Preachers and the English Province aim to provide effective preaching, teaching and pastoral care flowing from fraternal religious communities of prayer and study. Through the work of the friars we seek to awaken and deepen faith, hope and charity, to the benefit of those to whom we minister, to their families and to the wider community.

More detailed information can be found on pp. 37ff.

Message from the Prior Provincial



Reflecting on the past year, I am struck by a deep sense of renewal.

The Rosary Shrine in London is flourishing, strengthened by working with Radio Maria. Our brethren in Cambridge are finding new ways to engage with the University and the wider community. Leicester's parish is thriving; while our Edinburgh community is expanding the Order's profile in Scotland through the Arts and through academic initiatives.

Blackfriars Hall in Oxford remains a key presence in a world-leading university, shaping contemporary minds, while our Studium is equipping brethren and laity for meaningful engagement in society. Internationally, our mission in Jamaica and Grenada continues to grow – we rejoice at the first entrants to our new Pre-Novitiate on Jamaica.

The Provincial Chapter of 2024 reaffirmed the priority of formation, linking vocations promotion and permanent formation as a unified vision of our life. We are therefore strengthening our formation in Oxford, while also calling every community to renewed engagement with students and young people.

Our tradition offers resources uniquely suited to the needs of our time, and we remain committed to our mission of preaching for the salvation of souls. We are deeply grateful to all our benefactors for making this possible.

In Christ and St. Dominic,

Very Rev Nicholas Paul Crowe OP,
Prior Provincial, Province of England

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Objectives & Strategies for the Year 2023–24

(A) RECRUITMENT & TRAINING To train priests and religious for pastoral and educational ministry, and to maintain the success of the full-time Director and Promoter of Vocations in drawing larger numbers of young men to enter the Province.	• Through pastoral engagement and work with young people, promote the Dominican vocation as a worthy and fulfilling life in the service of God and his people; • Through prudent investment and fundraising, provide funds to help support student friars and the communities in which they live; • Plan for the future needs of the Province's centre of studies ('Studium') by identifying and training future teachers.
(B) MINISTRY To continue effective and responsive ministry in the priories and parishes of the Province.	• Continue the training and ordination to the clerical state of friars who will work in the Province's priories and parishes; • Ensure the friars are present in the locations where they are best able to minister; • Secure celebration of the liturgy and the sacraments in a way that responds to the pastoral needs of each place;
(C) BLACKFRIARS HALL To maintain and support the educational and research activities of Blackfriars Hall and particularly to develop the research projects of the Las Casas and Aquinas Institutes, and foster links with the other private halls of the University.	• Sustain the number of postgraduate students, especially in theology and philosophy, as permitted by the University; • Continue to encourage visiting research scholars; • Continue collaboration with the Anscombe Bioethics Centre (registered charity no. 274327); • Continue to enhance the programmes of the Las Casas and Aquinas Institutes, seeking new sources of funding and collaborating with similar institutions elsewhere. • Create a development plan for the future direction of the Hall, and a fundraising plan in support of this; • Develop the ground floor of the Blackfriars Annexe to create a dining and events space combined with an income-generating public cafeteria

Of these objectives (a), (b), (e) and (g) applied to Scotland as well as to England and Wales; (c), (d) and (f) were specific to England and Wales, although not to the exclusion of participation by friars assigned to Scottish priories.

Objectives & Strategies for the Year 2023–24

(D) BLACKFRIARS STUDIUM Strengthen the Province's centre of studies in Oxford, ensuring proper levels of funding and administrative support.	• Foster links with other religious congregations to open up a wider pool of prospective students and teachers; • Continue to raise funds, so that an adequate and sustainable system of payment for lecturers can be provided.
(E) BUILDINGS To maintain the buildings of the Province so that they are fitting places for the religious life, including for older and sick members of the Order, and for the pastoral and educational apostolate.	• Ensure that regular surveys of the buildings are conducted; • Perform the maintenance works identified by surveys, as prioritised; • Identify, where possible, external sources of funding for maintaining buildings; • Carry out plans for renovation of insulation and heating for the churches, chapels and priories of the Province.
(F) LONDON AND LEICESTER Support and develop the mission of the Rosary Shrine in London and Holy Cross Priory in Leicester to their local and extended surrounding areas.	• Develop forward-looking pastoral plans for ministry and outreach; • Refine development plans and take forward fundraising for improving the facilities that support these missions;
(G) INFLATION AND COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS Take extra care with the stewardship of resources and the controlling of expenditure.	• Fundraise with sensitivity to the financial pressures on supporters. • Prioritise pastoral care.

The Year in Review: Key Facts

NEW DINING SPACE PROJECT AT BLACKFRIARS [p.13]



NEW ST DOMINIC STATUE IN EDINBURGH [p.17]



GROWING PARISH AT HOLY CROSS, LEICESTER [p.23]

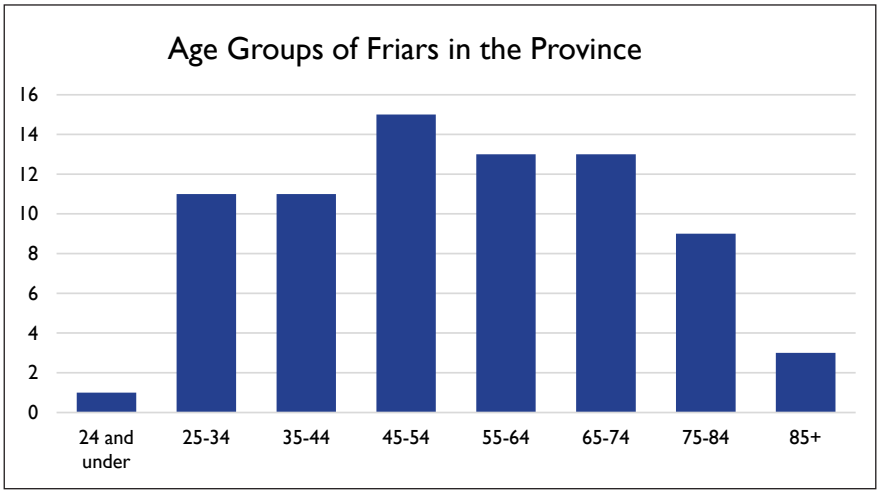


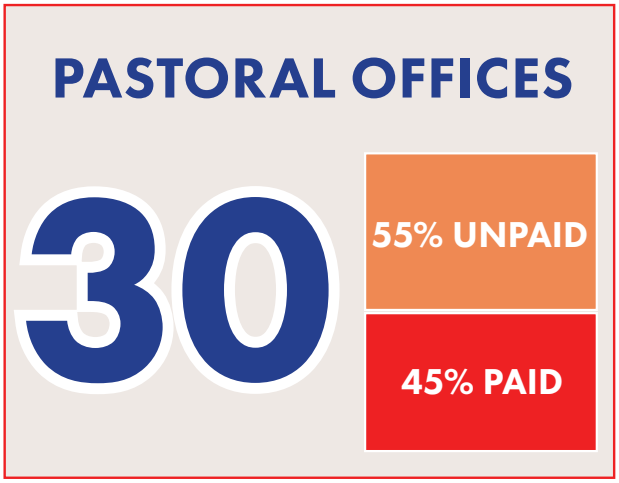
NEW FUNDRAISING DRIVE FOR CARIBBEAN HOUSES [p.24]





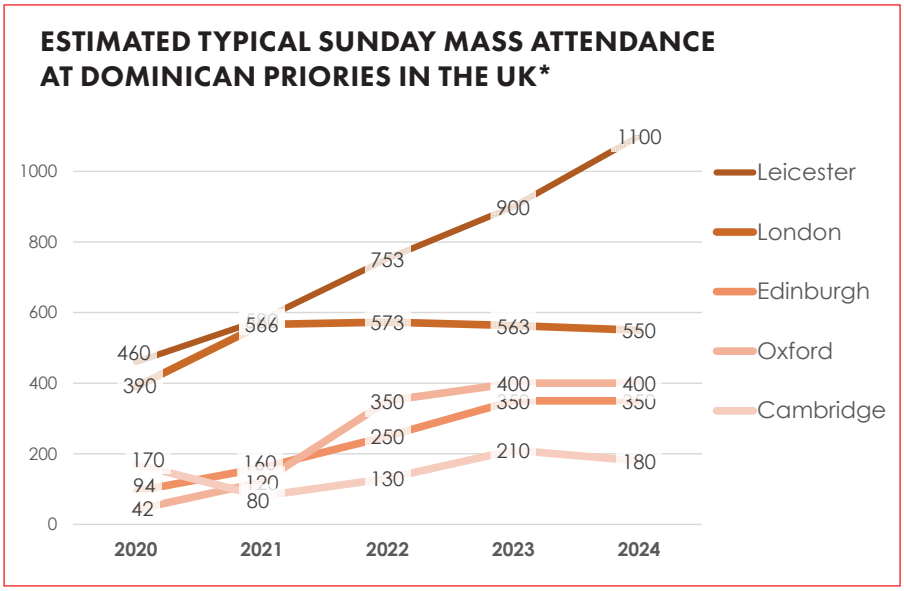
Figures from the 2024 *Catalogus* of the Province. Excludes those serving as bishops (1), and those from other provinces resident in the UK (4).





Note: this excludes those currently on leave. Pastoral offices include parish priests, assistant priests, chaplains etc. (35 in previous year). Some are part-time: the count is 15 (14) if considered as 'full-time equivalents'. Some individuals hold more than one office. Paid work means the Charity receives income as a result of this work (49% paid in previous year).

The Year in Review: Pastoral Figures



*Sunday Mass attendance figures are included merely to provide a rough idea of the scale of pastoral work in each priory. These exclude the many other forms of pastoral ministry undertaken (*see below*) and the many and varied other ministries that happen within this Province (*see the reports in* pp.9–33). They are of course susceptible to vagaries of local populations and of measurement.

The growth following 2020 is largely a return to pre-Covid Mass attendance levels, with the exception of Leicester where substantial increases have been driven by overseas immigration into the local area.

SACRAMENTAL STATISTICS

Baptisms	Infants: 62 (2023: 61) Adults/older children: 9 (10) TOTAL: 71 (71)
Receptions of Baptised Christians into the Catholic Church	17 (10)
Confirmations	39 (23)
First Communions	Children: 32 (17) Adults: 7 (8) TOTAL: 39 (25)
Public Masses each week	Sundays: 22 (23) Weekdays: 51 (51) TOTAL: 73 (74)
Average Mass attendance	Sundays: 2,580 (2,423) Weekdays: 331 (321)
Sacrament of Penance (Confession)	16 hours scheduled per week (17) Average of 72 other individual confessions per week (69)
Marriages	24 (16)
Funerals	52 (52)
Hours of Pastoral Contact	155 (230)

The age-profile of the Province is such that at present there are fewer friars available to engage in full-time pastoral work, but more engaged in study and other forms of preparation for such work. Moreover, it is impossible to reduce the effectiveness of pastoral ministry to statistics; but the Charity Trustees consider that these figures indicate that the Province is continuing to provide in its parishes, priories and other apostolates the sacramental and pastoral resources that are a necessary prerequisite for effective and responsive ministry. A very considerable number of people benefit from this activity of the Charity.

Note: Statistics presented on this page exclude figures provided by those currently on leave or who minister outside the UK.

It is to be noted that 5 friars (5) who are not resident in priories carry out pastoral work in various other parishes and chaplaincies in England and Scotland.

Plans for Future Periods

The Charity Trustees view the following as particular objectives for the year to September 2025:

(A) RECRUITMENT & TRAINING

To continue training priests and religious for pastoral and educational ministry, ensuring the highest standard of formation. Maintain the success of the full-time Director and Promoter of Vocations in attracting young men of strong calibre to enter the Province. Strengthen the newly-established Commission for Permanent Formation, providing ongoing opportunities for apostolic effectiveness and mission-driven formation. Continue to support the flourishing of the Pre-Novitiate in Jamaica and build upon the recent successes in vocations. Ensure sufficient funds are raised for initial and ongoing formation.

(B) MINISTRY

To sustain and develop effective, responsive ministry in the priories and parishes of the Province. Encourage all communities to actively engage in student and youth outreach, fostering vocations and missionary zeal. Explore new opportunities arising from online ministry, responding creatively to the needs of the faithful.

(C) BLACKFRIARS HALL

To maintain and strengthen Blackfriars Hall's academic and research activities, ensuring its continued contribution to the intellectual apostolate. Further develop the research projects of the Las Casas and Aquinas Institutes, reinforcing their role in Catholic social thought and Thomistic studies. Foster stronger links with the wider University and other private halls, positioning Blackfriars as a key centre for Catholic scholarship in Oxford. Explore the possibility of establishing a centre for Theology and the Arts at Blackfriars Hall.

(D) BLACKFRIARS STUDIUM

To continue to strengthen the Province's centre of studies in Oxford. Expand collaborations with other religious congregations to widen the pool of prospective students and lecturers. Continue fundraising to provide sustainable financial support for lecturers, ensuring the highest quality of theological education. Explore the possibility of wider public engagement and additional revenue streams via paid short courses.

(E) BUILDINGS

To maintain and improve the Province's buildings so that they remain suitable for the religious life, including accommodations for older and sick members. Ensure that properties serve both the pastoral and educational apostolate effectively. Develop long-term maintenance and sustainability plans. Complete the Café / Student Dining project for Blackfriars, Oxford.

(F) COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

To enhance the public profile of the Province by improving communication strategies. Develop digital and print materials that effectively convey the Dominican mission and its relevance to contemporary society. Strengthen relationships with benefactors, alumni, and the wider Catholic community through regular updates, events, and publications.

Review of Activities



INTRODUCTION

The friars have continued their pastoral work in the parishes and chaplaincies both attached to the priories of the Province and elsewhere; and their educational apostolate which is undertaken alongside the pastoral work, and in a special way within Blackfriars, Oxford. As far as can be determined, in the course of the present reporting period friars and communities of the Province were involved in the concrete activities listed on the following pages. These reports are grouped by geographical location and followed by a Province-wide round-up of the wide range of educational activities undertaken.

Above: The Provincial Chapter with the newly-elected Prior Provincial, Fr Nicholas Paul Crowe OP.

Blackfriars: Priory of the Holy Spirit, Oxford



Oxford priory (known as 'Blackfriars') has as its principal work the formation of student Dominicans and other religious in our Studium (see p.11). Several friars are also engaged in teaching, research and administration in Blackfriars Hall (p.12).

In addition, the friars also undertake pastoral work, through the liturgy and preaching in their own church, with a flourishing young adult group; and in co-operation with local parishes, the **Defence Academy** at Shrivenham and the **Catholic Chaplaincy to Oxford University**; one friar also acts as chaplain at the **Oratory School**, near Reading. The student friars speak at, and organise, Catholic youth events around the country.

Blackfriars offers the most central open Catholic church in Oxford, with sung Divine Office and daily Mass. The priory continued to offer its popular livestream of Masses, with grateful followers including the housebound and those from all around the world who appreciate our liturgy and preaching.

Fr Dominic White was elected Prior in June 2024. Bede Mullens was ordained to the priest-hood and John Bernard Church to the diaconate in July 2024.

Prior: Nicholas Crowe OP / Dominic White OP

19 resident friars, including

- 8 full-time students
- 2 friars of other Provinces engaged in full-time study.

www.blackfriars.org.uk

The Studium Generale at Blackfriars

Blackfriars Studium is a unique centre for ministerial training, being the only specialist centre in Britain providing intellectual formation for the next generation of members of religious orders.

The Studium offers a first cycle of studies leading to an STB (Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology) accredited by the Angelicum (Pontifical University of St Thomas, Rome).

The Studium shares premises, resources, and certain staff with Blackfriars Hall (see p.12) but is institutionally separate.

For the academic year 2023/24 we had 20 students registered for the Studium. The Studium had 10 Dominican students enrolled in the Studium, including a friar from the Northern Italian Province and a friar from the East Coast American Province. The Studium also had in the student body: Benedictines, Carmelites (Calced and Discalced), Franciscans (Conventual and Capuchin). The teaching is largely provided by Dominican friars as well as other religious and lay people.





11 Dominican friars taught on the Studium's STB programme 2023/24. Thanks to the generous support of benefactors, the Studium also employs four lay teachers: three Studium lectors (one in Philosophy and two in Theology) and a senior postholder joint with Campion Hall, the Jesuit permanent private hall of the University of Oxford. The title of this latter post is: 'Frederick Copleston Lecturer and Senior Research Fellow in the Catholic Tradition' – the senior research fellowship status is with Campion Hall and the lectureship status with the Studium. These are: Dr Jan Bentz (Philosophy), Dr Victoria De Haan (Theology), Dr Joshua Madden (Theology), and Dr Daniel De Haan (Copleston post).

Regent: John O'Connor OP
Vice-Regent: Bruno Clifton OP

www.blackfriars.org.uk

Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford

Blackfriars Hall is one of the Catholic Permanent Private Halls (PPHs) in **Oxford University**. It welcomes postgraduate students in a range of humanities subjects, and hosts a small number of visiting students and academics. It shares facilities, staff and resources with **Blackfriars Studium** (*see p.11*) but is institutionally separate.

The Hall specialises in Catholic theology and philosophy in the Thomistic tradition. Central to the mission of Blackfriars Hall, and making for a great enrichment of the Studium also, are its two research centres, the **Aquinas Institute** and the **Las Casas Institute for Social Justice** (*see following pages*).

Blackfriars Hall allows friars a place in one of the great universities of the world. As part of the collegiate University of Oxford, Blackfriars follows university regulations and standards. As part of a regular process, the Hall was reviewed positively in 2022 by the University's Permanent Private Hall Supervisory Committee.

In the academic year 2023/24, the Hall had 69 matriculated University of Oxford students, of which 54 full-time and 15 part-time graduate students; as well as 7 overseas visiting students. The matriculated students are predominantly Doctoral or Masters students (Theology, Philosophy, Social Sciences, Literature, History), or students studying for secondary-school teacher qualifications.



Scholarship provision plays a significant role in Oxford in attracting students of the highest calibre. Blackfriars Hall was delighted to award the Oxford-Bede Jarrett Graduate Scholarship to a DPhil student in Theology, Maura McKeon. The scholarship was created with the generous support of donors together with support from the University of Oxford.

Blackfriars Hall also has a strong partnership with the **Anscombe Centre for Bioethics** (**www.bioethics.org.uk/**), a Catholic academic institute that engages with the moral questions arising in clinical practice and biomedical research, and runs educational programmes for, and gives advice to, Catholics and other interested healthcare professionals and biomedical scientists.

In May 2024 an exciting project was launched to create a new dining and events space at Blackfriars. We are planning to convert the commercial space of the Annexe Building (32–33 St Giles, *see facing page*.) into a dual-use space: a commercial café during the day, with the space being usable especially for dining and other events in the evening by the Hall, Priory, and Studium. The café will also secure an additional revenue stream for our charity. The café will be fitted to a high standard; fully adaptable to different layouts; and with a fully equipped kitchen, coffee bar and servery. Already c.£100,000 has been raised in donations for the project. For details, and online donations, see: **www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk/phase2/**

Regent: John O'Connor OP
Vice-Regent: Bruno Clifton OP

Students: 69 graduates and 7 visiting students, from 15 nations.

www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk

Blackfriars Hall: The Aquinas Institute



The Aquinas Institute promotes research into the philosophy and theology of St Thomas Aquinas and its contemporary value. It organises an annual programme of research seminars, colloquia, and public lectures. As well as fostering a community of scholarship in Oxford, the Institute welcomes visiting scholars from across the world.

In March 2024 there was a day conference on the theology of Erich Przywara SJ in collaboration with Campion Hall and St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth.



Architect's drawing of the planned dual-use café / events and dining space in the ground floor of the Blackfriars Annexe.

(PATH Design, 2024)

Among the speakers were Dr Philip Gonzales and Prof. John Betz. In June 2024, there was a two-day conference, *Theology After Blackfriars*, on the intellectual contributions of the Oxford Dominicans in the last century. The speakers included: Prof. Peter Tyler, Prof. George Corbett, and Dr Simon Hewitt.

The Annual Aquinas Lecture was given by Rev Dr John Saward, a member of the Dominican Priestly Fraternity. He spoke on: 'Giving Wisdom to Little Ones'. There was also a series of reading seminars on Jean-Luc Marion's *God Without Being* as part of the Widening Horizon in Philosophical Theology; and seminars given by Prof. John Haldane and Fr Philip-Neri Reese OP.

Acting Director: Dr Daniel de Haan.

www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk/aquinas

Blackfriars Hall: Las Casas Institute

The Las Casas Institute for Social Justice is a research centre for applied Catholic Social Teaching based at Blackfriars Hall.



RESEARCH PROJECTS

The year saw the Institute reach several milestones in the progress of its major research projects.

Dr Hugo Slim's research into humanitarian responses to the climate emergency saw the Institute host a major international conference in October 2023 on ethical responses to the emergency. This brought together policy-makers from local government, European government, faith leaders from the UK and abroad, and academics from different disciplines. Completion later in the year of the project's research phase led to the publication a major web essay for GPPI Berlin: *Painful Choices: How Humanitarians Can Prioritize in a World of Rising Need* in January 2024. This led into the writing of Dr Slim's monograph, *Humanitarianism 2.0* and discussion of draft chapters with major stakeholders. The final manuscript was delivered to the publishers on 29th May ahead of publication in the autumn of 2024.

The year also saw the publication of the eighth and final volume in the series 'Virtues and Economics' edited by Profs. Peter Róna and Laszlo Zsolnai. This final volume, *Homo Curator: The Ethics of Consumption*, was co-edited by Prof. Róna and Dr Agnieszka Wincewicz- Price, who has held a three-year Junior Research Fellowship at Blackfriars Hall. It was agreed to launch the volume with an autumn colloquium at Blackfriars, Oxford, leading into a review of how best to take forward the Institute's long-standing contribution into 'Economics as a Moral Science'.

Research in the area of human dignity and peacebuilding continued under the leadership of Dr Maria Power, who, amongst much other work, produced in collaboration with Thrive Ireland and Christians against Poverty a booklet *Church and Community Transformation* designed for use in parishes in Britain and Ireland. Dr Power also co-edited with Dr Helen Paynter a volume of papers published as *The Church, The Far Right, and the Claim to Christianity*. Work on other projects which only came to fruition after September 2024 will be featured in the next year's report.

VISITING SCHOLARS

2024 also saw a welcome upsurge of people coming as Visiting Research Scholars to Blackfriars Hall under the auspices of the Institute. They included: Dr Anna Puzio, who has been working on robots and ethics, including the use of robots in pastoral and liturgical settings; Dr Ross Moret who was working on a book to examine the place of the virtues in liberal democracy; Dr Carmen Mangion, who has been working on the histories of women religious in so-called 'inserted communities', small groups of religious living in ordinary flats or houses in areas of high social deprivation; Dr Lorraine Karl McCarey, who has been working on theology and disability, and more

Blackfriars Hall: Las Casas Institute



Professor Conor Gearty (facing page); and in conversation with Ian Linden (left).

specifically on issues of governance in communities serving those with disability; Dr Margarita Mooney Clayton, who has been working on pilgrimage, and has now become Research Fellow of Blackfriars Hall; Prof. Carlos Espaliu Berdud, who is a Spanish Professor of International Law with a research interest in responses to disinformation and in cyber-security, and who has also become a Research Fellow of Blackfriars Hall; and Dr Erdal Harunoğulları, who is working on Islamic finance and business ethics.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

The Institute continued to attract a wider 'Associate Membership' in the course of the year, including Prof. Scott Thomas, who currently lectures at the University of Bath in International Relations.

WORKSHOPS

We welcomed two further Oxford workshops run by the Oxford Consortium for Human Rights. These workshops led by Dr Slim bring together forty or so students each time mainly from the United States, and often from disadvantaged backgrounds, who have shown a commitment to the defence of Human Rights and who wish to deepen their understanding of the issues. The March workshop studied 'Human Rights in Climate Emergency and War', while the July 2023 workshop looked again at 'New technology and Human Rights.'

LECTURES & SEMINARS

Alongside its major research streams, the Institute continued to offer a series of lectures and seminars on a wide range of topics. The Annual Las Casas Lecture for 2024 was given by Prof. Conor Gearty of LSE on 'Human Rights after Gaza'.

Prof. Michael Scott led the programme of lectures and discussions online co-sponsored with Georgetown University, including the series 'Free Speech at the Crossroads.'

Director: Richard Finn OP

www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk/lascasas

YouTube: 'Las Casas Institute'

St Albert's Parish & Chaplaincy, Edinburgh



The House of St Albert the Great serves a thriving Parish and vibrant Catholic Chaplaincy to the **University of Edinburgh**, **Edinburgh Napier University**, and **Queen Margaret University**.

CHAPLAINCY LIFE

The Catholic Chaplaincy serves the pastoral and spiritual needs of many of Edinburgh's university students and staff. Staff bring their families and still attend after retirement, so the congregation includes people of every age. Baptisms, weddings and funerals feature regularly, as well as instruction in the faith for both adults and children.

TALKS AND GROUPS

The Holy Ground talks on Art and Religion continued as a regular feature of weekday evenings. There were also talks on Justice and Peace. In Lent there was a bible study extending over a number of weeks, on the Book of Jonah. A prayer group and also a book group continue to meet on a monthly basis. **The Albertus Institute**, not part of the Parish but closely linked to it, facilitates informed group discussion on issues of public interest.

PUBLIC WORSHIP

Sunday morning prayer is followed by three Sunday Masses, with attendance at more than 300.

The children's liturgy is thriving and the friars continue to be proactive in making our Sunday morning Masses child-friendly. One of the joys of St Albert's is that we often have three and even sometimes four generations of the same family in attendance together at Sunday Mass.

During term there is a student Mass in the evening (over 100 students). Afterwards the Catholic Students' Union organises a social event.

ONLINE MINISTRY

On most weekdays more than 150 people attend evening Mass and Vespers online. Many tell us that they watch it because of the quality of the preaching, and the simplicity of the liturgy. The livestream **scotland.op.org/live** is also used for special events such as funerals and weddings. A weekly email newsletter is an important channel of communication and goes to over 200 parishioners and supporters.

CATHOLIC STUDENTS' UNION

The **Catholic Students' Union**, an official University of Edinburgh student society, continues to flourish. Its membership is about 150 students; but other students attend Mass and participate in the life of the Chaplaincy in other ways. This year the committee organised a fortnightly Midweek Meal; each Friday they had a Baked Potato Lunch, with a short input from a Chaplain

St Albert's Parish & Chaplaincy, Edinburgh

on a theological topic. Theology talks for students continue to be an important part of the weekly life of the chaplaincy. There was a Lectio Divina on Mondays, a prayer group on Tuesdays and a theology talk on Thursdays. Fr Matthew served as a Dominican liaison to the **Thomistic Institute** at the University of Edinburgh. The chapter organises public lectures and other activities which open the minds of young Catholics to Catholic thought in the tradition of St Thomas.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

In order that the Dominican charism might be better understood within Scotland, in 2023 the Dominican Community began an annual conference with contributions from friars, sisters and lay Dominicans. This year's conference was entitled 'God's Mercy and Yours', the words said when a friar receives the habit and becomes a novice. This conference sought to explore the place of mercy in our tradition as well as in our lives together and in our mission. Themes included the Dominican contribution to the development of human rights; and Philippe Denis OP came from Rwanda to speak about the process of forgiveness and reconciliation both in South Africa and in Rwanda. Two Dominican Sisters spoke about their work among the poor in Africa and in the care of severely disabled people in England. Finally, Paul Murray OP, an Irish Dominican theologian and poet, spoke about his lived experience of mercy as a friar. 110 people attended the conference from Edinburgh and all over the UK.



A new statue of Saint Dominic by Kenny Hunter was commissioned and installed in the reworked garden of St Albert's Priory.

HOLY GROUND LECTURE

Alongside the annual Conference, we also have an annual Holy Ground Lecture. In March, Fr Michael Dunleavy OP spoke on the significance of music in the works of Fra Angelico, with 120 people present.

THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

Fr Dermot Morrin continued as Superior and Parish Priest. Fr Thomas Mannion and Fr Matthew Jarvis worked alongside Fr Dermot Morrin as chaplains. Fr Fergus Kerr is retired but continued in residence. Fr Aelred Connelly was a prison chaplain for many years at HMP and Young Offenders' Institution at Polmont. He has retired but Fr Dermot Morrin continued this significant work, combining his role as Chaplain and Superior with also being part of the chaplaincy team at Polmont. This means that we serve some of the most fortunate as well as some of the most unfortunate and vulnerable people currently in Scotland.

BENEFACTORS

The Lady Marian Gibson Trust continued to provide significant financial support to the parish. We are grateful to all our benefactors.

Superior: Fr Dermot Morrin

4 / 5 resident friars

www.scotland.op.org

St Dominic's Priory & Rosary Shrine, London

St Dominic's Priory (the Rosary Shrine) is a dynamic centre for Catholic faith and culture, with a diverse parish in north-west London and many events that attract people from not just the local area but across the country and even internationally.

We are extremely proud of the beautiful Priory church, a historic Grade II* listed building thought to be the largest Catholic parish church in London and honoured as Diocesan Shrine to Our Lady of the Rosary. It was the first church in the world to have separate side chapels dedicated to each of the Mysteries of the Rosary. As the only Rosary Shrine in the country, it also joins a small international network of Dominican Shrines dedicated to promoting Dominican prayer and the Rosary.



The brethren in London are engaged in a wide range of ministries serving the parish and Shrine and wider community. We work with charities and institutions to support social and pastoral needs, as well as giving talks, retreat work and conferences nationally and some internationally, both in person and online.

The Prior Provincial resides in the Priory.

CHAPLAINCIES & PASTORAL CARE

- 1 friar was Foundation Governor in the local Catholic primary school;
- 1 friar was Lead Chaplain, UCL NHS Trust, also advising the Cardinal on healthcare chaplaincy, and two friars provided Catholic chaplaincy services at the Royal Free Hospital;
- 1 friar was chaplain to 2 nearby nursing homes;
- Regular Masses for a community of Dominican apostolic sisters;
- Friars also served as religious assistants to the London Lay Dominican fraternity, Teams of Our Lady, and other lay groups.

LITURGY AND DEVOTIONS

As a Shrine, the church offers regular access to the Sacraments, with scheduled daily Confession, Adoration and Masses both morning and evening (the only church in the local deanery to offer evening Mass).

- Daily recitation of the Rosary on weekday evenings from 5pm and weekly Stational Rosary (Saturdays);
- Monthly 'First Saturday' devotions and candlelit Rosary Processions;
- Weekly torchlit Rosary Processions in October and May, drawing regular visitors from as far as Kent and Herts.;
- Sunday Dominican Rite *Missa Cantata*, the only one in the archdiocese, drawing a young crowd from across London;
- The 'Day with Mary' was hosted and 'Mothers' Prayers' group;
- The diocesan Curia of the Legion of Mary holds its annual Edel Quinn pilgrimage here;
- Hosted the Radio Maria Worldwide Rosary, broadcast in 84 different countries;
- Participated in the international 'World Priest' Annual Rosary Relay in June;
- The friars regularly give spiritual direction and counselling to a wide range of people;
- School visits, parish pilgrimages, family retreat days, and visits by Catholic tour groups and groups of religious happen in the course of the year;
- Occasional pilgrimages by national lay organisations and university chaplaincies.

St Dominic's Priory & Rosary Shrine, London

A HOME FOR COMMUNITIES

- A Filipino choir sings at a monthly Mass, on feast days and in the Simbang Gabi novena of Masses before Christmas. Each month the Filipino community hosts a hot meal for the whole community in the parish hall;
- A thriving AA group meets weekly in the parish hall;
- The Latin Mass Society has training days for servers, and a gathering of the Guild of St Clare twice a year;
- The Deo Gratias discussion group for young professionals meets every fortnight;
- **Highgate Newtown Community Partners** host a weekly lunch in the parish hall.

INTELLECTUAL APOSTOLATE

- One friar was Acting Director of Research for a theological institute in Cambridge;
- Two friars teach regularly to seminarians and others (online and in person);
- Bible study group meeting weekly on Fridays;
- Several friars gave talks to University chaplaincies in the UK and abroad, and preached retreats in the USA;
- Talks have been given to the parish community during Lent and Advent, including the Holy Week retreat;
- One friar supports the Thomistic Institute reading group meeting fortnightly at the Priory (from autumn 2024);
- One friar is researching for a part-time doctorate through Blackfriars Hall, Oxford.

ART AND CULTURE

- Our historic Willis organ is heard every Sunday and major feast days;
- The church, newly-restored and with ongoing works for its beautification, is regularly visited by tourists and groups;
- The church is a venue for concerts and recitals of sacred music by choirs such as The Elysian Singers, Cappella Nova (conducted by Sir James MacMillan), and the Lyra Singers;
- The annual Open Garden Day (under the National Gardens Scheme) is popular with visitors who come from a distance;
- 'Credo', a large sculpture by Dr Arthur John Fleischmann (1896–1990), was installed in the parish hall and blessed in September in the presence of Dominique Fleischmann, the artist's son. Another Fleischmann work, 'Pietà', will be installed in the church in memory of parishioners who died during COVID. Both sculptures are generous gifts from Arthur's widow, Joy Fleischmann.

ONLINE APOSTOLATE

Mass continues to be broadcast daily on our YouTube channel. We also



livestream organ recitals, processions and vigils. The friars continue to offer catechesis and talks online.

RADIO MARIA

The London studio of Radio Maria England is located above our hall. The subprior, Fr Toby Lees OP, is Priest Director of this 24-hour station, speaking regularly on the radio and with overall editorial responsibility. Other friars frequently contribute, and Radio Maria hosts many events at St Dominic's.

DEVELOPING PARISH & SHRINE

Catechesis is focused on supporting the faith formation of the whole family, and the main Family Mass on Sunday is tailored to children and parents; Children's Liturgy of the Word led by catechists; and a music group led by parishioners.

In the previous year, significant sums were raised towards a new underfloor heating system which was installed this year. Future plans include the refurbishment of the repository and the catechesis room.

Prior: Matthew Jarvis OP

11 resident friars

www.rosaryshrine.co.uk

Blackfriars: Priory of St Michael, Cambridge



The Priory of St Michael Archangel is the location of the Province's noviciate, where new friars spend their first year in the Order.

Members of the priory are also involved in writing, preaching, theological research and teaching. They normally provide pastoral care for a congregation of c.200 people, as well as assisting with the sacramental needs of the adjacent parishes.

The priory also promotes projects supporting educational provision in Ethiopia in co-operation with the **Jean Grove Trust** (reg. charity 1109593). Recently, a school in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia completed the construction of a new playground thanks to the Jean Grove Trust.

One novice took simple vows for the English Province and our two new novices for the English Province were clothed in September. Br Daniel Rowlands was assigned to the Cambridge priory where he will complete his studies for ordination.

APOSTOLATES

The Priory offers a programme of theological education in the form of regular talks, advertised in the city of Cambridge and environs, as well as at the Cambridge University Catholic Chaplaincy, and a communio circle.

We continue to broadcast daily mass and morning prayer on **Radio Maria** which is based in Cambridge. Our Facebook group has over 590 members and is updated with regular content and has a good level of participation.

The 2024 Aquinas Lecture, 'Thomas Aquinas and the Many Goodnesses of Creatures,' was given by Fr Philip-Neri Reese OP (*pictured, facing page*) of the Angelicum on Monday 29 January. The chapel was full and the video posted on YouTube has been viewed more than 350 times.

Also in January, the priory hosted a Young Catholic Adults Network group for a 'monastery day'.

In August, an associate professor of biology David Ronderos, PhD from the University of Mary, North Dakota gave a talk at priory titled 'Evolution, Catholicism, and the Unity of Truth.'

Fr Euan Marley continued his writing work for Redemptorist Publications as well as other online preaching platforms. He also broadcasts weekly on Radio Maria.

Fr Bob Eccles continued his ministry of accompaniment both of local people and former students.

Fr Colin Carr continued his work of spiritual direction and accompaniment. Fr Colin also continued to serve as the religious

Blackfriars: Priory of St Michael, Cambridge



assistant to the Cambridge fraternity of Lay Dominicans.

Fr Robert Verrill has continued to write a monthly article for the Catholic Herald on science and religion. He also taught philosophy at Blackfriars Studium, Oxford, and taught modules on science and faith at the Faraday Institute, Cambridge.

Fr Robert also runs a Catholic scientists discussion group which meets monthly.

Fr Gregory Pearson continued to serve as Novice Master for the community, and as a canon lawyer for several religious orders and dioceses. He taught canon law at Blackfriars Studium, Oxford, and he is also the Vocations Director for the English Province.

Fr Albert Robertson continued to work as an Assistant Chaplain at the Cambridge University Chaplaincy, **Fisher House**. Fr Albert also made regular contributions to the *Catholic Herald*.



Prior: Robert Verrill OP

10 resident friars including 2 novices.

www.blackfriarscambridge.org.uk

Holy Cross Priory & Parish, Leicester



Holy Cross Priory has a ministry centred on the imposing parish church that stands on New Walk, very close to the centre of Leicester and on the route to the University. Within the parish boundary also lie De Montfort University and the Leicester Royal Infirmary, as well as HMP Leicester.

The church has a capacity of around 550, a number regularly exceeded at the two largest Sunday Masses. Mass attendance has risen for the third consecutive year since the end of Covid restrictions, and reached 1,100 by the end of the reporting period. The 10.30 Mass is a sung Mass with a large number of enthusiastic young altar servers and a dedicated choir offering a traditional style liturgy that proves especially popular with the substantial south Indian and Nigerian populations. The 7 p.m. Mass is now the only Sunday evening Mass in Leicester, and draws a large and varied crowd of students and other young people as well as families.

Weekday Masses are also popular, and the church is now open throughout the week in daylight hours. It is planned that Holy Cross church will be the designated Jubilee shrine for the city in 2035, and the intention is to open the west doors of the church also throughout the year. Meanwhile the daytime opening allows local people as well as those who work or shop in the city centre to visit for private prayer and to light candles and make other devotions. The combination of popular devotion and doctrinally informed, interesting and intelligent preaching provides a distinctively Dominican character to the church.

Confessions on Saturdays regularly run on long past the scheduled time, with two priests ministering to penitents for up to two hours; consequently during the reporting period a second session on Sunday evenings was introduced and also proves popular. Confessions are also heard on call at the door or by request before and after most Masses. During the Saturday morning confessions, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed, with Benediction preceding the 12.30 Mass, and the church is often quite full throughout the morning. The sacrament is now also exposed on Sunday evenings during and after the singing of Vespers, culminating in Benediction before the evening Mass.

Parish social life flourishes, with tea and coffee after the two Sunday morning Masses being very well attended, and the return of the Advent and Summer Fairs, making good use of the recently renovated parish centre.

Holy Cross Priory & Parish, Leicester



A series of Catechetical talks was introduced during 2024, running for six months on Saturday mornings.

OTHER APOSTOLATES

Our Chaplaincy to **Leicester and De Montfort Universities** has grown under the care of the newly appointed chaplain, Fr Benedict Jonak, and students appreciate the weekly student Mass on Wednesdays and the Monday supper, as well as being deeply involved in the activities of the wider parish.

The Chaplaincy to **Leicester Royal Infirmary** continues as before with one brother on call for 24 hours each day to attend to sick and dying patients, especially to offer the sacrament of Anointing. Typically we receive three or four calls a week, though the numbers can fluctuate greatly.

The Parish Scripture Group returned to meeting in-person, which has proved popular, with meetings every Tuesday evening.

Instruction for adult Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion is offered on an individual basis due to differing times when candidates are available. Instruction of children for First Confession and Communion restarted, and the Good Shepherd course for young children continues on Sunday mornings in the 'Atrium' of the Frassati Centre.

EXTERNAL APOSTOLATES

As well as serving the ever-growing parish community, the brothers have continued to be involved in external evangelical work, including teaching and retreat giving in the UK and abroad. One brother hears the Confessions of the monks of Mount St Bernard Abbey each month, and the brothers regularly celebrate Masses at the local Catholic schools.

Prior: Richard Ounsworth OP

6 friars

www.holycrossleicester.org

The Caribbean: Jamaica & Grenada



The English Province has two houses in the Caribbean that are canonically dependent on it. While not legally part of this charity, they are supported by grants from this Province, made out of funds raised in the UK under the banner of 'St Martin's Missions'. This fundraising takes place not just from the supporters of our charity, but also from second collections held in assigned diocesan deaneries. Grants of £33,395 were made to the Caribbean houses during the year.

CHANGES IN 2024

In August 2024, Fr Bede Mullens was assigned to the House of St Martin de Porres. His move coincided with the opening of a pre-novitiate in the House, which welcomes prospective candidates to discern and prepare for entry into the novitiate. Two young men began the pre-novitiate, and there have been signs of further vocational interest on Jamaica. Fr Bede is Master of Pre-Novices and Director of Vocations for the Caribbean region.

JAMAICA

Beside the pre-novitiate, the brothers' major works in Jamaica consist of pastoring and teaching.

The brothers are entrusted with two parishes, St Thomas Aquinas in Papine and Christ the King in August Town. The parishes present different challenges. August Town has been scarred in recent years by gang violence, as well as endemic family breakdown and poverty.

Fr Clifton Harris coordinates provision of basic foodstuffs and other necessities to parishioners and other local people. While the St Thomas Aquinas congregation is on the whole more middle class, here too important spiritual and material support is provided to parishioners in a range of circumstances, including several who live on a nearby squatter settlement.

Much effort goes into accompanying young people, some of whom the brothers have sponsored as they aspire to educational and professional opportunities. In August 2024, Fr Bede and Br John Church organised a youth retreat for the parishes, which gave rise to a regular young adults' group. Fr Bede additionally provides chaplaincy to the University of the West Indies and the University of Technology, both in Mona, Kingston.

Through Thomas Aquinas parish, the friars retain a strong connection with Mary's Child, a shelter for teenage mothers run by the Catholic Mustard Seed community; the girls benefit from Fr Clifton's pastoral care and the warmth of the parish community.

As of August 2024, the brothers were also officially entrusted with

The Caribbean: Jamaica & Grenada



providing chaplaincy to the University Hospital of the West Indies.

EDUCATION

Fr Peter Hunter teaches several courses in philosophy and theology at St Michael's Theological College, the seminary of the Archdiocese of Kingston. Students include not just seminarians, but also laypeople and members of the University of the West Indies. Fr Clifton Harris provides evangelisation training to laypeople in the Archdiocese of Kingston.

In September 2024, Fr Bede began teaching Christian Living (Religious Education) to students of several ages at Campion College, a prestigious local Catholic secondary school.

GRENADA

The brothers in Roxborough serve a variety of apostolates, besides ministering at three parishes: Our Lady of the Rosary, Roxborough, St Michael the Archangel, Woburn, and St Joseph, Morne Jaloux.

Fr Patrick Alexander hosts a weekly educational (catechetical) television programme. Fr Leroy Hopkin acts as chaplain to members of the Neocatechumenal Way.

BONDS OF CONNECTION

The assignment of Fr Bede to Jamaica and increasingly regular visits of UK-resident brothers to the Caribbean have extended the range of the brothers' contribution to the local Church. Last year, it was noted that the mission, particularly on Jamaica, had considerable possibility for growth, and this is being realised.

The Caribbean mission continues to be supported by the fundraising efforts of St Martin's Missions. Under the direction of Fr Nicholas Crowe, and in collaboration with the Province's Development Office, a highly successful appeal was held among the Province's UK parishes and congregations in November 2023, in addition to revived diocesan parish appeals. Over £64k was raised over the financial year, including a £10k legacy. This money has supported the Basic School attached to Christ the King parish, as well as making possible the purchase of two vehicles to facilitate the friars' mission.

With pre-novices set to enter the novitiate in Cambridge, and with increasingly regular intercourse between mission and home province, there is (in the words of the motto of the University of the West Indies) 'light rising in the West'.

Superior: Clifton Harris OP

4 friars (Grenada); 3 friars (Jamaica)

Educational Apostolate

Education and the intellectual apostolate are a key part of the Dominican charism.

The academic year 2023/24 continues to show the strength of the Province's our intellectual apostolate. The friars are engaged in a great number and variety of activity. That said, many of the brethren are highly stretched in terms of workloads; and the intellectual apostolate can sometimes be sacrificed because of the demands. But there is a firm resolve on the part of the Province, its Provincial and Provincial Council, to pay particular attention to the intellectual formation of our younger friars to lay strong foundations for the future of our intellectual mission.



1. TALKS AND PUBLIC LECTURES

Many of the talks and lectures by the brethren were also organised by the brethren, but many were organised by other bodies. Most of the talks and lectures were open to the general public, but some were for specific groups (e.g. Lay Dominicans or young adults). Some of the talks and public lectures were one-off and some formed parts of series.

RANGE OF THEMES

- 'Mary the Eucharistic Woman',
- 'Dominican Spirituality of governance and its application to the apostolic works of the Order',
- 'Abraham',
- 'Freedom',
- 'The Trinity',
- 'Prayer and Holiness',
- 'Purgatory and Time',
- 'The Nature of Forgiveness',
- 'Accedia',
- 'The Annunciation',
- 'Chance and Evolution, A Thomistic Analysis',
- 'Faith in the Age of Doubt',
- 'On Elizabeth Jennings',
- 'Job',
- 'Interfaith Experience',
- 'Dominican Chant in Dominican Life',
- 'Creativity and Catholicism',
- 'Happiness and the Passions of the Soul',
- 'Children's Playground Rhymes collected in the 70's/80's',
- 'Doctrine of God',
- 'Introduction to St Thomas and the Trinity',
- 'Christ's Beatific Vision',
- 'Hope in a Time of Crisis',
- 'Whose Inspiration? Which Textual version? Reading Sacred Scripture with St Paul',
- 'Aquinas on the Holy Spirit',
- 'The Hebrew Bible: Defining Scriptural Cultures',
- 'Icons and the Christian Imagination',
- 'Why Study Theology?',
- 'Questioning God',
- 'Eucharist as the Sacrament of Hope',
- 'A Spirituality of Listening: friendship in Fractured Times',
- 'Virtue and Character Development',
- 'Living out the virtues—experiences and insights from the Dominican Family'.

Fr Leon Pereira gave many talks on the spirituality of Medjugorje to pilgrims at the shrine.

Fr Timothy Radcliffe spoke to many large audiences, for example (a selection): c.50 sixth formers at Warwick School, staff and students of St Dominic's House of Studies in St Louis (40+ people), Purdue Univer-

Educational Apostolate (cont.)

sity Newman Center (c.200 people), St Clement's Parish, Chicago (c.250 people), congregation at Sydney Cathedral (c. 180 people), Congress of Benedictine Abbots, an online webinar organised by Liturgical Press (1,500+ participants).

Fr Lawrence Lew gave many talks in numerous countries on the theology of the Rosary and related topics in his role as the Order's Promoter General of the Rosary.

And Fr Toby Lees, Director of Radio Maria (England), a 24-hour Catholic radio station (**https://radiomariaengland.uk/**), gave five 10-minute reflections per week on Radio Maria and presented three 45-minute programmes per week going through a text and giving reflections on it.

SERIES OF TALKS

There were also series of talks, some of which were part of retreats and study days.

- Fr Nicholas Crowe gave: two talks to Pope Francis Multi-Academy Trust Leadership Team and Governors, one talk to the Lay Dominican AGM, three talks to Anglican Chaplains of the Royal Navy. He also led a workshop (with Fr Toby Lees) on Social Media at the Youth 2000 Summer Festival at Ampleforth; and led retreats for married couples, the monks of Buckfast Abbey, and the friars of the Dominican House of Studies in Washington DC.
- Fr Richard Finn gave two talks to the Thinking Faith retreat group based at Boarbank Hall and a talk on Christian Asceticism to students at Fisher House, Cambridge.
- Fr Toby Lees gave retreats to sixth form students at Downside School, the Missionaries of Charity in Kilburn.
- Fr Timothy Radcliffe gave a retreat to the Dominican Community at the Ecole Biblique in Jerusalem.
- Fr Richard Ounsworth gave a retreat to the monks of Ealing Abbey.
- Fr Fergus Kerr held an online reading group looking at texts from the Summa Theologiae of St Thomas Aquinas.

CONFERENCE

A second major event organised by the Edinburgh Dominican Community was a weekend conference on 'God's Mercy and Yours' – *report on p.17.*

LAY FORMATION

A significant feature of our outreach through talks is that much of it is for young people and to support active Christian communities.

LAY DOMINICANS

There were, for example, thirteen Lay Dominican fraternities and fraternal groups in the Province, twelve in Britain and one in Grenada. There is also a Lay Dominican Provincial Council composed of Lay Dominicans from across Britain. The fraternities and fraternal groups, among other things, promote study in the Dominican tradition; and organise for their members and others events engaging with Catholic thought. Many of the fraternities and fraternal groups have in recent years experienced significant growth. Most of the fraternities have friars as nominated 'religious assistants', who often give talks and other input to the fraternities and fraternal groups.

STUDENT CHAPLAINCY

Much of the outreach to young people is carried out in the chaplaincies to which we provide chaplains, in Edinburgh (University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh Napier University and Queen Margaret University) and Leicester (University of Leicester and De Montfort University), and other chaplaincies in which friars works, such as Dundee and Kingston (Jamaica).

For example, Fr Benedict Jonak gave weekly talks during term on exploring faith and current social issues; Fr Matthew Jarvis and Fr Thomas Mannion gave weekly talks to the Catholic Student Union in Edinburgh, including talks in the series 'Catholic Life Hacks' over the weekly Friday baked-potato lunch.

In addition to these series,

- Fr Gregory Pearson led ten sessions of the Bible Study Group on John 6–11 at Fisher

Educational Apostolate (cont.)



House, Cambridge; and led the monthly Bible study sessions of the Catholic Young Adults' Group in Cambridge (attendance: c.25-30).

- There was a Dominican Youth Movement Advent Retreat Weekend (21 attendees), Lent Retreat Weekend (15 attendees) and a Study Week (16 attendees), all at Douai Abbey. Talks were given at these events by frs. Jerome Johnson, John Church, Nicholas Crowe.

OXFORD AQUINAS GROUP

The Oxford Community, which is a formation community for Dominican students, runs a lively weekly (during term) Aquinas Young Adults Group and supports a Chapter of the **Thomistic Institute**. The Aquinas Group has a weekly attendance of about 20. The meetings include soup and bread, and there is some social life too. In 2023/24 it was run by Brs John Church, Jerome Johnson, and Alin Ardei. Each term they look at a different area in the work of St Thomas Aquinas, and read and discuss different texts together. The sessions are led by a range of friars from the Oxford Community. The topics looked at in 2023/24 were: The Triune God, Philosophical and Theological Anthropology, and Christology.

THOMISTIC INSTITUTE

The Oxford Chapter of the Thomistic Institute hosted talks by Fr Philip-Neri Reese OP, Prof. Karen Kilby. Dr Valentia Duca, Rof. John Haldane, Fr Gregory Pine OP, Prof Marianne Schlosser, and Fr Anthony Giambrone OP.

The Edinburgh Chapter of the Thomistic Institute also continues to flourish. It ran a fortnightly reading group on Thomas Aquinas and the Greek Fathers and on Aquinas the Augustinian. It also organised seven public lectures that took place at New College (School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh). The speakers were Fr Philip-Neri Reese OP, Prof. Lewis Ayres, Fr Conor McDonough OP, Canon Anselm Gribbon, Fr Gregory Pine OP, and Fr Dominic Legge OP. Many members of the Edinburgh chapter of the Thomistic Institute participated in the Thomistic Institute Intellectual Retreat in Stonyhurst College in July.

ALBERTUS INSTITUTE

Over the course of the year, the Board of Directors of the **Albertus Institute** (**http://albertusinstitute.org/**) based at St Albert's Parish and Chaplaincy in Edinburgh, concluded its work reconsidering and renewing its internal structures. It had been agreed by the Directors and confirmed by the Members that the Albertus Institute should move from its structure of being a Company Limited by Guarantee and a Registered Charity, both registered in Scotland, to being simply a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, entirely registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). The application to change status was successful. The Institute had a rich suite of events during the year, including an autumn symposium series on *Radical Hope* (speakers: Dr Bethany Sollereder, Fr Matthew Jarvis, Dr Elizabeth Drummond Young, Dr Sara Parvis); an Annual Lecture at New College given by Prof. Michael Rovatsos (Professor of Artificial Intelligence, University of Edinburgh) on 'God in the Machine? Thoughts on AI, Faith, and Reli-

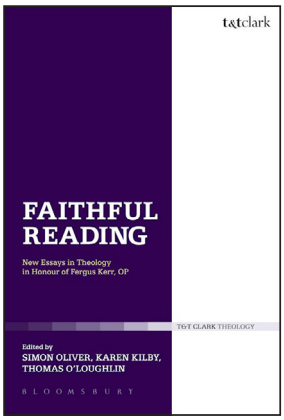
Educational Apostolate (cont.)

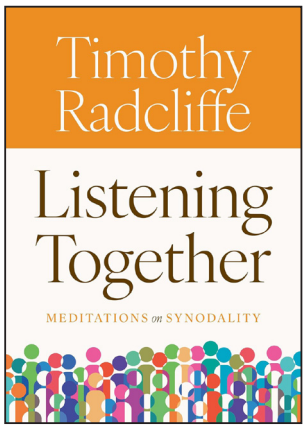
gious Experience'; and a day-long Spring conference at New College on 'Evolution and Theology'.

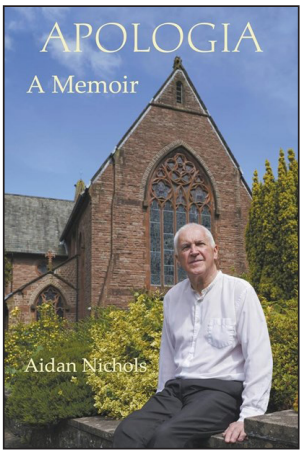
2. EXPERTISE

The brothers also serve the wider Church through giving expert advice as consultants and members of various bodies.

- Fr Simon Gaine is a member of the Church's International Theological Commission.
- Fr Matthew Jarvis is a member of the Order's International Commission on the Liturgy.
- Fr Robert Ombres is on the editorial boards of three journals: *Ecclesiastical Law Journal*, *Law & Justice*, and *Angelicum*.
- Fr Brian Davies is on the Editorial Board of the *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*.
- Fr Benjamin Earl is President of the commission for the review of the *Liber Constitutionum Mondialium Ordinis Praedicatorum*, and member of the Juridical Commission of the Union of Superiors General, as well as a canonical consultant for a number of different religious institutes.
- Fr John O'Connor is a member of the Arts and Humanities Sub-Committee of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.







3. PUBLICATIONS

A wide audience can also be reached through publications, both electronically and in more traditional formats.

NEW BLACKFRIARS JOURNAL

A key part of our academic publishing mission is our bimonthly journal, *New Blackfriars*. The Editor is Fr Brian Davies. Fr Robert Ombres was Reviews Editor until 1 January 2024. Fifteen friars of the English Province are on the Editorial Board. Since 1 January 2024, the journal has been published by Cambridge University Press. *New Blackfriars* has had impressive metrics: over 200,000 article downloads per annum, with over 4,000 institutions having access to *New Blackfriars* (mainly wholly online, with a small minority receiving printed copies). The journal also has considerable international outreach. The main countries for downloading *New Blackfriars* articles are: USA, China, United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Canada, Australia, Germany, Ireland, India, and the Philippines.

BOOKS

Books published by the brethren include:

- A collection of essays on the work of Fr Fergus Kerr OP was published by T & T Clark: *Faithful Readings: New Essays in Honour of Fergus Kerr* (eds. Simon Oliver, Karen Kilby, and Thomas O'Loughlin). The volume includes essays by the three editors and, among others, John Millbank, Charles Taylor, David Burrell, Janet Soskice, and Fr Olivier-Thomas Venard OP.
- Fr Timothy Radcliffe published a book, *Listening Together: Meditations on Synodality* (Liturgical Press, Minnesota), which has been translated into Italian, French, Hungarian, Portuguese and other languages. Among Radcliffe's published articles were: 'Affectivity and the Eucharist' in *The Way*

Educational Apostolate (cont.)

and 'Novelists and Poets: the Believers; Allies in a Secular Age', in *The Christian Literary Imagination* (Michael Scott and Michael J Collins (eds.), published by Vernon Press).

- Fr Aidan Nicholas published the following books: *Apologia. A Memoir* (Gracewing), *Return of the White Canons* (Gracewing); and the third edition of his *The Thought of Pope Benedict XVI* was also published.
- Fr Robert Ombres 'St Thomas Aquinas and Canon Law: A Gap in Juridical Thomism' in Loïc-Marie Le Bot (ed.) *La Tradizione Domenicana del Diritto* (Angelicum University Press, 2023).
- Fr Benjamin Earl published in the same volume: '*Quis tibi dedit hanc potestatem?* Sources of authority in the proper law of the Order of Preachers'.

OTHER JOURNALS

- Fr Dominic White published 'Early Christian Initiation: A Somatic Ressourcement' in *Worship*;
- Among the articles published by Fr Simon Gaine were: 'Some Recent Arguments for Christ's Earthly Beatific Vision in Summa theologiae III, qq.9 and 34' in *The Thomist*; and 'Universal Salvation, Damnation, and the Task of Theology' in *Nova et Vetera*.



Oxford's Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Irene Tracey, visits Blackfriars

- Fr John O'Connor published 'What Makes an Ethical Account a Natural Law Ethical Account? Contemporary Ethics, Metaethics, and Normative Ethics' in *Studies in Christian Ethics*.
- Fr Brian Davies published 'Does the "Problem of Evil" Rest on a Mistake?" in the *International Journal for Philosophy and Theology*.
- Fr Thomas Crean published several articles in *Mass of Ages*, and 'On the scope and limits of papal authority' in *Tradition and Sanity* Substack.
- Fr Robert Verrill published monthly articles on Science and Religion in *The Catholic Herald*.

ONLINE PUBLISHING

Nearly every priest brother in the English Province contributed to Torch (**https://torch.op.org/**), the preaching website of the English Dominicans. The student friars' blog, Godzdogz (**https://godzdogz.op.org/**) remains very popular with hits from across the world. Among the topics of the blog articles of the academic year 2023/24 were: 'Diaconal Duty in Jamaica', 'Who Does God Love?', 'Blackfriars vs Allen Hall match report', 'Unity and Diversity in the One Church', and 'St Athanasius and Gospel Joy'.

4. PARTICIPATION IN THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

The brethren are also actively involved in the wider academic community. Fr Richard Finn is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (FRHistS); and Fr Fergus Kerr is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Eleven of the brethren are members of the Catholic Theological Association. The brethren attended conferences in Philadelphia, London, Dundee, Cambridge, Rome, Oxford, Lyon, Edinburgh, Twickenham, Bonn, Durham, and Notre Dame. In many cases the friars presented papers at these conferences. For example, Fr David Goodill gave a talk on 'Language and Right: Anscombe on the recognition of human dignity' at a colloquium at the Elizabeth Anscombe archive at the University of Pennsylvania. The friars also attended numerous online conferences and colloquia, often presenting papers, some of which are available online. For example, Fr Bruno Clifton gave a talk on 'The Hebrew Bible: Defining Scriptural Cultures', as part of a series of

Educational Apostolate (cont.)

lectures organised by the Las Casas Institute (Blackfriars Hall) and Georgetown University: **https://bit.ly/4kvRqXn**

Fr Richard Conrad and Fr Simon Gaine are team members of the Thomistic Evolution Project supported by the John Templeton Foundation. Dr Daniel De Haan, Lecturer in the Studium, is also a member. This project brings together scholars from the US, continental Europe, and the UK to examine how Thomistic insights can shed light on evolutionary theory, and explores how evolutionary theory can be reconciled with a Catholic, and especially a Thomistic, understanding of doctrines, notably those of human origins and original sin.

5. EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

BLACKFRIARS HALL & STUDIUM

The largest single apostolates of the Province of England are our Studium Generale ('Blackfriars Studium') and Permanent Private Hall of the University of Oxford ('Blackfriars Hall'). *Reports from Blackfriars can be found on p.11 ff.*

For both Studium and Hall: Fr John O'Connor is Regent; Fr Bruno Clifton is Vice-Regent; Fr Richard Finn. These friars are in charge of the governance of Studium and Hall. The Studium and Hall also have several lay members of staff: Dr Clare Broome Saunders (Senior Tutor and Tutor for Admissions, Blackfriars Hall only), Barbara Brecht followed by Jayne Chivers as Academic Registrar, Anneli Chambliss-Howes (Bursar), Pauline Lloyd (Assistant Bursar), and Yvette Khoury (Admissions Officer, Blackfriars Hall only). As Regent, Fr John O'Connor, has a place and a vote at the Heads of House meeting of Heads of Oxford colleges.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OUTSIDE BLACKFRIARS

Dominican friars have also been active in educational institutions outside the Studium and Hall:

FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

- Fr Richard Conrad gave undergraduate tutorials on Aquinas for the Faculty of Theology and Religion;
- Fr John O'Connor was an examiner for a doctoral student's Transfer of Status.
- Five friar Fellows of Blackfriars Hall are associate members of the Faculty of Theology and Religion, one of whom, Fr Richard Finn, is also an associate member of the Faculty of Classics.

OUTSIDE OXFORD

- Fr Brian Davies is Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Fordham University.
- At Angelicum University, Rome:
  - Fr Simon Gaine is the Pinckaers Professor of Theological Anthropology and Ethics at the Angelicium.
  - Fr Martin Ganeri is Director of the Institute for Interreligious Relations at the Angelicum and is a Professore Invitato of the Theology Faculty. The Institute for Interreligious Relations has launched its 'Thomist Circles Project', to promote a Thomist approach to interreligious relations through a series of conferences and publications.
- Fr Dominic White carried out some PhD supervision (sabbatical cover for one term) in the University of Cambridge Faculty of Divinity, where he also examined undergraduate and Masters dissertations. He was also awarded a PhD in Theology (by publication) by the University of Cambridge. He was also Acting Director of Research at the Margaret Beaufort Institute. This role involves coordinating a research community of about 50 people, organising and chairing seminars, and helping lead research days at the Cambridge Theological Federation.
- Fr David Goodill taught an STB course on moral theology at St Joseph's University, Macau.
- Fr Aidan Nichols taught spiritual theology for permanent deacons in formation, in the Diocese of Springfield, Illinois; and gave online tutorials to seminarians of St Michael's Abbey, Orange California.

Educational Apostolate (cont.)



- Fr Fergus Kerr is an Honorary Professor at the School of Divinity, University of St Andrews.
- Fr Peter Hunter taught at St Michael's Seminary and Theological College in Jamaica.
- Fr Clifton Harris is a member of the Board of St Michael's Theological College, Jamaica;
- Fr John O'Connor is an Honorary Lecturer at the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, the University of Glasgow, which enables him to continue to externally co-supervise doctoral students (two during the academic year 2023/24).
- Fr Thomas Crean taught for Holy Apostles College and Seminary (Connecticut);
- Frs Dominic Ryan and Richard Ounsworth gave lectures to Carthusian monks at St Hugh's Charterhouse, Parkminster.
- Fr Richard Ounsworth is an External Examiner for the MA in Pastoral Theology for the Maryvale Institute.
- Fr Robert Verrill taught a course for the Faraday Institute in Cambridge.
- Fr Rudolf Löwenstein teaches at St Christina's Primary School in London.

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

Friars have also had significant interaction with university staff and students through University Chaplaincy:

- Fr Benedict Jonak and John Patrick Kenrick (University of Leicester and De Montfort University);
- Fr Dermot Morrin, Fr Matthew Jarvis, and Fr Thomas Mannion (University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh Napier University and Queen Margaret University);
- Fr Albert Robertson (University of Cambridge);
- Fr Gregory Murphy (University of Dundee and University of Abertay);
- Fr Peter Hunter (University of the West Indies (Mona campus) and the University of Technology, Kingston).
- We have also had regular involvement by members of Blackfriars, Cambridge, at the Cambridge Catholic Chaplaincy and a student brother on pastoral placement at the Oxford Catholic Chaplaincy.

6. FURTHER STUDIES

Among those who undertook complementary studies in the academic year 2023/24 for the sake of the intellectual apostolate were:

- Fr Leon Pereira, a part-time doctoral student at the Angelicum;
- Fr David Rocks is studying for a part-time Masters in Philosophy at The Open University;
- Fr Matthew Jarvis is studying for part-time DPhil at the Faculty of Music at the University of Oxford;
- Fr Jordan Scott is a student of Mandarin Studies at National Kaohsiung University in Taiwan.
- Fr Luke Doherty completed his studies on the Advanced Mas-

Educational Apostolate (cont.)

ters in Theology and Religion programme at Katholieke Universiteit (KU) Leuven, with a research Masters thesis on: 'The Ethics of Nuclear Energy: Why Prevailing Theological Ethical responses are Challenged by Technological Advancements'.

- Fr Simon Gaine, in order to satisfy ecclesiastical requirements, completed a Licence in Sacred Theology at the Angelicum and will pursue a Doctorate in Sacred Theology.

Our planning of higher studies of the friars takes account that the Dicastery for Culture and Education requires our Studium to have a significant number of teachers with ecclesiastically-recognised higher qualifications.



7. LIBRARIES

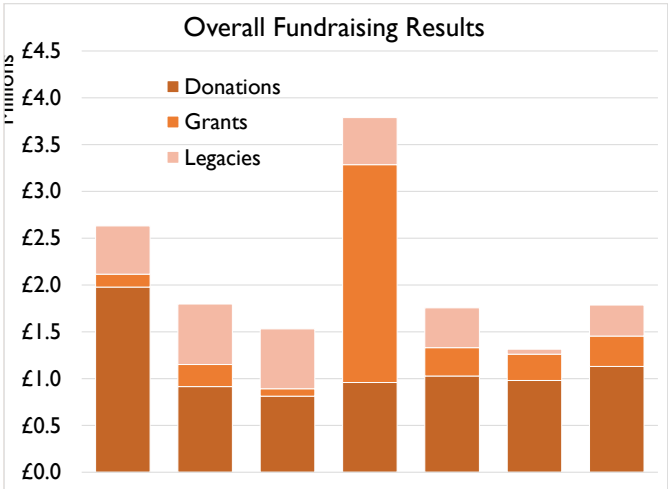
Our libraries are an important resource for the intellectual apostolate. In Oxford (approx. 40,000 books), there were approximately 300 books acquired by the library during the year. The library at Oxford, which serves the Studium and Hall as well as the priory, has typically between 100 and 150 visitors per annum from the wider University and beyond to consult books that cannot easily be found elsewhere, a number greatly reduced this year because of Covid. The Edinburgh, Cambridge, and London priories also have significant and well-functioning for libraries. A significant factor for the brethren in the large university centres is that they can access well-resourced university libraries. The Edinburgh brethren involved with the University of Edinburgh can automatically have access to the university's libraries and online materials.

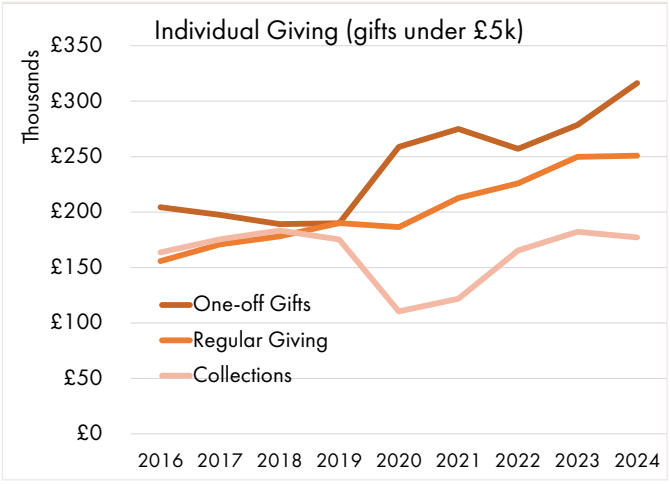
Work continues to catalogue the Province's archives at Douai Abbey where they are preserved in an appropriately regulated environment with respect to temperature and humidity, and where they can be accessed by researchers under supervised conditions. There now exists a basic description of the contents of every box, while more detailed lists of the contents of certain boxes are being created more slowly. Dr Paul Sheppy has completed such lists for those boxes containing papers sent from the Order's curia. The Provincial Archivist is currently working on detailed lists of boxes containing papers and other materials relating to Fr Vincent McNabb together with some other boxes which are likely to be of most interest to researchers. In addition, a professional archivist, Hannah Pomeroy, has been employed part-time to create an item-level catalogue of the nuns' papers.

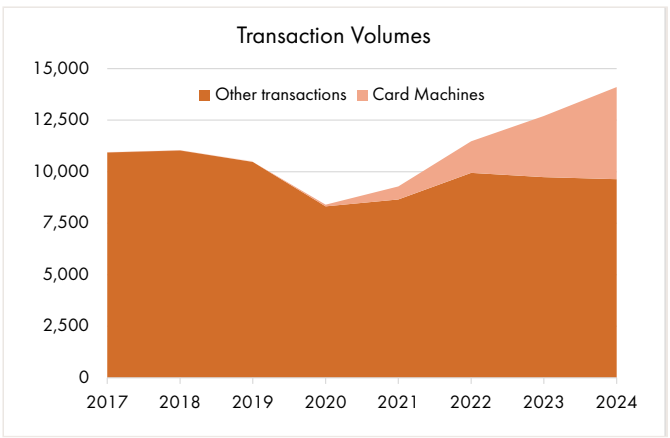
8. LAYING FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Much discussion and planning took place in preparation for the Provincial Chapter, which began on 8 April 2024. Among the topics considered was how best to use the year freed up by moving the Studium STB programme from six years to five years. Other topics included the permanent formation of the brethren and ways in which further studies undertaken by the brothers can best further our mission, futureproofing Blackfriars Hall and Studium, and enhancing the role of the conventual lectors.

Fundraising Performance[1] – Trends







This year saw generous support offered in many different ways to the charity.

Overall Fundraising Results (see p.60, note 1) saw a total of £1.79m (2023: £1.31m) in voluntary income.

- Donations from individuals, including Gift Aid reclaimed, rose to £1.13m (£981k);
- Legacy income achieved £324k (£53k).
- Grants awarded totalled £331k (£563k). (An additional £348k of annual funding for the Studium, from a grant awarded in 2021, was also received.)

There were generous responses[1] within the period to various appeals, notably: for our London priory's successful drive to install underfloor heating in their church (£109k in the period, towards a total of £146k raised); for our annual Caribbean Missions appeal (£64k); and for the ongoing appeal to support the conversion of the ground floor of Blackfriars Oxford's annexe building into a dining space / public café (£67k), expected to come to fruition during 2025.

Individual Giving – Considering the total value (including Gift Aid) of smaller gifts (under £5k in amount), Collections fell slightly, while one-off gifts continued a dramatic rise. Partly this has been driven by the increasing number of transactions coming from the card machines in our churches (see **Transaction Volumes**). Regular Giving overall was steady at just under £254k (2023: £254k), or £310k with Gift Aid (2023: £310k).

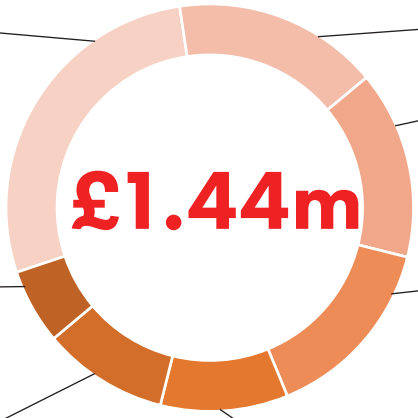
Major Gifts (£5k or more in value) reached a record number of 17 donations (2023: 8), worth a total of £153k including Gift Aid (2023: £126k).

Legacies pipeline: a promotion of Gifts in Wills was again undertaken, with 10 responses (2023: 34, the first year we undertook a promotion). Legacy enquiries and pledges continue to arrive throughout the year.

(1) Figures listed here do not always match exactly with those in the audited accounts, owing to different ways of recording legacies, grant commitments, and the income from Gift Aid. Figures and trends on this page are given as indicative measures of fundraising performance only.

Fundraising Performance[1] – 2024

VOLUNTARY INCOME (EXC. LEGACIES)



LONDON £398,629 28%
- Church Fabric £176,772
- Parish G.P. £151,326
- Priory G.P. £48,328

OXFORD £234,498 16%

LEICESTER £214,386 15%
- Parish G.P. £167,971
- Priory £45,374

CAMBRIDGE £85,622 6%

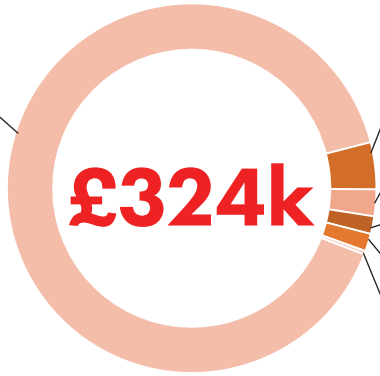
EDINBURGH £213,514 15%
- Priory G.P. £118,007
- Parish G.P. £90,921

PROVINCE £143,349 10%
- Café / dining project £54,432
- Caribbean Missions £53,123
- Training Fund £17,740

BLACKFRIARS £145,331 10%
- Las Casas Inst £83,128
- Scholarships £30,256
- General Purpose £24,360

Note: £348k of a multi-year grant commitment to the Studium was also received

LEGACIES



OXFORD £292,252 90%

PROVINCE £13,314 4%

LEICESTER £7,575 2%

CAMBRIDGE £5,000 1.5%

BLACKFRIARS £5,000 1.5%

LONDON £1,000 0.3%

The friars express their gratitude to all who have helped sustain our mission this year through their generous giving. We would especially like to mark the contributions of:

Grants: Benefact Trust, Catholic Charitable Trust, Catholic Record Society, Catholic Relief Services, Charlotte Marshall Charitable Trust, Clun Charitable Trust, Edith Bessie Gibson Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation, Jesuits (Society of Jesus), Lady Marian Gibson Trust, Mallinckrodt Foundation, Oxford Consortium for Human Rights, Porticus UK, Sasakawa Foundation, Society of the Holy Child Jesus, Trócaire, University of St Andrews.

Legacies: Anna Baidoun, Susan Black, Eileen Buckley, Alfred 'Dick' Grove, Margaret Howell, Fr Richard Marriott, Elizabeth Murphy, Mary Watts. *R.I.P.*

Details of the Charity, Trustees, Advisors

NAME OF CHARITY	The English Province of the Order of Preachers
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	231192 (England and Wales) SC039062 (Scotland)
ALSO KNOWN AS	The Dominicans
PRINCIPAL OFFICE	Blackfriars, St Giles, OXFORD. OX1 3LY
TRUSTEE	The Dominican Council (a company limited by guarantee, no. 387818) Blackfriars, St Giles, OXFORD. OX1 3LY
DIRECTORS OF TRUSTEE CORPORATION	Very Rev. Fr Martin Ganeri OP (resigned on 12 April 2024) Rev. Fr Simon Gaine OP (resigned on 12 April 2024) Rev. Fr David Goodill OP Very Rev. Fr Nicholas Crowe OP Rev. Fr John O'Connor OP (from 12 April 2024) Rev. Fr Toby Lees OP (from 12 April 2024)
PRINCIPAL OFFICER	Very Rev. Fr Nicholas Crowe OP, Prior Provincial
BANKERS	The Royal Bank of Scotland RBS Bishopsgate Branch, 49 Bishopsgate, LONDON. EC2N 3AS
SOLICITORS	Farrer & Co. 66 Lincoln's Inn Fields, LONDON. WC2A 3LH
AUDITOR	Gravita Audit Oxford LLP First Floor, Park Central, 40–41 Park End Street, Oxford, OX1 1JD
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT AND ADVICE	BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited 12 Throgmorton Avenue, LONDON. EC2N 2DL *and* Evelyn Partners LLP 45 Gresham Street, LONDON. EC2V 7BG
WEBSITE	https://english.op.org/

Structure, Governance & Management

INTRODUCTION

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30th September 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 57ff. and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (January 2019) and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The English Province of the Order of Preachers is one of forty or so provinces of the Friars of the Order of Preachers, a religious order in the Catholic Church. The Order of Preachers was founded by St Dominic in the thirteenth century for the purpose of preaching, teaching and pastoral work in collaboration with the bishops. Members of the Order are often known as 'Dominicans', after their founder. The life of the friars is founded on the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience to which they bind themselves by vow, and is characterised by prayer, study and community life. Most of the friars are also ordained priests.

As part of the Catholic Church, the Order of Preachers is bound to the Church's Canon Law, especially as contained in the 1983 *Codex Iuris Canonici* (Code of Canon Law, hereafter *CIC*), and to the legitimate precepts of the Holy See and the Roman Pontiff. It is also bound by the laws of the dioceses in which it works, and of the Bishops' Conferences of England and Wales and of Scotland.

The Order has its own internal law contained in the *Liber Constitutionum et Ordinationum Fratrum Ordinis Praedicatorum* (Book of Constitutions and Ordinations of the Friars of the Order of Preachers, hereafter *LCO*). The General Chapter of the Order and the Master of the Order have authority, in accordance with canonical norms, over all the provinces, priories and friars of the Order.

The English Province, in addition to the above-mentioned norms, has its own canonical governing document, the 'Statute of the Province'. The Province is governed by the Provincial Chapter and by the Prior Provincial. The Provincial Chapter is a meeting of friars representing the Province which takes place every four years; its object is to 'discuss and make decisions about all that pertains to the fraternal and apostolic life and the good administration of the province' (*LCO* 351 §I). The Provincial Chapter can make changes to the Statute of the Province as well as make other ordinations concerning the governance of the Province and its priories. The Provincial Chapter elects the Prior Provincial (major superior), who governs the Province until the following Provincial Chapter.

The Prior Provincial is assisted by the Provincial Council, composed of senior officers of the Province and other members elected by the Provincial Chapter. On major financial matters the Prior Provincial and Provincial Council are advised by the Economic Council of the Province, whose members are appointed by the Provincial Chapter and which is chaired by the Provincial Bursar.

The Province is made up of a number of priories, which are local communities of friars with a large degree of self-government according to the norms of Canon Law and the internal law of the Order and the Province. The priory is 'the fundamental unit of the Order' (*LCO* 1 §VII), and the principal place where the educational and pastoral mission of the Order is pursued. Priors (local superiors) are normally elected by the members of their priory for three-year terms. Each priory is engaged in a variety of ministerial work, often centred on parish churches or university chaplaincies. Two priories are especially but not exclusively dedicated to the formation and training of priests and friars. The Prior Provincial and his Council have responsibility for the collaboration of the various priories, for the support of provincial projects and for the establishment, maintenance and en-

forcement of common policy, including those involving major financial issues.

The Charity consider that the members of the Provincial Council comprise the key management personnel, in charge of directing and controlling the charity and running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. The Prior Provincial and three other members of the Provincial Council are Directors of the Trustee Corporation, as listed on p. 36. Other members of the Provincial Council are members of the Trustee Corporation. All trustees, and all other members of the Provincial Council, give of their time freely and no remuneration was paid to any of them in the year. Details of trustee expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in notes 9 and 10 to the accounts.

The individual friars make profession of a vow of obedience, encompassing also the other 'evangelical counsels' of poverty and chastity. As a result of the profession of poverty, all that is acquired in virtue of the work or activity of a friar belongs to the friar's priory (*CIC* 668 §3; *LCO* 546). Once a friar has made definitive or 'solemn' profession, any income whatsoever that comes to the friar belongs to his priory or the Province (*LCO* 546, 548). This arrangement is given civil effect by means of a 'Deed of Disponer' in favour of the Charity made by each friar at the time of his solemn profession. Alongside the profession of poverty by the friars, there is a corresponding obligation on the Order to provide its members 'with everything that is necessary to fulfil the purpose of their vocation' (*CIC* 670).

The Dominican friars share a spirituality and mission with other branches of the 'Dominican family': nuns, sisters, members of secular institutes and fraternities of priests and laity (cf. *LCO* 1 §IX).

NATURE AND CONSTITUTION OF THE CHARITY

In order to allow for the general administration and financial maintenance of the members, priories and works of the Province, **the Province Trust** was established by Trust Deed in 1930, modified by a deed of partial revocation in 1945. Its registered objects are 'the promotion of education and the Roman Catholic religion and the establishment and maintenance of schools, churches and priories for these purposes and the upkeep of members of the Order of Preachers.' Under the name 'The English Province of the Order of Preachers', the Province Trust is registered as a charity in England and Wales, no. 231192, and in Scotland, no. SC039062.

The sole trustee of the Charity is the Dominican Council, a company limited by guarantee and governed in accordance with its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The Dominican Council was incorporated on 25 May 1944, no. 387818. Its registered office is Blackfriars, St Giles, OXFORD OX1 3LY.

The chairman *ex officio* of the Corporation and its Committee is the Prior Provincial, at present the Very Rev. Fr Nicholas Crowe OP. According to its Articles of Association, 'any Roman Catholic Priest of the English Province of the Order of Preachers' (art. 6) is qualified to be a member of the Corporation. Three members of the Corporation are elected by the Corporation to serve on its Committee alongside the Prior Provincial. The members of the Committee function as the directors of the Corporation and as 'Charity Trustees' in the sense of s177 of the Charities Act 2011.

RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF CHARITY TRUSTEES

The Province has a wealth of experience among its friars, who have spent years pursuing the Province's mission and the Charity's objects by means of educational and pastoral work. Many of the friars have also served as administrators at a local level, holding offices such as prior, parish priest or bursar. The Provincial Chapter therefore has a rich pool of competent and proficient friars to draw upon when it elects the Prior Provincial and the Provincial Council.

The normal practice of the Dominican Council is to elect new members of the Corporation from the Provincial Council, and so in turn it is from among these experienced friars that the Committee is elected. As a result, the Charity Trustees, i.e. the members of the Committee of the Dominican Council, are friars of proven prudence and experience with detailed knowledge of the Charity's work and structure.

The solemnly professed friars have no personal income or property; anything that comes to them is acquired

for the Order, which in turn is obliged to support all its members, providing them with 'everything that is necessary to fulfil the purpose of their vocation' (*CIC* 670). Hence the object of the Charity includes 'the upkeep of members of the Order of Preachers'.
The members of the Committee of the Dominican Council therefore benefit from the activity of the Charity, but they do so in their capacity as members of the Order of Preachers, not as a result of being Charity Trustees.

TRAINING OF CHARITY TRUSTEES

New members of the Committee of the Dominican Council are very experienced in the work of the Province and its administration. As superiors and administrators they are already well-acquainted with the governing documents of the Order. New members of the Committee are provided with latest version the Charity Commission's publication 'The Essential Trustee: What you need to know, what you need to do' and the OSCR publication 'Guidance for Charity Trustees'. Trustees are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the other resources for Charity Trustees provided by the Charity Commission, OSCR and other sources. All Charity Trustees are provided with appropriate briefings from the Charity's professional advisors concerning their responsibilities and when this is pertinent to any decisions that have to be made by the Charity Trustees. Members of the Committee of the Dominican Council attend meetings of the Association of Provincial Bursars and seminars for Charity Trustees organised by professional advisors.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND DECISION-MAKING

The Charity is structured internally as local priories in accordance with the laws of the Order of the Preachers contained in *LCO*. These norms, together with those of the Province itself, set out requirements for financial administration and reporting, investment, property acquisition and maintenance for the Province and for each priory, and also the limits to the powers of priors and of the Prior Provincial.
In particular:

- A Prior has a limit above which he cannot authorise expenditure without the consent of the Priory Council. The Priory Council can authorise expenditure to a higher limit, which varies depending on the size of the Priory, and above this authorisation is required by the Prior Provincial or, beyond an upper limit, the Provincial Council. These limits also apply to the authorisation of alienations or the incurring of liabilities. When authorisation is given by the Provincial Council, the Economic Council of the Province is consulted in advance, and a determination is made whether the matter requires an act of the Trustee Corporation.
- The annual accounts and budget of each priory are sent to the Prior Provincial (*LCO* 563) and submitted for examination by the Provincial Council (*LCO* 564), the Economic Council of the Province and the Trustee Corporation.

The limits mentioned here are reviewed every four years by the Provincial Chapter.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF SCOTTISH ACTIVITIES

The priories in Scotland are managed locally in the same way as priories in England, under the supervision of the Prior Provincial and the Provincial Council assisted by the Economic Council. The Trustees take the view that local governance structures are adequate and appropriate without an additional layer of governance specifically for Scotland.

RELATIONSHIP WITH A WIDER NETWORK

The Province is part of the Order of Preachers and of the Catholic Church. It operates in accordance with the teaching and laws of the Catholic Church, and the manner in which it realises its object, 'the promotion of education and the Roman Catholic religion', is influenced by the priorities identified by the Church and by the Order of Preachers internationally.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER CHARITIES AND ORGANISATIONS

The Charity is closely related to the **Hoper Dixon Trust** (registered charity no. 231160). Under the terms of a Scheme of 20 July 2006, that Trust exists 'for the benefit of the poor connected with or in the neighbourhood of any house or pastoral centre under

the direction of the Dominicans of the English Province of the Order of Preachers'.

The Province also co-operates in the mission of the **Catholic Dioceses** in whose territory members of the Province work. Six parishes and chaplaincies to eight universities are entrusted to the Province.

The Charity co-operates fraternally in a number of projects with **other branches of the Dominican family** (Congregations of Dominican Sisters, Dominican Secular Institute and Lay Dominican fraternities) active in Great Britain. The Province recently co-operated in the establishment of a Priestly Confraternity of St Dominic, and remains closely involved in its development and expansion.

The Province operates Blackfriars Hall, Oxford, a Permanent Private Hall of the **University of Oxford**. The Hall co-operates with the University, Colleges and other Halls in furthering its educational objective. There is also co-operation with **other religious institutes** in training candidates for the priesthood and in providing theological formation for other religious. The Hall is developing a research collaboration with the **Anscombe Bioethics Centre**, registered charity no. 274327. Members of the congregations at two of the Province's priories run overseas aid charities: the **Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust** (registered charity no. 288585) based in Oxford and the **Jean Grove Trust** (registered charity 1109593) based in Cambridge. The Province is happy to promote and support these works.

The Order's presence in Grenada and Barbados is canonically dependent on the Province. Though the presence there is not part of the Province Charity, from time to time the Charity is able to make grants for the work of the Order in the Caribbean.

FUNDRAISING DISCLOSURES

The Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016 requires charities which are subject to an audit to make disclosure in their Financial Statements about their fundraising activities.

The Dominican Friars have been mendicants since the very beginning of the Order of Preachers in the early 13th century, and benefactors have played a crucial role at every stage of our history up to and including the present day.

In 2013, impelled by an urgent need to improve the financial situation of the charity, the Province began to employ a full-time fundraiser (Development Director) to direct and manage fundraising and related communications activities on the charity's behalf. The Development Director is now assisted by a part-time Development Support Officer, with oversight provided by the Prior Provincial and the Provincial Bursar.

Most funds are raised from those with whom we have close relationships, typically through their attendance as worshippers at one of our churches. Wider circles of relationships are maintained through our opt-in magazine, opt-in email newsletters, websites, and social media pages, all of which may include invitations to donate. Contact relationship data and donations data are managed centrally through a highly secure database with access restricted to a small number of employees.

We fundraise in accordance with the requirements of the Fundraising Regulator, and with our moral obligations as a Catholic charity. We fundraise responsibly at all times and with a sensitivity to the pastoral relationship that most donors have with the friars. We avoid approaches to vulnerable people and do not hold information on children. We do not exert pressure on people to donate, nor is access to the services we provide as a charity dependent on donations. We do not at this time employ third-party fundraisers, though some people do voluntarily and of their own initiative fundraise on our behalf. Subscriptions to communications can be cancelled at any time. Complaints are responded to as soon as possible; none were received in the current year (2023: none).

RISK

The trustees review annually the principal risks to which the charity is exposed, and the strategies and procedures in place to mitigate those risks. The trustees consider that the major risks can be categorised under four headings: operational, financial, reputational and regulatory. Listed below are the main risks in each category, along with the principal ways in which they are mitigated.

OPERATIONAL

The activities of the charity are highly dependent upon those friars who are responsible for their management, often with little or no professional lay assistance. For this reason there is a risk that our ministries may suffer from lack of direction, poor management and inefficiencies. It can happen that a particular friar is overburdened with responsibilities leading to stress and reduced effectiveness. To mitigate this, the trustees and especially the Prior Provincial regularly review the work of each entity of the Province, ensuring that those responsible for our works are provided with the practical and moral support required. The Province has also instituted regular meetings between the Provincial and local superiors, to offer support and share best practice. The Province maintains its commitment to ensuring that friars who are experiencing emotional or psychological difficulties are provided with appropriate professional help.

The charity is responsible for the care of a number of elderly friars. As at 30 September 2024 there were 14 friars over 70, of whom 5 were over 80. Like all of the friars, these men have no resources of their own as all earnings, pensions and other income have been donated to the charity. As far as possible older brothers continue to live in community, though where appropriate residential nursing care places are found. The Province remains committed to designating all pensions income to the Designated Sick Fund (see page 44), which covers the cost of residential care but also funds home nursing care where appropriate, as well as works in priories designed to make them more suitable for elderly and infirm brothers.

The on-going work of the charity requires that young men continue to present themselves to join the Order, and that these men be properly formed and educated for our ministries. Many religious orders in the UK have seen very low or even non-existent levels of recruitment for a number of years leading to a severely ageing demographic profile and the abandonment of numbers of ministries. The Province has committed one of its ablest young priests to work full-time as Promoter and Director of Vocations, and over the last two years ten men entered the noviciate, an unusually high number. The Province is also committed to ensuring that its friars receive the best possible intellectual, spiritual and pastoral formation.

FINANCIAL

The charity's principal assets comprise listed investments, the value of and income from which are dependent on movements in UK and world markets. A substantial long-term loss of value of these investments would threaten the long-term financial viability of the Province, and any significant reduction in investment income would cause financial difficulties even in the short term. To mitigate this, the investments are managed by reputable investment managers who adhere to a policy agreed by the trustees. The performance of investments and our investment strategy are assessed regularly by the Economic Council of the Province, aided by a lay expert, to ensure that our investments remain appropriate to the charity's needs (see further page 45).

The Development Office, under the leadership of a lay professional Development Director, with the co-operation of all friars, ensures that the Province and individual priories maintain excellent relationships with existing donors and takes the lead in seeking out and cultivating potential new sources of support. The work of the Development Office is supervised by the Provincial in consultation with the Provincial Council.

Our operations involve very large numbers of financial transactions including significant amounts of cash, bringing with it the obvious risk of fraud, theft or loss. The Province has a well-established set of 'Norms for Economic and Administrative Practice' which impose appropriate procedures for cash-handling and for the management of bank payments etc., and the Provincial Bursar visits priories regularly to support local bursars and other friars in adhering to these procedures and other good practices. The Province decided at its recent Chapter to substantially reduce the levels of expenditure that can be made without a second authorised signature.

The operation of Blackfriars Hall and Studium is at particular financial risk, depending as heavily as it does upon numbers of students. The Regent and other moderators of the Hall engage in visits to the USA to seek additional students, and the Hall is developing

with the Development Director a fundraising strategy emphasising student scholarships and support for Studium teaching with a view to providing Blackfriars with a more solid financial base in the years to come.

In the light of rapidly rising inflation, the Province faces increasing risks both to its income, as donors find their finances stretched, and in general expenditure. The value of returns on investments may also be eroded with higher inflation and loss of capital value in the markets.

REPUTATIONAL

Friars and some other volunteers working with the friars, by the nature of our activities, inevitably often operate with little immediate supervision and often in positions of considerable pastoral responsibility and trust. Mistakes and misjudgements especially by friars in such positions can lead to harm to the reputation of the whole Province. The trustees consider that the greatest risk to the reputation of the charity in terms of severity of outcome, though not of likelihood, comes from allegations of abuse by friars of children or vulnerable adults: even where these allegations are historical in nature and relate to long-deceased friars, and even where they are unfounded, they can be deeply harmful to the reputation, local and national, of the Province, its ministries and its friars. The Province works closely with the Catholic Church Insurance Association, the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service and the Safeguarding Co-ordinator of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham to deal with any such allegations in accordance with the safeguarding policy of the Catholic Church in England & Wales. A member of the Provincial Council is the Province's Safeguarding Co-ordinator, and he is responsible for ensuring that all friars are familiar with, and practise, this safeguarding policy, again in association with the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Lay people volunteer as local safeguarding representatives at each location.

The trustees also recognise the potential for reputational damage that may result from operational failures mentioned in the first paragraph of this section, and this risk is mitigated as detailed there.

REGULATORY

The trustees are keenly aware of the need to comply with relevant laws, including but not limited to those governing employment, health & safety at work, immigration and data protection, and the potential consequences of failures in this regard. The Provincial Bursar, assisted by the Economic Council of the Province, the Development Director and professional experts, takes the lead in compliance, and is aided in this regard by training sessions provided by the Association of Provincial Bursars. Each site within the Province is visited at least once a year by a professional Health & Safety advisor, to ensure that our sites are not only compliant with the Health & Safety at Work, etc. Act (1974) and related regulations, but also provide good working and living environments for the friars.

Public Benefit

The Charity Trustees have read the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and the specific guidance for charities whose objects include Education and the advancement of Religion. The Charity Trustees have taken note of the Charity Commission's advice of October 2015 concerning public benefit and fee-charging in relation to educational charities. The Charity Trustees have paid due regard to the Commission's guidance, and all who make decisions about the activities the Charity undertakes are concerned to ensure that a real religious or educational benefit is provided to a broad range of people.

The priories of the Province all celebrate liturgy which is open to the public, and the friars are available to any members of the public who wish to consult them about matters of faith and the spiritual life. The priory churches are open to the public for most of the day, and many people avail themselves of the opportunity for quiet prayer or reflection. No charge is made for admission to the churches or to religious services (cf. *CIC*, c. 1221). Offerings are customarily made on the occasion of celebration of certain rites (e.g. baptisms, marriages and funerals), but Canon Law requires that those who are not able to make an offering are not thereby excluded (*CIC*, c. 848 and c. 1181). Some charges may be made for other activities (e.g. participation in pilgrimages); the Hoper Dixon Trust, a connected charity, is in some cases able to assist with these costs.

The main educational centre of the Province, located at Blackfriars in Oxford, welcomes applications to study from any suitably qualified student. Blackfriars Hall charges fees at the level prevalent among Oxford colleges, and students are eligible for public funding in the same way as other students in higher education. The Hall is aware that public funding is not available to assist all who would benefit from studying in Oxford, especially those wishing to study for a second undergraduate degree or a postgraduate qualification. The Hall continues actively seeking funds to broaden access. Members of the public who are not students at Oxford may attend lectures and classes at Blackfriars on application; a small fee is normally charged, but is waived in cases of financial hardship. Blackfriars Hall and many of the priories and parishes arrange for public lectures and talks which are free of charge.

The Charity Trustees consider that the achievements and performance of the Charity demonstrate success in providing benefit to a broad public.

Provision for Sick and Elderly Friars

As of 30 September 2024, 14 friars of the Province (24%) in Great Britain were aged 70 or over, of whom 5 (8%) were 80 or over. Although most of these brothers continue to be active and enjoy reasonable health, the Charity Trustees are concerned to ensure that adequate provision is made for the care of older brothers and of any other sick brothers. The Charity maintains a Sick Fund for this purpose, of which details are given in the Financial Review and Statement of Financial Activities. At the end of the reporting period, no brother was in a nursing home (2023: none); but it is not unlikely that this will be necessary in the future, so the Trustees continue to ensure that such provision is affordable whenever necessary. While the provision and level of funds is adequate for current needs, the Charity Trustees are aware that demands could increase substantially in future years.

Most pension income is designated for the Sick Fund, which at the end of the period stood at £4,577k (2023: £4,097k). While the income from this fund currently suffices, the Charity Trustees are concerned that the Sick Fund should continue to be increased to ensure that likely future demands can be met.

Priories are also concerned to keep constantly under review their provision for disabled and infirm brothers and as necessary to make various adaptations and improvements.

Investment Performance

The Charity's investments had a market value of £23,139k (2023: £20,752k) at the end of the reporting period. The market value of investments with Evelyn Partners was £9,781k (2023: £8,403k). The value of the Province's holdings in the BlackRock Catholic Charities Growth & Income Fund at the end of the year was £11,758k (2023: £10,831k).

INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The charity's investments are invested in actively managed funds with medium-risk profiles. The investment funds provide an important stream of income for the charity's activities as well as capital growth. The investment strategy seeks to balance the need for income now with the need for a sound capital base for the future. The trustees aim to ensure friars can be maintained throughout their old age, once they are unable to support themselves through works, to maintain their priories and chapels, many of which are listed buildings, and to support the training and ongoing development of all brothers. A review of the investment strategy and investment managers is planned for 2025.

ETHICAL CRITERIA

The investments are managed in accordance with the charity's ethical investment criteria, including but not limited to those relating to sanctity of life, care for the environment, and justice and peace.

PERFORMANCE OF FUNDS

The first half of the financial year was largely positive for markets. The second half saw reactions to the escalating conflict in the Middle East and variable earnings and labour market data. The interest rate cut from the US Federal Reserve and Chinese stimulus package helped to support markets in September, to the end of the financial year.

BlackRock Catholic Charities Growth and Income Fund is a unitised fund with a risk rating of Medium/High 7 on the 1–10 risk scale. In the year ended 30 September 2024, it made a total return of 11.8% net and a distribution yield of 3.1%. Distributions of 1.25p per unit were made on a quarterly basis. The charity received distributions of £367,626 in the year. The market value increased over the year by £927,054 (2023: loss £235,302).

The charity's portfolio with Evelyn has a risk rating of Medium, or 6 on the 1–10 risk scale. In the year ended 30 September 2024, it made a total return of 12.6% net and a gross yield of 2%. Income from dividends and interest of £175,312 were paid over during the year. The portfolio made an unrealised gain over the year of £878,914 (2023: gain £131,377). Although both Blackrock and Evelyn exceeded the charity's absolute return targets for them in terms of generating an adequate real return over the long term, both of them underperformed their respective benchmark in the year under review – Blackrock +11.8% versus +12.7%; Evelyn +12.6% versus +16%. The specific line items vary in each case but the fundamental problem has been the same for both. Equity market performance has been very strong but it has been driven largely by a small group of very large US technology stocks. Managers with a more 'value' orientation, underweighting these growth stocks relative to their benchmark weighting, have struggled. Furthermore alternative strategies such as some of the environmentally-oriented strategies included in the charity's funds, and government bonds, have also been a headwind. The charity judges managers against the mandates that they have been given so accepts some underperformance in the circumstances described. However, it is the view of the charity that the underperformance over a period of years merits a comprehensive manager review in 2025, whilst acknowledging the challenge of identifying managers that can accomodate an authentic Catholic mandate.

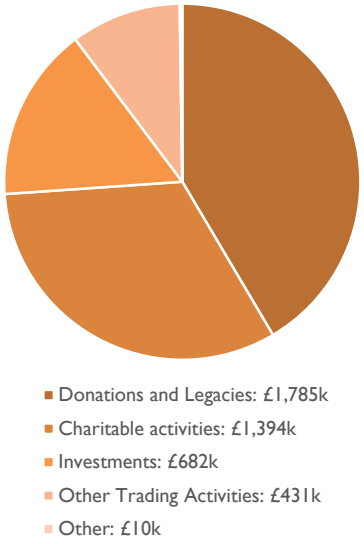
In July 2024 an additional £500,000 from cash reserves was invested in the portfolio.

In 2023, £1.5m was deposited with the BlackRock Institutional Cash Series. At 30 September 2024, £1,600k (2023: £1,519) was directly held in cash funds, comprising 7% of total investment assets (2023: 7%). Income from the cash funds over the year was £80,648 (2023: £200), giving a net return of 5%.

Further details of these investments may be found in note 6 to the Financial Statements.

Financial Review

FIGURE 1:
INCOME

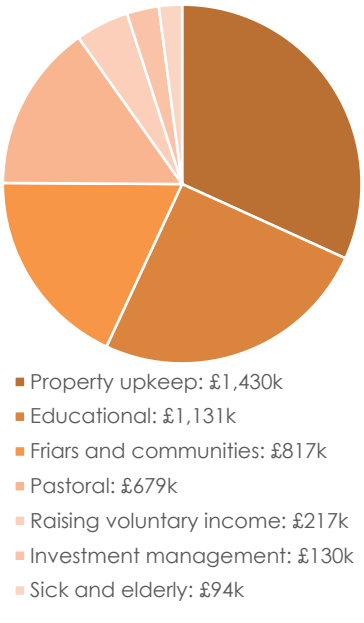


FUNDING SOURCES AND INCOME

Total income for the year ended 30 September 2024 was £4,302k (2023: £4,329k). Income fell by £27k in 2024. Income in 2023 included a one-off receipt of £325k in respect of dilapidations on an Oxford property. If this is excluded, income increased by £298k. A share of rental income from the new letting of a primary school formerly owned by the province provided an additional £103k. Blackfriars Hall had fewer students in 2024 than the previous year, so income from Educational services fell by £152k. This was compensated for by increases in university and prisons chaplaincy and pensions income. A brother retired from prison chaplaincy and received a lump sum as well as an occupational and state pension, whilst his chaplaincy role was taken on by another brother.

More details are given in note 1 to the financial statements; cf Figure 1.

FIGURE 2:
EXPENDITURE



EXPENDITURE

Expenditure totalled £4,497k for the year (2023: £4,440k), an increase of £57k, 1%. Upkeep of buildings remains a major item of expenditure. In 2024 projects included completion of the underfloor heating in the London parish, refurbishment of bedrooms in Edinburgh to accommodate an increase in the number of friars assigned there, and LED replacement lighting in Oxford. An increase in Educational expenditure of £151k is largely due to the activities of the Las Casas Institute, in particular the Climate Humanitarianism project. Expenditure on pastoral works increased by £67k. Edinburgh Priory utilised a major grant to deliver a conference on Dominican life and make a video of the life of St Dominic as well as works on the chapel grounds, chapel and priory. Utility bills were under pressure, particularly electricity which rose by £30k. This was compensated for by lower medical costs. The number of friars was stable and other costs of their upkeep remained stable, overall.

More details on expenditure are given in note 2 to the financial statements; cf Figure 2.

Funds & Investments

INVESTMENT POLICY AND OBJECTIVES

The Charity's investment policy is set by the Trustees, after regular consultation with the Province's Economic Council and professional investment managers. The principal objective is the maximisation of returns, seeking capital growth but also a steady and, where possible, growing level of income. The Charity Trustees are concerned to manage risk and therefore maintain and review periodically, with the assistance of the Province's Economic Council and professional advisors, a high degree of diversification in the Charity's investment assets, whether held directly or through a common investment fund.

In keeping with the objects of the Charity and the teachings of the Catholic Church, the following policy is stated in the Statute of the Province: 'Investments shall be avoided in companies a significant proportion of whose activities are contrary to the moral teachings of the Catholic Church, including but not limited to those relating to sanctity of life, care for the environment, and justice and peace.' This applies both to direct investments and to those through a common investment fund.

POLICY ON RESERVES

The laws of the Order oblige the Province to ensure that funds are available to support central administration, common projects (e.g. publishing, archives, libraries), the care of sick and elderly friars, and the formation of student friars. The Charity continues to maintain a high level of reserves in order to meet these obligations. The Charity Trustees also ensure that the level of reserves held is adequate to respond to unexpected financial needs, and to be able to commit to new apostolic projects when possible. Such a level of reserves is required because of the very large potential demands made by the ownership of the priories and churches necessary to meet the requirements of the Charity's objects, many of which are listed buildings. It might not always be possible to meet urgent needs out of branch funds. The high level of reserves also produce an income for central activities, allowing contributions from branch funds to central province funds to be kept down.

The Charity Trustees' view is that an amount equal to a minimum of four months' total expenditure (i.e. £1,499k over the reporting period) should be held as free reserves.

The Charity Trustees continue to aim for an increasing level of reserves designated for the purpose of providing for the needs of older or infirm friars and the formation of novices and student friars. The Charity Trustees continue to maintain designated funds as capital funds which generate sufficient income necessary for the Province to be able to satisfy its obligations under the laws of the Order and to meet annual expenditure requirements in these priority areas.

RESERVES AND DESIGNATED FUNDS

The balance sheet shows total unrestricted funds of £12,714k (2023: £11,675k). The Province General Purpose fund accounts for £6,913k (2023: £3,196k), of which £6,367k (2023: £2,840k) are free reserves (i.e. excluding fixed assets held for charity use). This level of free reserves represents sixteen months' total expenditure by the Charity.

Designated funds make up the remaining £5,801k (2023: £8,479k) of unrestricted funds, the principal of which are:

Sick Fund: This holds a balance of £4,577k (2023: £4,097k) to provide care for sick and elderly friars. Income from the pensions of the friars is allocated to this fund. Despite a number of friars in residential care over the past few years and works to provide accommodation in priories suitable for elderly and infirm friars, it has been possible to continue to build up the sick fund. While it is impossible to predict with accuracy the burden on this fund, the large number of older friars makes significant demands in the near future likely.

Student Training Fund: Until 30 September 2024 the Charity maintained a designated fund for the support of the friars' studies. At 30 September 2024 the Trustees closed the fund and transferred the balance into the Province General Purpose Fund, to ensure the level of free reserves met the target set by the reserves policy. (2023: £3,245k).

Trustees' Responsibilities

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including FRS 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) regulations.

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales and Scotland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

a. select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

b. observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

c. make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

d. state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

e. prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, the provisions of the trust deed, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the provisions of the Book of Constitutions and Ordinations of the Friars of the Order of Preachers. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Declaration

DECLARATION

The officers of the Trustee Corporation, The Dominican Council, declare that to the best of their knowledge the annual accounts of the English Province of the Order of Preachers have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the regulations and requirements of the province Trust Deed, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the provisions of the Book of Constitutions and Ordinations of the Friars of the Order of Preachers.

The officers of the Trustee Corporation who were in office on the date of approval of these financial statements have confirmed that, as far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the auditor is unaware. Each of the officers of the Trustee Corporation has confirmed that they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as an officer of the Trustee Corporation in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to the auditor.

BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEE



Fr David Goodill OP
Secretary to the Dominican Council

16 May 2025

Auditor's Report

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE ORDER OF PREACHERS

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of the English Province of the Order of Preachers ('the charity') for the year ended 30 September 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 30 September 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 and The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

BASIS FOR OPINION

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

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

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

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

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

OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, including the trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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 course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

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

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

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have been appointed as auditor under Section 144 Charities Act 2011 and Section 44(1)(c) Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with trustees and other management, and from our knowledge and experience;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charity.
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence where applicable; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

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

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations; and

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

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

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

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims;
- reviewing relevant correspondence.

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

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

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the 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.

Gravita Audit Oxford LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the 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.

Gravita Audit Oxford LLP

Gravita Audit Oxford LLP, Statutory Auditor
First Floor, Park Central
40–41 Park End Street
Oxford OX1 1JD

6 June 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 30 September 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
INCOME FROM:							
Donations and Legacies		26,321	1,759,809	1,786,130	83,502	1,628,676	1,712,178
Other Trading Activities		99,328	331,526	430,854	135,866	73,029	208,895
Investment Income		385,809	296,069	681,878	656,954	273,164	930,118
Charitable Activities		207,027	1,187,014	1,394,041	173,580	1,284,839	1,458,419
Other		-	9,556	9,556	4,274	14,788	19,062
TOTAL INCOME	1	718,485	3,583,974	4,302,459	1,054,176	3,274,496	4,328,672
EXPENDITURE ON:							
Raising funds							
Costs of raising voluntary income		209,465	7,307	216,772	110,295	4,565	114,860
Investment management costs		129,882	-	129,882	117,175	-	117,175
Charitable Activities		583,416	3,566,993	4,150,409	708,053	3,500,377	4,208,430
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2	922,763	3,574,300	4,497,063	935,523	3,504,942	4,440,465
GAINS /(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS	6	969,097	917,469	1,886,566	54,414	(138,986)	(84,572)
Net income/(expenditure)		764,819	927,143	1,691,962	173,067	(369,432)	(196,365)
TRANSFERS							
Transfers between funds	11	273,982	(273,982)	-	229,682	(229,682)	-
Net movement in funds		1,038,801	653,161	1,691,962	402,749	(599,114)	(196,365)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS							
Total funds brought forward 1 October 2023		11,675,315	18,914,926	30,590,241	11,272,566	19,514,040	30,786,606
Total funds carried forward 30 September 2024	12	12,714,116	19,568,087	32,282,203	11,675,315	18,914,926	30,590,241

BALANCE SHEET

at 30 September 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	5	6,739,826	7,003,696
Investments	6	23,139,111	20,752,495
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS		29,878,937	27,756,191
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	7	1,460,636	1,592,736
Cash at bank and in hand		1,647,948	1,802,357
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		3,108,584	3,395,093
LIABILITIES			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(700,657)	(545,869)
Net Current Assets		2,407,927	2,849,224
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		32,286,864	30,605,415
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	14	(4,661)	(15,174)
NET ASSETS		32,282,203	30,590,241
FUNDS			
Restricted funds			
Branch funds		14,162,586	13,872,048
Province restricted funds		5,405,501	5,042,878
Total restricted funds		19,568,087	18,914,926
Unrestricted funds			
Province general purpose		6,913,449	3,195,643
Province designated		5,800,667	8,479,672
Total unrestricted funds		12,714,116	11,675,315
TOTAL FUNDS	12	32,282,203	30,590,241

The financial statements on pages 54 to 72 were approved by the Trustee, authorised for issue on 16 May 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

N M Crane

David Goodill

} Directors of Trustee Corporation

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

for the year ended 30 September 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net movement in funds	1,691,962	(196,365)
Depreciation charges	655,446	646,774
(Gains)/Losses on investments	(1,886,566)	84,572
(Profit) on disposal of fixed assets	(6,500)	(194)
Interest received	(681,878)	(930,118)
Decrease in debtors	132,100	730,718
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	160,471	(754,310)
NET CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	64,985	(418,923)
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Interest received	681,878	930,118
Purchase of property and equipment	(397,260)	(169,713)
Proceeds from disposal of property and equipment	6,500	194
Additional cash invested	(500,000)	(1,500,010)
Purchase of investments	(1,153,035)	(1,939,214)
Proceeds from sale of investments	1,430,422	1,394,861
Change in cash in investment portfolios	(277,386)	544,351
NET CASH FROM/(USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(208,881)	(739,411)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Payment of finance lease liabilities	(10,513)	(8,870)
NET CASH USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES	(10,513)	(8,870)
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE YEAR	(154,409)	(1,167,207)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	1,802,357	2,969,561
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	1,647,948	1,802,357
Cash and cash equivalents are comprised of:		
Cash at bank and in hand	1,647,948	1,802,357
	1,647,948	1,802,357

ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At start of year £	Cash flows £	At end of year £
Cash	1,802,357	(154,409)	1,647,948
Finance lease obligations	(22,655)	10,513	(12,142)
	1,779,702	143,896	1,635,806

Accounting Policies

BASIS OF PREPARATION

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) effective 1 January 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing these accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (the Charities SORP (FRS 102) effective 1 January 2019) rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005, which has since been withdrawn. The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

ASSESSMENT OF GOING CONCERN

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future, being a period of at least 12 months from the date that these financial statements have been signed. In arriving at this conclusion, the charity has prepared a detailed budget and cash flow forecast to end of September 2025. The Trustees consider that the charity has sufficient unrestricted reserves, in the form of cash and a liquid investment portfolio, that could be drawn upon, should the charity be required to do so in order to meet its costs for the foreseeable future, being a period of at least 12 months from the date that these financial statements have been signed. On this basis, the Trustees consider that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going-concern basis.

FIXED ASSETS

Functional property is capitalised at cost except in the case of historic property for which no cost information is available. Such property has been capitalised using the derived cost method based on insurance replacement value and retail price index. The year the property was built is used for this purpose and as such enhanced expenditure is also incorporated into cost.

Tangible fixed assets are being depreciated over their useful economic lives. The following rates are used:

Historic Property: over expected useful lives between 10 and 371 years
Other Freehold Property: over expected useful lives between 10 and 50 years
Motor Vehicles: over 4 years on a straight-line basis
Fixtures and Fittings: over 4 years on a straight-line basis. **Leases**: over 7 years
Assets in course of construction: not depreciated.

Assets are reviewed for impairment when evidence of such impairment arises. Expenditure on tangible items is not capitalised where it is less than £2,500 or where the view is taken that it is incapable of providing any future economic benefit to the Charity.

WORKS OF ART AND HISTORIC TREASURES

Individual works of art, historic treasures and plate are not capitalised as a valuation is not considered practical. Such items as are in the possession of the Charity were created for use in religious worship or devotion and

continue to be used for these purposes. The Charity maintains stewardship by keeping a full inventory and has no intention of disposing of any of the works of art, historic treasures and plate so long as this use continues.

INVESTMENTS

All investments are valued at their market value at the balance sheet date. It is considered that market value best represents a true and fair view of the value of these assets to the Charity. Gains and losses on disposal of the investments are treated as realised. Gains and losses on the revaluation of investments are treated as unrealised. Both are recorded in the Statement of Financial Activities. Investment management fees are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when incurred.

FOREIGN CURRENCIES

Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate of ruling at the date of transaction. All differences are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

LIABILITIES

Liabilities are recorded in the financial statements when the Trustees have made a commitment to acquire goods or services.

DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

Donations and legacies are accounted for in accordance with the requirements of the SORP (being entitlement, probability and measurement). Legacies are considered receivable once the value of the legacy has been determined and probate has been granted. Legacies received by friars of the Province, who have signed Deeds of Disponor in favour of The Dominican Council, are classified as legacy income. Donated assets and services are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when a reliable estimate of the value to the charity can be readily obtained.

GRANTS RECEIVABLE

Grants receivable are accounted for in accordance with the terms of the grant, and are recognised when the conditions for receipt have been complied with.

PENSIONS RECEIVABLE

Pension income for professed members of the Order is accounted for when it is receivable.

ACTIVITIES FOR RAISING FUNDS

Fundraising, publications and other similar income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the relevant amount of income becomes receivable or the item has been sold. Property rental income is accounted for when it is receivable in accordance with the terms of the relevant agreements.

INVESTMENT INCOME

Investment income is accounted for when notified by the Charity's investment portfolio manager. Deposit interest is accounted for on a receivable basis. Interest received on cash held with investment managers is accounted for as investment income.

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

The costs of charitable activities are accounted for when they become payable. They include apportioned support costs.

SUPPORT AND GOVERNANCE COSTS

Within this heading are incorporated management and administration costs, and any other costs not directly constitutive of charitable activity, generation of funds or governance. Where support costs are attributable to a particular charitable activity, they are allocated to that activity. General support costs are apportioned on the basis of the direct costs of each activity.

NATIONAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FRIARS

The Province pays voluntary (class 3) national insurance contributions for friars when these will count towards the provision of State Pension. These costs are recognised at the end of the tax year in which HM Revenue and Customs issues notice of a gap in National Insurance Contributions.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees. The amount charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in respect of pension costs is the contributions payable in the year.

TAXATION

The English Province of the Order of Preachers is a registered charity and as such its income and gains falling within Sections 518 to 564 of the Income Taxes Act 2007 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 are exempt from income tax and capital gains tax to the extent that they are applied to charitable objectives.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Restricted funds can only be applied for a particular purpose. Most restricted funds of the charity are 'branch funds', restricted to use for the particular purposes of a branch of the charity (a priory, a parish or Blackfriars Hall) while that branch continues in existence. Some branch funds have more specific designations; others have further restrictions that would have to be respected even in the event of a branch ceasing to operate.

There are also central restricted funds, the principal of which are:

- Training Funds – to support training of student friars of the Order;
- Historic Property Fund – comprising the Historic Property Fixed Assets (see 'Fixed Assets' above);
- Mission Funds – to support various missions of the Order.

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

The unrestricted funds of the Charity comprise general purpose funds and designated funds. General purpose funds are retained to cover future direct charitable costs, general support costs, and investment management costs.

Designated funds are those parts of the Charity's unrestricted funds designated by the Trustees to be used for particular purposes in the future. The Trustees have the power to reallocate such funds. The principal designated funds are:

- Study Funds – representing amounts designated for expenditure on students' study costs.
- Sick Funds – representing amounts designated for expenditure on the care of sick and elderly friars.

CONNECTED CHARITY

The Hoper Dixon Trust is considered to be a connected charity because the Dominican Council is one of the Trustees. The Trust's accounts are not consolidated within those of the English Province of the Order of Preachers because in the opinion of the officers of the Dominican Council the Order does not have control of the Trust. The Trust's Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet are given in notes 17 and 18 respectively.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Charity only has financial instruments and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

LEASES

Leases are classified as finance leases where the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the equipment from the lessor to the lessee.

As a lessee: equipment held under finance leases are recognised on the Balance Sheet at the commencement of the lease at its fair value measured at the lease's inception. The asset recognised is matched by a liability for the obligation to pay the lessor.

Finance charges are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

The charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. There are no estimates and assumptions that have a risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. ANALYSIS OF INCOME

ANALYSIS OF INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
INCOME						
Donations and Legacies						
Donations and gifts	20,321	1,110,345	1,130,666	81,492	1,014,973	1,096,465
Legacies	6,000	318,141	324,141	-	53,209	53,209
Grants received	-	331,323	331,323	2,010	560,494	562,504
Total Donations and Legacies Income	26,321	1,759,809	1,786,130	83,502	1,628,676	1,712,178
Other Trading Activities						
Fundraising, publications etc.	3,000	10,992	13,992	12,258	11,697	23,955
Property	96,328	320,534	416,862	123,608	61,332	184,940
Total Other Trading Activities	99,328	331,526	430,854	135,866	73,029	208,895
Income from listed investments	385,809	296,069	681,878	656,954	273,164	930,118
Charitable Activities						
Ministerial services	22,072	654,563	676,635	31,667	605,116	636,783
Educational services	-	501,649	501,649	-	653,797	653,797
Pensions received	184,955	30,802	215,757	141,913	25,926	167,839
Total Charitable Activities	207,027	1,187,014	1,394,041	173,580	1,284,839	1,458,419
Other Income	-	9,556	9,556	4,274	14,788	19,062
TOTAL INCOME	718,485	3,583,974	4,302,459	1,054,176	3,274,496	4,328,672

2. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS							
Costs of raising voluntary income		209,465	7,307	216,772	110,295	4,565	114,860
Investment management costs		129,882	-	129,882	117,175	-	117,175
Total costs of raising funds		339,347	7,307	346,654	227,470	4,565	232,035
EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	3						
Educational		42,126	1,088,674	1,130,800	112,071	868,000	980,071
Pastoral works and projects		209,896	468,652	678,548	135,473	476,268	611,741
Care for sick and elderly friars		69,661	24,374	94,035	99,855	21,861	121,716
Property upkeep		230,486	1,199,988	1,430,474	276,943	1,355,486	1,632,429
Support of the friars and communities		31,247	785,305	816,552	83,711	778,762	862,473
Total charitable activities		583,416	3,566,993	4,150,409	708,053	3,500,377	4,208,430
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		922,763	3,574,300	4,497,063	935,523	3,504,942	4,440,465

3. APPORTIONMENT OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Fund-raising £	Educat-ional £	Pastoral £	Sick & Elderly £	Property £	Friars & Comm-unities £	Total £
CENTRAL SUPPORT COSTS							
Friars	14,615	5,142	17,757	4,905	18,496	1,591	62,506
Staff	27,927	9,825	33,932	9,373	35,344	3,040	119,441
General administration	24,626	8,664	29,922	8,265	31,166	2,681	105,324
Governance costs							
Audit & accountancy fees	11,363	3,998	13,807	3,814	14,381	1,237	48,600
Legal fees	870	306	1,057	292	1,101	95	3,721
Other professional Fees	6,713	2,362	8,156	2,253	8,496	731	28,711
Total central support costs	86,114	30,297	104,631	28,902	108,984	9,375	368,303
BRANCH SUPPORT COSTS	816	209,102	20,489	-	-	67,217	297,624
TOTAL SUPPORT COSTS 2024	86,930	239,399	125,120	28,902	108,984	76,592	665,927
TOTAL SUPPORT COSTS 2023	-	402,576	62,447	9,245	123,994	135,211	733,473

Central support costs are apportioned to activities in proportion to directly incurred expenditure. Branch support costs are allocated to the principal activity of the branch incurring the cost. Included in Audit and accountancy fees are audit fees of £18,750 (2023: £18,750).

4. STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

	2024	2023
STAFF NUMBERS		
Average number of Employees	24	25
Average number of FTE Employees	14	15

The number of employees who earned £60,000 per annum or more (including taxable benefits but excluding employer's pension contributions) during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
£60,001 - £70,000	1	1
STAFF COSTS	£	£
Salaries/Wages	636,332	606,529
Employer's national insurance costs	52,964	48,563
Pension costs	83,786	80,827
Total Staff Costs	773,082	735,919

No remuneration is paid to the trustee corporation or its directors.

VOLUNTEER NUMBERS		
Total Lay Volunteers	70	54
Total Full Time Equivalent Lay Volunteers	5	4.8

Note: for the sake of clarity, friars are no longer included here as volunteers.

4. STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS (CONT.)

For the purposes of this report, employees are those who have contracts of employment. The figures do not include persons paid through payroll from time to time who have no contracted hours; typically, such persons provide teaching or other ad hoc services to Blackfriars Hall, and are either employees of other institutions or students doing small amounts of part-time work.

The charity considers its key management personnel is comprised of its Trustees and other members of the Provincial Council, all of whom are Friars. The total employment benefits, including employer pension cost of key management personnel, were £nil (2023: £nil). The total of expenses reimbursed to key management personnel was £nil (2023: £nil).

The principal roles of non-friar volunteers are answering the door and telephone at the priories in Oxford and Cambridge, and church cleaning, flower arranging and similar tasks in Leicester and London, along with singing in the church choirs. The average number of hours worked by these volunteers each week is 2.8.

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS USED FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES

	Inalienable Property £	Other Property £	Motor Vehicles £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Total £
ASSET COST					
Balance brought forward 1 October 2023	1,000,613	9,704,620	66,909	2,891,028	13,663,170
Additions	-	2,988	43,587	350,685	397,260
Disposals	-	-	(19,827)	(11,368)	(31,195)
Balance carried forward 30 September 2024	1,000,613	9,707,608	90,669	3,230,345	14,029,235
ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION					
Balance brought forward 1 October 2023	487,747	3,664,185	62,334	2,445,208	6,659,474
Disposals	-	-	(19,827)	(5,684)	(25,511)
Charge for year	4,539	286,321	14,723	349,863	655,446
Balance carried forward 30 September 2024	492,286	3,950,506	57,230	2,789,387	7,289,409
NET BOOK VALUE					
Brought forward 1 October 2023	512,866	6,040,435	4,575	445,820	7,003,696
Carried forward 30 September 2024	508,327	5,757,102	33,439	440,958	6,739,826

Historic property includes churches, places of worship and priories owned and occupied by the Order.

6. INVESTMENTS

INVESTMENTS

	30 September 2024		30 September 2023	
	Cost £	Market Value £	Cost £	Market Value £
Catholic Charities Growth & Income Fund*	8,330,247	11,757,622	8,330,247	10,830,568
Funds managed by Evelyn Partners**	7,033,325	9,781,478	6,533,325	8,402,564
BlackRock Institutional Cash Series	1,500,010	1,600,011	1,500,010	1,519,363
	16,863,582	23,139,111	16,363,582	20,752,495

	2024 £	2023 £
Market Value at 1 October	20,705,810	18,746,019
Capital added	500,000	1,500,010
Additions at Cost	1,153,085	1,939,214
Disposals Proceeds	(1,430,422)	(1,394,861)
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation	1,886,566	(84,572)
Market Value at 30 September	22,815,040	20,705,810
Cash held in investment fund	324,071	46,685
	23,139,111	20,752,495

* As of 30 September 2024, the composition of the Catholic Charities Growth & Income Fund was as follows:

UK Equities	7.6%
Global Equities	60.6%
Fixed Income	17.2%
Property	0.0%
Alternatives	7.7%
Cash	6.9%
Total	100.0%

** As of 30 September 2024, the composition of the Funds managed by Evelyn Partners was as follows:

UK Equities	17.2%
Global Equities	52.2%
Fixed Income	13.7%
Property	4.7%
Alternatives and Multi-Asset	8.9%
Cash	3.3%
Total	100.0%

7. DEBTORS

	2024 £	2023 £
DEBTORS		
Trade debtors	92,973	36,740
Prepayments and accrued income	1,367,546	1,554,120
Other	117	1,876
Total Debtors	1,460,636	1,592,736

8. CREDITORS

	2024	2023
CREDITORS	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	413,679	444,061
Taxation and social security	13,492	14,484
Accruals and deferred income	147,232	42,225
Other	126,254	45,099
Total Creditors	700,657	545,869
Deferred income (analysis)		
At 1 October	13,676	1,027,891
Amount released to income	(13,676)	(1,027,891)
Amount deferred in the year	41,364	13,676
At 30 September	41,364	13,676

Deferred income represents tuition fees invoiced in advance, unsaid Masses, and advance rent received.

9. TRANSACTIONS WITH TRUSTEES

The Trustees of the Charity are also members of the Order and as such have taken vows of poverty under which they renounce all personal right to income and capital. The Charity provides for the essential needs of all members of the Order within the Province.

10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Members of the Order arranged for grants totalling £13,684 (2023: £15,409) to be made from the Hoper Dixon Trust, a trust of which the Dominican Council is a Trustee. The beneficiaries of the Hoper Dixon Trust are the poor connected with or in the neighbourhood of any house or pastoral centre under the direction of Dominicans of the English Province of the Order of Preachers. The Hoper Dixon Trust's Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet are reproduced in notes 17 and 18 respectively.

As of 30 September 2024, the Hoper Dixon Trust owed the English Province of the Order of Preachers the sum of £2,362 (2023: £9,422) in respect of grants approved and payable.

Fr Simon Gaine OP is Director of the Thomistic Institute at the Angelicum, Rome. The Institute made a payment to the Charity of £779 (2023: £2,150) in respect of teaching provided by brothers of the Province. Payments to the Institute totalled £1,533 (2023: £544) for diploma certificates.

11. FUNDS 2024

	Balance at 1 October 2023	Income	Expenditure	Gains/ (Losses)	Transfers	Balance at 30 September 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
RESTRICTED						
Branch Funds						
Priory & Parish operating funds	1,836,698	2,309,890	(1,557,534)	110,219	(618,423)	2,080,850
Priory & Parish Fabric & special project funds	8,887,917	225,611	(657,526)	525,332	446,221	9,427,555
Studium	1,319,978	169,052	(480,076)	12,117	(21,215)	999,856
Blackfriars Hall	1,485,114	550,843	(570,914)	(135,200)	31,283	1,361,126
Las Casas Institute	332,621	88,242	(127,809)	0	(3,277)	289,777
Aquinas Institute	9,720	6,929	(12,947)	0	(280)	3,422
	13,872,048	3,350,567	(3,406,806)	512,468	(165,691)	14,162,586
Province Funds						
Caribbean Mission	253,276	71,593	(31,571)	26,024	(6,956)	312,366
Novice & Student training funds	4,069,899	106,175	(87,954)	376,668	(103,787)	4,361,001
Inalienable property	512,865	-	(4,539)	-	-	508,326
Other funds	206,838	55,639	(43,430)	2,309	2,452	223,808
Total Restricted Funds	5,042,878	233,407	(167,494)	405,001	(108,291)	5,405,501
	18,914,926	3,583,974	(3,574,300)	917,469	(273,982)	19,568,087
DESIGNATED						
Training & Study funds	3,244,640	46,822	589	266,998	(3,559,049)	-
Sick & Elderly funds	4,096,661	249,630	(98,515)	329,368	-	4,577,144
Development	167,960	8,742	(123,696)	15,073	68,679	136,758
Sutcliffe	186,442	-	-	(45,249)	(141,193)	-
Glasgow	345,012	10,000	(9,500)	33,822	-	379,334
Other	438,957	2,279	(11,054)	(18,056)	295,305	707,431
Total Designated Funds	8,479,672	317,473	(242,176)	581,956	(3,336,258)	5,800,667
GENERAL						
Province Capital	2,753,861	129,882	(129,882)	387,141	3,559,696	6,700,698
Province Revenue	441,782	271,130	(550,705)	-	50,544	212,751
Total General Funds	3,195,643	401,012	(680,587)	387,141	3,610,240	6,913,449
Total Unrestricted Funds	11,675,315	718,485	(922,763)	969,097	273,982	12,714,116
Total Funds	30,590,241	4,302,459	(4,497,063)	1,886,566	-	32,282,203

The transfers represent the obligations of the Province to support the friars and activities of Blackfriars Hall and the individual priories, and also the obligations of the Hall and priories to support the central costs of the Province. Definitions of the Funds named here can be found on p.68.

FUNDS 2023

	Balance at 1 October 2022	Income	Expenditure	Gains/ (Losses)	Transfers	Balance at 30 September 2023
RESTRICTED	£	£	£	£	£	£
Branch Funds						
Priory & Parish operating funds	1,883,051	1,859,016	(1,533,359)	(13,162)	(358,848)	1,836,698
Priory & Parish Fabric & special project funds	9,299,217	114,662	(655,034)	(107,920)	236,992	8,887,917
Blackfriars Hall	1,334,123	697,521	(592,623)	11,965	34,128	1,485,114
Studium	1,648,762	193,817	(498,823)	(2,321)	(21,457)	1,319,978
Las Casas Institute	151,343	292,142	(93,690)	-	(17,174)	332,621
Aquinas Institute	24,838	1,182	(16,206)	-	(94)	9,720
	14,341,334	3,158,340	(3,389,735)	(111,438)	(126,453)	13,872,048
Province Funds						
Caribbean Mission	277,411	8,576	(27,174)	(5,220)	(317)	253,276
Novice & Student training funds	4,172,809	105,109	(83,494)	(21,860)	(102,665)	4,069,899
Inalienable property	517,404	-	(4,539)	-	-	512,865
Other funds	205,082	2,471	-	(468)	(247)	206,838
	5,172,706	116,156	(115,207)	(27,548)	(103,229)	5,042,878
Total Restricted Funds	19,514,040	3,274,496	(3,504,942)	(138,986)	(229,682)	18,914,926
DESIGNATED						
Training & Study funds	3,143,830	58,638	(11,048)	53,220	-	3,244,640
Sick & Elderly funds	3,946,999	220,648	(137,049)	66,063	-	4,096,661
Development	208,698	3,487	(120,726)	(4,357)	80,858	167,960
Sutcliffe	190,072	-	-	(3,630)	-	186,442
Glasgow	364,234	10,000	(22,500)	(6,722)	-	345,012
Other	442,396	-	(7,443)	4,004	-	438,957
Total Designated Funds	8,296,229	292,773	(298,766)	108,578	80,858	8,479,672
GENERAL						
Province Capital	2,808,022	117,175	(117,175)	(54,161)	-	2,753,861
Province Revenue	168,315	644,228	(519,582)	(3)	148,824	441,782
Total General Funds	2,976,337	761,403	(636,757)	(54,164)	148,824	3,195,643
Total Unrestricted Funds	11,272,566	1,054,176	(935,523)	54,414	229,682	11,675,315
Total Funds	30,786,606	4,328,672	(4,440,465)	(84,572)	-	30,590,241

Definitions of the Funds named here can be found on p.68.

11. (CONT.) FUNDS DEFINITIONS

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Priory & Parish operating funds: each priory and parish has a General fund from which the costs of day-to-day operations are met, generated from donations and income earned by the friars which they assign to their house.

Priory & Parish Fabric & special project funds: priory & parish fixed assets, fabric maintenance and renewal.

Blackfriars Hall: funds generated by the Hall for its operations.

Studium: funds held by the Studium for its operations, including the unspent element of a grant of £2m by the Society of Jesus made in 2021 to support the training of candidates for the priesthood.

Las Casas Institute: for the projects of the Las Casas Institute.

Aquinas Institute: for the projects of the Aquinas Institute.

Caribbean Mission: the Province actively fundraises for its brethren in Jamaica and Grenada.

Novice & Student training funds: The English Dominican Noviciate Guild (EDNG) monies for the formation and training of novices and student brothers.

Inalienable Property: the Province's priory and church buildings.

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Training & Study funds: to supplement restricted EDNG funds.

Sick & Elderly funds: for the care of sick and elderly brothers.

Development: to support the development of fundraising capacity across the Province.

Sutcliffe: for the purposes of absorbing unexpected, unbudgeted expenditure.

Glasgow: Funds transferred from Glasgow priory on its closure, used for the upkeep of a brother who remained in Glasgow.

ALLOCATION OF ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS 2024	Province General Purpose £	Province Designated £	Total Unrestricted Funds £	Total Branch Funds £	Total Province Restricted £	Total Restricted Funds £	2024 £
Investments	5,592,868	5,034,982	10,627,850	8,161,048	4,350,213	12,511,261	23,139,111
Property	544,407	758,274	1,302,681	3,921,206	1,041,542	4,962,748	6,265,429
Other fixed assets	1,722	7,411	9,133	465,264	-	465,264	474,397
Current assets	1,272,440	-	1,272,440	1,822,398	13,746	1,836,144	3,108,584
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	(497,988)	-	(497,988)	(202,669)	-	(202,669)	(700,657)
Creditors: amounts falling due in more than one year	-	-	-	(4,661)	-	(4,661)	(4,661)
Net Assets	6,913,449	5,800,667	12,714,116	14,162,586	5,405,501	19,568,087	32,282,203

Balances of the principal Province funds are given in note 11.

ALLOCATION OF ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS 2023	Province General Purpose £	Province Designated £	Total Unrestricted Funds £	Total Branch Funds £	Total Province Restricted £	Total Restricted Funds £	2023 £
Investments	2,288,103	7,443,322	9,731,425	7,060,547	3,960,523	11,021,070	20,752,495
Property	324,017	1,054,045	1,378,062	4,101,526	1,073,713	5,175,239	6,553,301
Other fixed assets	31,724	(22,348)	9,376	441,019	-	441,019	450,395
Current assets	1,017,840	-	1,017,840	2,368,190	9,063	2,377,253	3,395,093
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	(466,041)	4,653	(461,388)	(84,060)	(421)	(84,481)	(545,869)
Creditors: amounts falling due in more than one year	-	-	-	(15,174)	-	(15,174)	(15,174)
Net Assets	3,195,643	8,479,672	11,675,315	13,872,048	5,042,878	18,914,926	30,590,241

13. ACTIVITIES IN SCOTLAND

	2024 £	2023 £
Income from activities in Scotland	400,469	501,658
Expenditure on activities in Scotland	(527,797)	(652,051)
Net Income/(Expenditure) relating to activities in Scotland	(127,328)	(150,393)

14. OPERATING & FINANCE LEASE COMMITMENTS

OPERATING LEASES

The charity's future minimum payments receivable under non-cancellable operating leases at the reporting date are as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Within one year	34,000	34,000
In 2–5 years	136,000	136,000
After more than 5 years	1,458,500	1,492,500
	1,628,500	1,662,500

Lease payments recognised as 'other operating income' in the period were £28,958 (2023: £55,126).

The charity leases a flat to students in Edinburgh on leases of no more than 12 months. These arrangements do not result in the recognition of investment properties and are treated as operating leases.

At the reporting date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payment under noncancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Within one year	6,840	7,964
In 2 - 5 years	8,170	15,010
	15,010	22,974

FINANCE LEASES

At the reporting date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payment under noncancellable finance leases, which fall due as follows:

Equipment:	2024 £	2023 £
Within one year	12,312	12,312
In 2–5 years	4,860	17,172
	17,172	29,484
Future finance charges	(1,998)	(5,440)
Net carrying amount of obligations under finance leases	15,174	24,044

The charity had no commitments under non-cancellable finance leases at year end (2023: £Nil).

The finance leases are for telephone equipment which is rented for periods of up to 7 years. These are recognised as tangible fixed assets (see note 5). The lease agreements are for fixed lease payments and include an option to renew at the end of the term.

15. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

There were no capital commitments at 30 September 2024 (2023: £156,000).

16. HOPER DIXON TRUST STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds			
	Income Fund £	Designated Capital Fund £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
INCOME				
Investment income:				
Income from investments	16,597	-	16,597	16,331
Income from bank deposits	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME	16,597	-	16,597	16,331
EXPENDITURE				
Expenditure on charitable activities:				
Grants payable	13,684	-	13,684	15,409
Support costs for grants payable	22	-	22	7
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	13,706	-	13,706	15,416
NET GAINS/LOSSES ON INVESTMENT ASSETS	-	51,855	51,855	9,002
Net income/expenditure and movement in funds	2,891	51,855	54,746	9,917
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Fund balances brought forward at 1 October	33,891	562,211	596,102	586,185
Fund balances carried forward at 30 September	36,782	614,066	650,848	596,102

17. HOPER DIXON TRUST BALANCE SHEET

	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS		
Investments	614,066	562,211
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank balances	39,144	43,333
LIABILITIES		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(2,362)	(9,442)
Net current assets	36,782	33,891
NET ASSETS	650,848	596,102
FUNDS		
Unrestricted Funds		
Income Fund	36,782	33,891
Capital Fund	614,066	562,211
TOTAL FUNDS	650,848	596,102

The Dominican Friars

www.english.op.org






CONTACT DETAILS

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THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE ORDER OF PREACHERS

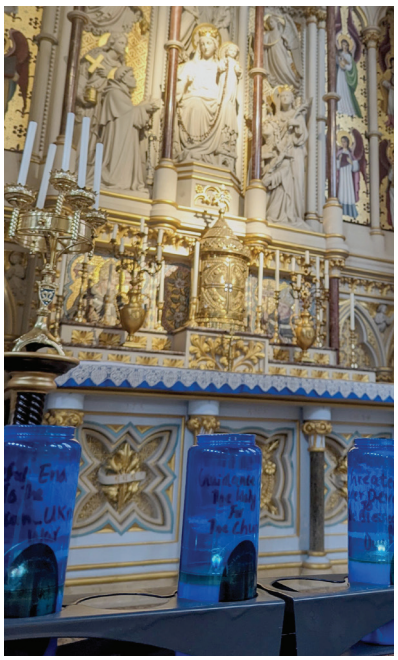
England & Wales - Charity number 231192

Accounts

THE DOMINICAN FRIARS

ANNUAL REPORT 2023









The English Province of the Order of Preachers.
Registered charity 231192 (England and Wales) and SC039062 (Scotland)

The Dominican Friars

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

FOR THE PERIOD 1ST OCT 2022 – 30TH SEPT 2023

The English Province of the Order of Preachers.
Registered charity 231192 (England and Wales) and SC039062 (Scotland)

The Dominican Friars in Britain



KEY FACTS

Houses: 4 in England,
1 in Scotland
(+ 2 canonically associated in Caribbean)

Total English-Province Friars: 75

- 54 in UK
- 7 in Caribbean
- 4 assig. to other provinces
- 5 working overseas
- 5 on leave / in care

Bishops: 1

Priests: 64
(of which 7 in Caribbean)

Cooperator Brothers: 2

Novices / Student Bros.: 7
(+2 assigned from other provs.)

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THE DOMINICAN FRIARS (est. 1216) are an international Catholic religious order with a specialisation in preaching, teaching and pastoral work. Officially titled the 'Order of Preachers', they are known as 'Dominicans' after their founder, St Dominic.

THE 'PROVINCE OF ENGLAND'

The friars first established themselves in Britain in 1221, as the 'Province of England'. The Province (one of around 40) endures to this day. It is legally constituted as a single charity 'The English Province of the Order of Preachers', with responsibility for the friars' work in England, Wales and Scotland.

PRIORIES

The Province is made up of a number of priories, which are local communities of friars with a large degree of self-government. Currently these are in Oxford, London, Cambridge, Leicester, and Edinburgh. The Dominican houses in Grenada and Jamaica in the West Indies are also canonically dependent on this Province, and supported by grants, though not part of this charity.

OBJECT OF THE CHARITY

The Province Trust Deed lists ten charitable purposes, which for the purpose of registration as a Charity are summarised as 'the promotion of education and the Roman Catholic religion and the establishment and maintenance of schools, churches and priories for these purposes and the upkeep of members of the Order of Preachers'.

OUR MISSION: THE AIMS OF THE CHARITY

The ultimate aim and purpose of the Catholic Church and therefore of the Order of Preachers is 'the salvation of souls' (cf. *CIC* 1752; *LCO* 1 §2). In furtherance of this goal, the Order of Preachers and the English Province aim to provide effective preaching, teaching and pastoral care flowing from fraternal religious communities of prayer and study. Through the work of the friars we seek to awaken and deepen faith, hope and charity, to the benefit of those to whom we minister, to their families and to the wider community.

More detailed information can be found on pp. 37ff.

Message from the Prior Provincial



Among my first acts as Prior Provincial, following my election at the Chapter in April 2024, has been to review this annual report. It is clear from reading it that this Province continues to thrive; and has the unity and energy to face the challenges of the coming years. I would like to thank my brethren for their great commitment to our common mission.

For the first time in this annual report, we include an update from our brothers in Jamaica and Grenada. While their activities are not part of our activities as a UK charity, they nonetheless are part of the Order's Province of England, and the UK charity raises funds and provides brothers from the UK to support their valuable work advancing the gospel in the Caribbean.

I must of course express our great gratitude for the support that we receive every day from the many lay people who pray with us and for us, who volunteer their time and their advice, and who sustain us with donations, grants and legacies. I very much look forward to speaking with each of you during my term of office.

Very Rev Nicholas Paul Crowe OP,
Prior Provincial, Province of England

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Objectives & Strategies for the Year 2022–23

(A) RECRUITMENT & TRAINING To train priests and religious for pastoral and educational ministry, and to maintain the success of the full-time Director and Promoter of Vocations in drawing larger numbers of young men to enter the Province.	• Through pastoral engagement and work with young people, promote the Dominican vocation as a worthy and fulfilling life in the service of God and his people; • Through prudent investment and fundraising, provide funds to help support student friars and the communities in which they live; • Plan for the future needs of the Province's centre of studies ('Studium') by identifying and training future teachers.
(B) MINISTRY To continue effective and responsive ministry in the priories and parishes of the Province.	• Continue the training and ordination to the clerical state of friars who will work in the Province's priories and parishes; • Ensure the friars are present in the locations where they are best able to minister; • Secure celebration of the liturgy and the sacraments in a way that responds to the pastoral needs of each place;
(C) BLACKFRIARS HALL To maintain and support the educational and research activities of Blackfriars Hall and particularly to develop the research projects of the Las Casas and Aquinas Institutes, and foster links with the other private halls of the University.	• Sustain the number of postgraduate students, especially in theology and philosophy, as permitted by the University; • Continue to encourage visiting research scholars; • Continue collaboration with the Anscombe Bioethics Centre (registered charity no. 274327); • Continue to enhance the programmes of the Las Casas and Aquinas Institutes, seeking new sources of funding and collaborating with similar institutions elsewhere.
(D) BLACKFRIARS STUDIUM Strengthen the Province's centre of studies in Oxford, ensuring proper levels of funding and administrative support.	• Foster links with other religious congregations to open up a wider pool of prospective students and teachers; • Continue to raise funds, so that an adequate and sustainable system of payment for lecturers can be provided.

Of these objectives (a), (b), (e) and (g) applied to Scotland as well as to England and Wales; (c), (d) and (f) were specific to England and Wales, although not to the exclusion of participation by friars assigned to Scottish priories.

Objectives & Strategies for the Year 2022–23

(E) BUILDINGS To maintain the buildings of the Province so that they are fitting places for the religious life, including for older and sick members of the Order, and for the pastoral and educational apostolate.	• Ensure that regular surveys of the buildings are conducted; • Perform the maintenance works identified by surveys, as prioritised; • Identify, where possible, external sources of funding for maintaining buildings; • Carry out plans for renovation of insulation and heating for the churches, chapels and priories of the Province.
(F) LONDON AND LEICESTER Support and develop the mission of the Rosary Shrine in London and Holy Cross Priory in Leicester to their local and extended surrounding areas.	• Develop forward-looking pastoral plans for ministry and outreach; • Refine development plans and take forward fundraising for improving the facilities that support these missions; • Identify fundraising sources for urgent upgrading of heating provision in the churches.
(G) INFLATION AND COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS Take extra care with the stewardship of resources and the controlling of expenditure.	• Fundraise with sensitivity to the financial pressures on supporters. • Prioritise pastoral care.

The Year in Review: Key Facts

THRIVING PARISH IN LEICESTER [p.22]



DOMINICAN FAMILY CONFERENCE IN SCOTLAND [p.17]



VOCATIONS CONTINUE [p.20]

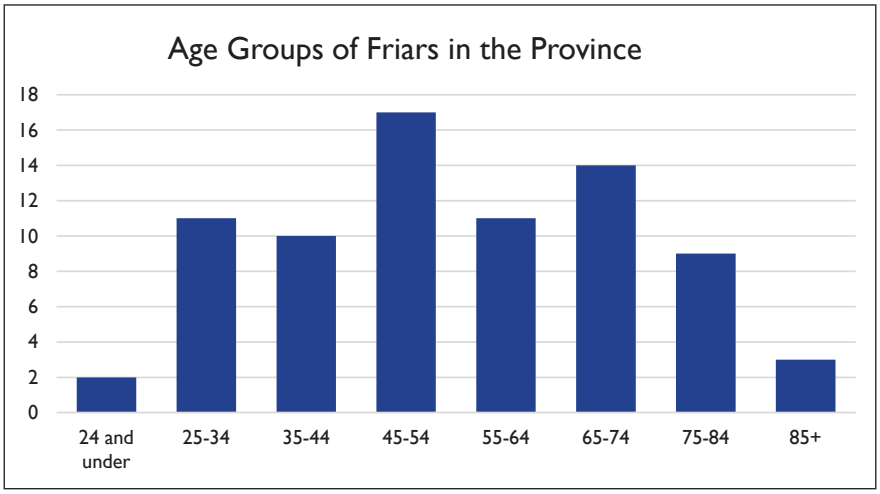


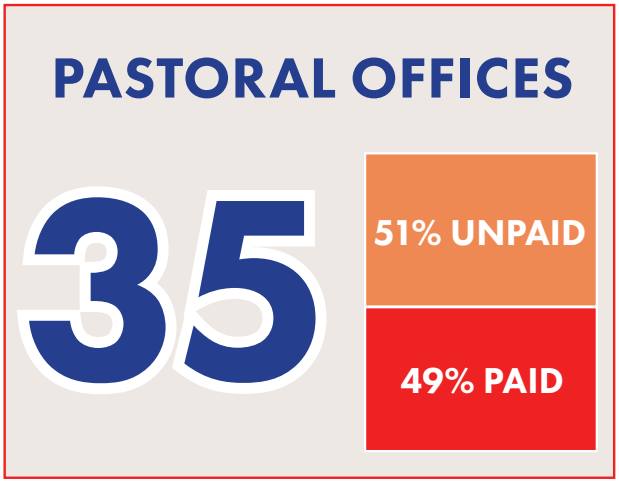
SUPPORTING THE MISSION IN THE CARIBBEAN [p.24]





Figures from the 2023 *Catalogus* of the Province (note: categories have changed from those used in previous reports). Excludes those serving as bishops (1), and those from other provinces resident in the UK (2).

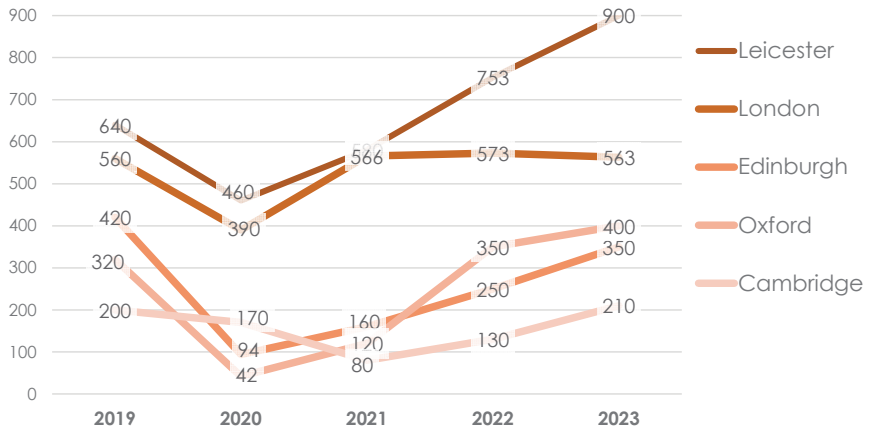




Note: this excludes those currently on leave. Pastoral offices include parish priests, assistant priests, chaplains etc. (35 in previous year). Some are part-time: the count is 14 (16) if considered as 'full-time equivalents'. Some individuals hold more than one office. Paid work means the Charity receives income as a result of this work (86% paid in previous year).

The Year in Review: Pastoral Figures

ESTIMATED TYPICAL SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE AT DOMINICAN PRIORIES IN THE UK*



*Sunday Mass attendance figures are included merely to provide a rough idea of the scale of pastoral work in each priory. These exclude the many other forms of pastoral ministry undertaken (*see below*) and the many and varied other ministries that happen within this Province (*see the reports in* pp.9–33). They are of course susceptible to vagaries of local populations and of measurement.

Note that the differences in trends during and after 2020 are caused partly by regional differences in public-health restrictions, and partly by the social profile of the local population and its willingness to return to in-person Mass attendance.

SACRAMENTAL STATISTICS

Baptisms	Infants: 61 (2022: 58) Adults/older children: 10 (6) TOTAL: 71 (64)
Receptions of Baptised Christians into the Catholic Church	10 (5)
Confirmations	23 (25)
First Communions	Children: 17 (43) Adults: 8 (6) TOTAL: 25 (49)
Public Masses each week	Sundays: 23 (23) Weekdays: 51 (52) TOTAL: 74 (75)
Average Mass attendance	Sundays: 2,423 (2,056) Weekdays: 321 (203)
Sacrament of Penance (Confession)	17 hours scheduled per week (9) Average of 69 other individual confessions per week (52)
Marriages	16 (16)
Funerals	52 (51)
Hours of Pastoral Contact	230 (148)

The age-profile of the Province is such that at present there are fewer friars available to engage in full-time pastoral work, but more engaged in study and other forms of preparation for such work. Moreover, it is impossible to reduce the effectiveness of pastoral ministry to statistics; but the Charity Trustees consider that these figures indicate that the Province is continuing to provide in its parishes, priories and other apostolates the sacramental and pastoral resources that are a necessary prerequisite for effective and responsive ministry. A very considerable number of people benefit from this activity of the Charity.

Note: Statistics presented on this page exclude figures provided by those currently on leave or who minister outside the UK.

It is to be noted that 5 friars (4) who are not resident in priories carry out pastoral work in various other parishes and chaplaincies in England and Scotland.

Plans for Future Periods

The Charity Trustees view the following as particular objectives for the year to September 2024:

(A) RECRUITMENT & TRAINING

To train priests and religious for pastoral and educational ministry, and to maintain the success of the full-time Director and Promoter of Vocations in drawing larger numbers of young men to enter the Province.

(B) MINISTRY

To continue effective and responsive ministry in the priories and parishes of the Province.

(C) BLACKFRIARS HALL

To maintain and support the educational and research activities of Blackfriars Hall and particularly to develop the research projects of the Las Casas and Aquinas Institutes, and foster links with the other private halls of the University.

(D) BLACKFRIARS STUDIUM

To maintain and support the educational and research activities of Blackfriars Hall and particularly to:
develop the research projects of the Las Casas and Aquinas Institutes;
foster links with the other private halls of the University;
create a development plan for the future direction of the Hall, and a fundraising plan in support of this;
develop the ground floor of the Blackfriars Annexe to create a dining and events space combined with an income-generating public cafeteria.

(E) BUILDINGS

To maintain the buildings of the Province so that they are fitting places for the religious life, including for older and sick members of the Order, and for the pastoral and educational apostolate.

(F) LONDON AND LEICESTER

Support and develop the mission of the Rosary Shrine in London and Holy Cross Priory in Leicester to their local and extended surrounding areas; refine development plans and take forward fundraising for improving the facilities that support these missions.

(G) INFLATION AND COST OF LIVING CRISIS

Take extra care with the stewardship of resources and the controlling of expenditure. Fundraise with sensitivity to the financial pressures on supporters. Prioritise pastoral care.

Review of Activities



INTRODUCTION

The friars have continued their pastoral work in the parishes and chaplaincies both attached to the priories of the Province and elsewhere; and their educational apostolate which is undertaken alongside the pastoral work, and in a special way within Blackfriars, Oxford. As far as can be determined, in the course of the present reporting period friars and communities of the Province were involved in the concrete activities listed on the following pages. These reports are grouped by geographical location and followed by a Province-wide round-up of the wide range of educational activities undertaken.

Above: Fr Joseph Bailham led the Dominican Youth Ministry pilgrimage to northern Italy, in the footsteps of Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati.

Blackfriars: Priory of the Holy Spirit, Oxford



Oxford priory (known as 'Blackfriars') has as its principal work the formation of student Dominicans and other religious in our Studium (see p.11). The friars also undertake pastoral work, through the liturgy and preaching in their own church, with several flourishing youth groups; and in co-operation with local parishes, the **Defence Academy** at Shrivenham and the **Catholic Chaplaincy to Oxford University**; one friar also acts as chaplain at the **Oratory School**, near Reading. Blackfriars offers the most central open Catholic church in Oxford, with sung Divine Office and daily Mass.

The priory continued to offer its popular livestream of Masses, with grateful followers including the housebound and those from all around the world who appreciate our liturgy and preaching.
Fr Nicholas Crowe was elected Prior in February 2023. Thomas Thérèse Mannion was ordained to the priesthood and Bede Mullens to the diaconate.

Prior: Nicholas Crowe OP

21 resident friars, including

- 8 full-time students
- 2 friars of other Provinces engaged in full-time study.

www.blackfriars.org.uk



The Studium Generale at Blackfriars

Blackfriars Studium is a unique centre for ministerial training, being the only specialist centre in Britain providing intellectual formation for the next generation of members of religious orders.

The Studium offers a first cycle of studies leading to an STB (Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology) accredited by the Angelicum (Pontifical University of St Thomas, Rome).

The Studium shares premises, resources, and certain staff with Blackfriars Hall (see p.12) but is institutionally separate.

For the academic year 2022/23 we had 21 students registered for the Studium. The Studium had 9 Dominican students enrolled in the Studium, including a friar from the Northern Italian Province. The Studium also had in the student body: Benedictines, Carmelites (Calced and Discalced), Franciscans (Conventual and Capuchin) and one student for the Melkite Catholic Church. The teaching is largely provided by Dominican friars as well as other religious and lay people.

12 Dominican friars taught on the Studium's STB programme 2022/23. Thanks to the generous support of benefactors, the Studium also employs four lay teachers: three Studium lectors (one in Philosophy and two in Theology) and a senior postholder joint with Campion Hall, the Jesuit permanent private hall of the University of Oxford. The



title of this latter post is: 'Frederick Copleston Lecturer and Senior Research Fellow in the Catholic Tradition' – the senior research fellowship status is with Campion Hall and the lectureship status with the Studium. These are: Dr Jan Bentz (Philosophy), Dr Victoria De Haan (Theology), Dr Joshua Madden (Theology), and Dr Daniel De Haan (Copleston post).

Regent: John O'Connor OP
Vice-Regent: Bruno Clifton OP

www.blackfriars.org.uk



Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford



Blackfriars Hall is one of the Catholic Permanent Private Halls (PPHs) in **Oxford University**. It welcomes postgraduate students taking degrees in a range of humanities subjects, and hosts a small number of visiting students and academics. It shares facilities, staff and resources with **Blackfriars Studium** (*see p.11*) but is institutionally separate.

The Hall specialises in Catholic theology and philosophy in the Thomistic tradition. Central to the mission of Blackfriars Hall, and making for a great enrichment of the Studium also, are its two research centres, the **Aquinas Institute** and the **Las Casas Institute for Social Justice** (*see following pages*).

Blackfriars Hall allows friars a place in one of the great universities of the world. As part of the collegiate University, Blackfriars Hall follows university regulations and standards and is regularly reviewed by the University's Permanent Private Hall Supervisory Committee.

In the academic year 2022/23, the Hall had 73 matriculated University of Oxford students, 49 full-time and 24 part-time graduate students, as well as 7 visiting students. The matriculated students are predominantly Doctoral or Masters students (Theology, Philosophy, Social Sciences, Literature, History), or students studying for secondary-school teacher qualifications.

Scholarship provision plays a significant role in the University of Oxford in attracting students of the highest calibre. Blackfriars Hall was delighted to award two Jubilee Scholarships for doctoral students, to Marta Bielinska and Clare Whitton, worth £17,000 per annum for two years; and two Dominique Pire Scholarships of £2,500 to Melinda Davis and Xiongjie Deng. Blackfriars Hall also announced the Scovil Scholarship for Theology and the Arts, worth £12,000 per annum for doctoral students in Theology. The scholarships were possible due to the generous support of donors together with support from the Faculty of Theology and Religion at the University of Oxford.

Blackfriars Hall students also helped organise the PPH (Permanent Private Hall) Ball along with students from Regent's Park College and St Stephen's House. The ball was held at the Oxford Museum of Natural History. Over 300 students and their guests attended. The event was not only a successful Oxford ball, but an opportunity for PPH students to meet one another and enjoy a night of fun as a community.

Blackfriars Hall also has a strong partnership with the **Anscombe Centre for Bioethics** (**www.bioethics.org.uk/**), a Catholic academic institute that engages with the moral questions arising in clinical practice and biomedical research, and runs educational programmes for, and gives advice to, Catholics and other interested healthcare professionals and biomedical scientists.

Regent: John O'Connor OP
Vice-Regent: Bruno Clifton OP

Students: 73 graduates and 7 visiting students, from 17 nations.

www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk

Blackfriars Hall: The Aquinas Institute



The Aquinas Institute promotes research into the philosophy and theology of St Thomas Aquinas and its contemporary value. The Institute organises an annual programme of research seminars, colloquia, and public lectures. As well as fostering a community of scholarship in Oxford, the Institute welcomes visiting scholars from across the world.

In order to mark the 700th anniversary of the canonisation of St Thomas Aquinas, the Institute organised a series of public lectures at Blackfriars, January–March 2023. Among the speakers were Prof. Mariusz Tabaczek OP (Angelicum), Rev Dr Reginald Lynch OP (Dominican House of Studies, Washington), Dr Joshua Madden (Blackfriars Studium), Prof. Catherine Joseph Droste OP (Angelicum) and Prof. Simon Gaine OP (Angelicum).

Other events included a special research seminar, joint with Campion Hall, given by Prof. Nicholas Lombardo OP (Catholic University of America); and a book launch of *Meaning of Mourning: Perspectives on Death* (Lexington Books), edited by Mikolaj Slawkowski-Rode, which included a chapter by Fr Richard Conrad. The idea for the volume came from a colloquium at Blackfriars Hall organised jointly by the **Humane Philosophy Society** and the Aquinas Institute.

There was also a reading group (eight sessions) looking at Katherine Soderegger's *Systematic Theology, Vol. 1: The Doctrine of God*; and a series of four reading classes ('Widening Horizons in Philosophical Theology, Life Before God: Truth and the Liturgy'), examining continental philosophies of the liturgy as a locus of truth in relation to the thought of St Thomas.

Director: Oliver Keenan OP

www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk/aquinas

Blackfriars Hall: Las Casas Institute

The Las Casas Institute for Social Justice is a research centre for applied Catholic Social Teaching based at Blackfriars Hall.

As the effects of climate change become ever more evident, and as the international community has struggled to find adequate responses to the devastating impact on some of the world's poorest communities, the year 2022 to 2023 saw the launch and first year of the Institute's research project on climate justice and humanitarianism led by Dr Hugo Slim with support from two research assistants, Maria Mercedes Kuri and Luca Marsico. Interviews were held with experts on climate change at the Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office in London, at the United Nations, and at the International Red Cross in Geneva.

Early contributions to debate were a major web essay for Global Public Policy Institute in Berlin entitled 'Humanitarians and the Climate Emergency' published here **https://gppi.net/2023/06/28/humanitarians-and-the-climate-emergency**, and two blogs co-published in the run-up to COP 28 with the global think tank **ODI** in London and the **Centre for Humanitarian Action** (CHA) in Berlin; one was on the ethics of climate finance in fragile and conflict states, **https://odihpn.org/publication/is-it-right-to-prioritise-fragile-states-in-the-climate-crisis/**



and the other on the ethics of loss and damage, **https://odihpn.org/publication/is-it-right-to-count-humanitarian-aid-as-loss-and-damage/**. The Las Casas Institute also prepared for an international conference on ethical responses to climate change held at Blackfriars in October 2023 which brought together policy-makers, faith leaders, and academics from different disciplines.

Alongside this project, Dr Slim has continued to act as a consultant on wider humanitarian issues, speaking, for example, to the staff of Caritas Germany on neutrality in humanitarian relief, a talk later published on the website of Caritas Europa: **https://www.caritas.eu/is-it-ethical-to-be-neutral/** .

Prof. Peter Roná and Dr Agnieszka Wincewicz- Price took forward during the year what was intended to be the final stage of a long-term research project into the fundamentals of economic theory, 'Economics as a Moral Science'. This stage involved editing the papers from the last international symposium on 'The Ethics of Consumption'. The volume was finally published by Springer International in March 2024, the eighth volume in the series edited by Prof. Róna, and thought is currently being given to how best the insights from this research can be made better known.

The Institute welcomed to Blackfriars two further Oxford workshops run by the **Oxford Consortium for Human Rights**. These workshops led by Dr Slim bring together forty or so students each time mainly from the United States, and often from disadvantaged backgrounds, who have shown a commitment to the defence of Human Rights and who wish to deepen their understanding

Blackfriars Hall: Las Casas Institute



Stills from the large and growing library of lectures and discussions available on YouTube.

Left: Ukraine one year on: Catholic Theological and Ethical Reflections.

Right: Women Religious and the Northern Irish Troubles.

of the issues. The March 2023 workshop studied 'Human Rights and Climate Crisis'. The July 2023 workshop looked at new technology and Human Rights.'

Research in the area of human dignity and peacebuilding has continued under the leadership of Dr Maria Power. Dr Power and Dr Afifi Al-Akiti of the **Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies** commissioned papers for a book on Christian and Islamic understandings of human dignity, to be edited in 2024 for publication in 2025. Dr Power has also collaborated with Dr Jonathan Bush at the **University of Durham** on a book project exploring the experiences of lay Catholics in 20th-Century Britain, and assisted Roderick Howlett in scripting a series of online videos setting out key aspects of Catholic Social Teaching from a Dominican perspective. These videos aimed at sixth-formers and undergraduates are due to be published in the summer of 2024.

The Institute, which has grown in its number of Fellows and Associate Members, continued to reach out to the widest possible audience through its online webinars. Weekly online reading classes ran over three terms led by Edward Hadas assisted by Dr James Bergida. These continue to attract a welcome mix of academics, graduate students, Lay Dominicans, and others interested in Catholic Social Teaching from continental Europe and America as well as the United Kingdom. Among topics studied in the past year were the writings of Josef Pieper on leisure, and E. F. Schumacher's *Small is Beautiful*. Prof. Michael Scott meanwhile led an extensive programme of lectures and discussions online co-sponsored with Georgetown University with topics such as 'Can Iran Recover its Democracy?

The Institute has continued to benefit from the substantial support of individual benefactors including the 'Friends' of the Las Casas Institute; and from grant-makers including Porticus UK, the Mallinckrodt Foundation, and the Sisters of the Holy Cross Charitable Trust.

Director: Richard Finn OP

www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk/lascasas

YouTube: 'Las Casas Institute'

St Albert's Parish & Chaplaincy, Edinburgh



The House of St Albert the Great serves a thriving Parish and vibrant Catholic Chaplaincy to the **University of Edinburgh**, **Edinburgh Napier University**, and **Queen Margaret University**.

CHAPLAINCY LIFE

The Catholic Chaplaincy serves the pastoral and spiritual needs of university students and staff. Staff bring their families and continue to attend after retirement, so that the weekly congregation includes people of every age. Baptisms, weddings and funerals are a regular feature of Chaplaincy life as well as instruction in the faith for both adults and children. There are regular talks on issues of justice and peace, the arts and contemporary ethical issues. The congregation regularly raises funds for other charities.

The Albertus Institute, which is not part of the Parish but closely linked with it, facilitates informed group discussion on issues of public interest.

A NORMAL WEEK

Each week we have Masses at 7.30am and 5.15pm, followed by Office of Readings and Morning Prayer and Vespers. The general public are encouraged to attend and participate in these liturgies and many people do. Each day one Mass is livestreamed as well as Vespers. Most days those attending online are in excess of 100 (Sunday), up to 900 (weekday). Many people tell us that they watch it because of the quality of the preaching, and the simplicity of the liturgy. One good outcome of the pandemic is that now on the livestream our preaching reaches many more people. The livestream facility also makes it possible for family members who are unable to attend funerals and weddings in person to at least attend virtually. We have Exposition on Wednesdays and Saturdays with a priest available for Confessions.

A daily email begun in lockdown now continues as a weekly email and is an important channel of communication with over 200 parishioners. While some groups continued to meet online, gradually these returned to meeting in person. Instruction in the faith continued with adults being baptised and confirmed.

CATHOLIC STUDENTS' UNION

The **Catholic Students' Union**, an official University of Edinburgh student society, continues to be very active. Its membership is about 100 students; but many other students attend Mass and participate in the life of the Chaplaincy as well. The Young Women's Group and a group for young men meet regularly in person. There is a Midweek Meal every second week. Each Friday there is a Baked Potato Lunch with

St Albert's Parish & Chaplaincy, Edinburgh



a short input from a Chaplain on a theological topic. Theology talks for students are part of the weekly life of the chaplaincy. There are prayer groups on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Fr Matthew continued to serve as a Dominican liaison to the **Thomistic Institute** at the University of Edinburgh. The chapter organises public lectures and other activities which open the minds of young Catholics to Catholic thought in the tradition of St Thomas.

SPECIAL CONFERENCE

In order to increase interest in the Dominican charism within Scotland, in the summer a conference was held in Edinburgh, 'St Dominic and His Preachers of Grace'. This featured contributions from friars, sisters and lay Dominicans. Fr Richard Finn spoke on pre-Reformation history; Fr Fergus Kerr about the friars who shaped his thought as a theologian, finishing at 1962. Fr Nicholas Crowe talked about the intellectual apostolate. Sr Philomena Dzimba and Sr Chama Mwila spoke of their apostolates in education and healthcare. Margaret Doyle gave us an overview of the various Lay Dominican groups spread across Britain and Sr Angela Marie Russell talked about her community's rich and vibrant ministry to young people in Elgin and more widely in Scotland. During Mass in the Cathedral, Fr Timothy Radcliffe preached; he also gave a talk later on the theme of 'Preaching and the Imagination'. The day ended with Vespers, the *Salve* and the *O Spem*.

THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

Fr Dermot Morrin continues as Superior and Parish Priest. Fr Thomas Mannion and Fr Matthew Jarvis work alongside Fr Dermot Morrin as chaplains. Fr Aelred Connelly has retired but helps out with Masses and Confessions. Fr Fergus Kerr continued in residence. This past year saw the publication of a collection of his writings, *From Aberdeen to Oxford* (ATF Press, 2023).

Fr Dermot Morrin OP combines his role as Chaplain and Superior with being part of the chaplaincy team at HMP and Young Offenders' Institution at Polmont. This means that we are serving some of the most fortunate as well as some of the most unfortunate and vulnerable people currently in Scotland.

BENEFACTORS

The Lady Marian Gibson Trust continued to provide significant financial support to the parish. We are grateful to all our benefactors.

Superior: Fr Dermot Morrin

4 / 5 resident friars

www.scotland.op.org

St Dominic's Priory & Rosary Shrine, London

St Dominic's Priory is a hub for the Catholic Faith and culture, and a diverse and dynamic parish in north-west London that attracts people from within the local area and from further afield. As one parishioner said: 'I truthfully didn't see much point in attending Mass. For me, in the past, it offered no value and was a chore. But St Dominic's and the priests there changed that thinking entirely for me.'

At the centre of all this activity is the Priory church, a historic Grade II* listed building that is thought to be the largest Catholic parish church in London, and also serves as the Diocesan Shrine to Our Lady of the Rosary. It is the only Rosary Shrine in the country and joins a small international network of Dominican Shrines dedicated to promoting Dominican prayer and the Rosary.



Members of the priory are all engaged in a wide range of ministries serving the parish and Shrine, and also work with charities and institutions to support the social and pastoral needs of the local community, as well as talks, retreat work and conferences nationally and some internationally, both in person and by video-conferencing.

The Prior Provincial resides and has his office here.

CHAPLAINCIES & PASTORAL CARE

- 2 friars served the 2 local Catholic primary schools as Foundation Governors;
- 1 friar was Lead Chaplain, UCL NHS Trust, and 2 friars were assigned to the Catholic Chaplaincy Team at the Royal Free Hospital;
- One friar was chaplain to 2 nursing homes
- Regular Masses for a community of apostolic sisters
- Friars also served as Spiritual Director to the Westminster Curia of the Legion of Mary, and National Chaplain for the Guides and Scouts of Europe in England.

LITURGY AND DEVOTIONS

As a Shrine, the church offers regular access to the Sacraments, with scheduled daily Confession, Adoration and Masses both in the morning and the evening (the only church in the local deanery to offer evening Mass).

- Monthly 'First Saturday' devotions and candlelit Rosary Processions;
- Weekly torchlit Rosary Processions in October and May, drawing regular visitors from as far as Kent and and Herts.;
- Sunday Dominican Rite *Missa Cantata*, the only one in the Archdiocese, drawing a young crowd from across London;
- The 'Day with Mary' was hosted, as well as 'Catholic Mothers UK', and 'Mothers' Prayers' group;
- The diocesan Curia of the Legion of Mary holds its annual Edel Quinn pilgrimage here;
- Hosted the Radio Maria Worldwide Rosary broadcast on Radio Maria in 84 different countries.
- Participation in the international 'World Priest' Annual Rosary Relay in June;
- A weekly livestreamed Rosary (Fridays), and a weekly stational Rosary (Saturdays);
- Occasional bereavement support group led by a friar; the friars also regularly give spiritual direction and counselling to a wide range of people;
- School visits, parish pilgrimages, family retreat days, and

St Dominic's Priory & Rosary Shrine, London

visits by Catholic tour groups and groups of religious happen throughout the year;

- Occasional pilgrimages by national lay organisations and university chaplaincies.

A HOME FOR COMMUNITIES

- A Filipino choir sings at a monthly Mass, on feast days and in the *Simbang Gabi* novena of Masses up to Christmas. Each month the Filipino community hosts a hot meal for the whole community in the parish hall;
- Two thriving AA groups meet weekly in the parish hall;
- The Latin Mass Society has training days for servers, and a gathering of the Guild of St Clare twice a year;
- The Deo Gratias discussion group for young professionals meets every fortnight.

INTELLECTUAL APOSTOLATE

- One friar teaches full-time in a primary school;
- One friar is part-time research director in a Catholic theological college;
- Several friars gave talks to University chaplaincies in the UK and abroad, provided talks and support for the Thomistic Institute, and preached retreats in the USA and Asia-Pacific;
- Talks are given to the parish community during Lent and Advent, including the Holy Week retreat.

ART AND CULTURE

- Our historic Willis organ is heard every Sunday and major feast day;
- The church, newly-restored and with ongoing works for its beautification, is regularly visited by tourists and groups;
- The church is a venue for concerts and recitals of sacred music by choirs such as The Elysian Singers, Cappella Nova (conducted by Sir James MacMillan), and the Lyra Singers;
- The annual Open Garden Day (under the National Gardens Scheme) is popular with visitors who come from a distance.

ONLINE APOSTOLATE

Mass continues to be broadcast daily to our YouTube channel. We also livestream organ recitals, processions and vigils, and a weekly Rosary has over 1,000 viewers from North America, the UK, and Italy.

The friars continue to engage in catechesis and talks online, with invitations from USA, Malaysia, Singapore, and UK.

PROMOTING THE ROSARY

- Monthly Rosary procession as a work of the Rosary Confraternity, and enrolments during the weekly Rosary processions (May/October);
- Children from local schools come to learn about and to pray the Rosary.



RADIO MARIA

The London studio of **Radio Maria** is located above our hall. One friar (Toby Lees OP, *pictured*) is Priest Director of this 24-hour station speaking regularly on the radio and with overall editorial responsibility. Other friars frequently contribute to programmes.

DEVELOPING THE PARISH AND SHRINE

Catechesis is now focussed on supporting the faith formation of the whole family, and the main Family Mass on Sunday is tailored to welcoming children and parents, with activities in the parish hall after Mass such as 'Fry a Friar' Q&A sessions; Children's Liturgy of the Word led by the friars and other catechists; and a vibrant music group led by parishioners.

Towards the end of the financial year, significant sums were raised towards a new underfloor heating system which was installed in the following financial year.

Prior: Lawrence Lew OP / Dominic White OP (from September 2023)

11 resident friars

www.rosaryshrine.co.uk

Blackfriars: Priory of St Michael, Cambridge



The Priory of St Michael Archangel is the location of the Province's noviciate, where new friars spend their first year in the Order.

Members of the priory are also involved in writing, preaching, theological research and teaching. They normally provide pastoral care for a congregation of c.200 people, as well as assisting with the sacramental needs of the adjacent parishes.

The priory promotes projects supporting educational provision in Ethiopia in co-operation with the **Jean Grove Trust** (reg. charity 1109593). We have continued to fundraise for this, though the troubles in Ethiopia have made bank transfers unreliable as per last year.

One novice took simple vows for the English Province and one novice was clothed for the English Province in September. Fr Robert Verrill was elected Prior in February after the previous Prior, Fr Nicholas Crowe, was elected Prior of Oxford. We also saw the departure of Fr Dominic White who was elected Prior of London in September, but Fr Albert Robertson was assigned to the Cambridge Priory in July.

APOSTOLATES

The Priory offers a programme of theological education in the form of regular talks, advertised in the city of Cambridge and environs, as well as at the Cambridge University Catholic Chaplaincy, and a *communio* circle.

We continue to broadcast daily mass, and evening and morning prayer on **Radio Maria** which is based in Cambridge. Our Facebook group has over 550 members and is updated with regular content and has a good level of participation.

The 2023 Aquinas Lecture, 'Truth Matters', was given by Dr Anna Abram of the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology on Friday 27 January. The chapel was full and many more people joined on Zoom and Radio Maria, England.

Fr Euan Marley continued his writing work for Redemptorist Publications as well as other online preaching platforms. He now also broadcasts weekly on Radio Maria.

Fr Bob Eccles continued his ministry of accompaniment both of local people and former students.

Fr Colin Carr continued his work of spiritual direction and accompaniment in addition to a weekly broadcast on Radio Maria on the theme of prayer.

Fr Dominic White continued in his role as acting Director of Research at the **Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology**. Fr Dominic and Fr Colin were

Blackfriars: Priory of St Michael, Cambridge



also involved in seminars in the Divinity Faculty of the **University of Cambridge**. All these activities have enhanced the connection between the intellectual life of the Priory and the work of the University in Cambridge.

Fr Robert Verrill completed his doctorate in the philosophy of physics at Baylor University, Texas. He has also developed a programme of events exploring the theme of 'Science and Faith' in collaboration with Radio Maria and the Templeton Foundation. Fr Robert writes a monthly article for the Catholic Herald on science and religion. He also teaches philosophy at Blackfriars Studium, Oxford.

Fr Gregory Pearson served as Novice Master for the community, and as a canon lawyer for several religious orders and dioceses. He is also the Vocations Director for the English Province.

Fr Albert Robertson began work as an Assistant Chaplain at the University Chaplaincy, Fisher House. Fr Albert also makes regular contributions to the *Catholic Herald*.

Prior: Robert Verrill OP

10 resident friars including 2 novices (one new novice was clothed at the end of the period).

www.blackfriarscambridge.org.uk

Holy Cross Priory & Parish, Leicester



Holy Cross Priory has a ministry centred on the imposing parish church that stands on New Walk, very close to the centre of Leicester and on the route to the University. Within the parish boundary also lie **De Montfort University** and the **Leicester Royal Infirmary**, as well as **HMP Leicester**.

PARISH LIFE

The church has a capacity of around 550, a number regularly exceeded at the two largest Sunday Masses, with total Mass attendance on Sundays continuing to rise and now topping 1,000. The 10.30 Mass is a sung Mass with a large number of enthusiastic young altar servers and a dedicated choir offering a traditional style Mass that proves especially popular with the substantial south Indian and Nigerian populations. The 7 pm Mass is now the only Sunday evening Mass in Leicester, and draws a large and varied crowd of young people as well as families.

Weekday Masses are also popular, and the church is now open throughout the week in daylight hours. This allows local people as well as those who work or shop in the city centre to pop in to light candles and make other devotions. The combination of popular devotion and doctrinally informed, interesting and intelligent preaching provides a distinctively Dominican character to the church.

Confessions are heard on Saturdays, and regularly run on long past the scheduled time, with two priests ministering to penitents for up to two hours; confessions are also heard on call at the door or by request before and after most Masses. During the Saturday morning confessions, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed, with Benediction preceding the 12.30 Mass, and the church is often quite full throughout the morning.

Parish social life flourishes, with tea and coffee after the two Sunday morning Masses being very well attended, and the return of the Advent and Summer Fairs, making good use of the recently renovated parish centre. Towards the end of the reporting period, the newly-elected Prior was inducted as Parish Priest, and there was a lively and joyful celebration in the centre.

OTHER APOSTOLATES

Our Chaplaincy to Leicester and De Montfort Universities has grown under the care of the newly appointed chaplain, Fr Benedict Jonak, and students appreciate the weekly student Mass on Wednesdays and the Monday supper, as well as being deeply involved in the activities of the wider parish.

Holy Cross Priory & Parish, Leicester



The Chaplaincy to Leicester Royal Infirmary continues as before with one brother on call for 24 hours each day to attend to sick and dying patients, especially to offer the sacrament of Anointing. Typically we receive three or four calls a week, though the numbers can fluctuate greatly.

The Parish Scripture Group returned to meeting in person, which has proved popular, with meetings every Tuesday evening. There are plans to offer a series of short catechetical talks to parishioners and other interested parties on Saturday mornings in 2024.

Instruction for adult Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion is offered on an individual basis due to differing times when candidates are available. Instruction of children for First Confession and Communion restarted, and the Good Shepherd course for young children continues on Sunday mornings in the 'Atrium' of the Frassati Centre.

EXTERNAL APOSTOLATES

As well as serving the ever-growing parish community, the brothers have continued to be involved in external evangelical work, including teaching and retreat giving in the UK and abroad. One brother hears the Confessions of the monks of Mount St Bernard Abbey each month, and the brothers regularly celebrate Masses at the local Catholic schools.

Prior: John-Patrick Kenrick OP / Richard Ounsworth OP (from July)

6 friars

www.holycrossleicester.org

The Caribbean: Jamaica & Grenada



The English Province has two houses in the Caribbean that are canonically dependent on it. While not legally part of this charity, they are supported by grants from this Province, made out of funds raised in the UK under the banner of 'St Martin's Missions'. This fundraising takes place not just from the supporters of our charity, but also from second collections held in assigned diocesan deaneries. Grants of £27,174 were made to the Caribbean houses during the year.

CHANGES IN 2023

The Caribbean mission underwent an important restructuring this year. On 28th July 2023, the community in Kingston, Jamaica was erected into the House of St Martin de Porres. The House of our Lady of the Rosary continues to operate in Roxborough, though the building has undergone extensive renovations this year. These were concluded with the rededication of the house chapel by Archbishop Emeritus Robert Rivas OP on 15th August 2023, marking the solemnity of the Assumption.

JAMAICA

The brothers' major responsibilities in Jamaica are twofold: pastoring and teaching.

The brothers are entrusted with two parishes, St Thomas Aquinas in Papine and Christ the King in August Town. The parishes present different challenges. August Town has been scarred in recent years by gang violence, as well as endemic family breakdown and poverty.

Fr Clifton Harris coordinates provision of basic foodstuffs and other necessities to parishioners and other local people. Much effort goes into accompanying young people, some of whom the brothers have sponsored as they aspire to educational and professional opportunities.

While the St Thomas Aquinas congregation is on the whole more middle class, here too important spiritual and material support is provided to parishioners in a range of circumstances, including several who live in a nearby squatter settlement.

A strong connection has been fostered with **Mary's Child**, a shelter for teenage mothers next door to the parish, run by the Catholic Mustard Seed community; the girls benefit from the warmth of the parish community.

EDUCATION

Fr Peter Hunter teaches several courses in philosophy and theology at **St Michael's Theological College**, the seminary of the Archdiocese of Kingston. Students include not just seminarians, but

The Caribbean: Jamaica & Grenada



also laypeople and members of the **University of the West Indies**. Fr Peter additionally provides chaplaincy to the University of the West Indies and the **University of Technology**, both in Mona, Kingston. Fr Clifton Harris provides evangelisation training to laypeople in the Archdiocese of Kingston.

GRENADA

The brothers in Roxborough serve a variety of apostolates, besides ministering at three parishes: Our Lady of the Rosary, Roxborough, St Michael the Archangel, Woburn, and St Joseph, Morne Jaloux.

Fr Patrick Alexander hosts a weekly educational (catechetical) television programme. Fr Leroy Hopkin acts as chaplain to members of the Neocatechumenal Way.

This year, Fr Clifton Harris visited to give a weekend retreat for the Dominican Youth Movement in Grenada.

RENEWED CONNECTIONS

Bonds of connection between the Caribbean mission and the rest of the province have been strengthened by visits to Jamaica and Grenada of several UK-resident brothers.

DEVELOPMENT

Fr Nicholas Crowe, appointed in 2022 as Promoter of St Martin's Missions, has worked with the Province's Development Office this year to create new printed, online and video materials in order to renew fundraising efforts on behalf of the Caribbean mission. This



follows a hiatus caused by the Covid lockdowns and the death of the previous director, Fr David Sanders. A 17-minute promotional video, plus brief clips from it, can be viewed at **www.english.op.org/missions**

The Church finds itself in great need of manpower in the Caribbean. The contribution of our communities to these islands is therefore disproportionately vast relative to the small number of friars ministering there. On both islands, the brothers regularly provide supply in parishes not their own. There is, accordingly, space for growth. As local men in Jamaica have expressed an interest in joining the Order, plans have begun to be laid for a pre-novitiate programme, to prepare local candidates for admission to the Order.

Superior: Clifton Harris OP

4 friars (Grenada); 3 friars (Jamaica)

Educational Apostolate

Education and the intellectual apostolate are a key part of the Dominican charism.

The academic year 2022/23 has shown that the intellectual apostolate of the Province is strong, with the friars engaged in a great variety of activity.

1. TALKS AND PUBLIC LECTURES

Many of the talks and lectures by the brethren were also organised by the brethren, but many were organised by other bodies. Most of the talks and lectures were open to the general public, but some were for specific groups (e.g. Lay Dominicans or young adults). Some of the talks and public lectures were one-off and some formed parts of series.

RANGE OF THEMES

- 'Genesis 1 and 2',
- 'Why Study St Thomas Aquinas?',
- 'Leadership in a Time of Crisis',
- 'Faith and Imagination',
- 'Addressing the threat of Quantum Monism',
- 'Canonical Considerations of the Vocation of the Co-operator Brother',
- 'Aquinas on Penance',
- 'Spiritual Works of Mercy',
- 'Aquinas on Penance',
- 'Understanding the Natural Law Approach to Ethics',
- 'Tales from the Desert' (on the desert fathers),
- 'Where do I belong?',



- 'Spirituality and the Fathers',
- 'Why Do Dominicans Study?',
- 'Aquinas on Creation',
- 'Prayer Orientated to Religious Life',
- 'The Idea of a Christian Society',
- 'Formation for the 21st Century',
- 'Authority and Ministry',
- 'Friendship, Illness, Death',
- 'What's the point of an intellectual apostolate?',
- 'Where Next for Inspiration? Reviewing the Doctrine of Scriptural Inspiration in Light of the Historical Process of the Bible's Formation'.

Fr Leon Pereira gave many talks on the spirituality of Medjugorje to pilgrims at the shrine (between 500 and 1,000 at a time).

Fr Timothy Radcliffe spoke to about 200 people in person (and about 300 online) at Lancaster University on 'Faith and Imagination', a talk on 'Friendship, Illness, Death' at St Martin's-in the Fields (approx. 250 in person and 300 online), and to groups as Charismatic and Pentecostal Leaders, EducareM, Catholic Head Teachers and at a graduation ceremony at Liverpool Hope University, to an audience of approximately 700. Other audiences to which Fr Timothy spoke included priests of the Archdiocese of Bologna, at the Christian Literary Imagination conference in Oxford.

SERIES OF TALKS

There were also series of talks, some of which were part of retreats and study days.

- Fr Richard Finn gave a retreat with fourteen talks on 'Luke-Acts and religious life', and other talks to the 'Thinking Faith' group run from Boarbank Hall, Cumbria.
- Fr Timothy Radcliffe gave a retreat with six talks in

Educational Apostolate (cont.)

Bournemouth for senior religious.

- Fr Nicholas Crowe gave a series of eight talks on 'Vocation', broadcast on Radio Maria, a series of five talks on 'Discipleship in Marriage' to a couples retreat in Angmering, and retreats to religious communities on the themes 'Hospitality and Mission', 'Vocation'.
- Fr Richard Ounsworth gave weekly talks on scripture at Leicester and led the Dominican Forum (still being run as webinars) which covered transhumanism, baptising E.T., and usury.
- Fr Fergus Kerr led an online reading group looking at texts from the *Summa Theologiae* of St Thomas Aquinas.
- At the Edinburgh Parish and Chaplaincy a series of 'Holy Ground' talks on theology and the arts, including an inaugural Holy Ground Lecture, given by Dr Rebekah Lamb (St Andrews) on Newman's aesthetics.

LAY FORMATION

A significant feature of our outreach through talks is that much of it is for young people and to support active Christian communities.

LAY DOMINICANS

There were, for example, thirteen Lay Dominican fraternities and fraternal groups in the Province, twelve in Britain and one in Grenada. There is also a Lay Dominican Provincial Council composed of Lay Dominicans from across Britain. The fraternities and fraternal groups, among other things, promote study in the Dominican tradition; and organise for their members and others events engaging with Catholic thought. Many of the fraternities and fraternal groups have in recent years experienced significant growth. Most of the fraternities have friars as nominated 'religious assistants', who often give talks and other input to the fraternities and fraternal groups.

STUDENT CHAPLAINCY

Much of the outreach to young people is carried out in the chaplaincies to which we supply chaplains, in Edinburgh (University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh Napier University and Queen Margaret University) and Leicester (University of Leicester and De Montfort University), and other chaplaincies in which friars work such as Dundee and Kingston (Jamaica). For example, Fr Matthew Jarvis gave a series of talks, 'Summa Time', an introduction to Catholic theology, at the Edinburgh Chaplaincy.

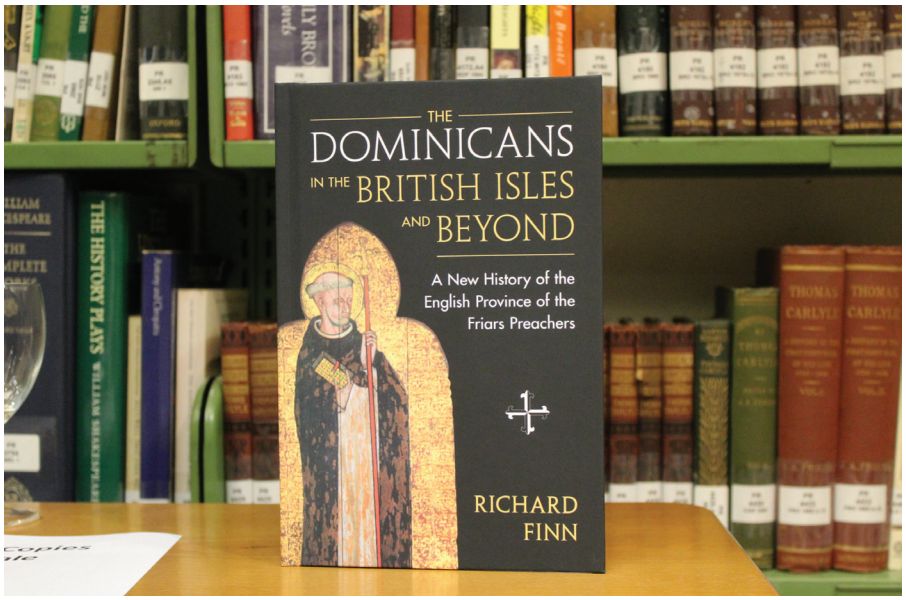
In addition to series of talks given by our Catholic chaplains in Edinburgh and Leicester:

- Fr Gregory Pearson gave twelve talks and Fr Nicholas Crowe six talks to the Cambridge Catholic Chaplaincy Scripture Group.
- There was a Dominican Youth Movement Study Retreat at Douai Abbey with a focus on Catholic theology through the eyes of St Thomas Aquinas, which had 15 retreatants.
- There was a 'Frassati Pilgrimage' with talks on theological subjects to Turin and Oropa, places associated with Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati, which had 21 pilgrims and 3 friars.
- Br John Church gave a talk to about 130 participants at the World Youth Day in Portugal on, 'Agir ou s'abandonner? Puis-je m'appuyer sur la Providence?'. He and Brs Bede Mullens and Daniel Rowlands (Dominican student brothers in formation) led a 'medieval scholastic style' Dominican disputation on the Eucharist at the Oxford University Catholic Chaplaincy, which was attended by about 60 people, mainly students.
- Fr Matthew Jarvis on 'History of the Liturgy' to a group of 30–40 at the Edinburgh Cathedral Young Adults Group.

OXFORD AQUINAS GROUP

The Oxford community, which is a formation community for Dominican students, runs a lively weekly (during term) Aquinas Young Adults Group and supports a Chapter of the **Thomistic Institute**. The Aquinas Group has a weekly attendance of about 25. The

Educational Apostolate (cont.)



meetings include soup and bread, and there is some social life too. In 2022/23 it was run by Brs John Church and Daniel Rowlands. Each term they look at a different area in the work of St Thomas Aquinas, and read and discuss different texts together. The sessions are led by a range of friars from the Oxford Community. The topics looked at in 2022/23 were: the Theological Virtues, God and Creation, the Sacraments.

THOMISTIC INSTITUTE

The programme of talks organised by the Oxford Chapter of the Thomistic Institute included lectures by Mats Wahlberg (Umea University), Prof. Lewis Ayres (Durham University), Prof. Gaven Kerr (St Patrick's, Maynooth), Fr Taras Khomych (Liverpool Hope University), Prof. Bruce Marshall (Southern Baptist University) and Fr Ambrose Little OP (Dominican House of Studies, Washington DC).

The Edinburgh Chapter of the Thomistic Institute also continues to flourish. It ran a fortnightly reading group on Christology and on sin, grace, and justification. Speakers included Prof. Joshua Hochschild (Mount St Mary's University) on St Thomas Proofs for the existence of God and Prof. Fionnuala O'Neill Tonning (University of Bergen) on St Edmund Campion and literature.

ALBERTUS INSTITUTE

The Board of Directors of the **Albertus Institute** (**http://albertusinstitute.org/**) devoted its activities over this year to reconsidering and renewing its internal structures. It was agreed by the Directors and confirmed by the Members that the Albertus Institute should move from its current structure of being a Company Limited by Guarantee and a Registered Charity, both registered in Scotland, to being simply a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, entirely registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). The time of the Directors was therefore devoted in this year to the preparation of the necessary documents, including a new constitution, and to the necessary internal and external procedures to allow this change to take place. Because of this work, the Albertus Institute held no public events between 1 Oct 2022 – 30 Sept 2023. However, a new advisory group was formed to plan a new programme of academic events the following year. A full programme of an annual lecture, a joint conference with the Thomistic Institute, and a series of evening discussion events was prepared for the year beginning October 2023.

2. EXPERTISE

The brothers also serve the wider Church through giving expert advice as consultants and members of various bodies.

- Fr Simon Gaine is a member of the Church's International Theological Commission.
- Fr Matthew Jarvis is a member of the Order's International Commission on the Liturgy. Fr Robert Ombres is on the editorial boards of three journals: *Ecclesiastical Law Journal*, *Law & Justice*, and *Angelicum*.

Educational Apostolate (cont.)

- Fr Brian Davies is on the Editorial Board of the *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*.
- Fr Benjamin Earl is President of the commission for the review of the *Liber Constitutionum Mondialium Ordinis Praedicatorum*, and member of the Juridical Commission of the Union of Superiors General, as well as a canonical consultant for a number of different religious institutes.

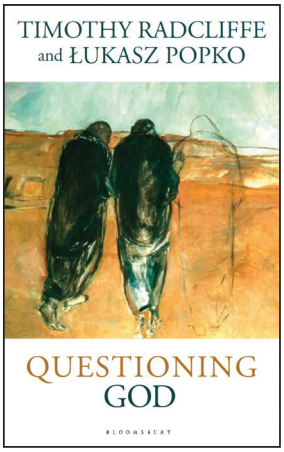
3. PUBLICATIONS

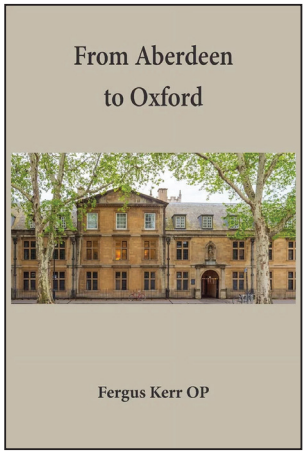
A wide audience can also be reached through publications, both electronically and in more traditional formats.

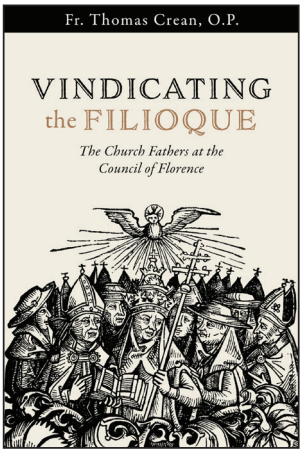
NEW BLACKFRIARS JOURNAL

A key part of our academic publishing mission is our bimonthly journal, *New Blackfriars*. The Editor is Fr Brian Davies, Fr John O'Connor is Assistant Editor, and Fr Robert Ombres is Reviews Editor. Fifteen friars of the English Province are on the Editorial Board. On 1 January 2024, the journal moves from Wiley to Cambridge University Press.

New Blackfriars has impressive metrics: over 200,000 online full-text article views in 2022, with 6418 educational institutions having access to *New Blackfriars* (mainly online, with 52 institutions receiving printed copies), and with considerable international outreach.







In 2022 the top six countries from which articles were accessed via Wiley Online were: USA (45%), UK (18%), Australia (8%), Canada (5%), Philippines (4%), China (3%).

BOOKS

Books published by the brethren include:

- Fr Richard Finn, *The Dominicans in the British Isles and Beyond* (Cambridge University Press). The first edition is in hardback, but a paperback edition will be issued.
- Fr Timothy Radcliffe (with Fr Łukasz Popko), *Questioning God* (Bloomsbury);
- Fr Fergus Kerr, *From Aberdeen to Oxford: Collected Essays* (ATF Press);
- Fr Thomas Crean, *St Mark's Gospel: a commentary for believers* (Arouca Press), *Vindicating the 'Filioque': the Church Fathers at the Council of Florence* (Emmaus Academic), *Letters from that City: a guide to Holy Scriptures for Students of Theology* (O Iusti Press), and a translation, *Christianity is Credible* (Arouca Press, original by L. M. de Blignières SVSF).

OTHER JOURNALS

- Fr Timothy Radcliffe published many articles, including in *The Times* and *Avvenire*. He contributed to a volume written by Pope Francis, *Secondo lo stile di Dio. Riflessioni sulla spiritualità del presbitero* (Libreria Editrice Vaticana).
- Fr Dominic Ryan published an article, 'Christ's Being and *Summa Theologiae* 3a Q17 art. 2,57', in *New Blackfriars*.
- Fr Dominic White wrote an article, 'Dancing with Angels: Bible, Body, and Cosmic Prayer', published in *Doctrine and Life*.
- Fr Thomas Crean wrote: 'Can a person be justified by implicit

Educational Apostolate (cont.)

faith in Christ?' (in *Divinitas* 'Nova Series', co-authored with Alan Fimister and John Joy), and 'Can a priest offer mass for a special intention?' in *Antiphon*.

- Fr Richard Conrad has a chapter, 'What Can the Catholic Liturgies of the Dead Offer Mourners?' in Mikolaj Slawkowski-Rode (ed.), *The Meaning of Mourning: Perspectives on Death, Loss, and Grief* (Latham: Lexington Books).
- Fr Bruno Clifton published 'A Stranger in my Own Land: can a Sojourner Belong to the Household?' in *The Biblical Annals*.
- Fr Simon Tugwell published in *Archivum Fratrum Praedicatorum*: 'Bernardi Guidonis Catalogus Magistrorum' and 'Iterum "ad Marchias"'.
- Fr Benjamin Earl published 'Colloquium of Anglican and Roman Catholic Canon Lawyers: Colloquium Report' (joint with Sion Hughes Carew) and 'Quis tibi dedit hanc potestatem? Sources of authority in the proper law of the Order of Preachers' in *Angelicum*.
- Fr Robert Verill, Fr Albert Robertson, and Fr Richard Ounsworth wrote numerous articles for *The Catholic Herald*.



- There were also book reviews by the brethren published in *New Blackfriars*, *Ecclesiastical Law Journal*, *Catholic Library World*, Journal *of Theological Studies*, and *Revue d'études augustiniennes et patristiques*.

ONLINE PUBLISHING

Nearly every priest brother in the English Province contributed to Torch (**https://torch.op.org/**), the preaching website of the English Dominicans. The student friars' blog, Godzdogz (**https://godzdogz.op.org/**) remains very popular with hits from across the world. Among the topics of the blog articles of the academic year 2022/23 were: 'The pitfalls of the student', 'A new mercy', 'Disciples in the dark', 'One God, one Church', 'What is your definition of success?', and 'Salvation beyond appearances'.

4. PARTICIPATION IN THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

The brethren are also actively involved in the wider academic community.

- Fr Richard Finn was made a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (FRHistS) for his contributions to historical scholarship.
- Fr Fergus Kerr is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.
- Eleven of the brethren are members of the Catholic Theological Association.
- Fr John O'Connor was a member of the Royal Society of Edinburgh Young Academy of Scotland.

The brethren attended conferences (usually giving presentations) in Zürich, Lublin, Dundee, Cambridge, Twickenham, Rome, Caleruega, Mfou (Cameroon), Oxford, Galway, Edinburgh, and Toronto.

Fr Richard Conrad and Fr Simon Gaine are team members of the Thomistic Evolution Project supported by the John Templeton Foundation. Dr Daniel De Haan, Lecturer in the Studium, is also a member. This project brings together scholars from the US, continental Europe, and the UK to examine how Thomistic insights can shed light on evolutionary theory, and explores how evolutionary theory can be reconciled with a Catholic, and especially a Thomistic,

Educational Apostolate (cont.)

understanding of doctrines, notably those of human origins and original sin. The project has a website (**https://www.thomisticevolution.org/**). It organises colloquia, and has already resulted in a book, a range of papers, and resources for schools on Faith and Evolution. A further, jointly-written, volume of academic papers will be published by CUA Press in 2024.

5. EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

BLACKFRIARS HALL & STUDIUM

The largest single apostolates of the Province of England are our Studium Generale ('Blackfriars Studium') and Permanent Private Hall of the University of Oxford ('Blackfriars Hall'). *Reports from Blackfriars can be found on p.11 ff.*

For both Studium and Hall: Fr John O'Connor is Regent; Fr Bruno Clifton is Vice-Regent; Fr Robert Gay was Secretary of Studies and was succeeded by Fr Richard Finn. These friars are in charge of the governance of Studium and Hall. The Studium and Hall also have several lay members of staff: Dr Clare Broome Saunders (Senior Tutor and Tutor for Admissions, Blackfriars Hall only), Barbara Brecht (Academic Registrar), Anneli Chambliss-Howes (Bursar), Pauline Lloyd (Assistant Bursar), and Yvette Khoury (Admissions Officer, Blackfriars Hall only). As Regent, Fr John O'Connor has a place and a vote at the Heads of House meeting of Heads of Oxford colleges.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OUTSIDE BLACKFRIARS

Dominican friars have also been active in educational institutions outside the Studium and Hall:

FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

- Fr Richard Conrad supervised an undergraduate dissertation and an MTh essay for the Faculty of Theology and Religion;
- Fr John O'Connor gave a seminar to the Theological Ethics Seminar group.
- Fr Bruno Clifton teaches on the MTh programme.
- Six friars are associate members of the Faculty of Theology and Religion, one of whom, Fr Richard Finn, is also an associate member of the Faculty of Classics.

OUTSIDE OXFORD

- Fr Brian Davies is Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Fordham University.
- Fr Simon Gaine is the Pinckaers Professor of Theological Anthropology and Ethics at the Angelicum, Rome.
- Fr Benjamin Earl and Fr Robert Ombres taught courses on canon law at the Angelicum;
- Fr Fergus Kerr is an Honorary Professor at the School of Divinity, University of St Andrews.
- Fr Peter Hunter and Fr Aidan Nichols taught at St Michael's Seminary and Theological College in Jamaica. Fr Clifton Harris is a member of the Board of St Michael's;
- Fr Oliver Keenan is a Translation Fellow at the Centre of Barth Studies, Princeton Theological Seminary.
- Fr John O'Connor is an Honorary Lecturer at the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, the University of Glasgow, which enables him to continue to externally co-supervise doctoral students (currently three).
- Fr Bruno Clifton was a Chercheur Invité for four months at the Ecole Biblique in Jerusalem, where he taught a course on the Book of Judges.
- Fr Thomas Crean taught for Benedictine Priory of the Cenacle (diocese of Meath), Holy Apostles College and Seminary (Connecticut), and for the Family and Life Academy;
- Fr Dominic Ryan gave lectures on 'Trinitarian Theology' to Carthusian monks at St Hugh's Charterhouse, Parkminster.
- Fr Dominic White was appointed in January 2022 Acting Director of Research at the Margaret Beaufort Institute.

Educational Apostolate (cont.)



This role involves ccordination of a research community (50 people), organising and chairing seminars, and helping lead research days at the Cambridge Theological Federation. He also taught on the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) programme at the Margaret Beaufort Institute, on the MA in Spirituality programme at St Mary's University, Twickenham, and classes and lectures at the Campus für Theologie und Spiritualität, Berlin.

- Fr Simon Gaine is on the Board of Governors of the Mater Ecclesiae College, London.
- Fr David Goodill taught Moral Theology for St Joseph's University, Macau.
- Fr Simon Tugwell is an Emeritus Fellow, Dominican Historical Institute.
- Fr Rudolf Löwenstein teaches a Year 6 primary school class.
- Fr Allan White is Principal of St Mary's Elementary School, El Centro, California, where he is also a Teacher of Religion.
- For the Maryvale Institute in Birmingham: Fr Richard Ounsworth is the External Examiner for the Masters programme in Catholic Applied Theology (accredited by The Open University) and Fr Bruno Clifton supervised a dissertation for the MA in Catholic Applied Theology.

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

Friars have also had significant interaction with university staff and students through University Chaplaincy:

- Fr John Patrick Kenrick (University of Leicester and De Montfort University);
- Fr Dermot Morrin, Fr Matthew Jarvis, and Fr Albert Robertson (University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh Napier University and Queen Margaret University);
- Fr Robert Verrill (University of Cambridge);
- Fr Toby Lees (King's College, London); Fr Thomas Skeats (University of Bristol);
- Fr Gregory Murphy (University of Dundee and University of Abertay);
- Fr Peter Hunter (University of the West Indies (Mona campus) and the University of Technology, Kingston).

We have also had regular involvement at the Cambridge Catholic Chaplaincy and a student brother on pastoral placement at the Oxford Catholic Chaplaincy.

Educational Apostolate (cont.)

6. FURTHER STUDIES

Among those who undertook complementary studies in the academic year 2022/23 for the sake of the intellectual apostolate were:

- Fr Robert Verrill completed his doctoral studies in Philosophy and Physics, Baylor University, Texas;
- Fr Leon Pereira, a part-time doctoral student at the Angelicum;
- Fr David Rocks is studying for a part-time Masters in Philosophy at The Open University;
- Fr Matthew Jarvis was accepted for part-time DPhil studies at the Faculty of Music at the University of Oxford, to start in October 2023;
- Fr Jordan Scott is a student of Mandarin at National Kaohsiung University in Taiwan.
- Fr Luke Doherty is a student on the Advanced Masters in Theology and Religion programme at Katholieke Universiteit (KU) Leuven, focusing on social ethics.

Our planning of higher studies of the friars takes account that the Dicastery for Culture and Education requires our Studium to have a significant number of teachers with ecclesiastically-recognised higher qualifications.



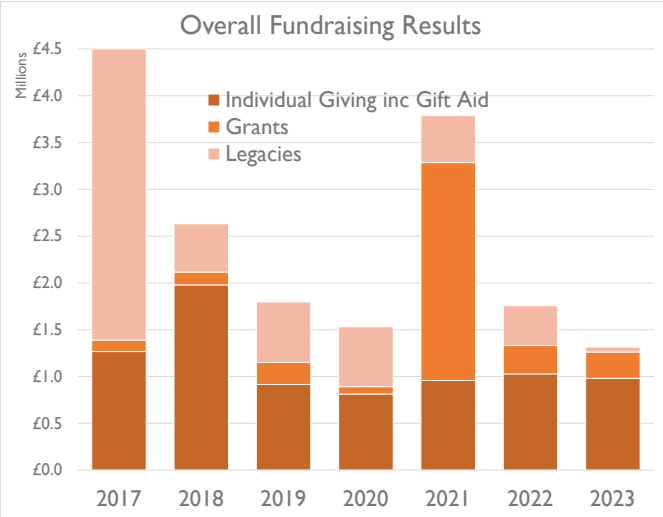
7. LIBRARIES

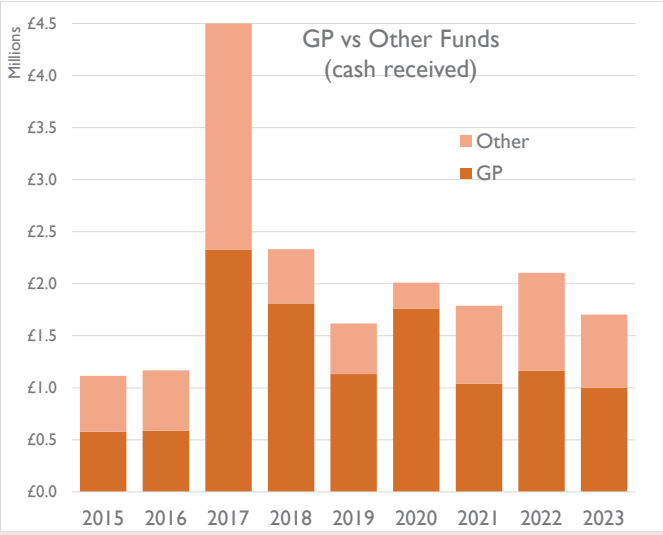
Our libraries are an important resource for the intellectual apostolate. In Oxford (approx. 40,000 books), there were approximately 250 books acquired by the library during the year. The library at Oxford, which serves the Studium and Hall as well as the priory, has typically between 100 and 150 visitors per annum from the wider University and beyond to consult books that cannot easily be found elsewhere. The Edinburgh, Cambridge, and London priories also have significant and well-functioning for libraries. A significant factor for the brethren in the large university centres is that they can access well-resourced university libraries. The Edinburgh brethren involved with the University of Edinburgh can automatically have access to the university's libraries and online materials.

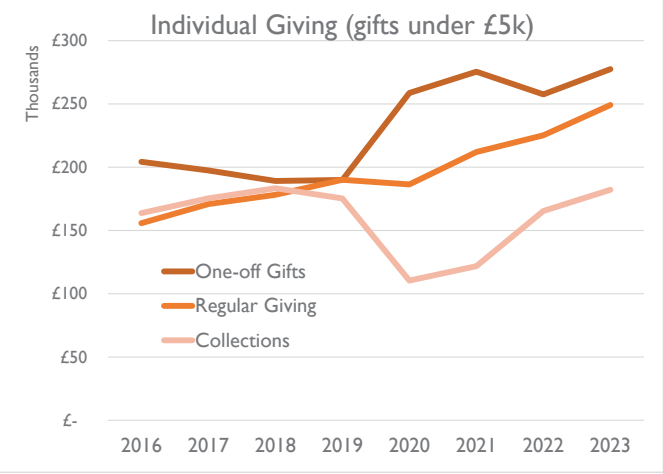
8. LAYING FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Much discussion and planning took place in preparation for the Provincial Chapter, scheduled to begin on 8 April 2024. Among the topics to be considered is how best to use the year freed up by moving the Studium STB programme from six years to five years. Other topics will include the permanent formation of the brethren and ways in which further studies undertaken by the brothers can best further our mission.

Fundraising Performance[1] – Trends







This year saw generous support offered once again to the charity.

Overall Fundraising Results[2] saw a total of £1.31m (2022: £1.76m) raised. Individual giving remained steady at around £1m, but legacy income was smaller than in recent years at £53k. A promotion of legacy giving was undertaken during the year which will bear fruit in future years (42 enquiries were received).

Regular Giving overall achieved £254k (2022: £236k), or £310k with Gift Aid (2022: £289k); however, the number of commitments continued to stay fairly level at 534 (2022: 530). The increase in amount given was driven by the generosity of certain donors increasing their commitment even while others were having to reduce or stop their commitments.

Grant payments received in the year totalled £648k including pledges from previous years (2022: £670k). Blackfriars Studium and Blackfriars Hall, Oxford, and St Albert's Priory, Edinburgh, were the principal beneficiaries.

General Purpose vs Other Funds – priory, parish and province GP funds have settled to an annual total of c.£1m, nearly double that typically seen in 2014–16. This is an important benchmark for fundraising in economically difficult times.

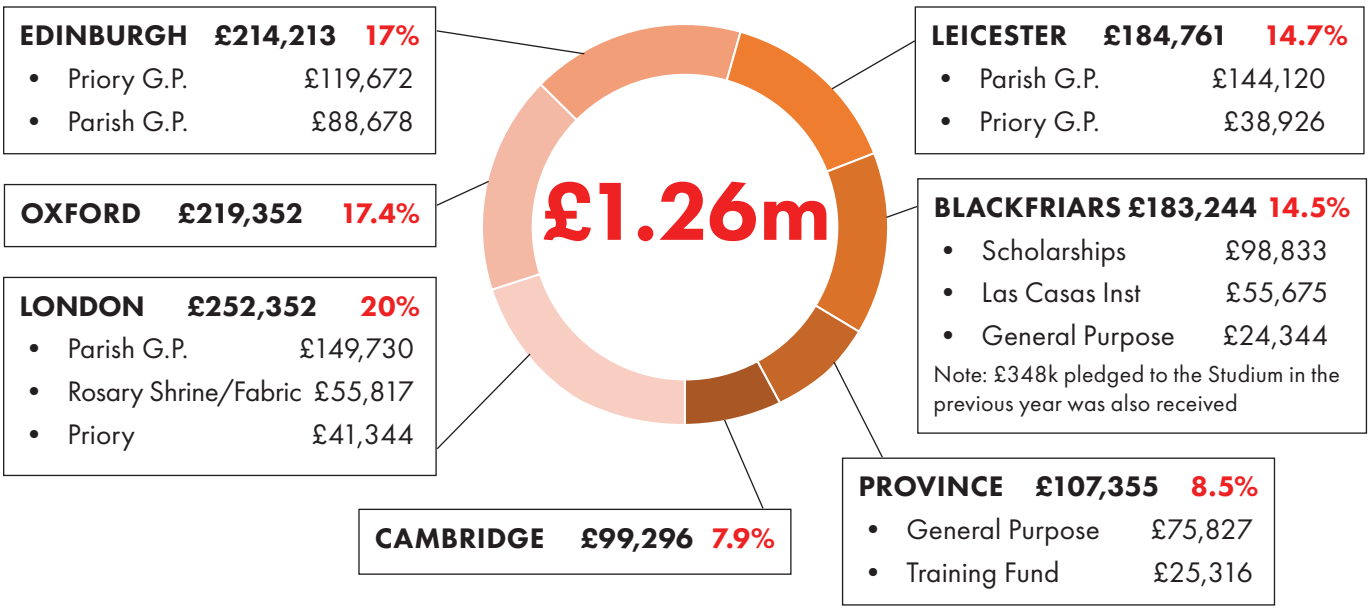
Individual Giving[2] – new analysis has revealed the ongoing effect of the lockdowns in 2020 and 2021, with collections now returning to 2019 levels; regular giving continuing to rise; and other one-off gifts (including online) levelling out following a surge that mirrored the falling-off of collections. At the local level, different patterns have been seen, with some houses showing stronger or weaker recovery of collections. The overall effect has been to raise individual giving (gifts under £5k) from £555k in 2019 to £709k in 2023.

(1) Fundraised amounts listed here will not correspond exactly with figures listed in the audited accounts, owing to different ways of recording legacies and the income from Gift Aid. Figures here measure fundraising performance only.

(2) Note that these amounts include the expected Gift Aid value, even if the actual tax reclaim happens in a later period.

Fundraising Performance – 2023

VOLUNTARY INCOME (EXC. LEGACIES)



EDINBURGH £214,213 17%
- Priory G.P. £119,672
- Parish G.P. £88,678

OXFORD £219,352 17.4%

LONDON £252,352 20%
- Parish G.P. £149,730
- Rosary Shrine/Fabric £55,817
- Priory £41,344

CAMBRIDGE £99,296 7.9%

LEICESTER £184,761 14.7%
- Parish G.P. £144,120
- Priory G.P. £38,926

BLACKFRIARS £183,244 14.5%
- Scholarships £98,833
- Las Casas Inst £55,675
- General Purpose £24,344

Note: £348k pledged to the Studium in the previous year was also received

PROVINCE £107,355 8.5%
- General Purpose £75,827
- Training Fund £25,316

LEGACIES



OXFORD £17,665 33%

BLACKFRIARS £25,044 47%

LONDON £10,000 19%

LEICESTER £500 1%

The friars express their gratitude to all who have helped sustain our mission this year through their generous giving. We would especially like to mark the contributions of:

Grants: Catholic Charitable Trust, Charlotte Marshall Charitable Trust, Growing in Faith Westminster, Jesuits (Society of Jesus), Porticus UK, Sir Harold Hood's Charitable Trust, Sisters of the Holy Cross Charitable Trust, The Lady Marian Gibson Trust, The Tolkien Trust.

Legacies: Nicholas Elwes, James Finnegan, Thomas Finnerty, Mary Gibbons, Maureen Heuston, Philomena Little. *R.I.P.*

Details of the Charity, Trustees, Advisors

NAME OF CHARITY	The English Province of the Order of Preachers
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	231192 (England and Wales) SC039062 (Scotland)
ALSO KNOWN AS	The Dominicans
PRINCIPAL OFFICE	Blackfriars, St Giles, OXFORD. OX1 3LY
TRUSTEE	The Dominican Council (a company limited by guarantee, no. 387818) Blackfriars, St Giles, OXFORD. OX1 3LY
DIRECTORS OF TRUSTEE CORPORATION	Very Rev. Fr Martin Ganeri OP (resigned on 12 April 2024) Rev. Fr Simon Gaine OP (resigned on 12 April 2024) Rev. Fr David Goodill OP Very Rev. Fr Nicholas Crowe OP Rev. Fr John O'Connor OP (from 12 April 2024) Rev. Fr Toby Lees OP (from 12 April 2024)
PRINCIPAL OFFICER	Very Rev. Fr Nicholas Crowe OP, Prior Provincial
BANKERS	The Royal Bank of Scotland RBS Bishopsgate Branch, 49 Bishopsgate, LONDON. EC2N 3AS
SOLICITORS	Farrer & Co. 66 Lincoln's Inn Fields, LONDON. WC2A 3LH
AUDITOR	Critchleys Audit LLP, Beaver House, 23–38 Hythe Bridge Street, OXFORD OX1 2EP
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT AND ADVICE	BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited 12 Throgmorton Avenue, LONDON. EC2N 2DL *and* Evelyn Partners LLP 45 Gresham Street, LONDON. EC2V 7BG
WEBSITE	https://english.op.org/

Structure, Governance & Management

INTRODUCTION

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30th September 2023. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 55ff. and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (January 2019) and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The English Province of the Order of Preachers is one of forty or so provinces of the Friars of the Order of Preachers, a religious order in the Catholic Church. The Order of Preachers was founded by St Dominic in the thirteenth century for the purpose of preaching, teaching and pastoral work in collaboration with the bishops. Members of the Order are often known as 'Dominicans', after their founder. The life of the friars is founded on the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience to which they bind themselves by vow, and is characterised by prayer, study and community life. Most of the friars are also ordained priests.

As part of the Catholic Church, the Order of Preachers is bound to the Church's Canon Law, especially as contained in the 1983 *Codex Iuris Canonici* (Code of Canon Law, hereafter *CIC*), and to the legitimate precepts of the Holy See and the Roman Pontiff. It is also bound by the laws of the dioceses in which it works, and of the Bishops' Conferences of England and Wales and of Scotland.

The Order has its own internal law contained in the *Liber Constitutionum et Ordinationum Fratrum Ordinis Praedicatorum* (Book of Constitutions and Ordinations of the Friars of the Order of Preachers, hereafter *LCO*). The General Chapter of the Order and the Master of the Order have authority, in accordance with canonical norms, over all the provinces, priories and friars of the Order.

The English Province, in addition to the above-mentioned norms, has its own canonical governing document, the 'Statute of the Province'. The Province is governed by the Provincial Chapter and by the Prior Provincial. The Provincial Chapter is a meeting of friars representing the Province which takes place every four years; its object is to 'discuss and make decisions about all that pertains to the fraternal and apostolic life and the good administration of the province' (*LCO* 351 §I). The Provincial Chapter can make changes to the Statute of the Province as well as make other ordinations concerning the governance of the Province and its priories. The Provincial Chapter elects the Prior Provincial (major superior), who governs the Province until the following Provincial Chapter.

The Prior Provincial is assisted by the Provincial Council, composed of senior officers of the Province and other members elected by the Provincial Chapter. On major financial matters the Prior Provincial and Provincial Council are advised by the Economic Council of the Province, whose members are appointed by the Provincial Chapter and which is chaired by the Provincial Bursar.

The Province is made up of a number of priories, which are local communities of friars with a large degree of self-government according to the norms of Canon Law and the internal law of the Order and the Province. The priory is 'the fundamental unit of the Order' (*LCO* 1 §VII), and the principal place where the educational and pastoral mission of the Order is pursued. Priors (local superiors) are normally elected by the members of their priory for three-year terms. Each priory is engaged in a variety of ministerial work, often centred on parish churches or university chaplaincies. Two priories are especially but not exclusively dedicated to the formation and training of priests and friars. The Prior Provincial and his Council have responsibility for the collaboration of the various priories, for the support of provincial projects and for the establishment, maintenance and en-

forcement of common policy, including those involving major financial issues.

The Charity consider that the members of the Provincial Council comprise the key management personnel, in charge of directing and controlling the charity and running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. The Prior Provincial and three other members of the Provincial Council are Directors of the Trustee Corporation, as listed on p. 36. Other members of the Provincial Council are members of the Trustee Corporation. All trustees, and all other members of the Provincial Council, give of their time freely and no remuneration was paid to any of them in the year. Details of trustee expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in notes 9 and 10 to the accounts.

The individual friars make profession of a vow of obedience, encompassing also the other 'evangelical counsels' of poverty and chastity. As a result of the profession of poverty, all that is acquired in virtue of the work or activity of a friar belongs to the friar's priory (*CIC* 668 §3; *LCO* 546). Once a friar has made definitive or 'solemn' profession, any income whatsoever that comes to the friar belongs to his priory or the Province (*LCO* 546, 548). This arrangement is given civil effect by means of a 'Deed of Disponer' in favour of the Charity made by each friar at the time of his solemn profession. Alongside the profession of poverty by the friars, there is a corresponding obligation on the Order to provide its members 'with everything that is necessary to fulfil the purpose of their vocation' (*CIC* 670).

The Dominican friars share a spirituality and mission with other branches of the 'Dominican family': nuns, sisters, members of secular institutes and fraternities of priests and laity (cf. *LCO* 1 §IX).

NATURE AND CONSTITUTION OF THE CHARITY

In order to allow for the general administration and financial maintenance of the members, priories and works of the Province, **the Province Trust** was established by Trust Deed in 1930, modified by a deed of partial revocation in 1945. Its registered objects are 'the promotion of education and the Roman Catholic religion and the establishment and maintenance of schools, churches and priories for these purposes and the upkeep of members of the Order of Preachers.' Under the name 'The English Province of the Order of Preachers', the Province Trust is registered as a charity in England and Wales, no. 231192, and in Scotland, no. SC039062.

The sole trustee of the Charity is the Dominican Council, a company limited by guarantee and governed in accordance with its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The Dominican Council was incorporated on 25 May 1944, no. 387818. Its registered office is Blackfriars, St Giles, OXFORD OX1 3LY.

The chairman *ex officio* of the Corporation and its Committee is the Prior Provincial, at present the Very Rev. Fr Nicholas Crowe OP. According to its Articles of Association, 'any Roman Catholic Priest of the English Province of the Order of Preachers' (art. 6) is qualified to be a member of the Corporation. Three members of the Corporation are elected by the Corporation to serve on its Committee alongside the Prior Provincial. The members of the Committee function as the directors of the Corporation and as 'Charity Trustees' in the sense of s177 of the Charities Act 2011.

RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF CHARITY TRUSTEES

The Province has a wealth of experience among its friars, who have spent years pursuing the Province's mission and the Charity's objects by means of educational and pastoral work. Many of the friars have also served as administrators at a local level, holding offices such as prior, parish priest or bursar. The Provincial Chapter therefore has a rich pool of competent and proficient friars to draw upon when it elects the Prior Provincial and the Provincial Council.

The normal practice of the Dominican Council is to elect new members of the Corporation from the Provincial Council, and so in turn it is from among these experienced friars that the Committee is elected. As a result, the Charity Trustees, i.e. the members of the Committee of the Dominican Council, are friars of proven prudence and experience with detailed knowledge of the Charity's work and structure.

The solemnly professed friars have no personal income or property; anything that comes to them is acquired

for the Order, which in turn is obliged to support all its members, providing them with 'everything that is necessary to fulfil the purpose of their vocation' (*CIC* 670). Hence the object of the Charity includes 'the upkeep of members of the Order of Preachers'.
The members of the Committee of the Dominican Council therefore benefit from the activity of the Charity, but they do so in their capacity as members of the Order of Preachers, not as a result of being Charity Trustees.

TRAINING OF CHARITY TRUSTEES

New members of the Committee of the Dominican Council are very experienced in the work of the Province and its administration. As superiors and administrators they are already well-acquainted with the governing documents of the Order. New members of the Committee are provided with latest version the Charity Commission's publication 'The Essential Trustee: What you need to know, what you need to do' and the OSCR publication 'Guidance for Charity Trustees'. Trustees are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the other resources for Charity Trustees provided by the Charity Commission, OSCR and other sources. All Charity Trustees are provided with appropriate briefings from the Charity's professional advisors concerning their responsibilities and when this is pertinent to any decisions that have to be made by the Charity Trustees. Members of the Committee of the Dominican Council attend meetings of the Association of Provincial Bursars and seminars for Charity Trustees organised by professional advisors.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND DECISION-MAKING

The Charity is structured internally as local priories in accordance with the laws of the Order of the Preachers contained in *LCO*. These norms, together with those of the Province itself, set out requirements for financial administration and reporting, investment, property acquisition and maintenance for the Province and for each priory, and also the limits to the powers of priors and of the Prior Provincial.
In particular:

- A Prior has a limit above which he cannot authorise expenditure without the consent of the Priory Council. The Priory Council can authorise expenditure to a higher limit, which varies depending on the size of the Priory, and above this authorisation is required by the Prior Provincial or, beyond an upper limit, the Provincial Council. These limits also apply to the authorisation of alienations or the incurring of liabilities. When authorisation is given by the Provincial Council, the Economic Council of the Province is consulted in advance, and a determination is made whether the matter requires an act of the Trustee Corporation.
- The annual accounts and budget of each priory are sent to the Prior Provincial (*LCO* 563) and submitted for examination by the Provincial Council (*LCO* 564), the Economic Council of the Province and the Trustee Corporation.

The limits mentioned here are reviewed every four years by the Provincial Chapter.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF SCOTTISH ACTIVITIES

The priories in Scotland are managed locally in the same way as priories in England, under the supervision of the Prior Provincial and the Provincial Council assisted by the Economic Council. The Trustees take the view that local governance structures are adequate and appropriate without an additional layer of governance specifically for Scotland.

RELATIONSHIP WITH A WIDER NETWORK

The Province is part of the Order of Preachers and of the Catholic Church. It operates in accordance with the teaching and laws of the Catholic Church, and the manner in which it realises its object, 'the promotion of education and the Roman Catholic religion', is influenced by the priorities identified by the Church and by the Order of Preachers internationally.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER CHARITIES AND ORGANISATIONS

The Charity is closely related to the **Hoper Dixon Trust** (registered charity no. 231160). Under the terms of a Scheme of 20 July 2006, that Trust exists 'for the benefit of the poor connected with or in the neighbourhood of any house or pastoral centre under

the direction of the Dominicans of the English Province of the Order of Preachers'.

The Province also co-operates in the mission of the **Catholic Dioceses** in whose territory members of the Province work. Six parishes and chaplaincies to eight universities are entrusted to the Province.

The Charity co-operates fraternally in a number of projects with **other branches of the Dominican family** (Congregations of Dominican Sisters, Dominican Secular Institute and Lay Dominican fraternities) active in Great Britain. The Province recently co-operated in the establishment of a Priestly Confraternity of St Dominic, and remains closely involved in its development and expansion.

The Province operates Blackfriars Hall, Oxford, a Permanent Private Hall of the **University of Oxford**. The Hall co-operates with the University, Colleges and other Halls in furthering its educational objective. There is also co-operation with **other religious institutes** in training candidates for the priesthood and in providing theological formation for other religious. The Hall is developing a research collaboration with the **Anscombe Bioethics Centre**, registered charity no. 274327. Members of the congregations at two of the Province's priories run overseas aid charities: the **Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust** (registered charity no. 288585) based in Oxford and the **Jean Grove Trust** (registered charity 1109593) based in Cambridge. The Province is happy to promote and support these works.

The Order's presence in Grenada and Barbados is canonically dependent on the Province. Though the presence there is not part of the Province Charity, from time to time the Charity is able to make grants for the work of the Order in the Caribbean.

FUNDRAISING DISCLOSURES

The Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016 requires charities which are subject to an audit to make disclosure in their Financial Statements about their fundraising activities.

The Dominican Friars have been mendicants since the very beginning of the Order of Preachers in the early 13th century, and benefactors have played a crucial role at every stage of our history up to and including the present day.

In 2013, impelled by an urgent need to improve the financial situation of the charity, the Province began to employ a full-time fundraiser (Development Director) to direct and manage fundraising and related communications activities on the charity's behalf. The Development Director is now assisted by a part-time Development Support Officer, with oversight provided by the Prior Provincial and the Provincial Bursar, and guidance given by the Province's Fundraising Committee.

Most funds are raised from those with whom we have close relationships, typically through their attendance as worshippers at one of our churches. Wider circles of relationships are maintained through our opt-in magazine, opt-in email newsletters, websites, and social media pages, all of which may include invitations to donate. Contact relationship data and donations data are managed centrally through a highly secure database with access restricted to a small number of employees.

We fundraise in accordance with the requirements of the Fundraising Regulator, and with our moral obligations as a Catholic charity. We fundraise responsibly at all times and with a sensitivity to the pastoral relationship that most donors have with the friars. We avoid approaches to vulnerable people and do not hold information on children. We do not exert pressure on people to donate, nor is access to the services we provide as a charity dependent on donations. We do not at this time employ third-party fundraisers, though some people do voluntarily and of their own initiative fundraise on our behalf. Subscriptions to communications can be cancelled at any time. Complaints are responded to as soon as possible; none were received in the current year (2022: none).

RISK

The trustees review annually the principal risks to which the charity is exposed, and the strategies and procedures in place to mitigate those risks. The trustees consider that the major risks can be categorised under four headings: operational, financial, reputational and regulatory. Listed below are the main risks in each category, along with the principal ways in which they are mitigated.

OPERATIONAL

The activities of the charity are highly dependent upon those friars who are responsible for their management, often with little or no professional lay assistance. For this reason there is a risk that our ministries may suffer from lack of direction, poor management and inefficiencies. It can happen that a particular friar is overburdened with responsibilities leading to stress and reduced effectiveness. To mitigate this, the trustees and especially the Prior Provincial regularly review the work of each entity of the Province, ensuring that those responsible for our works are provided with the practical and moral support required. The Province has also instituted regular meetings between the Provincial and local superiors, to offer support and share best practice. The Province maintains its commitment to ensuring that friars who are experiencing emotional or psychological difficulties are provided with appropriate professional help.

The charity is responsible for the care of a number of elderly friars. As at 30 September 2023 there were 17 friars over 70, of whom 8 were over 80. Like all of the friars, these men have no resources of their own as all earnings, pensions and other income have been donated to the charity. As far as possible older brothers continue to live in community, though where appropriate residential nursing care places are found. The Province remains committed to designating all pensions income to the Designated Sick Fund (see page 44), which covers the cost of residential care but also funds home nursing care where appropriate, as well as works in priories designed to make them more suitable for elderly and infirm brothers.

The on-going work of the charity requires that young men continue to present themselves to join the Order, and that these men be properly formed and educated for our ministries. Many religious orders in the UK have seen very low or even non-existent levels of recruitment for a number of years leading to a severely ageing demographic profile and the abandonment of numbers of ministries. The Province has committed one of its ablest young priests to work full-time as Promoter and Director of Vocations, and over the last two years ten men entered the noviciate, an unusually high number. The Province is also committed to ensuring that its friars receive the best possible intellectual, spiritual and pastoral formation.

FINANCIAL

The charity's principal assets comprise listed investments, the value of and income from which are dependent on movements in UK and world markets. A substantial long-term loss of value of these investments would threaten the long-term financial viability of the Province, and any significant reduction in investment income would cause financial difficulties even in the short term. To mitigate this, the investments are managed by reputable investment managers who adhere to a policy agreed by the trustees. The performance of investments and our investment strategy are assessed regularly by the Economic Council of the Province, aided by a lay expert, to ensure that our investments remain appropriate to the charity's needs (see further page 44).

The Development Office, under the leadership of a lay professional Development Director, with the co-operation of all friars, ensures that the Province and individual priories maintain excellent relationships with existing donors and takes the lead in seeking out and cultivating potential new sources of support. The work of the Development Office is supervised by the Provincial in consultation with the Provincial Council.

Our operations involve very large numbers of financial transactions including significant amounts of cash, bringing with it the obvious risk of fraud, theft or loss. The Province has a well-established set of 'Norms for Economic and Administrative Practice' which impose appropriate procedures for cash-handling and for the management of bank payments etc., and the Provincial Bursar visits priories regularly to support local bursars and other friars in adhering to these procedures and other good practices. The Province decided at its recent Chapter to substantially reduce the levels of expenditure that can be made without a second authorised signature.

The operation of Blackfriars Hall and Studium is at particular financial risk, depending as heavily as it does upon numbers of students. The Regent and other moderators of the Hall engage in visits to the USA to seek additional students, and the Hall is developing

with the Development Director a fundraising strategy emphasising student scholarships and support for Studium teaching with a view to providing Blackfriars with a more solid financial base in the years to come.

In the light of rapidly rising inflation, the Province faces increasing risks both to its income, as donors find their finances stretched, and in general expenditure. The value of returns on investments may also be eroded with higher inflation and loss of capital value in the markets.

REPUTATIONAL

Friars and some other volunteers working with the friars, by the nature of our activities, inevitably often operate with little immediate supervision and often in positions of considerable pastoral responsibility and trust. Mistakes and misjudgements especially by friars in such positions can lead to harm to the reputation of the whole Province. The trustees consider that the greatest risk to the reputation of the charity in terms of severity of outcome, though not of likelihood, comes from allegations of abuse by friars of children or vulnerable adults: even where these allegations are historical in nature and relate to long-deceased friars, and even where they are unfounded, they can be deeply harmful to the reputation, local and national, of the Province, its ministries and its friars. The Province works closely with the Catholic Church Insurance Association, the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service and the Safeguarding Co-ordinator of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham to deal with any such allegations in accordance with the safeguarding policy of the Catholic Church in England & Wales. A member of the Provincial Council is the Province's Safeguarding Co-ordinator, and he is responsible for ensuring that all friars are familiar with, and practise, this safeguarding policy, again in association with the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Lay people volunteer as local safeguarding representatives at each location.

The trustees also recognise the potential for reputational damage that may result from operational failures mentioned in the first paragraph of this section, and this risk is mitigated as detailed there.

REGULATORY

The trustees are keenly aware of the need to comply with relevant laws, including but not limited to those governing employment, health & safety at work, immigration and data protection, and the potential consequences of failures in this regard. The Provincial Bursar, assisted by the Economic Council of the Province, the Development Director and professional experts, takes the lead in compliance, and is aided in this regard by training sessions provided by the Association of Provincial Bursars. Each site within the Province is visited at least once a year by a professional Health & Safety advisor, to ensure that our sites are not only compliant with the Health & Safety at Work, etc. Act (1974) and related regulations, but also provide good working and living environments for the friars.

Public Benefit

The Charity Trustees have read the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and the specific guidance for charities whose objects include Education and the advancement of Religion. The Charity Trustees have taken note of the Charity Commission's advice of October 2015 concerning public benefit and fee-charging in relation to educational charities. The Charity Trustees have paid due regard to the Commission's guidance, and all who make decisions about the activities the Charity undertakes are concerned to ensure that a real religious or educational benefit is provided to a broad range of people.

The priories of the Province all celebrate liturgy which is open to the public, and the friars are available to any members of the public who wish to consult them about matters of faith and the spiritual life. The priory churches are open to the public for most of the day, and many people avail themselves of the opportunity for quiet prayer or reflection. No charge is made for admission to the churches or to religious services (cf. *CIC*, c. 1221). Offerings are customarily made on the occasion of celebration of certain rites (e.g. baptisms, marriages and funerals), but Canon Law requires that those who are not able to make an offering are not thereby excluded (*CIC*, c. 848 and c. 1181). Some charges may be made for other activities (e.g. participation in pilgrimages); the Hoper Dixon Trust, a connected charity, is in some cases able to assist with these costs.

The main educational centre of the Province, located at Blackfriars in Oxford, welcomes applications to study from any suitably qualified student. Blackfriars Hall charges fees at the level prevalent among Oxford colleges, and students are eligible for public funding in the same way as other students in higher education. The Hall is aware that public funding is not available to assist all who would benefit from studying in Oxford, especially those wishing to study for a second undergraduate degree or a postgraduate qualification. The Hall continues actively seeking funds to broaden access, having almost exhausted funds available for scholarships to students in the previous reporting period. Members of the public who are not students at Oxford may attend lectures and classes at Blackfriars on application; a small fee is normally charged, but is waived in cases of financial hardship. Blackfriars Hall and many of the priories and parishes arrange for public lectures and talks which are free of charge.

The Charity Trustees consider that the achievements and performance of the Charity demonstrate success in providing benefit to a broad public.

Provision for Sick and Elderly Friars

As of 30 September 2023, 14 friars of the Province (20%) in Great Britain were aged 70 or over, of whom 5 (7%) were 80 or over. Although most of these brothers continue to be active and enjoy reasonable health, the Charity Trustees are concerned to ensure that adequate provision is made for the care of older brothers and of any other sick brothers. The Charity maintains a Sick Fund for this purpose, of which details are given in the Financial Review and Statement of Financial Activities. At the end of the reporting period, no brother was in a nursing home (2022: one); but it is not unlikely that this will be necessary in the future, so the Trustees continue to ensure that such provision is affordable whenever necessary. While the provision and level of funds is adequate for current needs, the Charity Trustees are aware that demands could increase substantially in future years.

All state pension income is designated for the Sick Fund, which at the end of the period stood at £4,097k (2022: £3,947k). While the income from this fund currently suffices, the Charity Trustees are concerned that the Sick Fund should continue to be increased to ensure that likely future demands can be met.

Priories are also concerned to keep constantly under review their provision for disabled and infirm brothers and as necessary to make various adaptations and improvements.

Investment Performance

The Charity's investments had a market value of £20,752k (2022: £19,337k) at the end of the reporting period. The market value of investments with Evelyn Partners was £8,403k (2022: £8,271k), and these represent the value of the Designated Sick Fund and the Designated Training Funds, plus a small part of the Restricted Training Funds. The value of the Province's holdings in the BlackRock Catholic Charities Growth & Income Fund at the end of the year was £10,831k (2022: £11,066k). The market value of the BlackRock fund fell slightly in the period, by 2%, whilst the Evelyn portfolio increased slightly, by 1.6%. Evelyn Partners' and BlackRock's performance for the year were slightly worse than benchmark. The performance of both funds is affected by a cautious approach to major tech stocks that drive much of the market's growth and volatility. The trustees are satisfied for now with the performance of both funds over time. Following the sale of the Charity's short-dated bond fund holdings in 2022, the proceeds were held in the main bank account until, in 2023, £1.5m was deposited with the BlackRock Institutional Cash Series.

At 30 September 2023, £1,519k (2022: £0) was directly held in cash funds, comprising 7% of total investment assets (2022: 0.0%). Income from cash funds over the year was £200 (2022: £99).

Further details of these investments may be found in note 6 to the Financial Statements.

Financial Review

FIGURE 1:
INCOME

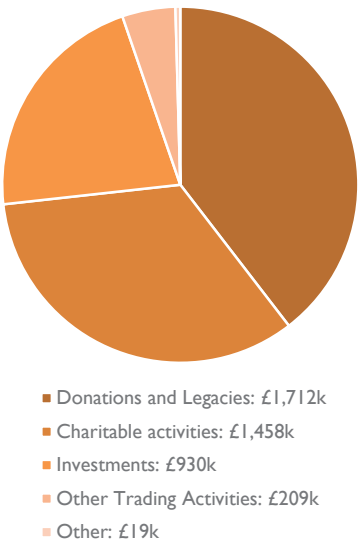
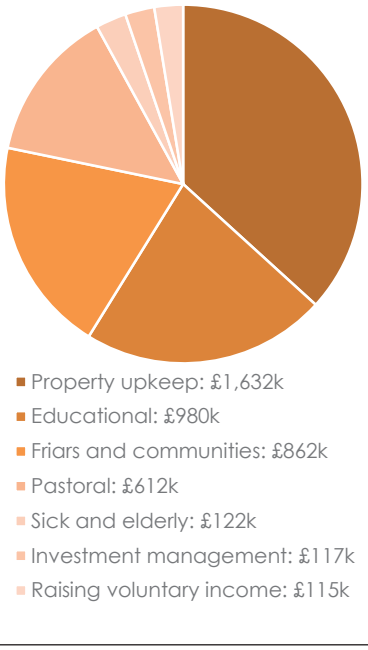


FIGURE 2:
EXPENDITURE



FUNDING SOURCES AND INCOME

Total income for the year ended 30 September 2023 was £4,329k (2022: £4,434k). Income was less than in 2022 as 2022 income included a number of significant legacies. Total income was only £105k less than last year. Grant income increased due to new grants secured by Blackfriars Hall for new programs whilst student numbers returned to pre-COVID levels so that tuition fee and student accommodation income increased. £325k was received into investment income in settlement of a dilapidations claim.

More details are given in note 1 to the financial statements; cf Figure 1.

EXPENDITURE

Expenditure totalled £4,440k for the year (2022: £3,990k), an increase of £450k, 1%. The costs of pastoral works & projects returned to, and exceeded, pre-COVID levels as activities returned to normal. Blackfriars Hall educational activities returned to normal whilst the Aquinas and Las Casas Institutes expanded with a number of new programs. Support for the Province's houses in the Caribbean was maintained. The Province's required contribution to the central costs of the Order fell by £6k.

The cost of upkeep of the friars increased again this year by £66k, 8%, with higher food, fuel and utility costs. The cost of upkeep of buildings increased again, by £134k, 9%. The London priory completed the major redecoration and refurbishment of its church, and depreciation increased due to recent renovations. The Cambridge, Leicester and London priories invested in replacement of various heating systems this year.

More details on expenditure are given in note 2 to the financial statements; cf Figure 2.

Funds & Investments

INVESTMENT POLICY AND OBJECTIVES

The Charity's investment policy is set by the Trustees, after regular consultation with the Province's Economic Council and professional investment managers. The principal objective is the maximisation of returns, seeking capital growth but also a steady and, where possible, growing level of income. The Charity Trustees are concerned to manage risk and therefore maintain and review periodically, with the assistance of the Province's Economic Council and professional advisors, a high degree of diversification in the Charity's investment assets, whether held directly or through a common investment fund.

In keeping with the objects of the Charity and the teachings of the Catholic Church, the following policy is stated in the Statute of the Province: 'Investments shall be avoided in companies a significant proportion of whose activities are contrary to the moral teachings of the Catholic Church, including but not limited to those relating to sanctity of life, care for the environment, and justice and peace.' This applies both to direct investments and to those through a common investment fund.

POLICY ON RESERVES

The laws of the Order oblige the Province to ensure that funds are available to support central administration, common projects (e.g. publishing, archives, libraries), the care of sick and elderly friars, and the formation of student friars. The Charity continues to maintain a high level of reserves in order to meet these obligations. The Charity Trustees also ensure that the level of reserves held is adequate to respond to unexpected financial needs, and to be able to commit to new apostolic projects when possible. Such a level of reserves is required because of the very large potential demands made by the ownership of the priories and churches necessary to meet the requirements of the Charity's objects, many of which are listed buildings. It might not always be possible to meet urgent needs out of branch funds. The high level of reserves also produce an income for central activities, allowing contributions from branch funds to central province funds to be kept down.

The Charity Trustees' view is that an amount equal to a minimum of four months' total expenditure (i.e. £1,330k over the reporting period) should be held as free reserves.

The Charity Trustees continue to aim for an increasing level of reserves designated for the purpose of providing for the needs of older or infirm friars and the formation of novices and student friars. The Charity Trustees continue to maintain designated funds as capital funds which generate sufficient income necessary for the Province to be able to satisfy its obligations under the laws of the Order and to meet annual expenditure requirements in these priority areas.

RESERVES AND DESIGNATED FUNDS

The balance sheet shows total unrestricted funds of £11,675k (2022: £11,273k). The Province General Purpose fund accounts for £3,196k (2022: £2,976k), of which £2,840k (2022: £2,822k) are free reserves (i.e. excluding fixed assets held for charity use). This level of free reserves represents five months' total expenditure by the Charity.

Designated funds make up the remaining £8,479k (2022: £8,296k) of unrestricted funds, the principal of which are:

Sick Fund: This holds a balance of £4,097k (2022: £3,947k) to provide care for sick and elderly friars. Income from the pensions of the friars is allocated to this fund. Despite a number of friars in residential care over the past few years and works to provide accommodation in priories suitable for elderly and infirm friars, it has been possible to continue to build up the sick fund. While it is impossible to predict with accuracy the burden on this fund, the large number of older friars makes significant demands in the near future likely.

Student Training Fund: The Charity maintains a designated fund for the support of the friars' studies, which holds a balance of £3,245k (2022: £3,144k).

Trustees' Responsibilities

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including FRS 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) regulations.

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales and Scotland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

a. select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

b. observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

c. make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

d. state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

e. prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, the provisions of the trust deed, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the provisions of the Book of Constitutions and Ordinations of the Friars of the Order of Preachers. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Declaration

DECLARATION

The officers of the Trustee Corporation, The Dominican Council, declare that to the best of their knowledge the annual accounts of the English Province of the Order of Preachers have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the regulations and requirements of the province Trust Deed, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the provisions of the Book of Constitutions and Ordinations of the Friars of the Order of Preachers.

The officers of the Trustee Corporation who were in office on the date of approval of these financial statements have confirmed that, as far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the auditor is unaware. Each of the officers of the Trustee Corporation has confirmed that they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as an officer of the Trustee Corporation in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to the auditor.

BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEE



Fr David Goodill OP
Secretary to the Dominican Council

7 June 2024

Auditor's Report

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE ORDER OF PREACHERS

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of the English Province of the Order of Preachers ('the charity') for the year ended 30 September 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 30 September 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 and The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

BASIS FOR OPINION

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

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

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

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

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

OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, including the trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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 course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

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

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

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have been appointed as auditor under Section 144 Charities Act 2011 and Section 44(1)(c) Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with trustees and other management, and from our knowledge and experience;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charity.
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence where applicable; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

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

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations; and

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

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

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

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims;
- reviewing relevant correspondence.

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

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

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the 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.

Critchleys Audit LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the 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.

Critchleys Audit LLP

13th June 2024

Critchleys Audit LLP, Statutory Auditor
Beaver House
23-38 Hythe Bridge Street
Oxford OX1 2EP

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 30 September 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
INCOME FROM:							
Donations and Legacies		83,502	1,628,676	1,712,178	33,914	1,905,688	1,939,602
Other Trading Activities		135,866	73,029	208,895	131,350	81,140	212,490
Investment Income		656,954	273,164	930,118	342,948	257,693	600,641
Charitable Activities		173,580	1,284,839	1,458,419	169,935	1,498,890	1,668,825
Other		4,274	14,788	19,062	614	11,675	12,289
TOTAL INCOME	1	1,054,176	3,274,496	4,328,672	678,761	3,755,086	4,433,847
EXPENDITURE ON:							
Raising funds							
Costs of raising voluntary income		110,295	4,565	114,860	95,121	3,471	98,592
Investment management costs		117,175	-	117,175	124,530	-	124,530
Charitable Activities		708,053	3,500,377	4,208,430	674,742	3,092,217	3,766,959
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2	935,523	3,504,942	4,440,465	894,393	3,095,688	3,990,081
(LOSSES)/GAINS ON INVESTMENTS	6	54,414	(138,986)	(84,572)	(1,261,000)	(946,694)	(2,207,694)
Net (expenditure)/income		173,067	(369,432)	(196,365)	(1,476,632)	(287,296)	(1,763,928)
TRANSFERS							
Transfers between funds	11	229,682	(229,682)	-	268,630	(268,630)	-
Net movement in funds		402,749	(599,114)	(196,365)	(1,208,002)	(555,926)	(1,763,928)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS							
Total funds brought forward 1 October 2022		11,272,566	19,514,040	30,786,606	12,480,568	20,069,966	32,550,534
Total funds carried forward 30 September 2023	12	11,675,315	18,914,926	30,590,241	11,272,566	19,514,040	30,786,606

BALANCE SHEET

at 30 September 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	5	7,003,696	7,480,757
Investments	6	20,752,495	19,337,057
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS		27,756,191	26,817,814
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	7	1,592,736	2,323,454
Cash at bank and in hand		1,802,357	2,969,561
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		3,395,093	5,293,015
LIABILITIES			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(545,869)	(1,300,180)
Net Current Assets		2,849,224	3,992,835
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		30,605,415	30,810,649
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	14	(15,174)	(24,043)
NET ASSETS		30,590,241	30,786,606
FUNDS			
Restricted funds			
Branch funds		13,872,048	14,341,334
Province restricted funds		5,042,878	5,172,706
Total restricted funds		18,914,926	19,514,040
Unrestricted funds			
Province general purpose		3,195,643	2,976,337
Province designated		8,479,672	8,296,229
Total unrestricted funds		11,675,315	11,272,566
TOTAL FUNDS	12	30,590,241	30,786,606

The financial statements on pages 52 to 70 were approved by the Trustee, authorised for issue on 7 June 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Directors of Trustee Corporation

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

for the year ended 30 September 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net movement in funds	(196,365)	(1,763,928)
Depreciation charges	646,774	661,800
Losses/(Gains) on investments	84,572	2,207,694
(Profit) on disposal of fixed assets	(194)	(5,543)
Interest received	(930,118)	(600,641)
(Increase) in debtors	730,718	(180,668)
Increase in creditors	(754,310)	802,771
NET CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	(418,923)	1,121,485
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Interest received	930,118	600,641
Purchase of property and equipment	(169,713)	(598,591)
Proceeds from disposal of property and equipment	194	5,543
Purchase of investments	(1,500,010)	(99)
Proceeds from sale of investments	-	837,025
NET CASH FROM/(USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(739,411)	844,519
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Payment of finance lease liabilities	(8,870)	(6,136)
NET CASH USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES	(8,870)	(6,136)
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE YEAR	(1,167,204)	1,959,868
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	2,969,561	1,009,693
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	1,802,357	2,969,561

ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At start of year £	Cash flows £	At end of year £
Cash	2,969,561	(1,167,204)	1,802,357
Finance lease obligations	(31,525)	8,870	(22,655)
	2,938,036	(1,158,334)	1,779,702

Accounting Policies

BASIS OF PREPARATION

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) effective 1 January 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing these accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (the Charities SORP (FRS 102) effective 1 January 2019) rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005, which has since been withdrawn. The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

ASSESSMENT OF GOING CONCERN

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future, being a period of at least 12 months from the date that these financial statements have been signed. In arriving at this conclusion, the charity has prepared a detailed budget and cash flow forecast to end of September 2025. The Trustees consider that the charity has sufficient unrestricted reserves, in the form of cash and a liquid investment portfolio, that could be drawn upon, should the charity be required to do so in order to meet its costs for the foreseeable future, being a period of at least 12 months from the date that these financial statements have been signed. On this basis, the Trustees consider that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going-concern basis.

FIXED ASSETS

Functional property is capitalised at cost except in the case of historic property for which no cost information is available. Such property has been capitalised using the derived cost method based on insurance replacement value and retail price index. The year the property was built is used for this purpose and as such enhanced expenditure is also incorporated into cost.

Tangible fixed assets are being depreciated over their useful economic lives. The following rates are used:

Historic Property: over expected useful lives between 10 and 371 years
Other Freehold Property: over expected useful lives between 10 and 50 years
Motor Vehicles: over 4 years on a straight-line basis
Fixtures and Fittings: over 4 years on a straight-line basis. **Leases**: over 7 years
Assets in course of construction: not depreciated.

Assets are reviewed for impairment when evidence of such impairment arises. Expenditure on tangible items is not capitalised where it is less than £2,500 or where the view is taken that it is incapable of providing any future economic benefit to the Charity.

WORKS OF ART AND HISTORIC TREASURES

Individual works of art, historic treasures and plate are not capitalised as a valuation is not considered practical. Such items as are in the possession of the Charity were created for use in religious worship or devotion and

continue to be used for these purposes. The Charity maintains stewardship by keeping a full inventory and has no intention of disposing of any of the works of art, historic treasures and plate so long as this use continues.

INVESTMENTS

All investments are valued at their market value at the balance sheet date. It is considered that market value best represents a true and fair view of the value of these assets to the Charity. Gains and losses on disposal of the investments are treated as realised. Gains and losses on the revaluation of investments are treated as unrealised. Both are recorded in the Statement of Financial Activities. Investment management fees are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when incurred.

FOREIGN CURRENCIES

Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate of ruling at the date of transaction. All differences are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

LIABILITIES

Liabilities are recorded in the financial statements when the Trustees have made a commitment to acquire goods or services.

DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

Donations and legacies are accounted for in accordance with the requirements of the SORP (being entitlement, probability and measurement). Legacies are considered receivable once the value of the legacy has been determined and probate has been granted. Legacies received by friars of the Province, who have signed Deeds of Disponor in favour of The Dominican Council, are classified as legacy income. Donated assets and services are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when a reliable estimate of the value to the charity can be readily obtained.

GRANTS RECEIVABLE

Grants receivable are accounted for in accordance with the terms of the grant, and are recognised when the conditions for receipt have been complied with.

PENSIONS RECEIVABLE

Pension income for professed members of the Order is accounted for when it is receivable.

ACTIVITIES FOR RAISING FUNDS

Fundraising, publications and other similar income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the relevant amount of income becomes receivable or the item has been sold. Property rental income is accounted for when it is receivable in accordance with the terms of the relevant agreements.

INVESTMENT INCOME

Investment income is accounted for when notified by the Charity's investment portfolio manager. Deposit interest is accounted for on a receivable basis. Interest received on cash held with investment managers is accounted for as investment income.

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

The costs of charitable activities are accounted for when they become payable. They include apportioned support costs.

SUPPORT AND GOVERNANCE COSTS

Within this heading are incorporated management and administration costs, and any other costs not directly constitutive of charitable activity, generation of funds or governance. Where support costs are attributable to a particular charitable activity, they are allocated to that activity. General support costs are apportioned on the basis of the direct costs of each activity.

NATIONAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FRIARS

The Province pays voluntary (class 3) national insurance contributions for friars when these will count towards the provision of State Pension. These costs are recognised at the end of the tax year in which HM Revenue and Customs issues notice of a gap in National Insurance Contributions.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees. The amount charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in respect of pension costs is the contributions payable in the year.

TAXATION

The English Province of the Order of Preachers is a registered charity and as such its income and gains falling within Sections 518 to 564 of the Income Taxes Act 2007 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 are exempt from income tax and capital gains tax to the extent that they are applied to charitable objectives.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Restricted funds can only be applied for a particular purpose. Most restricted funds of the charity are 'branch funds', restricted to use for the particular purposes of a branch of the charity (a priory, a parish or Blackfriars Hall) while that branch continues in existence. Some branch funds have more specific designations; others have further restrictions that would have to be respected even in the event of a branch ceasing to operate.

There are also central restricted funds, the principal of which are:

- Training Funds – to support training of student friars of the Order;
- Historic Property Fund – comprising the Historic Property Fixed Assets (see 'Fixed Assets' above);
- Mission Funds – to support various missions of the Order.

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

The unrestricted funds of the Charity comprise general purpose funds and designated funds. General purpose funds are retained to cover future direct charitable costs, general support costs, and investment management costs.

Designated funds are those parts of the Charity's unrestricted funds designated by the Trustees to be used for particular purposes in the future. The Trustees have the power to reallocate such funds. The principal designated funds are:

- Study Funds – representing amounts designated for expenditure on students' study costs.
- Sick Funds – representing amounts designated for expenditure on the care of sick and elderly friars.

CONNECTED CHARITY

The Hoper Dixon Trust is considered to be a connected charity because the Dominican Council is one of the Trustees. The Trust's accounts are not consolidated within those of the English Province of the Order of Preachers because in the opinion of the officers of the Dominican Council the Order does not have control of the Trust. The Trust's Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet are given in notes 17 and 18 respectively.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Charity only has financial instruments and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

LEASES

Leases are classified as finance leases where the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the equipment from the lessor to the lessee.

As a lessee: equipment held under finance leases are recognised on the Balance Sheet at the commencement of the lease at its fair value measured at the lease's inception. The asset recognised is matched by a liability for the obligation to pay the lessor.

Finance charges are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

The charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. There are no estimates and assumptions that have a risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. ANALYSIS OF INCOME

ANALYSIS OF INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
INCOME						
Donations and Legacies						
Donations and gifts	81,492	1,014,973	1,096,465	33,914	1,072,572	1,106,486
Legacies	-	53,209	53,209	-	427,521	427,521
Grants received	2,010	560,494	562,504	-	405,595	405,595
Total Donations and Legacies Income	83,502	1,628,676	1,712,178	33,914	1,905,688	1,939,602
Other Trading Activities						
Fundraising, publications etc.	12,258	11,697	23,955	10,242	222	10,464
Property	123,608	61,332	184,940	121,108	80,918	202,026
Total Other Trading Activities	135,866	73,029	208,895	131,350	81,140	212,490
Income from listed investments	656,954	273,164	930,118	342,948	257,693	600,641
Charitable Activities						
Ministerial services	31,667	605,116	636,783	26,234	989,814	1,016,048
Educational services	-	653,797	653,797	-	509,076	509,076
Pensions received	141,913	25,926	167,839	143,701	-	143,701
Total Charitable Activities	173,580	1,284,839	1,458,419	169,935	1,498,890	1,668,825
Other Income	4,274	14,788	19,062	614	11,675	12,289
TOTAL INCOME	1,054,176	3,274,496	4,328,672	678,761	3,755,086	4,433,847

2. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS							
Costs of raising voluntary income		110,295	4,565	114,860	95,121	3,471	98,592
Investment management costs		117,175	-	117,175	124,530	-	124,530
Total costs of raising funds		227,470	4,565	232,035	219,651	3,471	223,122
EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	3						
Educational		112,071	868,000	980,071	99,248	825,394	924,642
Pastoral works and projects		135,473	476,268	611,741	136,726	303,166	439,892
Care for sick and elderly friars		99,855	21,861	121,716	83,262	24,488	107,750
Property upkeep		276,943	1,355,486	1,632,429	273,704	1,224,533	1,498,237
Support of the friars and communities		83,711	778,762	862,473	81,802	714,636	796,438
Total charitable activities		708,053	3,500,377	4,208,430	674,742	3,092,217	3,766,959
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		935,523	3,504,942	4,440,465	894,393	3,095,688	3,990,081

3. APPORTIONMENT OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Educat-ional £	Pastoral £	Sick & Elderly £	Property £	Friars & Communities £	Total £
CENTRAL SUPPORT COSTS						
Friars	13,410	8,370	1,665	22,336	11,801	57,582
Staff	24,230	15,124	3,009	40,358	21,322	104,043
General administration	14,218	8,875	1,766	23,682	12,512	61,053
Governance costs						
Audit and accountancy fees	7,844	4,896	974	13,066	6,903	33,683
Legal fees	6,575	4,104	817	10,951	5,786	28,233
Other professional Fees	8,166	5,097	1,014	13,601	7,186	35,064
Total central support costs	74,443	46,466	9,245	123,994	65,510	319,658
BRANCH SUPPORT COSTS	328,133	15,981	-	-	69,701	413,815
TOTAL SUPPORT COSTS 2023	402,576	62,447	9,245	123,994	135,211	733,473
TOTAL SUPPORT COSTS 2022	361,053	51,121	8,243	114,615	162,146	697,178

Central support costs are apportioned to activities in proportion to directly incurred expenditure. Branch support costs are allocated to the principal activity of the branch incurring the cost. Included in Audit and accountancy fees are audit fees of £18,750 (2022: £27,500).

4. STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

	2023	2022
STAFF NUMBERS		
Average number of Employees	25	26
Average number of FTE Employees	15	16

The number of employees who earned £60,000 per annum or more (including taxable benefits but excluding employer's pension contributions) during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
£60,001 - £70,000	1	-
STAFF COSTS	£	£
Salaries/Wages	606,529	546,560
Employer's national insurance costs	48,563	41,844
Pension costs	80,827	73,203
Total Staff Costs	735,919	661,607

No remuneration is paid to the trustee corporation or its directors.

VOLUNTEER NUMBERS		
Total Lay Volunteers	54	55
Total Full Time Equivalent Lay Volunteers	4.8	4.2

Note: for the sake of clarity, friars are no longer included here as volunteers.

4. STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS (CONT.)

For the purposes of this report, employees are those who have contracts of employment. The figures do not include persons paid through payroll from time to time who have no contracted hours; typically, such persons provide teaching or other ad hoc services to Blackfriars Hall, and are either employees of other institutions or students doing small amounts of part-time work.

The charity considers its key management personnel is comprised of its Trustees and other members of the Provincial Council, all of whom are Friars. The total employment benefits, including employer pension cost of key management personnel, were £nil (2022: £nil). The total of expenses reimbursed to key management personnel was £nil (2022: £nil).

The principal roles of non-friar volunteers are answering the door and telephone at the priories in Oxford and Cambridge, and church cleaning, flower arranging and similar tasks in Leicester and London, along with singing in the church choirs. The average number of hours worked by these volunteers each week is 2.6.

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS USED FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES

	Inalienable Property £	Other Property £	Motor Vehicles £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Total £
ASSET COST					
Balance brought forward 1 October 2022	1,000,613	9,704,620	75,309	2,747,760	13,528,302
Additions	-	-	-	169,713	169,713
Disposals	-	-	(8,400)	(26,445)	(34,845)
Balance carried forward 30 September 2023	1,000,613	9,704,620	66,909	2,891,028	13,663,170
ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION					
Balance brought forward 1 October 2022	483,208	3,362,003	65,326	2,137,008	6,047,545
Disposals	-	-	(8,400)	(26,445)	(34,845)
Charge for year	4,539	302,182	5,408	334,645	646,774
Balance carried forward 30 September 2023	487,747	3,664,185	62,334	2,445,208	6,659,474
NET BOOK VALUE					
Brought forward 1 October 2022	517,405	6,342,617	9,983	610,752	7,480,757
Carried forward 30 September 2023	512,866	6,040,435	4,575	445,820	7,003,696

Historic property includes churches, places of worship and priories owned and occupied by the Order.

6. INVESTMENTS

INVESTMENTS

	30 September 2023		30 September 2022	
	Cost	Market Value	Cost	Market Value
	£	£	£	£
Catholic Charities Growth & Income Fund*	8,330,247	10,830,568	8,330,247	11,065,870
Funds managed by Evelyn Partners**	6,533,325	8,402,564	6,533,325	8,271,187
BlackRock Institutional Cash Series	1,500,010	1,519,363	-	-
	16,363,582	20,752,495	14,863,572	19,337,057

	2023	2022
	£	£
Market Value at 1 October	19,337,057	22,381,677
Additions at Cost	1,500,010	99
Disposals at Market Value	-	(837,025)
Net (loss)/gain on revaluation	(84,572)	(2,207,694)
Market Value at 30 September	20,752,495	19,337,057

* As of 30 September 2023, the composition of the Catholic Charities Growth & Income Fund was as follows:

UK Equities	31.9%
Global Equities	28.5%
Fixed Income	19.2%
Property	7.8%
Alternatives	18.1%
Cash	(5.5%)
Total	100.0%

** As of 30 September 2023, the composition of the Funds managed by Evelyn Partners was as follows:

UK Equities	16.5%
Global Equities	55.7%
Fixed Income	12%
Property	3.7%
Alternatives and Multi-Asset	11.5%
Cash	0.6%
Total	100.0%

7. DEBTORS

	2023 £	2022 £
DEBTORS		
Trade debtors	36,740	550,077
Prepayments and accrued income	1,554,120	1,767,943
Other	1,876	5,434
Total Debtors	1,592,736	2,323,454

8. CREDITORS

	2023 £	2022 £
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	444,061	107,178
Taxation and social security	14,484	11,211
Accruals and deferred income	42,225	1,064,924
Other	45,099	116,867
Total Creditors	545,869	1,300,180
Deferred income (analysis)		
At 1 October	1,027,891	3,759
Amount released to income	(1,027,891)	(3,759)
Amount deferred in the year	13,676	1,027,891
At 30 September	13,676	1,027,891

Deferred income represents tuition fees invoiced in advance, unsaid Masses, and advance rent received.

9. TRANSACTIONS WITH TRUSTEES

The Trustees of the Charity are also members of the Order and as such have taken vows of poverty under which they renounce all personal right to income and capital. The Charity provides for the essential needs of all members of the Order within the Province.

10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Members of the Order arranged for grants totalling £15,409 (2022: £16,777) to be made from the Hoper Dixon Trust, a trust of which the Dominican Council is a Trustee. The beneficiaries of the Hoper Dixon Trust are the poor connected with or in the neighbourhood of any house or pastoral centre under the direction of Dominicans of the English Province of the Order of Preachers. The Hoper Dixon Trust's Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet are reproduced in notes 17 and 18 respectively.

As of 30 September 2023, the Hoper Dixon Trust owed the English Province of the Order of Preachers the sum of £9,422 (2022: £1,367) in respect of grants approved and payable.

Fr Simon Gaine OP is Director of the Thomistic Institute at the Angelicum, Rome. The Institute made a payment to the Charity of £2,150 (2022: £2,427) in respect of teaching provided by brothers of the Province.

11. FUNDS 2023

	Balance at 1 October 2022	Income	Expenditure	Gains/ (Losses)	Transfers	Balance at 30 September 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
RESTRICTED						
Branch Funds						
Priory & Parish operating funds	1,883,051	1,859,016	(1,533,359)	(13,162)	(358,848)	1,836,698
Priory & Parish Fabric & special project funds	9,299,217	114,662	(655,034)	(107,920)	236,992	8,887,917
Blackfriars Hall	1,334,123	697,521	(592,623)	11,965	34,128	1,485,114
Studium	1,648,762	193,817	(498,823)	(2,321)	(21,457)	1,319,978
Las Casas Institute	151,343	292,142	(93,690)	-	(17,174)	332,621
Aquinas Institute	24,838	1,182	(16,206)	-	(94)	9,720
	14,341,334	3,158,340	(3,389,735)	(111,438)	(126,453)	13,872,048
Province Funds						
Caribbean Mission	277,411	8,576	(27,174)	(5,220)	(317)	253,276
Novice & Student training funds	4,172,809	105,109	(83,494)	(21,860)	(102,665)	4,069,899
Inalienable property	517,404	-	(4,539)	-	-	512,865
Other funds	205,082	2,471	-	(468)	(247)	206,838
Total Restricted Funds	5,172,706	116,156	(115,207)	(27,548)	(103,229)	5,042,878
DESIGNATED	19,514,040	3,274,496	(3,504,942)	(138,986)	(229,682)	18,914,926
Training & Study funds	3,143,830	58,638	(11,048)	53,220	-	3,244,640
Sick & Elderly funds	3,946,999	220,648	(137,049)	66,063	-	4,096,661
Development	208,698	3,487	(120,726)	(4,357)	80,858	167,960
Sutcliffe	190,072	-	-	(3,630)	-	186,442
Glasgow	364,234	10,000	(22,500)	(6,722)	-	345,012
Other	442,396	-	(7,443)	4,004	-	438,957
Total Designated Funds	8,296,229	292,773	(298,766)	108,578	80,858	8,479,672
GENERAL						
Province Capital	2,808,022	117,175	(117,175)	(54,161)	-	2,753,861
Province Revenue	168,315	644,228	(519,582)	(3)	148,824	441,782
Total General Funds	2,976,337	761,403	(636,757)	(54,164)	148,824	3,195,643
Total Unrestricted Funds	11,272,566	1,054,176	(935,523)	54,414	229,682	11,675,315
Total Funds	30,786,606	4,328,672	(4,440,465)	(84,572)	-	30,590,241

The transfers represent the obligations of the Province to support the friars and activities of Blackfriars Hall and the individual priories, and also the obligations of the Hall and priories to support the central costs of the Province. Definitions of the Funds named here can be found on p.66.

FUNDS 2022

	Balance at 1 October 2021	Income	Expenditure	Gains/ (Losses)	Transfers	Balance at 30 September 2022
RESTRICTED	£	£	£	£	£	£
Branch Funds						
Priory & Parish operating funds	2,162,768	2,354,278	(1,243,673)	(111,166)	(1,279,156)	1,883,051
Priory & Parish Fabric & special project funds	8,913,840	230,567	(606,254)	(457,680)	1,218,744	9,299,217
Blackfriars Hall	1,203,751	577,907	(559,487)	85,816	26,136	1,334,123
Studium	1,979,021	128,397	(460,545)	(6,798)	8,687	1,648,762
Las Casas Institute	54,682	154,426	(42,726)	(1)	(15,038)	151,343
Aquinas Institute	34,057	38,316	(43,703)	0	(3,832)	24,838
	14,348,119	3,483,891	(2,956,388)	(489,829)	(44,459)	14,341,334
Province Funds						
Caribbean Mission	321,971	11,445	(28,999)	(25,745)	(1,261)	277,411
Novice & Student training funds	4,582,910	245,971	(105,661)	(428,833)	(121,578)	4,172,809
Inalienable property	521,944	0	(4,540)	0	0	517,404
Other funds	295,022	13,779	(100)	(2,287)	(101,332)	205,082
	5,721,847	271,195	(139,300)	(456,865)	(224,171)	5,172,706
Total Restricted Funds	20,069,966	3,755,086	(3,095,688)	(946,694)	(268,630)	19,514,040
DESIGNATED						
Training & Study funds	3,372,856	58,423	0	(287,449)	0	3,143,830
Sick & Elderly funds	4,320,246	223,461	(109,776)	(486,932)	0	3,946,999
Development	251,726	4,007	(105,552)	(18,310)	76,827	208,698
Sutcliffe	207,964	0	0	(17,892)	0	190,072
Glasgow	398,867	9,000	(9,292)	(34,341)	0	364,234
Other	619,972	75	(16,106)	(161,545)	0	442,396
Total Designated Funds	9,171,631	294,966	(240,726)	(1,006,469)	76,827	8,296,229
GENERAL						
Province Capital	3,062,553	124,530	(124,530)	(254,531)	0	2,808,022
Province Revenue	246,384	259,265	(529,137)	0	191,803	168,315
Total General Funds	3,308,937	383,795	(653,667)	(254,531)	191,803	2,976,337
Total Unrestricted Funds	12,480,568	678,761	(894,393)	(1,261,000)	268,630	11,272,566
Total Funds	32,550,534	4,433,847	(3,990,081)	(2,207,694)	0	30,786,606

Definitions of the Funds named here can be found on p.66.

11. (CONT.) FUNDS DEFINITIONS

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Priory & Parish operating funds: each priory and parish has a General fund from which the costs of day-to-day operations are met, generated from donations and income earned by the friars which they assign to their house.

Priory & Parish Fabric & special project funds: priory & parish fixed assets, fabric maintenance and renewal.

Blackfriars Hall: funds generated by the Hall for its operations.

Studium: funds held by the Studium for its operations, including the unspent element of a grant of £2m by the Society of Jesus made in 2021 to support the training of candidates for the priesthood.

Las Casas Institute: for the projects of the Las Casas Institute.

Aquinas Institute: for the projects of the Aquinas Institute.

Caribbean Mission: the Province actively fundraises for its brethren in Jamaica and Grenada.

Novice & Student training funds: The English Dominican Noviciate Guild (EDNG) monies for the formation and training of novices and student brothers.

Inalienable Property: the Province's priory and church buildings.

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Training & Study funds: to supplement restricted EDNG funds.

Sick & Elderly funds: for the care of sick and elderly brothers.

Development: to support the development of fundraising capacity across the Province.

Sutcliffe: for the purposes of absorbing unexpected, unbudgeted expenditure.

Glasgow: Funds transferred from Glasgow priory on its closure, used for the upkeep of a brother who remained in Glasgow.

12. ALLOCATION OF ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

ALLOCATION OF ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS 2023	Province General Purpose £	Province Designated £	Total Unrestricted Funds £	Total Branch Funds £	Total Province Restricted £	Total Restricted Funds £	2023 £
Investments	2,288,103	7,443,322	9,731,425	7,060,547	3,960,523	11,021,070	20,752,495
Property	324,017	1,054,045	1,378,062	4,101,526	1,073,713	5,175,239	6,553,301
Other fixed assets	31,724	(22,348)	9,376	441,019	-	441,019	450,395
Current assets	1,017,840	-	1,017,840	2,368,190	9,063	2,377,253	3,395,093
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	(466,041)	4,653	(461,388)	(84,060)	(421)	(84,481)	(545,869)
Creditors: amounts falling due in more than one year	-	-	-	(15,174)	-	(15,174)	(15,174)
Net Assets	3,195,643	8,479,672	11,675,315	13,872,048	5,042,878	18,914,926	30,590,241

Balances of the principal Province funds are given in note 11.

ALLOCATION OF ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS 2022	Province General Purpose £	Province Designated £	Total Unrestricted Funds £	Total Branch Funds £	Total Province Restricted £	Total Restricted Funds £	2022 £
Investments	590,624	7,121,900	7,712,524	7,642,822	3,981,711	11,624,533	19,337,057
Property	97,042	1,170,154	1,267,196	4,421,212	1,171,614	5,592,826	6,860,022
Other fixed assets	57,441	4,175	61,616	559,119	-	559,119	620,735
Current assets	2,358,852	-	2,358,852	2,914,361	19,802	2,934,163	5,293,015
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	(127,622)	-	(127,622)	(1,172,137)	(421)	(1,172,558)	(1,300,180)
Creditors: amounts falling due in more than one year	-	-	-	(24,043)	-	(24,043)	(24,043)
Net Assets	2,976,337	8,296,229	11,272,566	14,341,334	5,172,706	19,514,040	30,786,606

13. ACTIVITIES IN SCOTLAND

	2023 £	2022 £
Income from activities in Scotland	501,658	297,364
Expenditure on activities in Scotland	(652,051)	(229,497)
Net Income/(Expenditure) relating to activities in Scotland	(150,393)	67,867

14. OPERATING & FINANCE LEASE COMMITMENTS

OPERATING LEASES

The charity's future minimum payments receivable under non-cancellable operating leases at the reporting date are as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Within one year	34,000	34,000
In 2–5 years	136,000	136,000
After more than 5 years	1,436,000	1,440,000
	1,606,000	1,610,000

Lease payments recognised as 'other operating income' in the period were £55,126 (2022: £57,830).

The charity leases a flat to students in Edinburgh on leases of no more than 12 months. These arrangements do not result in the recognition of investment properties and are treated as operating leases.

At the reporting date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payment under noncancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Within one year	7,964	7,804
In 2 - 5 years	15,010	19,564
	22,974	27,368

FINANCE LEASES

At the reporting date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payment under noncancellable finance leases, which fall due as follows:

Equipment:	2023 £	2022 £
Within one year	12,312	12,312
In 2–5 years	17,172	29,484
Future finance charges	29,484	41,796
Net carrying amount of obligations under finance leases	(5,440)	(10,271)
	24,044	31,525

The charity had no commitments under non-cancellable finance leases at year end (2022: £Nil).

The finance leases are for telephone equipment which is rented for periods of up to 7 years. These are recognised as tangible fixed assets (see note 5). The lease agreements are for fixed lease payments and include an option to renew at the end of the term.

15. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

At 30 September 2023 the charity had a capital commitment of £156,000 in respect of the installation of underfloor heating in the London parish church of Our Lady of the Rosary and St Dominic. (2022: £0)

16. HOPER DIXON TRUST STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds			
	Income Fund £	Designated Capital Fund £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
INCOME				
Investment income:				
Income from investments	16,331	-	16,331	16,494
Income from bank deposits	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME	16,331	-	16,331	16,494
EXPENDITURE				
Expenditure on charitable activities:				
Grants payable	15,409	-	15,409	16,777
Support costs for grants payable	7	-	7	19
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	15,416	-	15,416	16,796
NET GAINS/LOSSES ON INVESTMENT ASSETS	-	17,551	17,551	(40,281)
Net income/expenditure and movement in funds	915	17,551	18,466	(41,123)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Fund balances brought forward at 1 October	32,976	553,209	586,185	627,308
Fund balances carried forward at 30 September	33,891	570,760	604,651	586,185

17. HOPER DIXON TRUST BALANCE SHEET

	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS		
Investments	570,760	553,209
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank balances	43,333	34,343
LIABILITIES		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(9,442)	(1,367)
Net current assets	33,891	32,976
NET ASSETS	604,651	586,185
FUNDS		
Unrestricted Funds		
Income Fund	33,891	32,976
Capital Fund	570,760	553,209
TOTAL FUNDS	604,651	586,185

The Dominican Friars

www.english.op.org






CONTACT DETAILS

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THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE ORDER OF PREACHERS

England & Wales - Charity number 231192

Accounts

The Dominican Friars

ANNUAL REPORT 2022






The English Province of the Order of Preachers.
Registered charity 231192 (England and Wales) and SC039062 (Scotland)

The Dominican Friars

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

FOR THE PERIOD 1ST OCT 2021 – 30TH SEPT 2022

The English Province of the Order of Preachers.
Registered charity 231192 (England and Wales) and SC039062 (Scotland)

The Dominican Friars in Britain



KEY FACTS

Houses: 4 in England,
1 in Scotland
(+ 2 canonically associated in West Indies)

Total English Province Friars: 76

- 57 in UK
- 7 in West Indies
- 4 assig. to other provinces
- 4 working overseas
- 4 on leave

Bishops: 1

Priests: 55
(+ 7 in West Indies)

Novices /
Student brothers: 9

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THE DOMINICAN FRIARS (est. 1216) are an international Catholic religious order with a specialisation in preaching, teaching and pastoral work. Officially titled the 'Order of Preachers', they are known as 'Dominicans' after their founder, St Dominic.

THE 'PROVINCE OF ENGLAND'

The friars first established themselves in Britain in 1221, as the 'Province of England'. The Province (one of around 40) endures to this day. It is legally constituted as a single charity 'The English Province of the Order of Preachers', with responsibility for the friars' work in England, Wales and Scotland.

PRIORIES

The Province is made up of a number of priories, which are local communities of friars with a large degree of self-government. Currently these are in Oxford, London, Cambridge, Leicester, and Edinburgh. The Dominican houses in Grenada and Jamaica in the West Indies are also canonically dependent on this Province, and supported by grants, though not part of this charity.

OBJECT OF THE CHARITY

The Province Trust Deed lists ten charitable purposes, which for the purpose of registration as a Charity are summarised as 'the promotion of education and the Roman Catholic religion and the establishment and maintenance of schools, churches and priories for these purposes and the upkeep of members of the Order of Preachers'.

OUR MISSION: THE AIMS OF THE CHARITY

The ultimate aim and purpose of the Catholic Church and therefore of the Order of Preachers is 'the salvation of souls' (cf. *CIC* 1752; *LCO* 1 §2). In furtherance of this goal, the Order of Preachers and the English Province aim to provide effective preaching, teaching and pastoral care flowing from fraternal religious communities of prayer and study. Through the work of the friars we seek to awaken and deepen faith, hope and charity, to the benefit of those to whom we minister, to their families and to the wider community.

More detailed information can be found on pp. 35ff.

Message from the Prior Provincial



With the shadow of the pandemic now finally lifted, it is wonderful to see the Province in full swing once again. As I visit our different communities, I find a body of friars really committed to their religious lives and their work within the Order and the wider Church, whether in the United Kingdom, or the Caribbean, or elsewhere. I find a very good balance as well between our intellectual and pastoral apostolates, as our charism of preaching takes so many different forms and reaches so many different groups of people. It is also evident that the numbers of those attending our liturgies have very much been up in recent times, more than even before the pandemic, and that is a welcome development, an encouragement and a source of joy for us – and a sign of hope for the wider vitality of the Catholic Church in our world.

With our thanks and our prayers for all our supporters, without whose friendship and help our work could not continue and flourish in the ways that it does.

Very Rev Dr Martin Ganeri OP,
Prior Provincial,
Province of England

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Objectives & Strategies for the Year 2021–22

(A) RECRUITMENT & TRAINING To train priests and religious for pastoral and educational ministry, and to maintain the success of the full-time Director and Promoter of Vocations in drawing larger numbers of young men to enter the Province.	• Through pastoral engagement and work with young people, promote the Dominican vocation as a worthy and fulfilling life in the service of God and his people; • Through prudent investment and fundraising, provide funds to help support student friars and the communities in which they live; • Plan for the future needs of the Province's centre of studies ('Studium') by identifying and training future teachers.
(B) MINISTRY To continue effective and responsive ministry in the priories and parishes of the Province.	• Continue the training and ordination to the clerical state of friars who will work in the Province's priories and parishes; • Ensure the friars are present in the locations where they are best able to minister; • Secure celebration of the liturgy and the sacraments in a way that responds to the pastoral needs of each place;
(C) BLACKFRIARS HALL To maintain and support the educational and research activities of Blackfriars Hall and particularly to develop the research projects of the Las Casas and Aquinas Institutes, and foster links with the other private halls of the University.	• Sustain the number of postgraduate students, especially in theology and philosophy, as permitted by the University; • Continue to encourage visiting research scholars; • Continue collaboration with the Anscombe Bioethics Centre (registered charity no. 274327); • Continue to enhance the programmes of the Las Casas and Aquinas Institutes, seeking new sources of funding and collaborating with similar institutions elsewhere.
(D) BLACKFRIARS STUDIUM Strengthen the Province's centre of studies in Oxford, ensuring proper levels of funding and administrative support.	• Foster links with other religious congregations to open up a wider pool of prospective students and teachers; • Continue to raise funds, so that an adequate and sustainable system of payment for lecturers can be provided.

Of these objectives (a), (b), (e), (g) and (h) applied to Scotland as well as to England and Wales; (c), (d) and (f) were specific to England and Wales, although not to the exclusion of participation by friars assigned to Scottish priories.

(E) BUILDINGS To maintain the buildings of the Province so that they are fitting places for the religious life, including for older and sick members of the Order, and for the pastoral and educational apostolate.	• Ensure that regular surveys of the buildings are conducted; • Perform the maintenance works identified by surveys, as prioritised; • Identify, where possible, external sources of funding for maintaining buildings; • Carry out plans for renovation of insulation and heating for the churches, chapels and priories of the Province.
(F) LONDON AND LEICESTER Support and develop the mission of the Rosary Shrine in London and Holy Cross Priory in Leicester to their local and extended surrounding areas.	• Develop forward-looking pastoral plans for ministry and outreach; • Refine development plans and take forward fundraising for improving the facilities that support these missions; • Identify fundraising sources for urgent upgrading of heating provision in the churches.
(G) 2021 ANNIVERSARY Complete and implement the programme of events and publications to mark the 800th anniversary from Pentecost 2021 to May 2022, promoting the publicity of events and wider participation of friends and supporters through online websites and social media.	• Use the resources and expertise of Peter's House to maximise publicity and participation in Jubilee events; • Promote fundraising opportunities for those who want to support the Jubilee year and wider work of the Province.
(H) IMPACT OF COVID-19 Continue to comply with public-health mandates as necessary, and to mitigate the impact of current and anticipated future restrictions on the Province's mission and income, in particular investing in online platforms and digital systems to support these goals.	• Comply with mandated regulations; • Prioritise pastoral care for those suffering as a result of the pandemic and related restrictions; • Encourage laypeople to return to church when possible; • Continue with livestreaming, virtual meetings and events; • Support employees and friars in remote working; • Promote electronic giving alongside cash giving.

The Year in Review: Key Facts

TRAINING FUTURE PRIESTS
[p.11]



SUPPORTING EMERGING AQUINAS SCHOLARS [p.15]



BROADCASTING IN LONDON
[p.21]

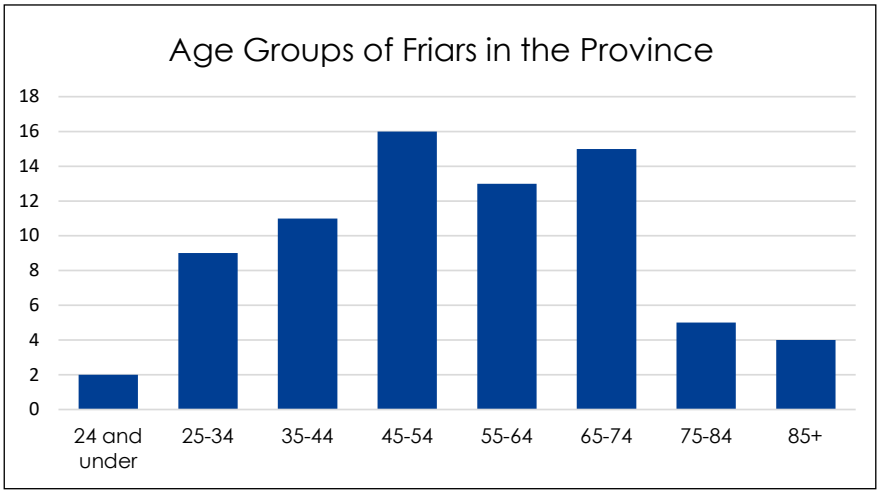


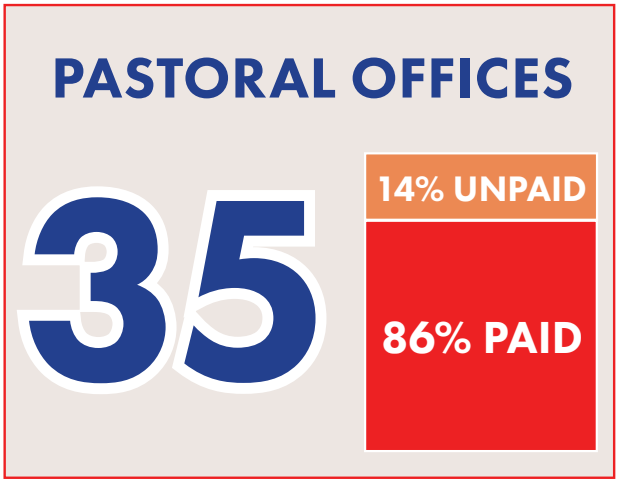
NOVICES IN CAMBRIDGE
[p.23]





Figures from the 2021 *Catalogus* of the Province. Excludes those assigned in the West Indies (7), those serving as bishops (1), and those from other provinces resident in the UK (1).

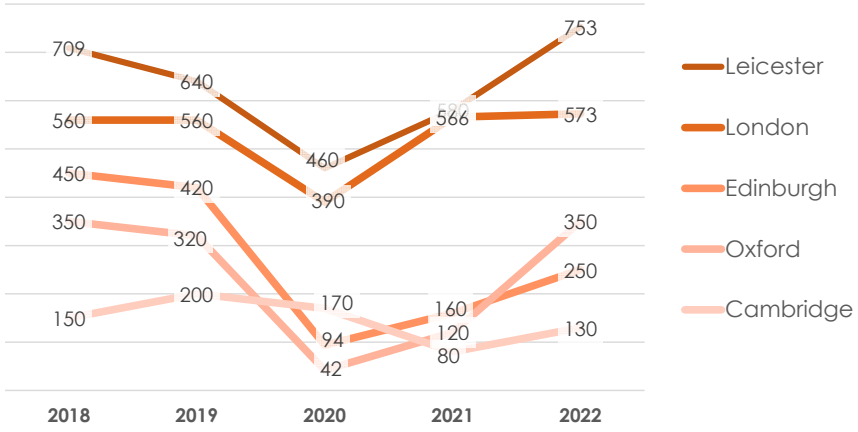




Note: this excludes those currently on leave. Pastoral offices include parish priests, assistant priests, chaplains etc. (30 in previous year). Some are part-time: the count is 16 (14) if considered as 'full-time equivalents'. Some individuals hold more than one office. Paid work means the Charity receives income as a result of this work (73% paid in previous year).

The Year in Review: Pastoral Figures

ESTIMATED TYPICAL SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE AT DOMINICAN PRIORIES*



*Sunday Mass attendance figures are included merely to provide a rough idea of the scale of pastoral work in each priory. These exclude the many other forms of pastoral ministry undertaken (*see below*) and the many and varied other ministries that happen within this Province (*see the reports in* pp.9–31). They are of course susceptible to vagaries of local populations and of measurement.

Note that the differences in trends during and after 2020 are caused partly by regional differences in public-health restrictions, and partly by the social profile of the local population and its willingness to return to in-person Mass attendance.

SACRAMENTAL STATISTICS

Baptisms	Infants: 58 (2021: 47) Adults/older children: 6 (13) TOTAL: 64 (60)
Receptions of Baptised Christians into the Catholic Church	5 (10)
Confirmations	25 (40)
First Communions	Children: 43 (56) Adults: 6 (14) TOTAL: 49 (70)
Public Masses each week	Sundays: 23 (23) Weekdays: 52 (35) TOTAL: 58 (58)
Average Mass attendance	Sundays: 2,056 (1,346) Weekdays: 203 (157)
Sacrament of Penance (Confession)	9 hours scheduled per week (6) Average of 52 other individual confessions per week (46)
Marriages	16 (16)
Funerals	51 (51)
Hours of Pastoral Contact	148 (108)

The age-profile of the Province is such that at present there are fewer friars available to engage in full-time pastoral work, but more engaged in study and other forms of preparation for such work. Moreover, it is impossible to reduce the effectiveness of pastoral ministry to statistics; but the Charity Trustees consider that these figures indicate that the Province is continuing to provide in its parishes, priories and other apostolates the sacramental and pastoral resources that are a necessary prerequisite for effective and responsive ministry. A very considerable number of people benefit from this activity of the Charity.

Note: Statistics presented here for current year (and previous years) exclude figures provided by those currently on leave.

It is to be noted that 4 friars (4) who are not resident in priories carry out pastoral work in various other parishes and chaplaincies in England and Scotland.

Plans for Future Periods

The Charity Trustees view the following as particular objectives for the year to September 2023:

(A) RECRUITMENT & TRAINING

To train priests and religious for pastoral and educational ministry, and to maintain the success of the full-time Director and Promoter of Vocations in drawing larger numbers of young men to enter the Province.

(B) MINISTRY

To continue effective and responsive ministry in the priories and parishes of the Province.

(C) BLACKFRIARS HALL

To maintain and support the educational and research activities of Blackfriars Hall and particularly to develop the research projects of the Las Casas and Aquinas Institutes, and foster links with the other private halls of the University.

(D) BLACKFRIARS STUDIUM

Strengthen the Province's centre of studies in Oxford, ensuring proper levels of funding and administrative support. Foster links with other religious congregations to open up a wider pool of prospective students and teachers. Continue to raise funds, so that an adequate and sustainable system of payment for lecturers can be provided.

(E) BUILDINGS

To maintain the buildings of the Province so that they are fitting places for the religious life, including for older and sick members of the Order, and for the pastoral and educational apostolate.

(F) LONDON AND LEICESTER

Support and develop the mission of the Rosary Shrine in London and Holy Cross Priory in Leicester to their local and extended surrounding areas; refine development plans and take forward fundraising for improving the facilities that support these missions.

(G) INFLATION AND COST OF LIVING CRISIS

Take extra care with the stewardship of resources and the controlling of expenditure. Fundraise with sensitivity to the financial pressures on supporters. Prioritise pastoral care.

Review of Activities



INTRODUCTION

The friars have continued their pastoral work in the parishes and chaplaincies both attached to the priories of the Province and elsewhere; and their educational apostolate which is undertaken alongside the pastoral work, and in a special way within Blackfriars, Oxford. As far as can be determined, in the course of the present reporting period friars and communities of the Province were involved in the concrete activities listed on the following pages. These reports are grouped by geographical location and followed by a Province-wide round-up of the wide range of educational activities undertaken.

Above: The Master of the Order of Preachers visited our Province at the conclusion of the Jubilee Year marking 800 years since the Province's foundation in 1221.

Blackfriars: Priory of the Holy Spirit, Oxford

Oxford priory (known as 'Blackfriars') has as its principal work the formation of student Dominicans and other religious in our Studium (*see p.11*). The friars also undertake pastoral work, through the liturgy and preaching in their own church, with several flourishing youth groups, and in co-operation with local parishes, the Defence Academy at Shrivenham and the Catholic Chaplaincy to Oxford University; one friar also acts as chaplain at the Oratory School, near Reading. Blackfriars offers the most central open Catholic church in Oxford, with sung Divine Office and daily Mass.

As Mass-goers returned to worship at Blackfriars, the priory continued to offer its popular livestream of Masses, with grateful followers including the housebound and those from all around the world who appreciate our liturgy and preaching.

Major works to restore the external framework, replace the roof leading, and add insulation to the cloister, were completed. New finials and louvres were created for the bell tower.

Albert Elias Robertson was ordained to the priesthood, and Thomas Thérèse Mannion to the diaconate.

Prior: Robert Gay OP

23 resident friars, including

- 6 full-time students
- 3 friars of other Provinces engaged in full-time study.

www.blackfriars.org.uk





Top: the restored frontage, and a gargoyle with a new protective lead 'cappa'.

Below: the top of the bell tower clad in scaffolding, and one of the old finials, now replaced.





The Studium Generale at Blackfriars

Blackfriars Studium is a unique centre for ministerial training, being the only specialist centre in Britain providing intellectual formation for the next generation of members of religious orders.

The Studium offers a first cycle of studies leading to an STB (Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology) accredited by the Angelicum (Pontifical University of St Thomas, Rome).

The Studium shares premises, resources, and certain staff with Blackfriars Hall (*see p.12*) but is institutionally separate.



STUDENT BODY

The Studium has a vibrant student body. The Studium had nine Dominican students enrolled in the Studium in academic year 2021/22, including a friar from the Northern Italian Province. The Studium also had in the student body Benedictines and Franciscans (Conventual and Capuchin). The teaching is largely provided by Dominican friars as well as other religious and lay people.

13 Dominican friars taught on the Studium's STB programme 2021/22. The Studium also employs four lay teachers: three Studium lectors (one in Philosophy and two in Theology) and a senior postholder joint with Campion Hall, the Jesuit permanent private hall of the University of Oxford. The title of this latter post is: 'Frederick Copleston Lecturer and Senior Research Fellow in the Catholic Tradition' – the senior research fellowship status is with Campion Hall and the lectureship status with the Studium. There are: Dr Jan Bentz (Philosophy), Dr Victoria De Haan (Theology), Dr Joshua Madden (Theology), and Dr Daniel De Haan (Copleston post).



Regent: John O'Connor OP
Vice-Regent: Bruno Clifton OP

www.blackfriars.org.uk

Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford

Blackfriars Hall is one of the Catholic Permanent Private Halls (PPHs) in **Oxford University**. It welcomes postgraduate students taking degrees in a range of humanities subjects, and hosts a small number of visiting students and academics. It shares facilities, staff and resources with **Blackfriars Studium** (*see p.11*) but is institutionally separate.

The Hall specialises in Catholic theology and philosophy in the Thomistic tradition. Central to the mission of Blackfriars Hall, and making for a great enrichment of the Studium also, are its two research centres, the Aquinas Institute and the Las Casas Institute for Social Justice (*see following pages*).



REVIEW BY UNIVERSITY

As part of a regular process, the Hall was reviewed in June 2022 by the University's Permanent Private Hall Supervisory Committee. This involved eight University academics and two University administrators coming to the Hall, meeting members of Hall staff, students, and friars. Their detailed report has been submitted to the University, which received it positively.

STUDENT BODY

The Hall had 56 full-time and 11 part-time graduate students for the academic year 2021/22 as well as 7 visiting students each staying for a term. The students are predominantly Doctoral or Masters students (Theology, Philosophy, Social Sciences, Literature, History), students studying for secondary-school teaching qualifications, or undergraduates from abroad who are part of Blackfriars' Visiting Student programme.



Blackfriars Hall students helped organise the first PPH Ball along with students from Regent's Park College and St Stephen's House. Entitled 'Night at the Museum', the ball was held at the Oxford Museum of Natural History. Over 300 students and their guests attended. The event was not only a successful Oxford ball, but an opportunity for PPH students to meet one another and enjoy a night of fun as a community.

ANNUAL NEWMAN LECTURE

A highlight of the academic year was the annual Newman Lecture, which is offered to the University of Oxford by its Catholic Halls, and this year organised by Blackfriars. Sir James MacMillan spoke on: 'Music and some wider implications: a Catholic

Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford

composer's perspective: Is there a moral dimension to the act of composition? And does the work of a composer ever impact on the desire to sustain civic values?' The event, which was well attended from across the University of Oxford, was chaired by the Chancellor of the University, the Rt Hon. the Lord Patten of Barnes CH.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship provision plays a significant role in the University of Oxford in attracting students of the highest calibre. In February 2022, Blackfriars Hall was delighted to announce, starting in October 2022: two Jubilee Scholarships for doctoral students worth £17,000 or £13,000 (depending on fees status) per annum for two years; two Dominique Pire Scholarships of £2,500 and a New Blackfriars Scholarship worth £1,200, both for graduates in the humanities and social sciences. We are very grateful to those benefactors who generously contributed to support these scholarships.

NEW WEBSITES

An important development in our outreach was the launching of two separate but linked websites: for Blackfriars Priory and Studium (**www.blackfriars.org.uk**) and for Blackfriars Hall (**www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk**). Having the two websites, with easy navigation between them, makes it easier for visitors to find information on the many different aspects of the life of Blackfriars, Oxford.

FRIARS AND THE UNIVERSITY

The Hall's membership of the University allows friars to build relationships with the various Faculties and academics within the University. As Regent, Fr John O'Connor has a place and a vote at the Heads of House meeting of heads of Oxford colleges. Fr Richard Conrad supervised an undergraduate dissertation for the Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford; and Fr John O'Connor supervised a Masters essay. Fr Bruno Clifton teaches on the MTh programme. Fr Bruno Clifton, Fr Richard Conrad, Fr Richard Finn, Fr Oliver Keenan and Fr John O'Connor are associate members of the Faculty of Theology and Religion, and Fr Richard Finn is also an associate member of the Faculty of Classics.



PARTNERSHIP

Blackfriars Hall also has a strong partnership with the **Anscombe Centre for Bioethics**, a Catholic academic institute that engages with the moral questions arising in clinical practice and biomedical research, runs educational programmes for, and gives advice to, Catholics and other interested healthcare professionals and biomedical scientists.

FUNDRAISING

This was a strong year for fundraising, with £349k raised for the Hall. We are truly grateful to our supporters for their generosity, and in particular to certain individuals for donations which included single gifts of £25k + Gift Aid in support of scholarships, and £100k for the Las Casas Institute. We express our thanks also to Porticus UK for their generous grants.

Regent: John O'Connor OP
Vice-Regent: Bruno Clifton OP

Students: 67 graduates and 7 visiting students, from 17 nations.

www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk

Blackfriars Hall: The Aquinas Institute



The Aquinas Institute's work expanded considerably over the course of the year, marked by a number of new initiatives and the growth of our existing programming. Although we have largely reverted to the model of classical 'in person' events, the importance of online outreach continues: from last year's peak of 4.8k followers, the Institute's social media following peaked at 12.4k in the current year, with a fourfold increase in email contact from outside our existing networks. We have also been pleased to see an increased demand for the Institute's support from students and scholars within Oxford University. While the focus on 'in person' events emphasises our understanding of the Institute as a community of scholars engaged in a shared pursuit of truth, we have produced a number of 'online only' resources. This includes a short series, 'De Veritate', exploring the importance of truth in contemporary research, and a number of interviews – styled 'Thomistic Conversations' – with recent authors.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Research activity has been focussed in three primary areas: first, continuing our 'Widening Horizons in Philosophical Theology' project, the concept of truth (establishing a dialogue between Thomism and the tradition of continental philosophy); second, the value of Aquinas's account of hope (not only as a virtue but as a metaphysic, with socio-political and philosophical dimensions); third, Aquinas's understanding of Jesus (explored through biblical, philosophical and dogmatic lenses).

In Michaelmas Term, the Institute collaborated with **Campion Hall** to offer a research seminar on the 'Virtues and Vices of Hope'. Although some contemporary thinkers have critiqued hope as morally problematic and politically irresponsible, hope remains central not only to Christian theology but also to contemporary philosophical accounts of meaningful human agency. The seminar explored the question of how we should hope from an interdisciplinary perspective (psychology, eco-theology, philosophy and political theory, as well as theology). Further work on the theology of hope has been undertaken by the Director in the academic year 2022/3.

The Institute's annual seminar spanned Hilary and Trinity Terms, focussing on Christology. A selection of the papers from the seminar has been gathered for publication in *New Blackfriars* (in January 2023). The series drew world-leading scholars from USA, Europe and the United Kingdom to address major questions related to Thomas's

Blackfriars Hall: The Aquinas Institute

account of Christ's person and work. Several of the papers, especially those engaged with the *esse* controversy, have attracted critical engagement from senior scholars at a recent international conference. The meetings were additionally live-streamed in hybrid mode, with an average of 244 views per paper (with the most viewed paper receiving 477 visitors).

EMERGING SCHOLARS

In June, thanks to the generous support of the McDonald-Agape Foundation, the Institute hosted an inaugural workshop for emerging scholars. This is the first of what we hope will be a biennial event, developing a network of intellectual support for those embarking on an academic career. Twenty doctoral students or recent doctoral graduates from across the world were selected by competitive application and gathered for a week's residential in Oxford, each presenting a paper on an aspect of Aquinas's Christology. The participants were supported by three distinguished scholars: Prof Joseph Wawrykow (Notre Dame), Prof Michael Gorman (CUA), and Prof N.T. Wright (Oxford). Participants described the workshop as 'brilliant', 'life-changing', 'without doubt the best experience of graduate school so far', 'absolutely desperately needed' and 'intellectually transformative'. Senior scholars noted that they had wished such an event had existed in 'their day', reporting 'an outstanding success', an 'inspired programme' and 'a real sense of common purpose [...] a buzz in the room [...] bright, young participants, the future of our discipline'. The Institute received more than 20 applications for every available place.



In Trinity Term, the Institute convened a closed reading group for Thomistically-inclined graduate students and others to read sections of continental philosophers engaged with the question of truth. The schedule included readings from Martin Heidegger, Edith Stein, Hans-Georg Gadamer, Wilhelm Dilthey, Jean-Yves Lacoste, Paul Ricoeur, Claude Romano and Emmanuel Falque.



This reading class prepares the way for further such groups in the academic year 2022/3.

The daily work of the Institute remains fostering research and teaching on Thomistic themes and, by extension, the classical *loci* of Christian philosophy and theology. Together with other members of the Institute, the Director continues to be available to graduate students and senior colleagues within the University of Oxford, whether to provide tutorials, examinations, informal conversation or bibliographic advice. Beyond Oxford, the Director accepted invitations to speak on Aquinas or related themes at Cambridge, Budapest, Washington DC, Boston MA, Basel, Aberdeen, London, and, of course, online.

Director: Oliver Keenan OP

www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk/aquinas

Blackfriars Hall: Las Casas Institute

The Las Casas Institute for Social Justice is a research centre for applied Catholic Social Teaching based at Blackfriars Hall.



HUMANITARIANISM

In a year which saw the outbreak once again of war in Europe, with widespread civilian suffering and displacement of peoples, the Institute contributed to debates on humanitarian relief through the expert advice of its new Senior Research Fellow, Dr Hugo Slim. While Dr Slim continued to scope a two-year research project in climate in humanitarian ethics and climate justice (beginning in the academic year 2022–23), he also advised major NGOs on the likely humanitarian needs to be met in Ukraine, and amongst more public activities wrote on this subject in *The Tablet*, participated in an online seminar co-sponsored by the Las Casas Institute and the Angelicum University in Rome, and contributed a blog to the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs (*Solidarity, Not Neutrality, Will Characterize Western Aid to Ukraine* – Ethics & International Affairs (**ethicsandinternationalaffairs.org**).

HUMAN RIGHTS

The Institute also welcomed to Blackfriars the first two Oxford workshops run by the **Oxford Consortium for Human Rights** since it partnered with the consortium. One took place in mid-March with input from the Las Casas Research Director in Peacebuilding, Dr Maria Power, as well as the Edinburgh Dominican, Fr Samuel Burke OP. The second workshop concerned Human Rights and Climate Change and was held at the end of July with input from one Christian and one Muslim theologian, Dr Margaret Atkins, and Mrs Farhana Mayer.

HUMAN DIGNITY

Research in the area of human dignity was furthered by four seminars on 'Human Dignity and the Islamic Tradition' co-sponsored with the **Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies**. These seminars, held in person but with additional online attendees, examined fundamental theology, the doctrine of creation, the human being, and the nature of society. The next stage of this project to be undertaken in 2023 and 2024 will be to commission further papers on related topics for publication as a book on Christian and Islamic understandings of human dignity, to be co-edited by Dr Maria Power of the Las Casas Institute and Dr Afifi Al-Akiti of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies.

ONLINE OUTREACH

The Institute continued to reach out to the widest possible audience through its online webinars. Weekly online reading classes ran over three terms, led by Edward Hadas assisted by Dr James Bergida, and looked at texts by Prof. Charles Taylor, Prof. Alasdair MacIntyre, and Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement. These attracted a welcome mix of academics, graduate students, Lay Dominicans, and others interested in Catholic Social Teaching from continental Europe and America as well as the United Kingdom.

Prof. Michael Scott led an extensive programme of lectures and dis-

Blackfriars Hall: Las Casas Institute



cussions online co-sponsored with **Georgetown University** on the Christian Literary Imagination, Dialogue with China, and Free speech.

KEY LECTURES

Two highlights of the year among the one-off lectures included one by Prof. Samuel Moyn on 'The Catholic Contribution to the Modern History of Human Rights'. The second was the annual Las Casas Lecture was delivered in February 2022 by Baroness Nuala O'Loan on 'The Road to Reconciliation and Restoration: a journey of courage and compassion' (*pictured above left*).

PUBLICATIONS

Work continues in other fields which will bear fruit in the next academic year with the publication of a further volume of papers on economics as a moral science and the online publication of resources for schools and universities on Catholic Social Teaching in the Dominican tradition.

BENEFACTORS

The Institute has continued to benefit from the substantial support of individual benefactors, from Porticus UK, the Mallinckrodt Foundation, and from the 'Friends of the Las Casas Institute'.

Director: Richard Finn OP

www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk/lascasas

YouTube: 'Las Casas Institute'

St Albert's Parish & Chaplaincy, Edinburgh



The House of St Albert the Great serves a thriving Parish and vibrant Catholic Chaplaincy to the **University of Edinburgh**, **Edinburgh Napier University**, and **Queen Margaret University**.

CHAPLAINCY LIFE

The Catholic Chaplaincy serves the pastoral and spiritual needs of university students and staff. Staff bring their families and continue to attend after retirement, so that the weekly congregation includes people of every age. Baptisms, weddings and funerals are a regular feature of Chaplaincy life as well as instruction in the faith for both adults and children. There are regular talks on issues of justice and peace, and contemporary ethical issues. There is also a staff group which meets to discuss topics of interest. **The Albertus Institute**, which is not part of the Parish but closely linked with it, facilitates informed group discussion on issues of public interest.

A RETURN TO NORMAL

By September 2022 our pattern of worship returned to what it had been before lockdown. During this year, the seating had been returned to the chapel. While some parishioners had attended Mass in person whenever it was allowed, others watched Mass on livestream. Autumn (2021), Winter and Spring saw the gradual return of almost everyone. We continued to livestream one Mass each day. We knew from the daily statistics and the many emails we received that people from across the globe watched our livestream regularly. But some of the viewers were also local people who were afraid to attend their own parish in person. Others say that they watch it because of the quality of the preaching, which wasn't available to them when attending Mass in their own parish. One good outcome of the pandemic is that our preaching on the livestream reaches many more people. Furthermore, the livestream facility also made it possible for family members who were unable to attend funerals and weddings in person to at least attend virtually.

A daily email begun in lockdown became a weekly email and an important channel of communication with over 200 parishioners. While some groups continued to meet online, gradually these returned to meeting in person. Instruction in the faith continued with adults being baptised and confirmed. In May, 5 children received their first Holy Communion.

CATHOLIC STUDENTS' UNION

The **Catholic Students' Union**, an official University of Edinburgh

St Albert's Parish & Chaplaincy, Edinburgh



student society, continued to be very active. Its membership is about 100 students; but many other students attend Mass and participate in the life of the Chaplaincy as well. The Young Women's Fellowship and the Frassati Fellowship for young men met regularly in person. The Midweek Meal, the Friday Baked Potato Lunch, and talks on Theology were part of the weekly life of the chaplaincy.

Fr Samuel continued to serve as a Dominican liaison to the two chapters of the **Thomistic Institute** at the University of Edinburgh. The chapter organised public lectures and other activities which open the minds of young Catholics to Catholic thought in the tradition of St Thomas.

BENEFACTORS

The Lady Marian Gibson Trust continued to provide significant financial support to the parish to help with the cost of employing a lay chaplain. We are grateful to all our benefactors.

THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

Fr Dermot Morrin continued as Superior and Parish Priest. Fr Samuel Burke continued to work alongside Fr Dermot Morrin as chaplain. They were assisted in their work with students by Lilian Lee who was employed as a lay chaplain. Fr Aelred Connelly continued his work as part of the chaplaincy team at HM Young Offenders' Institution and Prison at Polmont. Fr Fergus Kerr continued in residence.

The summer of 2022 brought some changes, however. In July, Fr Albert Robertson arrived in Scotland one week after his ordination. In August, Fr Matthew Jarvis arrived having spent two years in study at Lyon. Fr Samuel Burke departed in September to become a naval chaplain. Lilian Lee moved on to a new role in Edinburgh University after 7 years of much-appreciated service as lay chaplain. Fr Aelred found that it was time to retire from prison chaplaincy and Fr Dermot agreed with the prison management to take on this role for one day each week, continuing this important ministry to some of the most vulnerable people in Scotland.

Superior: Fr Dermot Morrin

4 / 5 resident friars

www.scotland.op.org

St Dominic's Priory & Rosary Shrine, London

St Dominic's Priory is a hub for the Catholic Faith and culture, and a diverse and dynamic parish in north-west London that attracts families and young professionals from across London. As one parishioner said: "I truthfully didn't see much point in attending Mass. For me, in the past, it offered no value and was a chore. But St Dominic's and the priests there changed that thinking entirely for me."

At the centre of all this activity is the Priory church, a historic Grade II* listed building that is thought to be the largest Catholic parish church in London, and also serves as the Diocesan Shrine to Our Lady of the Rosary. It is the only Rosary Shrine in the country and joins a small international network of Dominican Shrines dedicated to promoting Dominican prayer and the Rosary.



Members of the priory are all engaged in a wide range of ministries serving the parish and Shrine, and also work with charities and institutions to support the social and pastoral needs of the local community. Many friars are also engaged in international outreach.

The Prior Provincial resides and has his office here.

LITURGY AND DEVOTIONS

As a Shrine, the church offers regular access to the Sacraments, with scheduled daily Confession, Adoration and Masses both in the morning and the evening (the only church in the local deanery to offer evening Mass).

- Monthly 'First Saturday' devotions and candlelit Rosary Processions on 1st Saturday, with classical guitar music;
- Weekly torchlit Rosary Processions in October and May, drawing regular visitors from as far as Kent and and Herts.;
- Sunday Dominican Rite 'Missa Cantata', the only one in the Archdiocese, drawing a young crowd from across London;
- The 'Day with Mary' was hosted, as well as 'Catholic Mothers UK', and 'Mothers' Prayers' group;
- The diocesan Curia of the Legion of Mary holds its annual Edel Quinn pilgrimage here;
- Participation in the international 'World Priest' Rosary Relay in June;
- A weekly livestreamed Rosary (Fridays), and a weekly stational Rosary (Saturdays);
- Occasional bereavement support group led by a friar; the friars also regularly give spiritual direction and counselling to a wide range of people;
- School visits, parish pilgrimages, family retreat days, and

CHAPLAINCIES & PASTORAL CARE

- 2 friars serve the 2 local Catholic primary schools as Foundation Governors;
- 1 friar is Lead Chaplain, UCL NHS Trust, and 2 friars are assigned to the Catholic Chaplaincy Team at the Royal Free Hospital;
- 1 Chaplain to King's College including Masses at Guys Hospital and the Strand Chapel, weekly services at 2 nursing homes, weekly Masses for 2 convents of nuns, and 1 Chaplain to HMP Wandsworth.
- Friars also serve as Spiritual Director to the Westminster Curia of the Legion of Mary, and National Chaplain for the Guides and Scouts of Europe in England.

St Dominic's Priory & Rosary Shrine, London

visits by Catholic tour groups and groups of religious happen throughout the summer;
- Occasional pilgrimages by national lay organisations and university chaplaincies.

A HOME FOR COMMUNITIES

- A Filipino choir sings at a monthly Mass, on feast days and in the Simbang Gabi novena of Masses up to Christmas. Each month the Filipino community hosts a hot meal for the whole community in the parish Hall;
- Two thriving AA groups meet weekly in the parish Hall;
- A chapter of 'Band of Brothers' supports young ex-prisoners in rehabilitation, meeting weekly;
- The Latin Mass Society has training days for servers, and a gathering of the Guild of St Clare twice a year;
- The Deo Gratias discussion group for young professionals meets every fortnight.

INTELLECTUAL APOSTOLATE

- One friar teaches full-time in a primary school;
- Several friars gave talks to University chaplaincies in the UK and abroad, provide talks and support for the Thomistic Institute, and preach retreats in the USA and Asia-Pacific;
- Talks are given to the parish community during Lent and Advent, including the Holy Week retreat.

ART AND CULTURE

- Our historic Willis organ is heard every Sunday and major feast day;
- The church, newly-restored and with ongoing works for its beautification, is regularly visited by tourists and groups.;
- The church is a venue for concerts and recitals of sacred music by choirs such as The Elysian Singers, Cappella Nova (conducted by Sir James MacMillan), and the Lyra Singers;
- The annual Open Garden Day (under the National Gardens Scheme) is popular with visitors who come from a distance.

ONLINE APOSTOLATE

Mass continues to be broadcast daily to our YouTube channel. We also livestream organ recitals, processions and vigils, and a weekly Rosary has over 1,000 viewers from North America, the UK, and Italy.

The friars continue to engage in catechesis and talks online, with invitations from USA, Malaysia, Singapore, and UK.

PROMOTING THE ROSARY

- Monthly Rosary procession as a work of the Rosary Confraternity, and enrolments during the weekly Rosary processions (May/October);
- Children from local schools come to learn about and to pray the Rosary.



RADIO MARIA

In May the Master of the Order during his visit blessed the newly opened studio of **Radio Maria**, located above our hall (*pictured above*). The friars are involved in this 24-hour station as contributors and provide a chaplain.

DEVELOPING THE PARISH AND SHRINE

Catechesis is now focussed on supporting the faith formation of the whole family, and the main Family Mass on Sunday is tailored to welcoming children and parents, with activities in the Parish hall after Mass such as 'Fry a Friar' Q&A sessions; Children's Liturgy of the Word led by Dominican sisters; and a vibrant music group led by parishioners.

Thanks to the support of donors, facilities in the church and parish Hall have been improved and renewed, and new lighting for the Stations of the Cross was installed. Devotional statues around the church have been restored.

Prior: Lawrence Lew OP

9 resident friars

www.rosaryshrine.co.uk

Blackfriars: Priory of St Michael, Cambridge



The Priory of St Michael Archangel is the location of the Province's noviciate, where new friars spend their first year in the Order.

Members of the priory are also involved in writing, preaching, theological research and teaching. They normally provide pastoral care for a congregation of c.200 people, as well as assisting with the sacramental needs of the adjacent parishes.

The priory promotes projects supporting educational provision in Ethiopia in co-operation with the **Jean Grove Trust** (reg. charity 1109593). We have continued to fundraise for this, though the troubles in Ethiopia have made bank transfers unreliable as per last year.

Two novices took simple vows for the English Province and one for the Dutch Province. One novice was clothed for the English Province in September. Fr Nicholas Crowe returned from his studies in Fribourg and took up full-time residence in the Priory.

APOSTOLATES

The Priory offers a programme of theological education in the form of regular talks, advertised in the city of Cambridge and environs, as well as at the Cambridge University Catholic Chaplaincy, and a *communio* circle.

We continue to broadcast daily mass, evening and morning prayer on **Radio Maria** which is based in Cambridge. Our Facebook group has over 550 members and is updated with regular content and has a good level of participation.

The 2022 Aquinas Lecture, 'Aquinas on Radical Hope', was given by Fr Oliver Keenan OP of Blackfriars Hall, Oxford on Thursday 28 January via Zoom. Approximately 80 people attended.

Fr Euan Marley served as Prior; he continued his writing work for Redemptorist Publications as well as other online preaching platforms.

Fr Bob Eccles continued his ministry of accompaniment both of local people and former students. He played an animating role in the synodal process at Blackfriars.

Fr Colin Carr continued his work of spiritual direction and accompaniment in addition to a weekly broadcast on Radio Maria on the theme of prayer.

Fr Dominic White's Wisdom Circle discussion group is continuing; a **Friends of Sophia** conference was held at Wells Cathedral on 14th May. 35 people attended.

Fr Dominic has been acting Director of Research at the **Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology** for three years. Fr Dominic and Fr

Blackfriars: Priory of St Michael, Cambridge



Colin are also involved in seminars in the Divinity Faculty of the **University of Cambridge**. All these activities have enhanced the connection between the intellectual life of the Priory and the work of the University in Cambridge.

Fr Robert Verrill continues to work on his doctorate, and has also developed a programme of events exploring the theme of 'Science and Religion' in collaboration with Radio Maria and the Templeton Foundation. He also taught philosophy at Blackfriars Studium, Oxford.

On completion of his studies, Fr Nicholas Crowe continued to give retreats to various groups in the UK and beyond. He was also appointed the Provincial Safeguarding Officer and fundraiser for St Martin's Mission, which supports the English Province's overseas mission in the Caribbean. He was also appointed Lector of Pastoral Theology at Blackfriars Studium, Oxford.

Fr Gregory Pearson served as Novice Master for the community, and as a canon lawyer for several religious orders and dioceses. He also accompanied Ukrainian refugees in Cambridge, and established a weekly Ukrainian Greek-Catholic mass at Blackfriars.

Prior: Euan Marley OP

13 resident friars including 6 novices (2 novices left the Order during the reporting period and one new novice was clothed at the end of the period).

www.blackfriarscambridge.org.uk



Holy Cross Priory & Parish, Leicester

Holy Cross Priory saw church attendance figures return to normal (753) in the year ending September 2022 and they even rose to over 1,000 at Christmas 2021. All social groups in the parish seemed to overcome their fear of Covid as regulations relaxed. Student attendance was good and both the 10.30 mass and the 19.00 mass on Sundays usually had well over 300 attending.

At the end of 2021, Fr Isidore Clarke died. He had lived in a nursing home in recent years but was still contributing articles to the newsletter. He is missed by many of the parishioners, especially those he had helped in various ways over the years.



APOSTOLATES

Our **Chaplaincy to Leicester and De Montfort Universities** continued to flourish and students attended various events in addition to the student Mass and the weekly social gathering. The Christmas party in 2021 was very well organised (by the students) and the students seem to have formed friendships across the university divide which is also encouraging. There continued to be about 60 students on our records with between 20 to 30 attending the weekly Mass.

The Chaplaincy to HMP Leicester: prisoners were served well by Fr Luke who made sure that they had an opportunity for confession as well as Mass, and supplied them with books and devotional items.

The Chaplaincy to Leicester Royal Infirmary continued as before – the lay permanent chaplain retired and was not replaced, but this did not seem to affect our own work and there was the usual variety of call-outs to the terminally ill and those awaiting serious surgery.

The Parish Scripture Group continued to flourish online and attracted several new followers. Instruction for other sacraments continued to be done on an individual basis due to differing times when candidates were available. Lay people have taken on the First Communion course but the parish priest still has oversight. There was still plenty of teaching by live-stream and the Good Shepherd course for young children held its first meetings in the newly refurbished 'Atrium' of the Frassati Centre.

EVENTS

Parish social life began to return with tea and coffee after the two Sunday morning Masses, although people felt it was too soon for an Advent Fayre.

The **Leicester Theological Society** held its regular meetings and, as well as the Parish Finance committee, a new Core group of parishioners began to meet each month to discuss the needs of the parish.

DEVELOPMENT

By December 2021, the work on the Frassati centre had been completed in time to hold the reception after Fr Isidore's funeral, and the re-roofing of the front elevation of the Priory roof was completed to universal satisfaction. Further grants were obtained for the works on the Frassati centre during the year.

Prior: John-Patrick Kenrick OP

6 friars

www.holycrossleicester.org

Educational Apostolate

Education and the intellectual apostolate are a key part of the Dominican charism.

The academic year 2021/22 began still affected greatly by the Covid pandemic, but the situation improved greatly as the year progressed, with legal restrictions lifted in February 2022. Whilst the Intellectual apostolate was hindered, and it is unclear what the longer-term impact will be on audiences, much valuable experience was gained and new ways of exercising intellectual ministry (especially in relation to online technologies) emerged. Almost all the events involving the intellectual apostolate are now in person, but some are hybrid, allowing a wider participation.



1. TALKS AND PUBLIC LECTURES

Many of the talks and lectures by the brethren were organised by the brethren, but many were organised by other bodies. Most of the talks and lectures were open to the general public, but some were for specific groups (e.g. Lay Dominicans or young adults). Some of the talks and public lectures were one-off and some formed parts of series.

RANGE OF THEMES

- 'Art and Preaching',
- 'Science and Faith',
- 'Faith Journeys in Science',
- 'Can there be friendship without faith?',
- 'What literature means to me as a religious',
- 'Valued by Christ, valued by others',
- 'What Am I living For? Life, Death, and Friendship',
- 'What is heaven life',
- 'The role of Mary in salvation history',
- 'Ukraine: Religious History and National Identity',
- '*Le purgatoire chez Dante et les leçons d'espérance*',
- '*La théologie dans l'âge du selfie*',
- 'The concept of *Eudokia* in John Chrysostom',
- 'A Catholic Approach to Investment',
- 'Who is Jesus Christ?',
- 'God and Creation',
- 'Our Lady, Mother of Africa', 'St Thomas Aquinas and Canon Law'.

There were also talks on the spirituality of Medjugorje, and a disputation involving three student brothers (Brs Bede Mullens, Daniel Rowlands, John Church) on 'Is there salvation outside the Church' at the **Catholic Chaplaincy, University of Oxford**.

Fr Lawrence Lew also interviewed Sir James MacMillan on his music and inspiration as part of a public concert at the Rosary Shrine at St Dominic's, London.

SERIES OF TALKS

There were also series of talks, some given as part of retreats and study days.

- Fr Dominic White led a study day with Dr Sue Price on 'Into Light: Death and Dying' at the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology, Cambridge;
- Fr Gregory Pearson gave a series of talks on 'The Beauty and

Educational Apostolate (cont.)

Mystery of the Mass' at a St Thomas study weekend at Douai Abbey;

- Fr Timothy Radcliffe gave a series of four online lectures for Carmelites in formation and a talk for *Carême dans la Ville* (online retreats organised by the Province of France with 150,000 followers online: '*Allez dans le monde entier. Proclamez l'Evangile à toute la création*';
- A series of lectures was organised by members of the Dominican family in the Netherlands on Fr Timothy Radcliffe's book, *Alive in God*.

LOCAL GROUPS

Some of our priories, out of concern for the well-being of parishioners, delayed resumption of talks and other activities related to the intellectual apostolate; but others resumed activities.

- Fr Richard Ounsworth ran a weekly parish scripture group in Leicester;
- The Cambridge Community had a very successful Aquinas Lecture given online by Fr Oliver Keenan on 'Aquinas on radical Hope';
- In London, the parish young adults group, Deo Gratias, met for discussions on various topics dealing with the interface of Catholicism and popular culture, literature, and the arts, on topics as diverse as *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and the *Dream of Gerontius*. There was during Lent a series of five talks on 'Sacred Art and the Lenten Journey' (each attended by about twenty people) and six short talks for Holy Week, meditations on the Seven Last Words of Christ, which will form the basis of a publication by the Catholic Truth Society in 2023.

THE DOMINICAN FORUM

These lunchtime talks on living the Christian faith remained online with three sessions occurring within the year. The webinars were again hosted and supported by Evelyn Partners and CCLA (two firms of investment managers); the Province extends its gratitude for this support. Several brethren from different priories contributed to this series which was focussed on Dominican themes for the Jubilee year:

- Prayer in the Dominican Tradition (Fr Nicholas Crowe);
- A Brief History of the English Province (Br Bede Mullens);
- The Universal Vocation to Preach (Fr Richard Ounsworth).

ASSOCIATED GROUPS

ALBERTUS INSTITUTE

Our houses also give hospitality to, and support, other groups, such as the **Albertus Institute** (for Science, Religion and Public Affairs) at Edinburgh (**albertusinsitute.wordpress.com**). Fr Samuel Burke OP was a trustee of the Albertus Institute (its statutes stipulate a Dominican friar trustee). The Institute had two significant events during the year.

The first was the Annual Albertus Lecture. Edward Hadas, Research Fellow at Blackfriars Hall, Oxford, delivered an Annual Lecture entitled 'Covid-19 and the Technocratic Paradigm: an assault on humanity?' It was attended by 45 people in person (the maximum the space could hold due to regulations at the time), and about 30 others online.

There was also the Annual Conference on: 'Ukraine: Peacemaking when it hurts'. The conference took place at New College, University of Edinburgh, and was attended by 185 people: 108 in person (maximum capacity), and 77 online. The Chair for the conference was Fr Samuel Burke OP. The speakers were: Robert Brinkley CMG, former HM Ambassador to Ukraine; Fr Vasyl Kren, Ukrainian Catholic priest of the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh; Dr George R. Wilkes, Director, Project on Religion and Ethics in the Making of War and Peace, Centre for Theology and Public Issues, University of Edinburgh; Dr Arianna Andreangeli, Senior Lecturer in European Law, Edinburgh Law School, University of Edinburgh and member, Executive Committee of Pax

Educational Apostolate (cont.)



Christi Scotland; Stephen Dolan, doctoral student on Hungarian Christian politics at the School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh; Dr Sara Parvis, Senior Lecturer in Early Christian History, School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh.

The conference was preceded by ecumenical Evening Prayers for Ukraine, led by Lord James Wallace, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, with Fr Martin Robson, the Scottish Episcopal Chaplain, Fr Samuel Burke OP, Catholic Chaplain, Fr Vasyl Kren of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, and three students from different denominations, including Angus Gentles, President of the Catholic Student Union at St Albert's.

THOMISTIC INSTITUTE

Both St Albert's Catholic Chaplaincy, Edinburgh, and Blackfriars, Oxford, have Chapters of the Institute. The Thomistic Institute organises talks and other academic activities and events on Catholic Theology and Philosophy, with particular reference to the thought of St Thomas Aquinas.

Edinburgh

- 'We Don't Do Truth', a lecture by Prof. John Rist (University of Toronto) in November 2021;
- 'Evil: A View from St. Thomas Aquinas', by Dr Rik Van Nieuwenhove (Durham University), March 2022;
- Catholicism and the Arts: An Intellectual Retreat for Students, with Fr. Michael Lang (Oratory of St Philip Neri) and Dr. George Corbett (University of St Andrews). Christian Heritage Centre, Clitheroe. April 2022.

Oxford

Summer 2022 saw the revival of Thomistic Institute activities in Oxford after a long quiet period due to the pandemic. The Thomistic Institute at Oxford was pleased to welcome

- Dr Rebekah Lamb, from St Andrews, for a talk on Newman's theology of history;
- Dr Erik Tonning, from the University of Bergen, for a talk on the implicit theologies of modernist authors including Samuel Beckett and David Jones;
- Dr Giuseppe Pezzini, of Corpus Christi, Oxford, for a talk on the notion of creation in Tolkien's oeuvre.

Each talk was attended by an audience of around 30, consisting mostly of University students; a smaller group of students afterwards had the opportunity to attend dinner with the speaker for further discussion.

2. EXPERTISE

As well as giving and arranging talks, brothers also serve the wider Church through giving expert advice as consultants and members of various bodies.

- Fr Simon Gaine is a member of the Church's International Theological Commission;
- Fr Fergus Kerr was an external reader for Cambridge University Press and Catholic University Press;
- Fr Matthew Jarvis is a member of the Order's International Commission on the Liturgy;

Educational Apostolate (cont.)

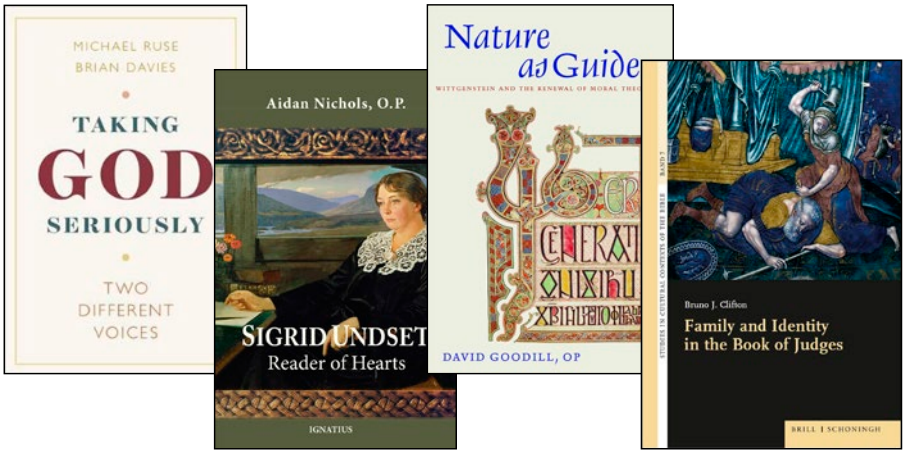
- Fr Robert Gay is Vice-Chair and member of the board of the Anscombe Institute for Bioethics;
- Fr Robert Ombres is on the editorial boards of three journals: Ecclesiastical Law Journal, Law & Justice, and Angelicum;
- Fr Brian Davies is on the Editorial Board of the International Journal for Philosophy of Religion and has been an anonymous reader for articles submitted;
- Fr John O'Connor was an anonymous peer review reader for the Journal of Value Inquiry;
- Fr Benjamin Earl is President of the commission for the review of the *Liber Constitutionum Mondialium Ordinis Praedicatorum*, and member of the Juridical Commission of the Union of Superiors General, as well as a canonical consultant for a number of different religious institutes.

3. PUBLICATIONS

A wide audience can also be reached through publications, both electronically and in more traditional formats.

NEW BLACKFRIARS JOURNAL

A key part of our academic publishing mission is our bimonthly journal, *New Blackfriars*, published by Wiley-Blackwell. The Editor was Fr Brian Davies, Fr John O'Connor was Assistant Editor, and Fr Robert Ombres was Reviews Editor. Fourteen friars of the English Province are on the Editorial Board. The number of article downloads per annum is approximately 140,000 and from across the globe. As New Blackfriars is published by Wiley, articles in New Blackfriars are available through the UN World Health Organisation Hinari project, which gives access to research for free, or at greatly reduced cost, to scholars and students of countries of low GDP.



New Blackfriars published two articles by Fr Thomas Crean: 'A New Proposal about the Fruits of the Mass' and 'Mary as a New Eve in the Thought of St Paul'.

New Blackfriars also published editorials by Fr Brian Davies, Fr Martin Ganeri, and Fr Fergus Kerr, book reviews by the following brothers: Fr Fergus Kerr, fr Dominic Ryan, Fr Bruno Clifton, Fr Matthew Jarvis, Fr Albert Robertson, Fr David Goodill, Fr Aidan Nichols, Fr Richard Ounsworth, Fr John O'Connor, Fr Simon Gaine, Fr Dominic White, Fr Nicholas Crowe.

BOOKS

Books published by the brethren include:

- Fr Bruno Clifton, *Family and Identity in the Book of Judges* (Brill Schöningh: Paderborn);
- Fr David Goodill, *Nature as Guide: Wittgenstein and the Renewal of Moral Theology* (CUA Press);
- Fr Aidan Nichols, *Sigrid Undset: Reader of Hearts* (Ignatius Press);
- Fr Brian Davies (with Michael Ruse), *Taking God Seriously* (Cambridge University Press); *Lorens of Orléans on the Decalogue and the Creed* (Monumenta Ordinis Fratrum Praedicatorum Historica XXXIV, Angelicum University Press);
- Work progressed with Fr Timothy Radcliffe's book

Educational Apostolate (cont.)

(co-authored with Fr Łukasz Popko of the Ecole Biblique, Jerusalem) on *Hear me and Listen: Eighteen Conversations with God*;

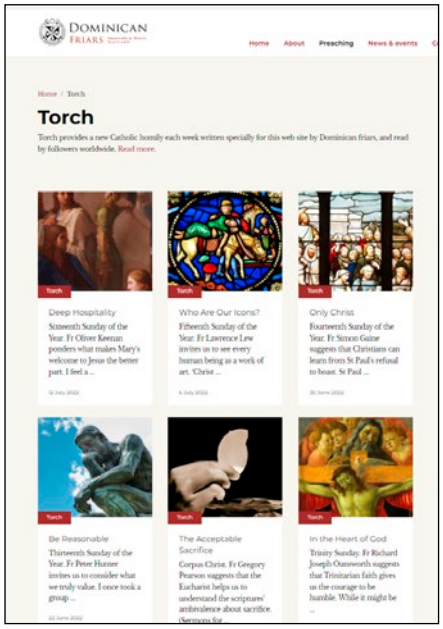
- Fr Richard Finn signed a contract with Cambridge University Press for his forthcoming history of the Province of England;
- Fr Timothy Radcliffe has contributed one of the two commentaries as part of *A Letter of Pope Francis on Priesthood with Commentaries*, to be published by the Vatican in late 2022;
- Translations of Fr Timothy Radcliffe's book, *Alive in God: A Christian Imagination*, into Italian and Portuguese were published.

OTHER JOURNALS

- Fr Timothy Radcliffe published many articles, including in *The Tablet*, *The Church Times*, and *Osservatore Romano*. His 'A letter to the Dominican Family', written at the request of the Vicar Provincial of Ukraine, was much distributed;
- Fr Richard Conrad published four articles in *The Faith Companion*. He also had an article on 'What Can the Catholic Liturgies of the Dead offer Mourners? Solidarity with the Deceased and Hopeful Protest' for a collection edited by Dr Mikolaj Slawkowski-Rode. Both Fr Richard Conrad and Fr Simon Gaine have articles in preparation for the collection as part of the Thomistic Evolution Project – Fr Richard Conrad's article is entitled: 'What if Adam Had not Sinned? Explorations on How Human Vulnerabilities Might Have Been Overcome';
- Fr Robert Ombres wrote the entry, 'Purgatory' for the Cross, Livingstone & Louth (eds.), *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* (2022 edn.);
- Fr Benjamin Earl published 'Opera propria: property or patrimony? Consequences for mutual relations between bishops and religious' in 2019, which republished in the Canon Law Society of Great Britain and Ireland Newsletter and *The Catholic Voyage: African Journal of Consecrated Life*. He also has an article forthcoming in *Angelicum*: 'Quis tibi dedit hanc potestatem? Sources of authority in the proper law of the Order of Preachers';
- Fr Matthew Jarvis wrote an article in French reporting on a conference on St Irenaeus, which was published in Théophilyon.

ONLINE PUBLISHING

Nearly every priest brother in the English Province contributed to Torch (**www.torch.op.org**), the preaching website of the English Dominicans. The student friars' blog, Godzdogz (**www.godzdogz.op.org**) remains very popular with hits from across the world. Among the topics of the blog articles of the academic years 2021/22 were: 'Salvation Beyond Appearances', Wisdom's Silent Subjugation', 'What are Jesus' Commandments?', 'Confronting our Demons', 'Refuge and Prayer in Advent', 'Love Your Enemy', 'The Kingdom within the Soul'.



4. PARTICIPATION IN THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

The brethren are also actively involved in the wider academic community.

- Fr Fergus Kerr is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh;
- Eleven of the brethren are members of the Catholic Theological Association;
- Fr John O'Connor is a member of the Royal Society of

Educational Apostolate (cont.)

Edinburgh Young Academy of Scotland.

Especially following the Covid pandemic, many conferences allow for online participation. But the brethren nonetheless attended in person conferences (usually giving presentations) in Zürich, Cambridge, Bilbao, Québec, Caleruega, Toulon, and Lyon.

- Fr Richard Conrad gave a paper on 'Is the Holy Spirit the Love Between the Father and the Son?' at a conference of the Theology of the Holy Spirit at Pusey House, Oxford, in July 2022, which will be included in a collection of conference papers.

THOMISTIC EVOLUTION PROJECT

Fr Richard Conrad and Fr Simon Gaine are team members of the Thomistic Evolution Project supported by the **John Templeton Foundation**. Dr Daniel De Haan, Lecturer in the Studium, is another member. This project brings together scholars from the US, continental Europe, and the UK to examine how Thomistic insights can shed light on evolutionary theory, and explores how evolutionary theory can be reconciled with a Catholic, and especially a Thomistic, understanding of doctrines, for example, regarding original sin. The project has a website (**www.thomisticevolution.org**). It organises colloquia and has already result in a jointly-written volume. Future academic publications and resources for schools on Faith and Evolution are being planned. The contributors to the Thomistic Evolution Project had a workshop at Blackfriars, Oxford, I October 2021.

5. EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

BLACKFRIARS HALL & STUDIUM

The largest single apostolates of the Province of England are our Studium Generale ('Blackfriars Studium') and Permanent Private Hall of the University of Oxford ('Blackfriars Hall'). Blackfriars Hall operates two research centres, The Aquinas Institute and the Las Casas Institute. *Reports from Blackfriars can be found on p.11 ff.*

For both Studium and Hall: Fr John O'Connor was Regent; Fr Bruno Clifton was Vice-Regent; Fr Robert Gay was Secretary of Studies. These three friars were in charge of the governance of Studium and Hall. Fr Oliver Keenan was Director of the Aquinas Institute and Fr Richard Finn was Director of the Las Casas Institute. The Studium and Hall also have several lay members of staff.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OUTSIDE OXFORD

- Fr Brian Davies is Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Fordham University;
- At the Angelicum University, Rome: Fr Simon Gaine is the Pinckaers Professor of Theological Anthropology and Ethics and Fr Robert Ombres is a half-time Professor of Canon Law at the Angelicum;
- Fr Fergus Kerr is an Honorary Professor at the School of Divinity, University of St Andrews;
- Fr Peter Hunter and Fr Aidan Nichols taught at St Michael's Seminary and Theological College in Jamaica;
- Fr Clifton Harris is a member of the Board of St Michael's Theological College, Jamaica;
- Fr Oliver Keenan is a Translation Fellow at the Centre of Barth Studies, Princeton Theological Seminary;
- Fr John O'Connor is an Honorary Lecturer at the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, the University of Glasgow, which enables him to continue to externally co-supervise doctoral students (currently three);
- Fr. Dominic White was appointed in January 2022 Acting Director of Research at the Margaret Beaufort Institute. For the Margaret Beaufort Institute, he also helped organise several events with chairing (e.g. the Annual Research Conference), gave a research seminar and taught the New Testament module for the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies. He is also active in the Neo-Platonism Reading Group at the Divinity Faculty,

Educational Apostolate (cont.)

University of Cambridge and he also organised and chaired the 2022 Friends of Sophia conference;

- Fr Simon Gaine is on the Board of Governers of the Mater Ecclesiae College, London;
- Fr Richard Finn is a Governor of St Mary's University, Twickenham;
- Fr David Goodill taught Moral Theology for St Joseph's University, Macau, and a course on Catholic Social Teaching for the Diaconate Formation course at St Mary's College, Oscott;
- Fr Samuel Burke was an Associate Lecturer in Applied Theology, St Mary's University;
- Fr Simon Tugwell is an Emeritus Fellow, Dominican Historical Institute;
- Fr Rudolf Löwenstein is Director of Studies at St Christina's (Primary) School;
- Fr Allan White is Principal of St Mary's Elementary School, El Centro, California, where he is also a Teacher of Religion;
- For the Maryvale Institute: Fr Richard Ounsworth is the External Examiner for the Masters programme in Catholic Applied Theology (accredited by The Open University).

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

Friars have also had significant interaction with university staff and students through University Chaplaincy:

- Fr John Patrick Kenrick (University of Leicester and De Montfort University);
- Fr Dermot Morrin, and Fr Samuel Burke (University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh Napier University and Queen Margaret University);
- Fr Robert Verrill (University of Cambridge);
- Fr Toby Lees (King's College, London);
- Fr Gregory Murphy (University of Dundee and University of Abertay);
- Fr Peter Hunter (University of the West Indies (Mona campus) and the University of Technology, Kingston).

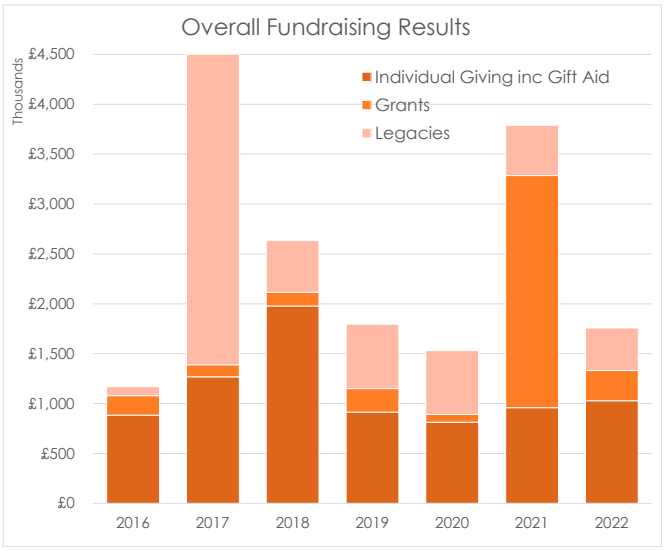
6. FURTHER STUDIES

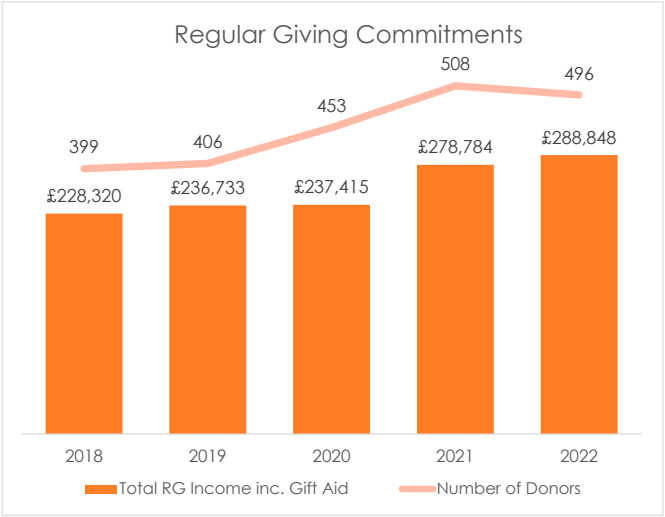
Among those who undertook complementary studies in the academic year 2021/22 for the sake of the intellectual apostolate during the year were:

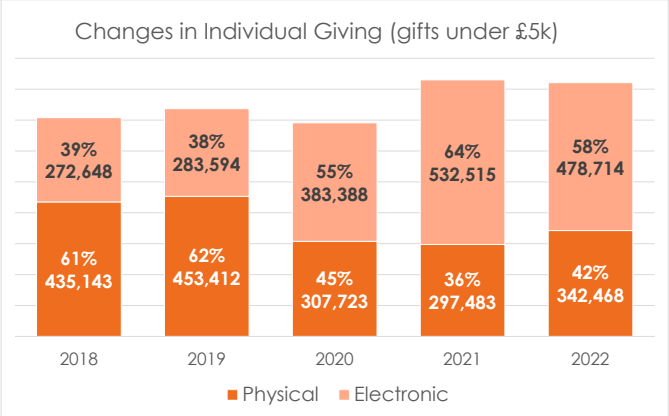
- Fr Benjamin Earl, part-time doctoral student in Canon Law at the Angelicum (as well as being Procurator General of the Order);
- Fr Leon Pereira, part-time doctoral student at the Angelicum;
- Fr David Rocks is studying for a part-time Masters in Philosophy at The Open University;
- Fr Matthew Jarvis completed a Licence in Patristics at the Institut Catholique, Lyon;
- Fr Nicholas Crowe completed a Licence in Moral Theology at Fribourg;
- Fr Jordan Scott finished a part-time Masters in Psychology at Birkbeck College, University of London;
- Fr Luke Doherty will start an Advanced Masters in Theology and Religion at Katholieke Universiteit (KU) Leuven, and will focus on social ethics.
- Fr Robert Verrill was a doctoral student in philosophy at Baylor University, Texas.

Our planning of higher studies of the friars takes account of the fact that the Congregation for Catholic Education requires our Studium has a significant number of teachers with ecclesiastically-recognised higher qualifications.

Fundraising Performance[1] – Trends







This was a positive year marked by some signs of a slowdown in growth. Individual giving continued to rise, including a single gift to the Las Casas Institute of £100k. Despite no current capital fundraising projects, grants were also strong, including a second £100k grant to St Albert's, Edinburgh; grants in favour of the Frassati Centre at Holy Cross, Leicester; and in support of scholarships at Blackfriars Hall, Oxford.

Overall Fundraising Results[2] saw a total of £1.76m (2021: 3.79m) raised for the charity.

Regular Giving Commitments[2] continued to rise in value across the Province: £236k (2021: £229k), or £289k with Gift Aid (2021: £279k); though the number of donors levelled out to 496 (2021: 487).

The continuing return to in-person activities saw new **Changes in Individual Giving**[2], with a small reversal of the recent trend towards electronic payments: these made up 58% by value of individual giving for amounts of under £5k (64% in 2021). This concurs with recent press reports of an increasing use of cash[3].

Legacies received were again strong: £426k (2021: £503k).

Grant payments received in the year totalled £592k including pledges from previous years (2021: £330k). Blackfriars Studium and Blackfriars Hall, Oxford, and St Albert's Priory, Edinburgh, were the principal beneficiaries.

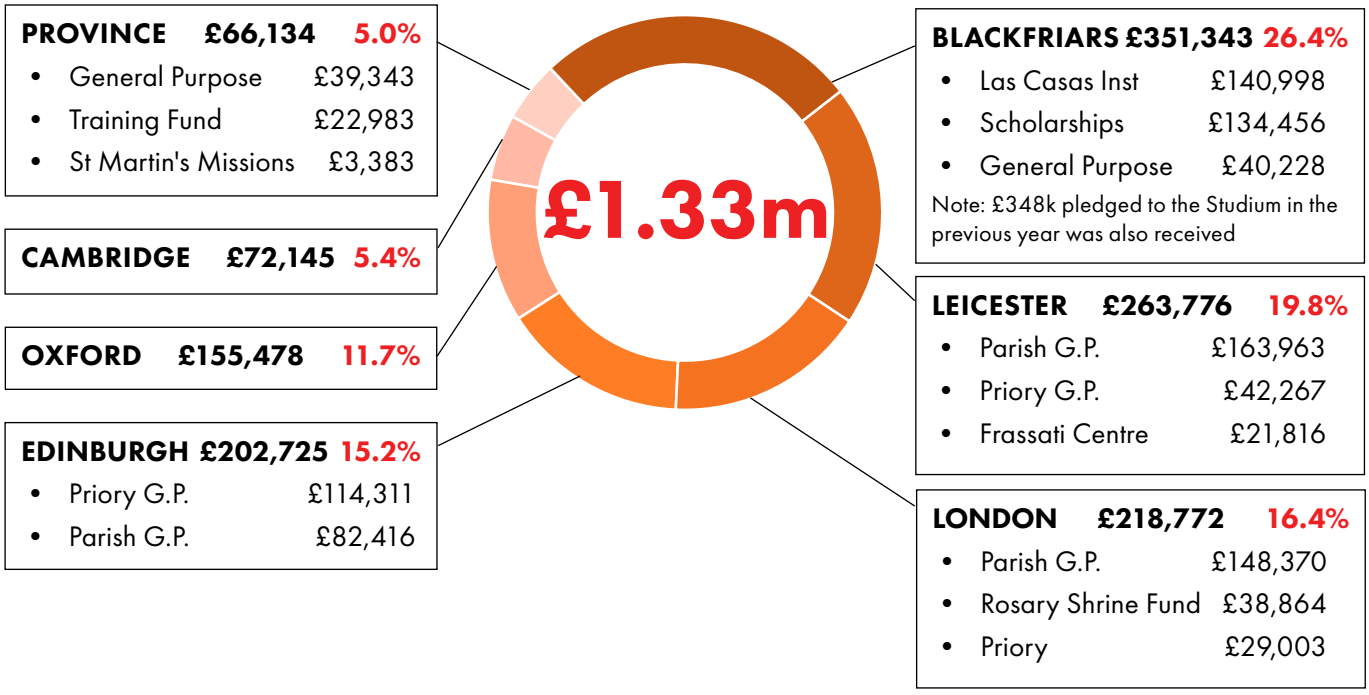
(1) Fundraised amounts listed here will not correspond exactly with figures listed in the audited accounts, owing to different ways of recording legacies and the income from Gift Aid. Figures here measure fundraising performance only.

(2) Note that these amounts include the expected Gift Aid value, even if the actual tax reclaim happens in a later period.

(3) e.g. report on cash withdrawals during 2022 from Nationwide Building Society in The Independent, *11 Jan 2023.*

Fundraising Performance – 2022

VOLUNTARY INCOME (EXC. LEGACIES)



LEGACIES



The friars express their gratitude to all who have helped sustain our mission this year through their generous giving. We would especially like to mark the contributions of:

Grants: Barnsbury Char. Trust, Charlotte Marshall Char. Trust, Florence Turner Trust, Francis & Rosalind Cuss Foundation lnc, Garfield Weston Foundation, The Haramead Trust, The Hobson Charity Limited, The J Reginald Corah Foundation Fund, Jesuits (Society of Jesus), The Lady Marian Gibson Trust, The Maud Elkington Char. Trust, McDonald Agape Foundation, Northbridge Char. Trust, Nottingham RC Diocesan Trust, Porticus UK, The Street Foundation, The Tolkien Trust.

Legacies: Nora Geraghty, Sylvia Ross. *R.I.P.*

Details of the Charity, Trustees, Advisors

NAME OF CHARITY	The English Province of the Order of Preachers
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	231192 (England and Wales) SC039062 (Scotland)
ALSO KNOWN AS	The Dominicans
PRINCIPAL OFFICE	Blackfriars, St Giles, OXFORD. OX1 3LY
TRUSTEE	The Dominican Council (a company limited by guarantee, no. 387818) Blackfriars, St Giles, OXFORD. OX1 3LY
DIRECTORS OF TRUSTEE CORPORATION	Very Rev. Fr Martin Ganeri OP Rev. Fr Simon Gaine OP Rev. Fr David Goodill OP Rev. Fr Nicholas Crowe OP (from 27 April 2023)
PRINCIPAL OFFICER	Very Rev. Fr Martin Ganeri OP, Prior Provincial
BANKERS	The Royal Bank of Scotland RBS Bishopsgate Branch, 49 Bishopsgate, LONDON. EC2N 3AS
SOLICITORS	Farrer & Co. 66 Lincoln's Inn Fields, LONDON. WC2A 3LH
AUDITOR	RSM UK Audit LLP, Chartered Accountants The Pinnacle, 170 Midsummer Bvd., MILTON KEYNES. MK9 1BP
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT AND ADVICE	BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited 12 Throgmorton Avenue, LONDON. EC2N 2DL *and* Evelyn Partners LLP (formerly Smith & Williamson) 45 Gresham Street, London. EC2V 7BG
WEBSITE	https://english.op.org/

Structure, Governance & Management

INTRODUCTION

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30th September 2022. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 54ff. and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (January 2019) and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The English Province of the Order of Preachers is one of forty or so provinces of the Friars of the Order of Preachers, a religious order in the Catholic Church. The Order of Preachers was founded by St Dominic in the thirteenth century for the purpose of preaching, teaching and pastoral work in collaboration with the bishops. Members of the Order are often known as 'Dominicans', after their founder. The life of the friars is founded on the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience to which they bind themselves by vow, and is characterised by prayer, study and community life. Most of the friars are also ordained priests.

As part of the Catholic Church, the Order of Preachers is bound to the Church's Canon Law, especially as contained in the 1983 *Codex Iuris Canonici* (Code of Canon Law, hereafter *CIC*), and to the legitimate precepts of the Holy See and the Roman Pontiff. It is also bound by the laws of the dioceses in which it works, and of the Bishops' Conferences of England and Wales and of Scotland.

The Order has its own internal law contained in the *Liber Constitutionum et Ordinationum Fratrum Ordinis Praedicatorum* (Book of Constitutions and Ordinations of the Friars of the Order of Preachers, hereafter *LCO*). The General Chapter of the Order and the Master of the Order have authority, in accordance with canonical norms, over all the provinces, priories and friars of the Order.

The English Province, in addition to the above-mentioned norms, has its own canonical governing document, the 'Statute of the Province'. The Province is governed by the Provincial Chapter and by the Prior Provincial. The Provincial Chapter is a meeting of friars representing the Province which takes place every four years; its object is to 'discuss and make decisions about all that pertains to the fraternal and apostolic life and the good administration of the province' (*LCO* 351 §I). The Provincial Chapter can make changes to the Statute of the Province as well as make other ordinations concerning the governance of the Province and its priories. The Provincial Chapter elects the Prior Provincial (major superior), who governs the Province until the following Provincial Chapter.

The Prior Provincial is assisted by the Provincial Council, composed of senior officers of the Province and other members elected by the Provincial Chapter. On major financial matters the Prior Provincial and Provincial Council are advised by the Economic Council of the Province, whose members are appointed by the Provincial Chapter and which is chaired by the Provincial Bursar.

The Province is made up of a number of priories, which are local communities of friars with a large degree of self-government according to the norms of Canon Law and the internal law of the Order and the Province. The priory is 'the fundamental unit of the Order' (*LCO* 1 §VII), and the principal place where the educational and pastoral mission of the Order is pursued. Priors (local superiors) are normally elected by the members of their priory for three-year terms. Each priory is engaged in a variety of ministerial work, often centred on parish churches or university chaplaincies. Two priories are especially but not exclusively dedicated to the formation and training of priests and friars. The Prior Provincial and his Council have responsibility for the collaboration of the various priories, for the support of provincial projects and for the establishment, maintenance and en-

forcement of common policy, including those involving major financial issues.

The Charity consider that the members of the Provincial Council comprise the key management personnel, in charge of directing and controlling the charity and running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. The Prior Provincial and three other members of the Provincial Council are Directors of the Trustee Corporation, as listed on p. 34. Other members of the Provincial Council are members of the Trustee Corporation. All trustees, and all other members of the Provincial Council, give of their time freely and no remuneration was paid to any of them in the year. Details of trustee expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in notes 9 and 10 to the accounts.

The individual friars make profession of a vow of obedience, encompassing also the other 'evangelical counsels' of poverty and chastity. As a result of the profession of poverty, all that is acquired in virtue of the work or activity of a friar belongs to the friar's priory (*CIC* 668 §3; *LCO* 546). Once a friar has made definitive or 'solemn' profession, any income whatsoever that comes to the friar belongs to his priory or the Province (*LCO* 546, 548). This arrangement is given civil effect by means of a 'Deed of Disponer' in favour of the Charity made by each friar at the time of his solemn profession. Alongside the profession of poverty by the friars, there is a corresponding obligation on the Order to provide its members 'with everything that is necessary to fulfil the purpose of their vocation' (*CIC* 670).

The Dominican friars share a spirituality and mission with other branches of the 'Dominican family': nuns, sisters, members of secular institutes and fraternities of priests and laity (cf. *LCO* 1 §IX).

NATURE AND CONSTITUTION OF THE CHARITY

In order to allow for the general administration and financial maintenance of the members, priories and works of the Province, **the Province Trust** was established by Trust Deed in 1930, modified by a deed of partial revocation in 1945. Its registered objects are 'the promotion of education and the Roman Catholic religion and the establishment and maintenance of schools, churches and priories for these purposes and the upkeep of members of the Order of Preachers.' Under the name 'The English Province of the Order of Preachers', the Province Trust is registered as a charity in England and Wales, no. 231192, and in Scotland, no. SC039062.

The sole trustee of the Charity is the Dominican Council, a company limited by guarantee and governed in accordance with its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The Dominican Council was incorporated on 25 May 1944, no. 387818. Its registered office is Blackfriars, St Giles, OXFORD OX1 3LY.

The chairman *ex officio* of the Corporation and its Committee is the Prior Provincial, at present the Very Rev. Fr Martin Ganeri OP. According to its Articles of Association, 'any Roman Catholic Priest of the English Province of the Order of Preachers' (art. 6) is qualified to be a member of the Corporation. Three members of the Corporation are elected by the Corporation to serve on its Committee alongside the Prior Provincial. The members of the Committee function as the directors of the Corporation and as 'Charity Trustees' in the sense of s177 of the Charities Act 2011.

RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF CHARITY TRUSTEES

The Province has a wealth of experience among its friars, who have spent years pursuing the Province's mission and the Charity's objects by means of educational and pastoral work. Many of the friars have also served as administrators at a local level, holding offices such as prior, parish priest or bursar. The Provincial Chapter therefore has a rich pool of competent and proficient friars to draw upon when it elects the Prior Provincial and the Provincial Council.

The normal practice of the Dominican Council is to elect new members of the Corporation from the Provincial Council, and so in turn it is from among these experienced friars that the Committee is elected. As a result, the Charity Trustees, i.e. the members of the Committee of the Dominican Council, are friars of proven prudence and experience with detailed knowledge of the Charity's work and structure.

The solemnly professed friars have no personal income or property; anything that comes to them is acquired

for the Order, which in turn is obliged to support all its members, providing them with 'everything that is necessary to fulfil the purpose of their vocation' (*CIC* 670). Hence the object of the Charity includes 'the upkeep of members of the Order of Preachers'.
The members of the Committee of the Dominican Council therefore benefit from the activity of the Charity, but they do so in their capacity as members of the Order of Preachers, not as a result of being Charity Trustees.

TRAINING OF CHARITY TRUSTEES

New members of the Committee of the Dominican Council are very experienced in the work of the Province and its administration. As superiors and administrators they are already well-acquainted with the governing documents of the Order. New members of the Committee are provided with latest version the Charity Commission's publication 'The Essential Trustee: What you need to know, what you need to do' and the OSCR publication 'Guidance for Charity Trustees'. Trustees are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the other resources for Charity Trustees provided by the Charity Commission, OSCR and other sources. All Charity Trustees are provided with appropriate briefings from the Charity's professional advisors concerning their responsibilities and when this is pertinent to any decisions that have to be made by the Charity Trustees. Members of the Committee of the Dominican Council attend meetings of the Association of Provincial Bursars and seminars for Charity Trustees organised by professional advisors.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND DECISION-MAKING

The Charity is structured internally as local priories in accordance with the laws of the Order of the Preachers contained in *LCO*. These norms, together with those of the Province itself, set out requirements for financial administration and reporting, investment, property acquisition and maintenance for the Province and for each priory, and also the limits to the powers of priors and of the Prior Provincial.
In particular:

- A Prior has a limit above which he cannot authorise expenditure without the consent of the Priory Council. The Priory Council can authorise expenditure to a higher limit, which varies depending on the size of the Priory, and above this authorisation is required by the Prior Provincial or, beyond an upper limit, the Provincial Council. These limits also apply to the authorisation of alienations or the incurring of liabilities. When authorisation is given by the Provincial Council, the Economic Council of the Province is consulted in advance, and a determination is made whether the matter requires an act of the Trustee Corporation.
- The annual accounts and budget of each priory are sent to the Prior Provincial (*LCO* 563) and submitted for examination by the Provincial Council (*LCO* 564), the Economic Council of the Province and the Trustee Corporation.

The limits mentioned here are reviewed every four years by the Provincial Chapter.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF SCOTTISH ACTIVITIES

The priories in Scotland are managed locally in the same way as priories in England, under the supervision of the Prior Provincial and the Provincial Council assisted by the Economic Council. The Trustees take the view that local governance structures are adequate and appropriate without an additional layer of governance specifically for Scotland.

RELATIONSHIP WITH A WIDER NETWORK

The Province is part of the Order of Preachers and of the Catholic Church. It operates in accordance with the teaching and laws of the Catholic Church, and the manner in which it realises its object, 'the promotion of education and the Roman Catholic religion', is influenced by the priorities identified by the Church and by the Order of Preachers internationally.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER CHARITIES AND ORGANISATIONS

The Charity is closely related to the **Hoper Dixon Trust** (registered charity no. 231160). Under the terms of a Scheme of 20 July 2006, that Trust exists 'for the benefit of the poor connected with or in the neighbourhood of any house or pastoral centre under

the direction of the Dominicans of the English Province of the Order of Preachers'.

The Province also co-operates in the mission of the **Catholic Dioceses** in whose territory members of the Province work. Six parishes and chaplaincies to eight universities are entrusted to the Province.

The Charity co-operates fraternally in a number of projects with **other branches of the Dominican family** (Congregations of Dominican Sisters, Dominican Secular Institute and Lay Dominican fraternities) active in Great Britain. The Province recently co-operated in the establishment of a Priestly Confraternity of St Dominic, and remains closely involved in its development and expansion.

The Province operates Blackfriars Hall, Oxford, a Permanent Private Hall of the **University of Oxford**. The Hall co-operates with the University, Colleges and other Halls in furthering its educational objective. There is also co-operation with **other religious institutes** in training candidates for the priesthood and in providing theological formation for other religious. The Hall is developing a research collaboration with the **Anscombe Bioethics Centre**, registered charity no. 274327. Members of the congregations at two of the Province's priories run overseas aid charities: the **Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust** (registered charity no. 288585) based in Oxford and the **Jean Grove Trust** (registered charity 1109593) based in Cambridge. The Province is happy to promote and support these works.

The Order's presence in Grenada and Barbados is canonically dependent on the Province. Though the presence there is not part of the Province Charity, from time to time the Charity is able to make grants for the work of the Order in the Caribbean.

FUNDRAISING DISCLOSURES

The Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016 requires charities which are subject to an audit to make disclosure in their Financial Statements about their fundraising activities.

The Dominican Friars have been mendicants since the very beginning of the Order of Preachers in the early 13th century, and benefactors have played a crucial role at every stage of our history up to and including the present day.

In 2013, impelled by an urgent need to improve the financial situation of the charity, the Province began to employ a full-time fundraiser (Development Director) to direct and manage fundraising and related communications activities on the charity's behalf. The Development Director is now assisted by a part-time Development Support Officer, with oversight provided by the Prior Provincial and the Provincial Bursar, and guidance given by the Province's Fundraising Committee.

Most funds are raised from those with whom we have close relationships, typically through their attendance as worshippers at one of our churches. Wider circles of relationships are maintained through our opt-in magazine, opt-in email newsletters, websites, and social media pages, all of which may include invitations to donate. Contact relationship data and donations data are managed centrally through a highly secure database with access restricted to a small number of employees.

We fundraise in accordance with the requirements of the Fundraising Regulator, and with our moral obligations as a Catholic charity. We fundraise responsibly at all times and with a sensitivity to the pastoral relationship that most donors have with the friars. We avoid approaches to vulnerable people and do not hold information on children. We do not exert pressure on people to donate, nor is access to the services we provide as a charity dependent on donations. We do not at this time employ third-party fundraisers, though some people do voluntarily and of their own initiative fundraise on our behalf. Subscriptions to communications can be cancelled at any time. Complaints are responded to as soon as possible; none were received in the current year (2021: none).

RISK

The trustees review annually the principal risks to which the charity is exposed, and the strategies and procedures in place to mitigate those risks. The trustees consider that the major risks can be categorised under four headings: operational, financial, reputational and regulatory. Listed below are the main risks in each category, along with the principal ways in which they are mitigated.

OPERATIONAL

The activities of the charity are highly dependent upon those friars who are responsible for their management, often with little or no professional lay assistance. For this reason there is a risk that our ministries may suffer from lack of direction, poor management and inefficiencies. It can happen that a particular friar is overburdened with responsibilities leading to stress and reduced effectiveness. To mitigate this, the trustees and especially the Prior Provincial regularly review the work of each entity of the Province, ensuring that those responsible for our works are provided with the practical and moral support required. The Province has also instituted regular meetings between the Provincial and local superiors, to offer support and share best practice. The Province maintains its commitment to ensuring that friars who are experiencing emotional or psychological difficulties are provided with appropriate professional help.

The charity is responsible for the care of a number of elderly friars. As at 30 September 2022 there were 17 friars over 70, of whom 8 were over 80. Like all of the friars, these men have no resources of their own as all earnings, pensions and other income have been donated to the charity. As far as possible older brothers continue to live in community, though where appropriate residential nursing care places are found. The Province remains committed to designating all pensions income to the Designated Sick Fund (see page 42), which covers the cost of residential care but also funds home nursing care where appropriate, as well as works in priories designed to make them more suitable for elderly and infirm brothers.

The on-going work of the charity requires that young men continue to present themselves to join the Order, and that these men be properly formed and educated for our ministries. Many religious orders in the UK have seen very low or even non-existent levels of recruitment for a number of years leading to a severely ageing demographic profile and the abandonment of numbers of ministries. The Province has committed one of its ablest young priests to work full-time as Promoter and Director of Vocations, and over the last two years ten men entered the noviciate, an unusually high number. The Province is also committed to ensuring that its friars receive the best possible intellectual, spiritual and pastoral formation.

FINANCIAL

The charity's principal assets comprise listed investments, the value of and income from which are dependent on movements in UK and world markets. A substantial long-term loss of value of these investments would threaten the long-term financial viability of the Province, and any significant reduction in investment income would cause financial difficulties even in the short term. To mitigate this, the investments are managed by reputable investment managers who adhere to a policy agreed by the trustees. The performance of investments and our investment strategy are assessed regularly by the Economic Council of the Province, aided by a lay expert, to ensure that our investments remain appropriate to the charity's needs (see further page 44).

The Development Office, under the leadership of a lay professional Development Director, with the co-operation of all friars, ensures that the Province and individual priories maintain excellent relationships with existing donors and takes the lead in seeking out and cultivating potential new sources of support. The work of the Development Office is supervised by the Provincial in consultation with the Provincial Council.

Our operations involve very large numbers of financial transactions including significant amounts of cash, bringing with it the obvious risk of fraud, theft or loss. The Province has a well-established set of 'Norms for Economic and Administrative Practice' which impose appropriate procedures for cash-handling and for the management of bank payments etc., and the Provincial Bursar visits priories regularly to support local bursars and other friars in adhering to these procedures and other good practices. The Province decided at its recent Chapter to substantially reduce the levels of expenditure that can be made without a second authorised signature.

The operation of Blackfriars Hall and Studium is at particular financial risk, depending as heavily as it does upon numbers of students. The Regent and other moderators of the Hall engage in visits to the USA to seek additional students, and the Hall is developing

with the Development Director a fundraising strategy emphasising student scholarships and support for Studium teaching with a view to providing Blackfriars with a more solid financial base in the years to come.

In the light of rapidly rising inflation, the Province faces increasing risks both to its income, as donors find their finances stretched, and in general expenditure. The value of returns on investments may also be eroded with higher inflation and loss of capital value in the markets.

REPUTATIONAL

Friars and some other volunteers working with the friars, by the nature of our activities, inevitably often operate with little immediate supervision and often in positions of considerable pastoral responsibility and trust. Mistakes and misjudgements especially by friars in such positions can lead to harm to the reputation of the whole Province. The trustees consider that the greatest risk to the reputation of the charity in terms of severity of outcome, though not of likelihood, comes from allegations of abuse by friars of children or vulnerable adults: even where these allegations are historical in nature and relate to long-deceased friars, and even where they are unfounded, they can be deeply harmful to the reputation, local and national, of the Province, its ministries and its friars. The Province works closely with the Catholic Church Insurance Association, the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service and the Safeguarding Co-ordinator of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham to deal with any such allegations in accordance with the safeguarding policy of the Catholic Church in England & Wales. A member of the Provincial Council is the Province's Safeguarding Co-ordinator, and he is responsible for ensuring that all friars are familiar with, and practise, this safeguarding policy, again in association with the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Lay people volunteer as local safeguarding representatives at each location.

The trustees also recognise the potential for reputational damage that may result from operational failures mentioned in the first paragraph of this section, and this risk is mitigated as detailed there.

REGULATORY

The trustees are keenly aware of the need to comply with relevant laws, including but not limited to those governing employment, health & safety at work, immigration and data protection, and the potential consequences of failures in this regard. The Provincial Bursar, assisted by the Economic Council of the Province, the Development Director and professional experts, takes the lead in compliance, and is aided in this regard by training sessions provided by the Association of Provincial Bursars. Each site within the Province is visited at least once a year by a professional Health & Safety advisor, to ensure that our sites are not only compliant with the Health & Safety at Work, etc. Act (1974) and related regulations, but also provide good working and living environments for the friars.

Public Benefit

The Charity Trustees have read the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and the specific guidance for charities whose objects include Education and the advancement of Religion. The Charity Trustees have taken note of the Charity Commission's advice of October 2015 concerning public benefit and fee-charging in relation to educational charities. The Charity Trustees have paid due regard to the Commission's guidance, and all who make decisions about the activities the Charity undertakes are concerned to ensure that a real religious or educational benefit is provided to a broad range of people.

The priories of the Province all celebrate liturgy which is open to the public, and the friars are available to any members of the public who wish to consult them about matters of faith and the spiritual life. The priory churches are open to the public for most of the day, and many people avail themselves of the opportunity for quiet prayer or reflection. No charge is made for admission to the churches or to religious services (cf. *CIC*, c. 1221). Offerings are customarily made on the occasion of celebration of certain rites (e.g. baptisms, marriages and funerals), but Canon Law requires that those who are not able to make an offering are not thereby excluded (*CIC*, c. 848 and c. 1181). Some charges may be made for other activities (e.g. participation in pilgrimages); the Hoper Dixon Trust, a connected charity, is in some cases able to assist with these costs.

The main educational centre of the Province, located at Blackfriars in Oxford, welcomes applications to study from any suitably qualified student. Blackfriars Hall charges fees at the level prevalent among Oxford colleges, and students are eligible for public funding in the same way as other students in higher education. The Hall is aware that public funding is not available to assist all who would benefit from studying in Oxford, especially those wishing to study for a second undergraduate degree or a postgraduate qualification. The Hall continues actively seeking funds to broaden access, having almost exhausted funds available for scholarships to students in the previous reporting period. Members of the public who are not students at Oxford may attend lectures and classes at Blackfriars on application; a small fee is normally charged, but is waived in cases of financial hardship. Blackfriars Hall and many of the priories and parishes arrange for public lectures and talks which are free of charge.

The Charity Trustees consider that the achievements and performance of the Charity demonstrate success in providing benefit to a broad public.

Provision for Sick and Elderly Friars

As of 30 September 2022, 17 friars of the Province (15%) in Great Britain were aged 70 or over, of whom 8 (10%) were 80 or over. Although most of these brothers continue to be active and enjoy reasonable health, the Charity Trustees are concerned to ensure that adequate provision is made for the care of older brothers and of any other sick brothers. The Charity maintains a Sick Fund for this purpose, of which details are given in the Financial Review and Statement of Financial Activities. At the end of the reporting period, one brother was in a nursing home (2021: one); it is not unlikely that this number will rise, so the Trustees continue to ensure that such provision is affordable whenever necessary. While the provision and level of funds is adequate for current needs, the Charity Trustees are aware that demands could increase substantially in future years.

All state pension income is designated for the Sick Fund, which at the end of the period stood at £3,947k (2021: £4,320k). While the income from this fund currently suffices, the Charity Trustees are concerned that the Sick Fund should continue to be increased to ensure that likely future demands can be met.

Priories are also concerned to keep constantly under review their provision for disabled and infirm brothers and as necessary to make various adaptations and improvements.

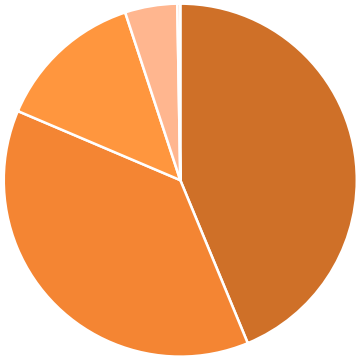
Investment Performance

The Charity's investments had a market value of £19,337k (2021: £22,382k) at the end of the reporting period. The market value of investments with Evelyn Partners was £8,271k (2021: £9,391k), and these represent the value of the Designated Sick Fund and the Designated Training Funds, plus a small part of the Restricted Training Funds. The value of the Province's holdings in the BlackRock Catholic Charities Growth & Income Fund at the end of the year was £11,066k (2021: £12,158k). Both investment funds fell in value during the year, reflecting the challenging market conditions in 2022. Evelyn Partners performance for the year was slightly worse than benchmark whilst BlackRock's was slightly better. The trustees are satisfied for now with the performance of both funds over time. In view of turbulence in the bonds markets during the year, the Charity disposed of its short-dated bond fund holdings. These were held as an alternative to cash deposits. The proceeds of the sale were held in the main bank account at 30 September 2022 whilst Trustees seek a suitable alternative investment vehicle. At 30 September 2022, £0 (2021: £833k) was directly held in cash funds, comprising 0.0% of total investment assets (2021: 3.7%). Income from cash funds over the year was £99 (2021: £647).

Further details of these investments may be found in note 6 to the Financial Statements.

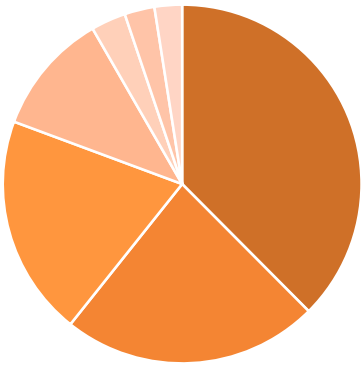
Financial Review

FIGURE 1:
INCOME



- Donations and Legacies: £1,940k
- Charitable activities: £1,669k
- Investments: £601k
- Other Trading Activities: £212k
- Other: £12k

FIGURE 2:
EXPENDITURE



- Property upkeep: £1,498k
- Educational: £925k
- Friars and communities: £796k
- Pastoral: £440k
- Investment management: £125k
- Sick and elderly: £108k
- Raising voluntary income: £99k

FUNDING SOURCES AND INCOME

Total income for the year ended 30 September 2022 was £4,434k (2021: £5,550k). Income was less than in 2021 as 2021 income included a grant of £2m to the Studium from the Society of Jesus for the training of priests, to be spent over the coming 5 years. However, several new salaried posts together with recoveries in educational income as Blackfriars Hall student numbers improved and parish hall rental income meant total income was only £1.1m less than last year. Donations and gifts grew by 12.5%, as supporters continued to increase online and card giving in place of cash collections. Grant income fell back to £406k (2021:£2,402k) following the exceptional 2021, in which, in addition to the grant from the Society of Jesus, Blackfriars Hall received a number of grants to assist recovery from COVID challenges and the refurbishment of the Frassati Centre in Leicester secured a number of grants. Income from listed investments fell slightly, by £32k.

More details are given in note 1 to the financial statements; cf Figure 1.

EXPENDITURE

Expenditure totalled £3,990k for the year (2021: £3,372k), an increase of £618k, 18%. The costs of pastoral works & projects remained lower than average as activities began cautiously to return to normal. Friars' travel overseas to study and in the UK to deliver teaching and ministry increased with the lifting of restrictions whilst the activities of the Las Casas and Aquinas Institutes continued to take place largely online. Support for the Province's houses in the Caribbean was maintained. The Province's required contribution to the central costs of the Order fell by £6k.

The cost of upkeep of the friars increased by £105k, 15%, with higher food, fuel and utility costs. The cost of upkeep of buildings increased again, by £300k, 25%. Cleaning costs continued to be substantial for part of the year, the London priory competed the major redecoration and refurbishment of its church and depreciation increased due to recent repairs and renovations. Educational costs increased in respect of new lectorships funded by the SoJ grant.

More details on expenditure are given in note 2 to the financial statements; cf Figure 2.

Funds & Investments

INVESTMENT POLICY AND OBJECTIVES

The Charity's investment policy is set by the Trustees, after regular consultation with the Province's Economic Council and professional investment managers. The principal objective is the maximisation of returns, seeking capital growth but also a steady and, where possible, growing level of income. The Charity Trustees are concerned to manage risk and therefore maintain and review periodically, with the assistance of the Province's Economic Council and professional advisors, a high degree of diversification in the Charity's investment assets, whether held directly or through a common investment fund.

In keeping with the objects of the Charity and the teachings of the Catholic Church, the following policy is stated in the Statute of the Province: 'Investments shall be avoided in companies a significant proportion of whose activities are contrary to the moral teachings of the Catholic Church, including but not limited to those relating to sanctity of life, care for the environment, and justice and peace.' This applies both to direct investments and to those through a common investment fund.

POLICY ON RESERVES

The laws of the Order oblige the Province to ensure that funds are available to support central administration, common projects (e.g. publishing, archives, libraries), the care of sick and elderly friars, and the formation of student friars. The Charity continues to maintain a high level of reserves in order to meet these obligations. The Charity Trustees also ensure that the level of reserves held is adequate to respond to unexpected financial needs, and to be able to commit to new apostolic projects when possible. Such a level of reserves is required because of the very large potential demands made by the ownership of the priories and churches necessary to meet the requirements of the Charity's objects, many of which are listed buildings. It might not always be possible to meet urgent needs out of branch funds. The high level of reserves also produce an income for central activities, allowing contributions from branch funds to central province funds to be kept down.

The Charity Trustees' view is that an amount equal to a minimum of four months' total expenditure (i.e. £1,330k over the reporting period) should be held as free reserves.

The Charity Trustees continue to aim for an increasing level of reserves designated for the purpose of providing for the needs of older or infirm friars and the formation of novices and student friars. The Charity Trustees continue to maintain designated funds as capital funds which generate sufficient income necessary for the Province to be able to satisfy its obligations under the laws of the Order and to meet annual expenditure requirements in these priority areas.

RESERVES AND DESIGNATED FUNDS

The balance sheet shows total unrestricted funds of £11,273k (2021: £12,481k). The Province General Purpose fund accounts for £2,976k (2021: £3,308k), of which £2,822k (2021: £3,080k) are free reserves (i.e. excluding fixed assets held for charity use). This level of free reserves represents five months' total expenditure by the Charity.

Designated funds make up the remaining £8,296k (2021: £9,172k) of unrestricted funds, the principal of which are:

Sick Fund: This holds a balance of £3,947k (2021: £4,320k) to provide care for sick and elderly friars. Income from the pensions of the friars is allocated to this fund. Despite a number of friars in residential care over the past few years and works to provide accommodation in priories suitable for elderly and infirm friars, it has been possible to continue to build up the sick fund. While it is impossible to predict with accuracy the burden on this fund, the large number of older friars makes significant demands in the near future likely.

Student Training Fund: The Charity maintains a designated fund for the support of the friars' studies, which holds a balance of £3,144k (2021: £3,373k).

Implications of Covid-19

At the beginning of the financial year, October 2021, most legal restrictions on social contact had been removed in England whilst some remained in place in Scotland; by the end of the financial year all restrictions had been lifted and the friars were free to resume normal activities. As described elsewhere in this report, activities through the year have been a blend of old and new "normal". The Trustees have reviewed the continuing impact of COVID-19 since October 2021 on the charity's income, expenditure, commitments and its assets and liabilities, and the charity's capacity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees have concluded that the charity continues to be financially sustainable for the foreseeable future.

Support from donors continues to increase year-on-year whilst income from ministry, talks, etc is recovering. Student numbers and income to Blackfriars Hall improved significantly again and accommodation is fully occupied in the new academic year 2022/23.

The charity had free reserves of £2.8m at 30 September 2022. Most of this balance related to investments with BlackRock Catholic Charities Growth and Income Fund. If it proved necessary these investments would be partly or fully liquidated in order to cover the essential running costs of the charity. The charity also has designated funds of £8.3m invested, which can be reassigned to cover expenditure if necessary.

The uncertainties of current global economic and political issues have impacted the cost of looking after friars and maintaining the Charity's activities and properties. The value of the investments in the past financial year fell 14% but at 31 December 2022 they were a similar value to that at 30 September 2022. However, the Trustees do not expect it to be necessary to liquidate investments; the Charity has a large cash balance in excess of its free reserves and forecasts indicate a small deficit may be made in 2022/23 which will be covered out of cash holdings if necessary.

Trustees' Responsibilities

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including FRS 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) regulations.

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales and Scotland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

a. select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

b. observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

c. make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

d. state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

e. prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, the provisions of the trust deed, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the provisions of the Book of Constitutions and Ordinations of the Friars of the Order of Preachers. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Declaration

DECLARATION

The officers of the Trustee Corporation, The Dominican Council, declare that to the best of their knowledge the annual accounts of the English Province of the Order of Preachers have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the regulations and requirements of the province Trust Deed, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the provisions of the Book of Constitutions and Ordinations of the Friars of the Order of Preachers.

The officers of the Trustee Corporation who were in office on the date of approval of these financial statements have confirmed that, as far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the auditor is unaware. Each of the officers of the Trustee Corporation has confirmed that they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as an officer of the Trustee Corporation in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to the auditor.

BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEE



Fr David Goodill OP
Secretary to the Dominican Council

15 June 2023

Auditor's Report

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE ORDER OF PREACHERS

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of The English Province of the Order of Preachers (the 'charity') for the year ended 30 September 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 30 September 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the Charities Act 2011.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We have been appointed auditors under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under those Acts.

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

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

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

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

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

OTHER INFORMATION

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

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 course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent

material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the Charities Act 2011 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' annual report; or
- proper and sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the 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

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out on page 46, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE AUDIT WAS CONSIDERED CAPABLE OF DETECTING IRREGULARITIES, INCLUDING FRAUD

Irregularities are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The objectives of our audit are to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding compliance with laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, to perform audit procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with other laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements, and to respond appropriately to identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations identified during the audit.

In relation to fraud, the objectives of our audit are to identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud, to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud through designing and implementing appropriate responses and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

However, it is the primary responsibility of management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations and for the prevention and detection of fraud.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, the audit engagement team:

- obtained an understanding of the nature of the sector, including the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in and how the charity are complying with the legal and regulatory framework;
- inquired of management, and those charged with governance, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, including any known actual, suspected or alleged instances of fraud;
- discussed matters about non-compliance with laws and regulations and how fraud might occur including assessment of how and where the financial statements may be susceptible to fraud

As a result of these procedures we consider the most significant laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements are FRS 102, Charities SORP (FRS 102), Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), the Charities Act 2011 and the charity's governing document. We performed audit procedures to detect non-compliances which may have a material impact on the financial statements which included reviewing the financial statements including the Annual Report and remaining alert to new or unusual transactions which may not be in accordance with the governing documents.

The audit engagement team identified the risk of management override of controls as the area where the financial statements were most susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. Audit procedures performed included but were not limited to testing manual journal entries and other adjustments, evaluating the business rationale in relation to significant, unusual transactions and transactions entered into outside the normal course of business and challenging judgments and estimates.

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

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the Charities Act 2011. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

RSM UK Audit LLP

RSM UK Audit LLP, Statutory Auditor
The Pinnacle, 170 Midsummer Boulevard, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK9 1BP

Date: 20 June 2023

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

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 30 September 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £
INCOME FROM:							
Donations and Legacies		33,914	1,905,688	1,939,602	261,922	3,786,816	4,048,738
Other Trading Activities		131,350	81,140	212,490	109,551	42,418	151,969
Investment Income		342,948	257,693	600,641	359,328	273,126	632,454
Charitable Activities		169,935	1,498,890	1,668,825	33,982	679,912	713,894
Other		614	11,675	12,289	-	3,042	3,042
TOTAL INCOME	1	678,761	3,755,086	4,433,847	764,783	4,785,314	5,550,097
EXPENDITURE ON:							
Raising funds							
Costs of raising voluntary income		95,121	3,471	98,592	98,763	1,273	100,036
Investment management costs		124,530	-	124,530	116,769	-	116,769
Charitable Activities		674,742	3,092,217	3,766,959	705,065	2,449,892	3,154,957
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2	894,393	3,095,688	3,990,081	920,597	2,451,165	3,371,762
(LOSSES)/GAINS ON INVESTMENTS	6	(1,261,000)	(946,694)	(2,207,694)	1,175,680	1,214,272	2,389,952
Net (expenditure)/income		(1,476,632)	(287,296)	(1,763,928)	1,019,866	3,548,421	4,568,287
TRANSFERS							
Transfers between funds	11	268,630	(268,630)	-	166,946	(166,946)	-
Net movement in funds		(1,208,002)	(555,926)	(1,763,928)	1,186,812	3,381,475	4,568,287
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS							
Total funds brought forward 1 October 2021		12,480,568	20,069,966	32,550,534	11,293,756	16,688,491	27,982,247
Total funds carried forward 30 September 2022	12	11,272,566	19,514,040	30,786,606	12,480,568	20,069,966	32,550,534

BALANCE SHEET

at 30 September 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	5	7,480,757	7,543,966
Investments	6	19,337,057	22,381,677
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS		26,817,814	29,925,643
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	7	2,323,454	2,142,786
Bank accounts		2,966,344	1,004,116
Cash in hand		3,217	5,577
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		5,293,015	3,152,479
LIABILITIES			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(1,300,180)	(496,271)
Net Current Assets		3,992,835	2,656,208
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		30,810,649	32,581,851
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	15	(24,043)	(31,317)
NET ASSETS		30,786,606	32,550,534
FUNDS			
Restricted funds			
Branch funds		14,341,334	14,348,119
Province restricted funds		5,172,706	5,721,847
Total restricted funds		19,514,040	20,069,966
Unrestricted funds			
Province general purpose		2,976,337	3,308,937
Province designated		8,296,229	9,171,631
Total unrestricted funds		11,272,566	12,480,568
TOTAL FUNDS	12	30,786,606	32,550,534

The financial statements on pages 51 to 68 were approved by the Trustee, authorised for issue on 15 June 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Directors of Trustee Corporation

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

for the year ended 30 September 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net movement in funds	(1,763,928)	4,568,287
Depreciation charges	661,800	610,051
Losses/(Gains) on investments	2,207,694	(2,389,952)
(Profit) on disposal of fixed assets	(5,543)	(60)
Interest received	(600,641)	(632,453)
(Increase) in debtors	(180,668)	(1,449,755)
Increase in creditors	802,771	138,326
NET CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	1,121,485	844,444
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Interest received	600,641	632,453
Purchase of property and equipment	(598,591)	(914,717)
Proceeds from disposal of property and equipment	5,543	60
Purchase of investments	(99)	(647)
Proceeds from sale of investments	837,025	-
NET CASH FROM/(USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES	844,519	(282,851)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Payment of finance lease liabilities	(6,136)	(11,783)
NET CASH USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES	(6,136)	(11,783)
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE YEAR	1,959,868	549,810
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	1,009,693	459,883
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	2,969,561	1,009,693

ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At start of year £	Cash flows £	At end of year £
Cash	1,009,693	1,959,868	2,969,561
Finance lease obligations	(37,661)	6,136	(31,525)
	972,032	1,966,004	2,938,036

Accounting Policies

BASIS OF PREPARATION

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) effective 1 January 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing these accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (the Charities SORP (FRS 102) effective 1 January 2019) rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005, which has since been withdrawn. The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

ASSESSMENT OF GOING CONCERN

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future, being a period of at least 12 months from the date that these financial statements have been signed. In arriving at this conclusion, the charity has prepared a detailed budget and cash flow forecast to end of September 2024 which have been sensitised for the potential impact to revenue streams. Whilst a number of the charity's revenue streams are likely to be adversely impacted, the Trustees consider that the charity has sufficient unrestricted reserves, in the form of cash and a liquid investment portfolio, that could be drawn upon, should the charity be required to do so in order to meet its costs for the foreseeable future, being a period of at least 12 months from the date that these financial statements have been signed. On this basis, the Trustees consider that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going-concern basis.

FIXED ASSETS

Functional property is capitalised at cost except in the case of historic property for which no cost information is available. Such property has been capitalised using the derived cost method based on insurance replacement value and retail price index. The year the property was built is used for this purpose and as such enhanced expenditure is also incorporated into cost.

Tangible fixed assets are being depreciated over their useful economic lives. The following rates are used:

Historic Property: over expected useful lives between 10 and 371 years
Other Freehold Property: over expected useful lives between 10 and 50 years
Motor Vehicles: over 4 years on a straight-line basis
Fixtures and Fittings: over 4 years on a straight-line basis. **Leases**: over 7 years
Assets in course of construction: not depreciated.

Assets are reviewed for impairment when evidence of such impairment arises. Expenditure on tangible items is not capitalised where it is less than £2,500 or where the view is taken that it is incapable of providing any future economic benefit to the Charity.

WORKS OF ART AND HISTORIC TREASURES

Individual works of art, historic treasures and plate are not capitalised as a valuation is not considered practical.

Such items as are in the possession of the Charity were created for use in religious worship or devotion and continue to be used for these purposes. The Charity maintains stewardship by keeping a full inventory and has no intention of disposing of any of the works of art, historic treasures and plate so long as this use continues.

INVESTMENTS

All investments are valued at their market value at the balance sheet date. It is considered that market value best represents a true and fair view of the value of these assets to the Charity. Gains and losses on disposal of the investments are treated as realised. Gains and losses on the revaluation of investments are treated as unrealised. Both are recorded in the Statement of Financial Activities. Investment management fees are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when incurred.

FOREIGN CURRENCIES

Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate of ruling at the date of transaction. All differences are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

LIABILITIES

Liabilities are recorded in the financial statements when the Trustees have made a commitment to acquire goods or services.

DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

Donations and legacies are accounted for in accordance with the requirements of the SORP (being entitlement, probability and measurement). Legacies are considered receivable once the value of the legacy has been determined and probate has been granted. Legacies received by friars of the Province, who have signed Deeds of Disponor in favour of The Dominican Council, are classified as legacy income. Donated assets and services are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when a reliable estimate of the value to the charity can be readily obtained.

GRANTS RECEIVABLE

Grants receivable are accounted for in accordance with the terms of the grant, and are recognised when the conditions for receipt have been complied with.

PENSIONS RECEIVABLE

Pension income for professed members of the Order is accounted for when it is receivable.

ACTIVITIES FOR RAISING FUNDS

Fundraising, publications and other similar income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the relevant amount of income becomes receivable or the item has been sold. Property rental income is accounted for when it is receivable in accordance with the terms of the relevant agreements.

INVESTMENT INCOME

Investment income is accounted for when notified by the Charity's investment portfolio manager. Deposit interest is accounted for on a receivable basis. Interest received on cash held with investment managers is accounted for as investment income.

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

The costs of charitable activities are accounted for when they become payable. They include apportioned support costs.

SUPPORT AND GOVERNANCE COSTS

Within this heading are incorporated management and administration costs, and any other costs not directly constitutive of charitable activity, generation of funds or governance. Where support costs are attributable to a particular charitable activity, they are allocated to that activity. General support costs are apportioned on the basis of the direct costs of each activity.

NATIONAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FRIARS

The Province pays voluntary (class 3) national insurance contributions for friars when these will count towards the provision of State Pension. These costs are recognised at the end of the tax year in which HM Revenue and Customs issues notice of a gap in National Insurance Contributions.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees. The amount charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in respect of pension

costs is the contributions payable in the year.

TAXATION

The English Province of the Order of Preachers is a registered charity and as such its income and gains falling within Sections 518 to 564 of the Income Taxes Act 2007 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 are exempt from income tax and capital gains tax to the extent that they are applied to charitable objectives.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Restricted funds can only be applied for a particular purpose. Most restricted funds of the charity are 'branch funds', restricted to use for the particular purposes of a branch of the charity (a priory, a parish or Blackfriars Hall) while that branch continues in existence. Some branch funds have more specific designations; others have further restrictions that would have to be respected even in the event of a branch ceasing to operate.

There are also central restricted funds, the principal of which are:

- Training Funds – to support training of student friars of the Order;
- Historic Property Fund – comprising the Historic Property Fixed Assets (see 'Fixed Assets' above);
- Mission Funds – to support various missions of the Order.

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

The unrestricted funds of the Charity comprise general purpose funds and designated funds. General purpose funds are retained to cover future direct charitable costs, general support costs, and investment management costs.

Designated funds are those parts of the Charity's unrestricted funds designated by the Trustees to be used for particular purposes in the future. The Trustees have the power to reallocate such funds. The principal designated funds are:

- Study Funds – representing amounts designated for expenditure on students' study costs.
- Sick Funds – representing amounts designated for expenditure on the care of sick and elderly friars.

CONNECTED CHARITY

The Hoper Dixon Trust is considered to be a connected charity because the Dominican Council is one of the Trustees. The Trust's accounts are not consolidated within those of the English Province of the Order of Preachers because in the opinion of the officers of the Dominican Council the Order does not have control of the Trust. The Trust's Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet are given in notes 17 and 18 respectively.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Charity only has financial instruments and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

LEASES

Leases are classified as finance leases where the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the equipment from the lessor to the lessee.

As a lessee: equipment held under finance leases are recognised on the Balance Sheet at the commencement of the lease at its fair value measured at the lease's inception. The asset recognised is matched by a liability for the obligation to pay the lessor.

Finance charges are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

The charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The estimates and assumptions that have a risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are noted below:

CLASSIFICATION OF LEASES

The charity has used its judgement in recognising whether a lease is a finance lease or operating lease on the basis that if the risk and rewards of asset ownership are considered to be substantially transferred then the lease is recognised as a finance lease.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ANALYSIS OF INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £
INCOME						
Donations and Legacies						
Donations and gifts	33,914	1,072,572	1,106,486	69,658	913,432	983,090
Legacies	-	427,521	427,521	31,336	471,771	503,107
Grants received	-	405,595	405,595	15,000	2,401,613	2,416,613
Total Donations and Legacies Income	33,914	1,905,688	1,939,602	115,994	3,786,816	3,902,810
Other Trading Activities						
Fundraising, publications etc.	10,242	222	10,464	13,687	-	13,687
Property	121,108	80,918	202,026	95,864	42,418	138,282
Total Other Trading Activities	131,350	81,140	212,490	109,551	42,418	151,969
Income from listed investments	342,948	257,693	600,641	359,328	273,126	632,454
Charitable Activities						
Ministerial services	26,234	989,814	1,016,048	16,202	394,212	410,414
Educational services	-	509,076	509,076	17,780	285,700	303,480
Pensions received	143,701	-	143,701	145,928	-	145,928
Total Charitable Activities	169,935	1,498,890	1,668,825	179,910	679,912	859,822
Other Income	614	11,675	12,289	-	3,042	3,042
TOTAL INCOME	678,761	3,755,086	4,433,847	764,783	4,785,314	5,550,097

Pensions received have been reclassified from donations to charitable activities to better reflect the nature of the income.

2. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £
COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS							
Costs of raising voluntary income		95,121	3,471	98,592	98,763	1,273	100,036
Investment management costs		124,530	-	124,530	116,769	-	116,769
Total costs of raising funds		219,651	3,471	223,122	215,532	1,273	216,805
EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	3						
Educational		99,248	825,394	924,642	73,981	639,270	713,251
Pastoral works and projects		136,726	303,166	439,892	191,326	249,020	440,346
Care for sick and elderly friars		83,262	24,488	107,750	90,595	21,318	111,913
Property upkeep		273,704	1,224,533	1,498,237	250,555	947,432	1,197,987
Support of the friars and communities		81,802	714,636	796,438	98,608	592,852	691,460
Total charitable activities		674,742	3,092,217	3,766,959	705,065	2,449,892	3,154,957
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		894,393	3,095,688	3,990,081	920,597	2,451,165	3,371,762

3. APPORTIONMENT OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Educat-ional £	Pastoral £	Sick & Elderly £	Property £	Friars & Comm-unities £	Total £
CENTRAL SUPPORT COSTS						
Friars	10,781	5,129	1,256	17,468	9,286	43,920
Staff	27,041	12,865	3,151	43,815	23,291	110,163
General administration	14,906	7,091	1,737	24,152	12,839	60,725
Governance costs						
Audit fees	7,439	3,539	867	12,054	6,408	30,307
Legal fees	7,235	3,442	844	11,724	6,232	29,477
Other professional Fees	3,333	1,586	388	5,402	2,872	13,581
Total central support costs	70,735	33,652	8,243	114,615	60,928	288,173
BRANCH SUPPORT COSTS	290,318	17,469	-	-	101,218	409,005
TOTAL SUPPORT COSTS 2022	361,053	51,121	8,243	114,615	162,146	697,178
TOTAL SUPPORT COSTS 2021	220,441	46,710	9,892	69,642	116,157	462,842

Central support costs are apportioned to activities in proportion to directly incurred expenditure.

Branch support costs are allocated to the principal activity of the branch incurring the cost.

4. STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

	2022	2021
STAFF NUMBERS		
Average number of Employees	26	19
Average number of FTE Employees	16	10
Employees receiving emoluments in excess of £60,000	-	-
STAFF COSTS	£	£
Salaries/Wages	546,560	413,618
Employer's national insurance costs	41,844	30,877
Pension costs	73,203	52,829
Total Staff Costs	661,607	497,324

No remuneration is paid to the trustee corporation or its directors.

VOLUNTEER NUMBERS		
Total Lay Volunteers	55	52
Total Full Time Equivalent Lay Volunteers	4.2	4.3

Note: for the sake of clarity, friars are no longer included here as volunteers.

4. STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS (CONT.)

For the purposes of this report, employees are those who have contracts of employment. The figures do not include persons paid through payroll from time to time who have no contracted hours; typically, such persons provide teaching or other ad hoc services to Blackfriars Hall, and are either employees of other institutions or students doing small amounts of part-time work.

The charity considers its key management personnel is comprised of its Trustees and other members of the Provincial Council, all of whom are Friars. The total employment benefits, including employer pension cost of key management personnel, were £nil (2021: £nil). The total of expenses reimbursed to key management personnel was £nil (2021: £nil).

The principal roles of non-friar volunteers are answering the door and telephone at the priories in Oxford and Cambridge, and church cleaning, flower arranging and similar tasks in Leicester and London, along with singing in the church choirs. The average number of hours worked by these volunteers each week is 2.6.

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS USED FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES

	Inalienable Property £	Other Property £	Motor Vehicles £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Total £
COST					
Balance brought forward 1 October 2021	1,000,613	9,276,007	84,149	2,770,483	13,131,252
Additions	-	428,613	3,000	166,978	598,591
Disposals	-	-	(11,840)	(189,701)	(201,541)
Balance carried forward 30 September 2022	1,000,613	9,704,620	75,309	2,747,760	13,528,302
DEPRECIATION					
Balance brought forward 1 October 2021	478,669	3,060,421	71,758	1,976,438	5,587,286
Disposals	-	-	(11,840)	(189,701)	(201,541)
Charge for year	4,539	301,582	5,408	350,271	661,800
Balance carried forward 30 September 2022	483,208	3,362,003	65,326	2,137,008	6,047,545
NET BOOK VALUE					
Brought forward 1 October 2021	521,944	6,215,586	12,391	794,045	7,543,966
Carried forward 30 September 2022	517,405	6,342,617	9,983	610,752	7,480,757

Historic property includes churches, places of worship and priories owned and occupied by the Order.

INVESTMENTS

	30 September 2022		30 September 2021	
	Cost	Market Value	Cost	Market Value
	£	£	£	£
Catholic Charities Growth & Income Fund*	8,330,247	11,065,870	8,330,247	12,157,644
Funds managed by Evelyn Partners**	6,533,325	8,271,187	6,533,325	9,390,784
BlackRock Institutional Cash Series	-	-	778,624	833,249
	14,863,572	19,337,057	15,642,196	22,381,677

	2022	2021
	£	£
Market Value at 1 October	22,381,677	19,991,078
Additions at Cost	99	647
Disposals at Market Value	(837,025)	-
Net (loss)/gain on revaluation	(2,207,694)	2,389,952
Market Value at 30 September	19,337,057	22,381,677

* As of 30 September 2022, the composition of the Catholic Charities Growth & Income Fund was as follows:

UK Equities	25.3%
Global Equities	26.7%
Fixed Income	17.8%
Property	10.7%
Alternatives	17.6%
Cash	1.9%
Total	100.0%

** As of 30 September 2022, the composition of the Funds managed by Evelyn Partners was as follows:

UK Equities	16.3%
Global Equities	49.9%
Fixed Income	8.2%
Property	5.4%
Alternatives and Multi-Asset	13.1%
Cash	7.1%
Total	100.0%

7. DEBTORS

	2022 £	2021 £
DEBTORS		
Trade debtors	550,077	7,121
Prepayments and accrued income	1,767,943	2,129,360
Other	5,434	6,305
Total Debtors	2,323,454	2,142,786

8. CREDITORS

	2022 £	2021 £
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	107,178	274,545
Taxation and social security	11,211	9,155
Accruals and deferred income	1,064,924	186,658
Other	116,867	25,913
Total Creditors	1,300,180	496,271
Deferred income (analysis)		
At 1 October	4,279	-
Amount released to income	(4,279)	-
Amount deferred in the year	1,027,891	4,279
At 30 September	1,027,891	4,279

Deferred income represents tuition fees invoiced in advance, unsaid Masses, and advance rent received.

9. TRANSACTIONS WITH TRUSTEES

The Trustees of the Charity are also members of the Order and as such have taken vows of poverty under which they renounce all personal right to income and capital. The Charity provides for the essential needs of all members of the Order within the Province.

10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Members of the Order arranged for grants totalling £16,777 (2021: £13,901) to be made from the Hoper Dixon Trust, a trust of which the Dominican Council is a Trustee. The beneficiaries of the Hoper Dixon Trust are the poor connected with or in the neighbourhood of any house or pastoral centre under the direction of Dominicans of the English Province of the Order of Preachers. The Hoper Dixon Trust's Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet are reproduced in notes 17 and 18 respectively.

As of 30 September 2022, the Hoper Dixon Trust owed the English Province of the Order of Preachers the sum of £1,367 (2021: £21) in respect of grants approved and payable.

FUNDS 2022

	Unrestricted Funds			Restricted Funds			Total
	Province General Purpose £	Province Designated £	Total Unrestricted Funds £	Total Branch Funds £	Total Province Restricted £	Total Restricted Funds £	2022 £
Income	383,795	294,966	678,761	3,483,892	271,194	3,755,086	4,433,847
Support costs, governance and generating funds	(378,253)	(10,538)	(388,791)	(496,988)	(2,999)	(499,987)	(888,778)
	5,542	284,428	289,970	2,986,904	268,195	3,255,099	3,545,069
Opening funds	3,308,937	9,171,631	12,480,568	14,348,119	5,721,847	20,069,966	32,550,534
Funds available for use	3,314,479	9,456,059	12,770,538	17,335,023	5,990,042	23,325,065	36,095,603
Resources directly expended on charitable activities	(275,414)	(230,188)	(505,602)	(2,459,400)	(136,301)	(2,595,701)	(3,101,303)
Inter-fund transfers	191,803	76,827	268,630	(44,459)	(224,171)	(268,630)	-
Net investment gains	11,863	4,093	15,956	31,020	11,326	42,346	58,302
Allocation of unrealised gains in the year	(265,266)	(1,011,690)	(1,276,956)	(520,851)	(468,189)	(989,040)	(2,265,996)
Closing funds	2,977,465	8,295,101	11,272,566	14,314,333	5,172,707	19,514,040	30,786,606
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS							
Contributions to shared costs	223,303	81,827	305,130	(268,959)	(36,171)	(305,130)	-
Allocations	(31,500)	(5,000)	(36,500)	224,500	(188,000)	36,500	-
	191,803	76,827	268,630	(44,459)	(224,171)	(268,630)	-

The transfers represent the obligations of the Province to support the friars and activities of Blackfriars Hall and the individual priories, and also the obligations of the Hall and priories to support the central costs of the Province.

FUNDS 2021

FUNDS 2021	Unrestricted Funds			Restricted Funds			Total
	Province General Purpose £	Province Designated £	Total Unrestricted Funds £	Total Branch Funds £	Total Province Restricted £	Total Restricted Funds £	2021 £
Income	446,230	318,553	764,783	4,380,344	404,970	4,785,314	5,550,097
Support costs, governance and generating funds	(339,135)	(22,659)	(361,794)	(291,697)	(5,998)	(297,695)	(659,489)
	107,095	295,894	402,989	4,088,647	398,972	4,487,619	4,890,608
Opening funds	3,125,071	8,168,685	11,293,756	11,547,526	5,140,965	16,688,491	27,982,247
Funds available for use	3,232,166	8,464,579	11,696,745	15,636,173	5,539,937	21,176,110	32,872,855
Resources directly expended on charitable activities	(283,465)	(275,338)	(558,803)	(2,020,998)	(132,472)	(2,153,470)	(2,712,273)
Inter-fund transfers	81,592	85,354	166,946	(36,898)	(130,048)	(166,946)	-
Net investment gains	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Allocation of unrealised gains in the year	278,644	897,036	1,175,680	769,842	444,430	1,214,272	2,389,952
Closing funds	3,308,937	9,171,631	12,480,568	14,348,119	5,721,847	20,069,966	32,550,534
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS							
Sick and Elderly Fund	-	(10,500)	(10,500)	10,500	-	10,500	-
Contributions to shared costs	132,608	60,838	193,446	(155,728)	(31,248)	(186,976)	6,470
Allocations	(51,016)	35,016	(16,000)	108,330	(98,800)	9,530	(6,470)
	81,592	85,354	166,946	(36,898)	(130,048)	(166,946)	-

The transfers represent the obligations of the Province to support the friars and activities of Blackfriars Hall and the individual priories, and also the obligations of the Hall and priories to support the central costs of the Province.

12. ALLOCATION OF ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

ALLOCATION OF ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS 2022	Province General Purpose £	Province Designated £	Total Unrestricted Funds £	Total Branch Funds £	Total Province Restricted £	Total Restricted Funds £	2022 £
Investments	590,624	7,121,900	7,712,524	7,642,822	3,981,711	11,624,533	19,337,057
Property	97,042	1,170,154	1,267,196	4,421,212	1,171,614	5,592,826	6,860,022
Other fixed assets	57,441	4,175	61,616	559,119	-	559,119	620,735
Current assets	2,358,852	-	2,358,852	2,914,361	19,802	2,934,162	5,293,015
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	(127,622)	-	(127,622)	(1,172,137)	(421)	(1,172,558)	(1,300,180)
Creditors: amounts falling due in more than one year	-	-	-	(24,043)	-	(24,043)	(24,043)
Net Assets	2,976,337	8,296,229	11,272,566	14,341,334	5,172,706	19,514,041	30,786,606

Balances of the principal Province funds are given in note 13.

ALLOCATION OF ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS 2021	Province General Purpose £	Province Designated £	Total Unrestricted Funds £	Total Branch Funds £	Total Province Restricted £	Total Restricted Funds £	2021 £
Investments	2,663,297	8,027,156	10,690,453	7,152,830	4,538,394	11,691,224	22,381,677
Property	377,903	1,139,640	1,517,543	4,053,804	1,166,183	5,219,987	6,737,530
Other fixed assets	57,441	4,175	61,616	744,820	-	744,820	806,436
Current assets	489,965	660	490,625	2,642,855	18,999	2,661,854	3,152,479
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	(279,669)	-	(279,669)	(214,873)	(1,729)	(216,602)	(496,271)
Creditors: amounts falling due in more than one year	-	-	-	(31,317)	-	(31,317)	(31,317)
Net Assets	3,308,937	9,171,631	12,480,568	14,348,119	5,721,847	20,069,966	32,550,534

13. BALANCES OF PROVINCE FUNDS

	2022 £	2021 £
PROVINCE DESIGNATED		
Sick Funds	3,946,999	4,320,246
Study Funds	3,143,830	3,372,856
Other*	1,205,400	1,478,529
Total Province Designated	8,296,229	9,171,631
PROVINCE RESTRICTED		
Training Funds	4,106,944	4,510,816
Inalienable Property Fund	517,404	521,944
Mission Funds	277,411	321,971
Other*	270,946	367,116
Total Province Restricted	5,172,705	5,721,847

* includes a number of smaller funds designated or restricted for specific charitable activities of the Province.

14. ACTIVITIES IN SCOTLAND

	2022 £	2021 £
Income from activities in Scotland	297,364	208,661
Expenditure on activities in Scotland	(229,497)	(234,449)
Net Income/(Expenditure) relating to activities in Scotland	67,867	(25,788)

15. OPERATING & FINANCE LEASE COMMITMENTS

OPERATING LEASES

At the reporting date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payment under noncancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
In 2 - 5 years: Equipment	10,152	-

FINANCE LEASES

At the reporting date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payment under noncancellable finance leases, which fall due as follows:

Within one year	7,483	6,345
In 2 - 5 years	24,043	31,317
After more than 5 years	-	-
	24,043	31,317
	31,526	37,662

16. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

At 30 September 2022 the charity had no capital commitments (2021: £264,137)

17. HOPER DIXON TRUST STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds			
	Income Fund £	Designated Capital Fund £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
INCOME				
Donations and Legacies	-	-	-	20,000
Investment income:				
Income from investments	16,494	-	16,494	16,188
Income from bank deposits	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME	16,494	-	16,494	36,188
EXPENDITURE				
Expenditure on charitable activities:				
Grants payable	16,777	-	16,777	13,901
Support costs for grants payable	19	-	19	39
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	16,796	-	16,796	13,940
NET (LOSSES)/GAINS ON INVESTMENT ASSETS	-	(40,821)	(40,821)	58,034
Net (expenditure)/income and movement in funds	(302)	(40,821)	(41,123)	80,282
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Fund balances brought forward at 1 October	33,278	594,030	627,308	547,026
Fund balances carried forward at 30 September	32,976	553,209	586,185	627,308

18. HOPER DIXON TRUST BALANCE SHEET

	2022 £	2021 £
FIXED ASSETS		
Investments	553,209	594,030
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank balances	34,343	33,299
LIABILITIES		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(1,367)	(21)
Net current assets	32,976	33,278
NET ASSETS	586,185	627,308
FUNDS		
Unrestricted Funds		
Income Fund	32,976	33,278
Capital Fund	553,209	594,030
TOTAL FUNDS	586,185	547,026

The Dominican Friars

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CONTACT DETAILS

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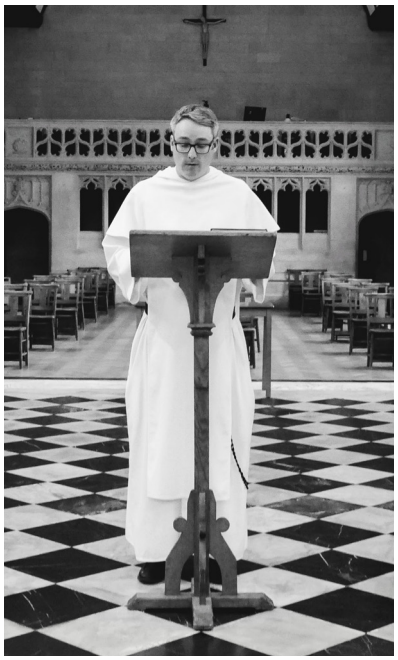
THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE ORDER OF PREACHERS

England & Wales - Charity number 231192

Accounts

The Dominican Friars

Annual Report 2021



800
1221–2021

The English Province of the Order of Preachers.
Registered charity 231192 (England and Wales) and SC039062 (Scotland)

The Dominican Friars

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

FOR THE PERIOD 1ST OCT 2020 – 30TH SEPT 2021

800
1221–2021

The English Province of the Order of Preachers.
Registered charity 231192 (England and Wales) and SC039062 (Scotland)

The Dominican Friars in Britain



KEY FACTS

Houses: 4 in England,
1 in Scotland
(+ 2 canonically associated in West Indies)

Total English Province Friars: 78

- 57 in UK,
- 8 in West Indies,
- 6 assig. to other provinces
- 3 working overseas
- 4 on leave

Bishops: 1

Priests: 52
(+ 8 in West Indies)

Novices /
Student brothers: 9

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THE DOMINICAN FRIARS (est. 1216) are an international Catholic religious order with a specialisation in preaching, teaching and pastoral work. Officially titled the 'Order of Preachers', they are known as 'Dominicans' after their founder, St Dominic.

THE 'PROVINCE OF ENGLAND'

The friars first established themselves in Britain in 1221, as the 'Province of England'. The Province (one of around 40) endures to this day. It is legally constituted as a single charity 'The English Province of the Order of Preachers', with responsibility for the friars' work in England, Wales and Scotland.

PRIORIES

The Province is made up of a number of priories, which are local communities of friars with a large degree of self-government. Currently these are in Oxford, London, Cambridge, Leicester, and Edinburgh. The Dominican houses in Grenada and Jamaica in the West Indies are also canonically dependent on this Province, and supported by grants, though not part of this charity.

OBJECT OF THE CHARITY

The Province Trust Deed lists ten charitable purposes, which for the purpose of registration as a Charity are summarised as 'the promotion of education and the Roman Catholic religion and the establishment and maintenance of schools, churches and priories for these purposes and the upkeep of members of the Order of Preachers'.

OUR MISSION: THE AIMS OF THE CHARITY

The ultimate aim and purpose of the Catholic Church and therefore of the Order of Preachers is 'the salvation of souls' (cf. *CIC* 1752; *LCO* 1 §2). In furtherance of this goal, the Order of Preachers and the English Province aim to provide effective preaching, teaching and pastoral care flowing from fraternal religious communities of prayer and study. Through the work of the friars we seek to awaken and deepen faith, hope and charity, to the benefit of those to whom we minister, to their families and to the wider community.

More detailed information can be found on pp. 33ff.

Message from the Prior Provincial



This last year has been one marked by the need for endurance and patience, but also one filled with joy and hope. During the various lockdowns, the communities of the Province have certainly persevered in the observance of their regular religious lives and this has proved a time of renewed fraternity and manifest generosity of spirit. Alongside the online apostolates that have continued to reach a wide section of the Church both in the United Kingdom and abroad, our earlier forms of educational and pastoral work have gradually resumed as face-to-face contact has once more become possible. We have all come to realise how essential and how precious physical presence is for us in every aspect of our lives as human beings. The journey of rediscovery of such presence has been a wonderful and precious experience in the life of the Province.

Starting with Pentecost in 2021 and due to end in May 2022, we have also been able to celebrate our 800th Jubilee with events and publications: a period of celebration which has drawn many new people into contact with us and made our presence and mission much more widely felt. We are immensely grateful for all the support and encouragement given to us by all our friends, both old and more recent in the course of this special year. Despite all the challenges of the pandemic, this has truly been a time of joy and hope.

Very Rev Dr Martin Ganeri OP, Prior Provincial

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Objectives & Strategies for the Year 2020–21

(A) RECRUITMENT & TRAINING To train priests and religious for pastoral and educational ministry, and to maintain the success of the full-time Director and Promoter of Vocations in drawing larger numbers of young men to enter the Province.	• Through pastoral engagement and work with young people, promote the Dominican vocation as a worthy and fulfilling life in the service of God and his people; • Through prudent investment and fundraising provide funds to help support student friars and the communities in which they live; • Plan for the future needs of the Province's centre of studies ('Studium') by identifying and training future teachers.
(B) MINISTRY To continue effective and responsive ministry in the priories and parishes of the Province.	• Continue the training and ordination to the clerical state of friars who will work in the Province's priories and parishes; • Ensure the friars are present in the locations where they are best able to minister; • Secure celebration of the liturgy and the sacraments in a way that responds to the pastoral needs of each place;
(C) BLACKFRIARS HALL To maintain and support the educational and research activities of Blackfriars Hall and particularly to develop the research projects of the Las Casas and Aquinas Institutes, and foster links with the other private halls of the University.	• Expand the number of postgraduate students, especially in theology and philosophy; • Continue to encourage visiting research scholars; • Continue collaboration with the Anscombe Bioethics Centre (registered charity no. 274327); • Continue to enhance the programmes of the Las Casas and Aquinas Institutes, seeking new sources of funding and collaborating with similar institutions elsewhere.
(D) BLACKFRIARS STUDIUM Strengthen the Province's centre of studies in Oxford, ensuring proper levels of funding and administrative support.	• Foster links with other religious congregations to open up a wider pool of prospective students and teachers. • Raise funds, so that an adequate and sustainable system of payment for lecturers can be provided.

Of these objectives (a), (b), (e), (g) and (h) applied to Scotland as well as to England and Wales; (c), (d) and (f) were specific to England and Wales, although not to the exclusion of participation by friars assigned to Scottish priories.

(E) BUILDINGS To maintain the buildings of the Province so that they are fitting places for the religious life, including for older and sick members of the Order, and for the pastoral and educational apostolate.	• Ensure that regular surveys of the buildings are conducted; • Perform the maintenance works identified by surveys, as prioritised; • Identify, where possible, external sources of funding for maintaining buildings. • Carry out plans for renovation of insulation and heating for the churches, chapels and priories of the Province.
(F) LONDON AND LEICESTER Support and develop the mission of the Rosary Shrine in London and Holy Cross Priory in Leicester to their local and extended surrounding areas.	• Develop forward-looking pastoral plans for ministry and outreach; • Identify fundraising sources for urgent upgrading of heating provision in the churches.
(G) 2021 ANNIVERSARY Complete and implement the programme of events and publications to mark the 800th anniversary from Pentecost 2021 to May 2022, promoting the publicity of events and wider participation of friends and supporters through online websites and social media.	• Use the resources and expertise of Peter's House to maximize publicity and participation in Jubilee events; • Promote fundraising opportunities for those who want to support the Jubilee year and wider work of the Province.
(H) IMPACT OF COVID-19 From the middle of the financial year, steps were taken to comply with public-health mandates and to mitigate the impact of these restrictions on the Province's mission and its income.	• Comply with mandated regulations on social distancing and other measures • Prioritise pastoral care for those suffering as a result of the pandemic and related restrictions • Encourage laypeople to return to church when possible • Further develop online presence and introduce virtual meetings and events • Support employees and friars in remote working • Promote electronic giving to replace lost cash income • Run emergency appeals to offset lost income

The Year in Review: Key Facts

JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE
[p.10]



STUDENTS IN EDINBURGH
[p.16]



PASTORAL WORK IN LONDON
[p.19]

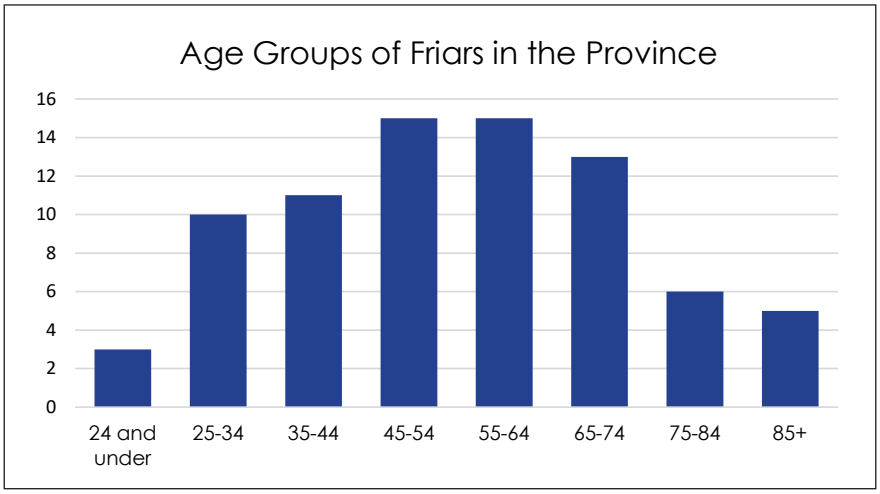


NOVICES IN CAMBRIDGE
[p.20]





Figures from the 2021 *Catalogus* of the Province. Excludes those assigned in the West Indies (8), those serving as bishops (1), and those from other provinces resident in the UK (5).

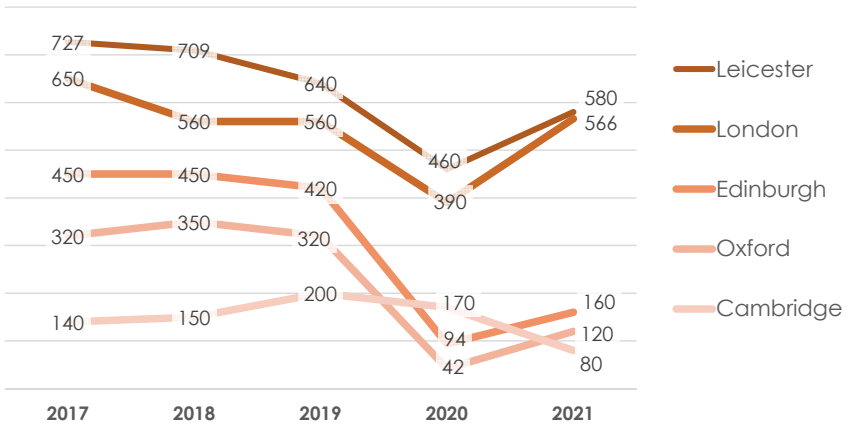




Note: revised methodology used, now excluding those currently on leave. Pastoral offices include parish priests, assistant priests, chaplains etc. (31 in previous year). Some are part-time: the count is 14 (13.5) if considered as 'full-time equivalents'. Some individuals hold more than one office. Paid work means the Charity receives income as a result of this work (65% paid in previous year).

The Year in Review: Pastoral Figures

ESTIMATED TYPICAL SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE AT DOMINICAN PRIORIES*



*Sunday Mass attendance figures are included merely to provide a rough idea of the scale of pastoral work in each priory. These exclude the many other forms of pastoral ministry undertaken (*see below*) and the many and varied other ministries that happen within this Province (*see the reports in* pp.9–29). They are of course susceptible to vagaries of local populations and of measurement.

Note that the differences in trends over 2020 and 2021 are caused partly by regional differences in public-health restrictions, and partly by the social profile of the local population and its willingness to return to in-person Mass attendance. Virtual attendance at Mass via live streaming remained high.

SACRAMENTAL STATISTICS

Baptisms	Infants: 47 (2020: 56) Adults/older children: 13 (3) TOTAL: 60 (59)
Receptions of Baptised Christians into the Catholic Church	10 (8)
Confirmations	40 (16)
First Communions	Children: 56 (0) Adults: 14 (9) TOTAL: 70 (9)
Public Masses each week	Sundays: 23 (24) Weekdays: 35 (42) TOTAL: 58 (66)
Average Mass attendance	Sundays: 1,346 (1,156) Weekdays: 157 (143)
Sacrament of Penance (Confession)	6 hours scheduled per week (8) Average of 46 other individual confessions per week (38)
Marriages	16 (5)
Funerals	51 (43)
Hours of Pastoral Contact	108 (102)

The age-profile of the Province is such that at present there are fewer friars available to engage in full-time pastoral work, but more engaged in study and other forms of preparation for such work. Moreover, it is impossible to reduce the effectiveness of pastoral ministry to statistics; but the Charity Trustees consider that these figures indicate that the Province is continuing to provide in its parishes, priories and other apostolates the sacramental and pastoral resources that are a necessary prerequisite for effective and responsive ministry. A very considerable number of people benefit from this activity of the Charity.

Note: revised methodology used. Statistics presented here for current year (and previous years) now exclude figures provided by those currently on leave.

It is to be noted that 4 friars (3) who are not resident in priories carry out pastoral work in various other parishes and chaplaincies in England and Scotland.

Plans for Future Periods

The Charity Trustees view the following as particular objectives for the year to September 2022:

(A) RECRUITMENT & TRAINING

To train priests and religious for pastoral and educational ministry, and to maintain the success of the full-time Director and Promoter of Vocations in drawing larger numbers of young men to enter the Province.

(B) MINISTRY

To continue effective and responsive ministry in the priories and parishes of the Province.

(C) BLACKFRIARS HALL

To maintain and support the educational and research activities of Blackfriars Hall and particularly to develop the research projects of the Las Casas and Aquinas Institutes, and foster links with the other private halls of the University.

(D) BLACKFRIARS STUDIUM

Strengthen the Province's centre of studies in Oxford, ensuring proper levels of funding and administrative support. Foster links with other religious congregations to open up a wider pool of prospective students and teachers. Raise funds, so that an adequate and sustainable system of payment for lecturers can be provided.

(E) BUILDINGS

To maintain the buildings of the Province so that they are fitting places for the religious life, including for older and sick members of the Order, and for the pastoral and educational apostolate.

(F) LONDON AND LEICESTER

Support and develop the mission of the Rosary Shrine in London and Holy Cross Priory in Leicester to their local and extended surrounding areas; refine development plans and take forward fundraising for improving the facilities that support these missions.

(G) 2021 ANNIVERSARY

Complete and implement the programme of events and publications to mark the 800th anniversary from Pentecost 2021 to May 2022, promoting the publicity of events and wider participation of friends and supporters through online websites and social media.

(H) COVID-19

Continue to comply with public-health mandates as necessary, and to mitigate the impact of current and anticipated future restrictions on the Province's mission and income, in particular investing in online platforms and digital systems to support these goals.

Review of Activities



INTRODUCTION

The friars have continued their pastoral work in the parishes and chaplaincies both attached to the priories of the Province and elsewhere; and their educational apostolate which is undertaken alongside the pastoral work, and in a special way within Blackfriars, Oxford. As far as can be determined, in the course of the present reporting period friars and communities of the Province were involved in the concrete activities listed on the following pages. These reports are grouped by geographical location and followed by a Province-wide round-up of the wide range of educational activities undertaken.

Above: Friars and fellow pilgrims arrive in Oxford at the end of the August 2021 pilgrimage walk from Kent to Oxford, marking the 800th anniversary of the Dominicans' first arrival in England. *See p.10.*

Blackfriars: Priory of the Holy Spirit, Oxford

Oxford priory (known as 'Blackfriars') has as its principal work the formation of student Dominicans and other religious in our Studium (*see p.11*). The friars also undertake pastoral work, through the liturgy and preaching in their own church, with several flourishing youth groups, and in co-operation with local parishes, the Defence Academy at Shrivenham and the Catholic Chaplaincy to Oxford University. Blackfriars offers the most central open Catholic church in Oxford, with sung Divine Office and daily Mass.

The priory continued to offer its popular livestream of Masses, even though we were able to return to worship with a congregation present. The online services have continued to attract viewers and donations from throughout the UK and internationally.



Events planned to mark the 800th anniversary of the Province and of the Priory were adjusted and postponed, however members of the priory were involved in the August 2021 pilgrimage from Kent to London (*see below*) and in a visit to the historic Gloucester priory.

Major fabric works were undertaken to renew the roofs and stonework of the priory.

Prior: Robert Gay OP (re-elected)

23 resident friars, including

- 6 full-time students
- 3 friars of other Provinces engaged in full-time study.

www.blackfriars.org.uk

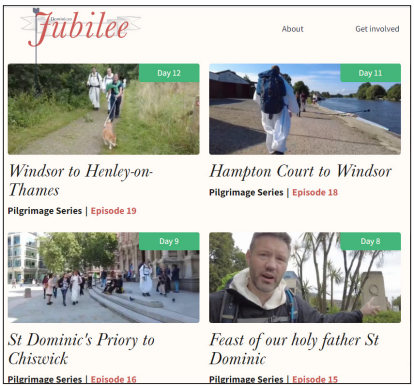
A NEW HYBRID FORM OF PILGRIMAGE

A two-week pilgrimage walk in August from Kent to Oxford reimagined the journey of the first friars who founded this Province. Owing to continuing uncertainties, this was recast as the key commemorative Jubilee event, with modern communications media used to allow wide participation.

The four pilgrim friars were joined in person for legs of the journey by lay people, but also accompanied virtually by followers across the globe, by means of daily video and social media posts. Coverage also appeared in newspapers and on BBC Radio 4's Thought for the Day. Many prayer requests were sent in and prayed over. The final day, 15 August, saw 40 pilgrims walk the last stretch, ending with a guided tour of medieval Oxford, and Vespers.

Videos from the pilgrimage are available on a dedicated website, together with an online exhibition on our history, and interactive maps of the medieval and modern Dominican priories.

www.dominicanjubilee.com





The Studium Generale at Blackfriars

Blackfriars Studium is a unique centre for ministerial training, being the only specialist centre in Britain providing intellectual formation for the next generation of members of religious orders.

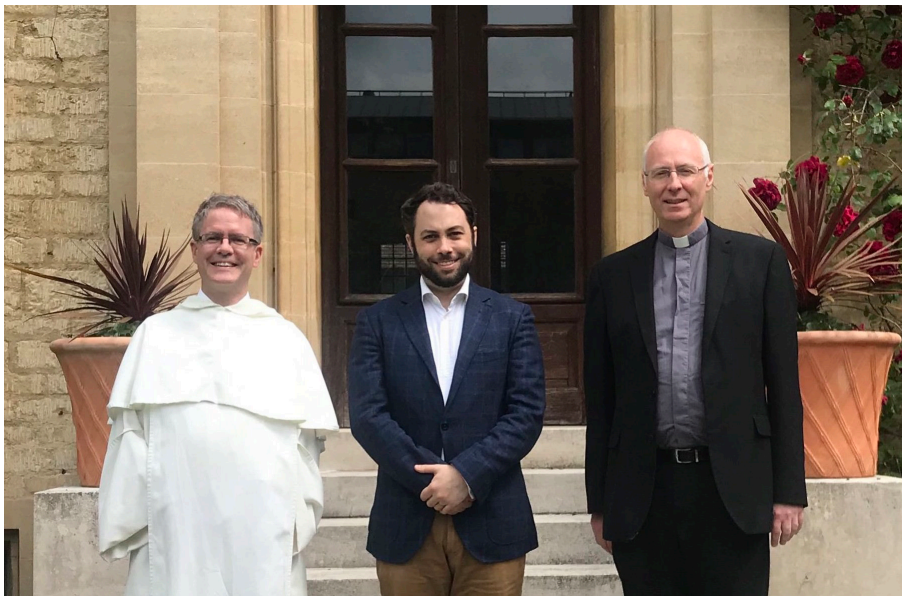
The Studium offers a first cycle of studies leading to an STB accredited by the Angelicum (Pont. Univ. of St Thomas, Rome).

The Studium shares premises, resources, and certain staff with Blackfriars Hall (*see p.12*).

STUDENT BODY

The Studium has a vibrant student body. As well as Dominican students from the English Province, there was a friar from the Northern Italian Province. Other Dominican students from abroad are expected in the coming year. The Studium also had in the student body Benedictines and Franciscans (Conventual and Capuchin).





NEW FUNDED TEACHING POSTS

The teaching is largely provided by Dominican friars as well as other religious and lay people; 17 Dominican friars taught on the Studium's STB programme.

A very significant development was the securing of funding to enable the Studium to remunerate Dominican lectors at rates close to the tertiary-level sector; and to hire four lay teachers: three Studium lectors (one in Philosophy and two in Theology) and a senior postholder joint with **Campion Hall**, the Jesuit permanent private hall of the University of Oxford. The title of this latter post is: 'Frederick Copleston Lecturer and Senior Research Fellow in the Catholic Tradition', and it is held by Dr Daniel De Haan (*pictured above with the Regent of Blackfriars and the Master of Campion Hall*). The SRF status is with Campion Hall and the lecturer status with the Studium.

After a recruitment and selection process the following were appointed to the full-time lectorships: Dr Jan Bentz (Philosophy), Dr Victoria De Haan (Theology), Dr Joshua Madden (Theology). All the newly-appointed lectors have both ecclesiastically-recognised licences and doctorates. As well as promoting excellence in the teaching of those preparing for priesthood, this development also seeks to promote research in Theology and Philosophy in the Studium and in the Province more generally.

Regent: John O'Connor OP
Vice-Regent: Bruno Clifton OP

www.blackfriars.org.uk

Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford

Blackfriars Hall is one of three Catholic Permanent Private Halls in **Oxford University**. It welcomes postgraduate students taking degrees in a range of humanities subjects, and hosts a small number of visiting students and academics. It shares facilities, staff and resources with **Blackfriars Studium** (*see p.11*) but is institutionally separate.

The Hall specialises in Catholic theology and philosophy in the Thomistic tradition. Central to the mission of Blackfriars Hall, and making for a great enrichment of the Studium also, are its two research centres, the Aquinas Institute and the Las Casas Institute for Social Justice (*see following pages*).



STUDENT BODY

The Hall had 37 students in this academic year. Following a year in which student life was seriously disrupted due to the pandemic, recruitment for the following year will increase considerably the number of students. The students were predominantly Doctoral or Masters students (Theology, Philosophy, Social Sciences, Literature, History), students studying for secondary school teacher qualifications, or undergraduates from abroad who are part of Blackfriars Visiting Student programme.

FRIARS AND THE UNIVERSITY

The Hall's membership of the University allows friars to build relationships with the various Faculties and academics within the University. As Regent, Fr John O'Connor, has a place and a vote at the Heads of House meeting of Heads of Oxford colleges. Fr David Goodill supervised a Masters thesis. Fr Bruno Clifton, Fr Richard Conrad, Fr Richard Finn, Fr Oliver Keenan and Fr John O'Connor are associate members of the Faculty of Theology and Religion, and Fr Richard Finn is also an associate member of the Faculty of Classics.

PARTNERSHIP

Blackfriars Hall also has a strong partnership with the **Anscombe Centre for Bioethics**, a Catholic academic institute that engages with the moral questions arising in clinical practice and biomedical research, runs educational programmes for, and gives advice to, Catholics and other interested healthcare professionals and biomedical scientists.

FUNDRAISING

Prompted by the financial challenges of the previous academic year and assisted by the ongoing 800th anniversary fundraising campaign, the Hall succeeded in raising £72k for scholarships and £57k for general needs, as well as increasing amounts for the two Institutes. We are truly grateful to our supporters for their generosity.

Regent: John O'Connor OP
Vice-Regent: Bruno Clifton OP

Students: 34 graduates and 3 visiting students from 12 nations.

www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk

Blackfriars Hall: The Aquinas Institute

The Institute's work was inevitably disrupted by the impact of Covid-19. Nonetheless, an unanticipated consequence of the Zoom era has been a significant growth in engagement with our events. Our social media following rose from 1.2k in Sept. 2020 to a peak of 4.8k in Aug. 2021. Our online events attracted greater numbers and a wider geographical spread. The recordings of events held in the 2020/21 year have attracted an average 550 engagements each. Consequently, the Institute has reached a far more diverse range of scholars – both geographical spread and research interests – than in previous years. We were particularly pleased to note interdisciplinary engagement, and participation from emerging scholars in the developing world, as well as those under-represented in Thomistic studies and academic theology more generally.

To consolidate this growth, we have invested in hardware to allow our future events to be 'hybrid', both online and 'in person'. We have also commissioned a series of 20 'Jubilee Lectures', to provide a structured and detailed overview of Thomistic theology, aimed at a global audience. The production of these began in summer 2021, for release during the centenary celebrations in 2022.

ANNUAL PROGRAMME

The Institute's annual programme continued largely without interruption, albeit adapted to Covid security measures. In January 2021, Prof. Mark Wynn (Univ. of Oxford) delivered the annual Aquinas Lecture ('Christian Narratives and the Well-Lived Life: Thomistic Reflections') via Zoom. In Hilary term, the Annual Aquinas Seminar series explored pedagogical and anthropological themes under the title 'Aquinas and the Education of the Whole Person'. Speakers included Nicholas Austin SJ (Oxford), Fáinche Ryan (TCD), Michael Sherwin OP (Fribourg), Adam Eitel (Yale) and Andrea Robiglio (Leuven). A successful day colloquium in May considered 20th-Century Thomism in the English Dominican tradition. A sister event is planned for 2022 on Thomism and Oxford-based Dominicans in the middle ages. Trinity term saw the continuation of the Aquinas seminar as well as a seminar series on natural law, which involved presentations from both senior scholars and graduate students from across the University.

UNIVERSITY ROLE

The Director, together with the former Director, Fr Richard Conrad, and other Oxford-based Members of the Institute, continues to take an active role in the life of the Faculty of Theology & Religion: attending seminars, teaching graduates and undergraduates, assessing doctoral students, examining doctoral theses and supervising undergraduate dissertations. The Institute has a distinctive place in the Hall and the University, serving as an important point of reference for students and staff, not only those engaged in the direct study of Aquinas and adjacent questions, but more broadly for those engaged with any aspect of the Catholic philosophical and theological tradition.

COLLABORATION

In July 2021 the Institute was selected to host one of 12 research projects as part of the 'Widening Horisons in Philosophical Theology' programme, anchored at St Andrews University and funded by the Templeton Religion Trust. The two-year project, led by the Director and Dr Daniel De Haan, will explore the concept of truth in the thought of St Thomas Aquinas and continental philosophy. In Sept. 2021, the Director and Dr De Haan attended the launch workshop at St Andrews, alongside colleagues from institutions in UK, Europe and N. America.

Director: Oliver Keenan OP

www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk/aquinas

Blackfriars Hall: Las Casas Institute

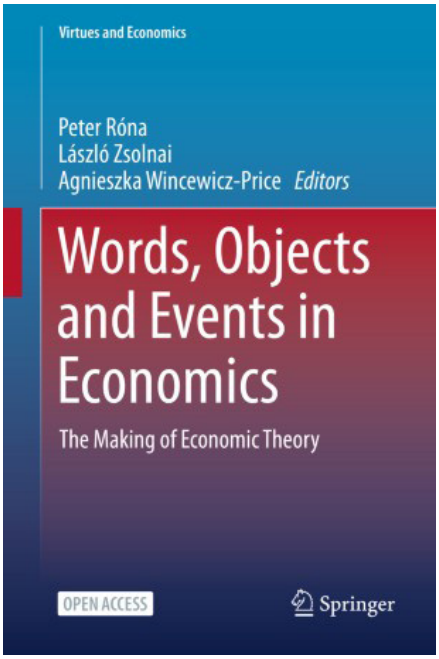
The Las Casas Institute for Social Justice is a research centre for applied Catholic Social Teaching based at Blackfriars Hall.

The academic year 2020–21 was marked most notably by the online growth of the Institute as it further adapted to the global pandemic with a host of events reaching an international audience across several continents. These included two webinars on support for refugees and migrants in the Republic of Ireland, in a welcome collaboration with the Irish Dominican Sisters and Friars. They also included many seminars on Christian literature co-sponsored by Georgetown University and led by Prof. Mike Scott, LCI member and Senior Dean at Blackfriars Hall. The year was also marked by further publications by the Institute's researchers, the arrival of a new Senior Research Fellow, new Associate Members, and the launch of the 'Friends of the Las Casas Institute'.



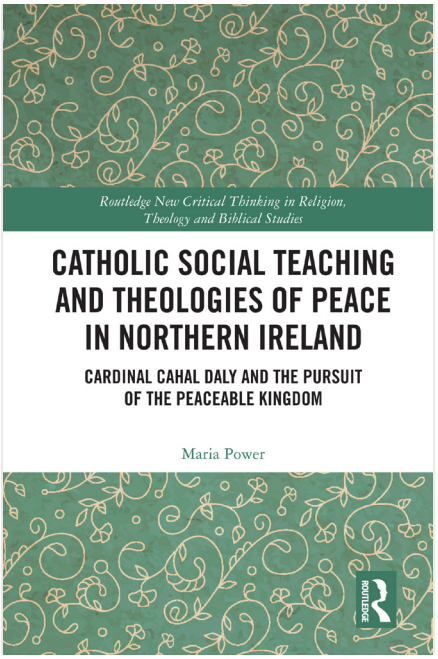
ECONOMICS

The long-term research project on Economics as a Moral Science led to the appearance in 2021 of *Words, Objects and Events in Economics*, the fifth volume in the 'Virtues and Economics' series published by Springer and edited by Profs Peter Róna, Laszlo Zsolnai, and Agnieszka Wincewicz-Price. A web-based symposium on 'the ethics of consumption' brought together leading scholars from different academic disciplines, the papers from which are now being edited.



PEACE-BUILDING

Dr Maria Power, Senior Research Fellow in Dignity, Peace-building, and Non-violence, published her latest book, *Catholic Social Teaching and Theologies of Peace: Cardinal Cahal Daly and the Pursuit*



Blackfriars Hall: Las Casas Institute

of the Peaceable Kingdom (Routledge: 2020). With a grant from a leading Catholic charity, Dr Power was also able to begin a new project looking at peace-building and housing in Northern Ireland.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Edward Hadas participated in numerous discussions on the papal encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, and ran successful reading classes, on *Laudato si'* and *Spe salvi*. The year also saw the publication of his major new study *Counsels of Imperfection: Thinking Through Catholic Social Teaching* which was published by Catholic University Press of America.

NEW DIRECTIONS

As the year closed, Dr Hugo Slim



(*pictured*) joined the Institute in 2021 as a Senior Research Fellow associated with the Blavatnik School of Government at the University of Oxford. Hugo has previously worked for the International Red Cross and Crescent Movement in Geneva. He has begun to scope a project on environmental justice and humanitarianism in an era of climate change. He also brings to the Institute the Oxford Consortium on Human Rights, which trains gifted and inspiring young women and men as Human Rights activists. New Associate Members of the Institute were welcomed this year with the inclusion of Dr Maria Exall, Dr Peter Kevern and Prof. Laszlo Zolnai (business ethics). In addition, a doctoral student, Roderick Howlett, successfully secured funds to research and produce over a six-month period a set of online materials about social justice in the Dominican tradition to be used with sixth-form students and undergraduates.

FRIENDS OF THE LCI

The summer of 2021 saw the launch of the 'Friends of the Las Casas Institute', who benefit from a regular newsletter on the work of the Institute and who make a valuable contribution to the Institute's core costs.

THE DIRECTOR

The Director continues to serve as a trustee of the Centre for Catholic Social Thought and Practice and as the representative of the English Dominicans among the European Dominican Promoters of Justice and Peace.

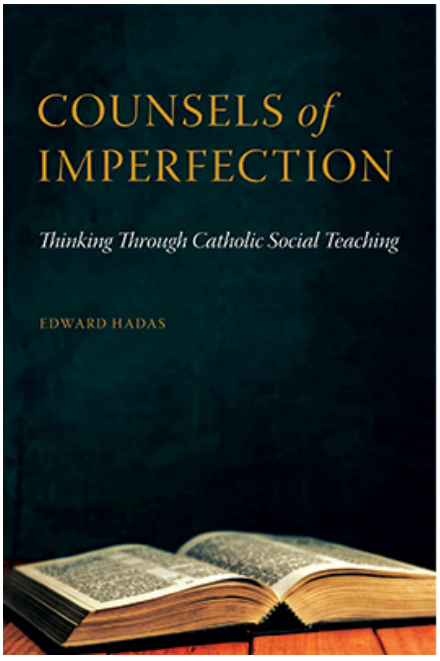
BENEFACTORS

Special thanks are due to all of those who supported the Institute over the course of the year, and in particular to Porticus UK, the Mallinckrodt Foundation, Michael Oborne, and Robert Calderisi.

Director: Richard Finn OP

www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk/lascasas

YouTube: 'Las Casas Institute'



St Albert's Parish & Chaplaincy, Edinburgh



The House of St Albert the Great serves a thriving Parish and vibrant Catholic Chaplaincy to the **University of Edinburgh**, **Edinburgh Napier University**, and **Queen Margaret University**.

CHAPLAINCY LIFE

The Catholic Chaplaincy serves the pastoral and spiritual needs of university students and staff. Staff bring their families and continue to attend after retirement, so that the weekly congregation includes people of every age. Baptisms, weddings and funerals are a regular feature of Chaplaincy life as well as instruction in the faith for both adults and children. There are regular talks on issues of justice and peace, and contemporary ethical issues. The St Albert's Catholic Chaplaincy Staff Fellowship meets regularly. **The Albertus Institute**, which is not part of the Parish but closely linked to it, facilitates informed group discussion on issues of public interest.

MINISTRY IN LOCKDOWN

For much of the year Covid restrictions meant that for Mass our Chapel had a capacity of only 17. Fortunately, we were able to use a neighbouring Parish Church on Sundays which had a capacity of 50. Each Sunday we had two Masses in our Chapel and three in the neighbouring Parish Church, giving us a capacity of 184. One Mass was live streamed from our Chapel each day. This live stream facility also made it possible for family members who were unable to attend funerals and weddings in person to attend online. A weekly email was sent to over 200 parishioners with our newsletter attached. Many of our normal events continued online. The Justice and Peace Group organised talks for parishioners and the St Albert's Staff Group met regularly. Days of Recollection for Advent and Lent were held online. Instruction in the faith continued with adults being baptised and confirmed. In May, 7 children received their first Holy Communion. They had been delayed by over a year.

St Albert's Parish & Chaplaincy, Edinburgh



CATHOLIC STUDENTS' UNION

The Catholic Students' Union, an official University of Edinburgh student society, continues to be very active. It has a membership of about 100 students; but many other students attend Mass and participate in the life of the Chaplaincy as well. This year many events had to be held online. The Young Women's Fellowship and the Frassati Fellowship for young men have continued online through the lockdown and met in person when restrictions permitted. Although for much of the year, we were unable to have large groups of students meeting together socially, regular one-to-one in-person contact was maintained as the chaplains found ways to work within the various restrictions on social contact.

Fr Samuel continued to serve as a Dominican liaison to the two chapters of the **Thomistic Institute** at the University of Edinburgh and the University of St. Andrews. Both chapters organised public lectures and other activities which showcase the best of Catholic thought in the academy.

BENEFACTORS

We are grateful once again to The Lady Marian Gibson Trust for providing financial support to the parish to help with the cost of employing a lay chaplain.

THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

Fr Dermot Morrin continued as Superior and Parish Priest. Fr Samuel Burke continued to work alongside Fr Dermot Morrin as chaplain. They are assisted in their work with students by Lilian Lee who is employed as a lay chaplain. Fr Aelred Connelly continued his work as part of the chaplaincy team at HM Young Offenders' Institution and Prison at Polmont. Fr Fergus Kerr continued in residence.

4 resident friars

www.scotland.op.org



St Dominic's Priory & Rosary Shrine, London

St Dominic's Priory is a hub for Catholic Faith and culture in a diverse and dynamic part of north-west London. At the centre of all this activity is the Priory church, a Grade II* listed building that is the largest Catholic parish church in London, and which serves as the Diocesan Shrine to Our Lady of the Rosary; the only designated Rosary Shrine in the UK.

Members of the priory are all engaged in a wide range of ministries serving the parish and Shrine, and also that support the wider community and have an international outreach.

The Prior Provincial resides and has his office here.

CHAPLAINCIES PROVIDED

- 2 friars serve the 2 local Catholic primary schools as Foundation Governors
- 1 friar is Lead Chaplain, UCL NHS Trust, and friars make up the Catholic Chaplaincy Team providing services to the Royal Free Hospital
- Chaplains to Imperial College, to 2 nursing homes, and to HMP Wandsworth
- Spiritual Director to the Westminster Curia of the Legion of Mary, and for the Guides and Scouts of Europe in England.



DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

- We welcomed Sr Carino and Sr Lucy from the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph to undertake pastoral and catechetical work in the parish.
- Fr Joseph Bailham and Fr Andrew Brookes were ordained priests, and continue to serve in the parish.
- Fr Michael Dunn turned 90.

LITURGY AND DEVOTIONS

- We distributed 'spiritual care packages' to parishioners when public worship was suspended (Holy Water, a Rosary, special reflections by a friar, prayer cards);
- Monthly Eucharistic Processions on the First Saturday;
- Weekly torchlit Rosary Processions in October and May;
- Weekly 'Missa Cantata' in the Dominican Rite;
- Annual Pro-Life Vigil;
- 'Day with Mary';
- Legion of Mary Curia events;
- International 'World Priest' Rosary Relay;
- Weekly livestreamed Rosary;
- Daily Adoration and Mass;
- Weekly Stational Rosary;
- Mothers' Support and Prayer group;
- Bereavement Prayer group;
- Visits by Catholic Schools and Sodalities from the diocese;
- Family pilgrimages and retreat days;
- Occasional pilgrimages by national lay organisations and university chaplaincies.

A HOME FOR COMMUNITIES

- A Filipino choir sings at a monthly Mass, on feast days and in the Simbang Gabi novena of Masses up to Christmas. The Filipino community hosts a hot meal after in the parish Hall.
- A thriving local AA group meets weekly in the hall.

St Dominic's Priory & Rosary Shrine, London

- A chapter of 'Band of Brothers' supports young ex-prisoners in rehabilitation, meeting weekly in the hall.
- A Polish community choir, 'Coro dell'Angelo' has occasional concerts in church.
- The Youth Branch of the **Catholic Medical Association** held its annual Requiem.
- Deo Gratias discussion group for young professionals meets every fortnight in the hall.

INTELLECTUAL APOSTOLATE

- Several friars provide teaching support to the Studium in Oxford.
- One friar teaches full-time in a primary school.
- Several friars gave talks to University chaplaincies in the UK and abroad, provide talks and support for the **Thomistic Institute**, and preach retreats in the USA and Asia-Pacific.
- The friars continue to engage in catechesis and talks online, with invitations from the USA, Malaysia, Singapore, and the UK.

ART AND CULTURE

- Our historic Willis organ is used every Sunday, but it is during the regular monthly recital that it is heard in all its splendour.



- The church, newly-restored and with ongoing works for its beautification, is regularly visited by tourists and various groups including the Willibrord Society, the Monumental Brass Society, and local walking tour groups.
- The church is a venue for concerts and recitals of sacred music by choirs such as The Elysian Singers, the Bach Players, and the Lyra Singers.

ONLINE APOSTOLATE

Mass continues to be broadcast daily to our YouTube channel. We also livestream organ recitals, processions and vigils, and a weekly Rosary has over 1000 viewers from North America, the UK, and Italy.

PROMOTING THE ROSARY

- A leading role in organising and praying a national Rosary Crusade in October.
- Book launch of *Mysteries Made Visible* (CTS) by the Prior. The book is illustrated with photos, including some of the Rosary Shrine church.
- Monthly Rosary procession as a work of the Rosary Confraternity, and enrolments during the weekly Rosary processions (May/October).
- Children from local schools come to learn about and to pray the Rosary.

DEVELOPING THE SHRINE

Works have continued and are ongoing to develop the church, the priory, and the parish hall:

- Renewal of public rooms and facilities to provide a better welcome in the priory and the hall;
- Inscribing of new names of Benefactors on the marble tablets in the Lady Chapel.

Prior: Lawrence Lew OP

11 resident friars

www.rosaryshrine.co.uk

Blackfriars: Priory of St Michael, Cambridge



The Priory of St Michael Archangel is the location of the Province's noviciate, where new friars spend their first year in the Order.

Members of the priory are also involved in writing, preaching and teaching. They normally provide pastoral care for a congregation of c.150 people, as well as assisting with the sacramental needs of the adjacent parishes. By September 2021, the two best attended masses on a Sunday were held in the garden, due to the pandemic, which enabled larger numbers to come, so for this period, c.200 was the average.

The priory promotes projects supporting educational provision in Ethiopia in co-operation with the **Jean Grove Trust** (reg. charity 1109593). We have continued to fundraise for this, though the troubles in Ethiopia have made bank transfers unreliable.

Fr Gregory Pearson continued as Novice Master. One novice took simple vows and five novices were clothed in September: two were for the Dutch province and three for the Province of England.

Fr Robert Eccles stepped down from working as curate in St Lawrence's, though he continued to help out with funerals and some catechesis.

Fr Nicholas Crowe will be living with us in the vacations while he studies for his Master's in Theology at the University of Fribourg. Fr Robert Verrill finished as acting Chaplain for Cambridge University.

Fr Gregory and Fr Robert began teaching in Oxford during term time from September.

APOSTOLATES

The Priory offers a programme of theological education in the form of regular talks, advertised in the city of Cambridge and environs, as well as at the Cambridge University Catholic Chaplaincy. Fr Euan, in spite of a serious illness from which he is now recovering, continued his writing work for Redemptorist Publications.

We continue to broadcast daily mass, evening and morning prayer on Radio Maria which is based in Cambridge. Some members of the community gave talks on topics for Radio Maria,

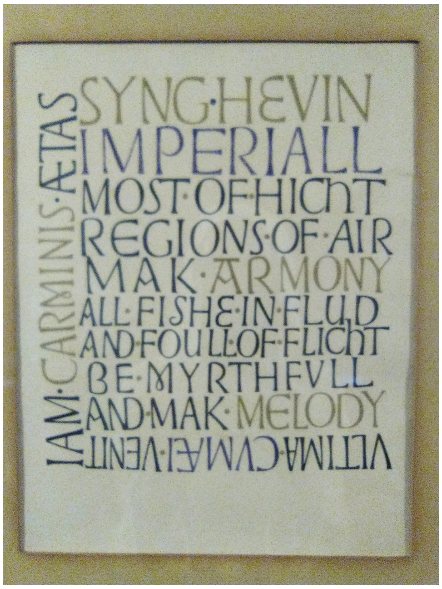
Blackfriars: Priory of St Michael, Cambridge



such as Science and Religion and the various parts of the Divine Office. We expanded our website, treating lockdown as a 'retreat' for which we provided regular meditations, to which we also asked our Sisters and lay people to contribute. Our new Facebook group has over 260 members.

The 2021 Aquinas Lecture, 'Yearning for Transcendence: Christian Platonism and Werner Beierwaltes', was given on Thursday 28 January via Zoom by Professor Douglas Hedley, Professor of the Philosophy of Religion at the University of Cambridge.

Fr Dominic's Wisdom Circle discussion group is continuing; a Friends of Sophia conference was held on the 5th of June; also, a new Dominican Research Circle for Cambridge Dominicans



(friars, sisters and lay) engaged in research has been started. Fr Dominic took part in Tallinn European Dominican Artists' Mission 1–6 September.

From 25 September 2021 to 2 October we held the 'Minor Prophets' Jubilee exhibition of art by David Jones and contemporary artists from the wider Blackfriars Community (including friars, sisters and Lay Dominicans), curated by Fr Dominic and Sr Rose of the Cambridge Dominican sisters. Now online at our website.

Prior: Euan Marley OP

Twelve resident friars including one full-time student, and five novices.

www.blackfriarscambridge.org.uk

Holy Cross Priory & Parish, Leicester

Holy Cross Priory saw church attendance figures slip back in autumn 2020 but then gradually recovered so that by Christmas the attendance was normal. Some social groups were more wary than others at returning, and the numbers fluctuated during spring and summer, but were looking very encouraging by September 2021 with the return of the student population. For a few months we hosted the Sri Lankan community – about 100 strong – who were unable to use their usual church.



APOSTOLATES

Our chaplaincy to **Leicester** and **De Montfort Universities** developed well over the year until we had about 60 students on our records. By September, c. 25–30 were attending the weekly student mass and social gathering.

Chaplaincy to **HMP Leicester**. Prisoners, including some of overseas origin, have been very appreciative of the attention to their needs.

Chaplaincy to **Leicester Royal Infirmary** continued and the terminally ill included a number of newborn infants as well as elderly patients.

The **Parish Scripture Group** continued to grow and even produced new pastoral work in the form of marriage preparation and some adult instruction in the faith. Group Instruction for other sacraments had to be exchanged for more individual instruction. Teaching by video-conferencing continued.

EVENTS

Non-worship events were not allowed for much of the year, but parish organ recitals became possible and, as progress was made on the repairs to the parish centre, it became possible to make plans again for when the Covid restrictions would finally be relaxed. We could not hold parish fairs and had to content ourselves with a Christmas Raffle which was very successful in maintaining social links. By September 2021, we were able to host the **Leicester Theological Society** meetings and there was a sense of things finally beginning to return to normal. The Parish Finance committee were able to meet in a mixed online / in-person meeting.

DEVELOPMENT

As September 2021 approached, the completion of work in the **Frassati Centre** was in sight and work had begun on repairing the front elevation of the Priory roof. Work continued on equipping the new kitchen in the parish centre. Grants were obtained and generous donations continued to arrive for the final stages of the Frassati Centre project.

The Centre offers a space for a new style of children's liturgy: one young mother volunteered to attend a 4-part 'Good Shepherd' course in London to learn the new approach.

Prior: John-Patrick Kenrick OP

6 friars

www.holycrossleicester.org

Educational Apostolate

Education and the intellectual apostolate are a key part of the Dominican charism.

The intellectual life of the Province has continued to be affected greatly by the Covid pandemic; but it has also demonstrated how our intellectual apostolate can adapt to a complex situation. Studium teaching (p.11) remained online for the whole of the academic year 2020/21, as did speaker events organised by the brethren.



Archaeological model of the medieval Oxford priory by George Lambrick

1. TALKS AND PUBLIC LECTURES

Talks and lectures by the brethren were given mostly online from our priories and parishes, and other venues. Many of these were organised by the brethren but also many by other bodies. Most talks and lectures were open to the general public, but some were for specific groups (e.g. Lay Dominicans or young adults).

- The friars leading the Jubilee walking pilgrimage (p.10), frs. Bede Mullens, John Church, Samuel Burke, Toby Lees, gave mediations to those joining them (ranging from 4–30 approx.), as well as viewers on YouTube).
- Fr Richard Ounsworth runs a weekly parish scripture group in Leicester and Fr Robert Eccles ran a similar group at St Laurence's Parish in Cambridge.
- The Oxford brethren gave a series of 14 meditations on the Stations of the Cross during Lent, posted on YouTube (c. 440–1,500 views each).
- The Edinburgh Parish Justice and Peace Group organised a series of three online talks on biodiversity, homelessness, and on public architecture and justice.

RANGE OF THEMES

- 'Joy in Luke's Gospel',
- 'Joy in Paul and John,
- '*Como hablar de Dios en el tiempo de pandemia*',
- 'Life in the pandemic and the post-pandemic Church',
- Leadership today',
- 'Difficult Conversations',
- 'Hope for the Young',
- 'Lament in the Bible',
- 'Local Structures of Dominican Government',
- 'Restoring All Things in Christ',
- 'But what do I do when I love my God?',
- 'Integralism',
- 'Gender Theory',
- 'Advent, Colour, and Shape',
- '*La relation entre les vertus infuses et acquises dans une vocation religieuse*',
- 'The Pearl of Great Value: The theological synthesis of St Thomas Aquinas according to Gerald Vann',
- 'Dominican Spirituality',
- 'The Great Commandment',
- 'Advent',
- 'Salvation outside the Church',
- 'The Last Things according to St Thomas Aquinas in the *Compendium Theologiae*',
- 'What is the Image of God?',
- 'Wittgenstein, Training, and Habits',
- 'Natural Law: Foundations',

Educational Apostolate (cont.)

- 'John Chrysostom and Predestination',
- 'The Catechism of the Catholic Church considered as Systematic Theology',
- 'Treasure in Earthen Vessels: Moral Corruption and the Holiness of the Church',
- Why Catholics need the Church',
- 'The Religious Life as Sacrifice',
- 'The *De auxiliis Controversy*',
- 'Quantum Physics, God, and Human Existence',
- 'God, Beauty, and Metaphysics',
- 'On Theology in the Age of the Selfie'.

OTHER GROUPS

Among other groups to whom the brethren gave talks were:

- Le Rosaire Lourdes Pilgrimage (c.3,500 in Lourdes, c.40,000 others online);
- Brentwood Diocese (2 talks, 150 participants);
- Catholic Biblical Association, Clergy and Religious of Chile (60);
- European Leadership Programme in London (organised by the Society of Jesus; 50);
- Clergy of the Archdiocese of Birmingham,
- Upper-sixth-formers from Catholic dioceses in the North of England (900);
- *Pastorale Giovanile* of the Archdiocese of Milan (100);
- Sisters of the Cabra Dominican Congregation (in Ireland, Argentina, South Africa; 60);
- Canadian Conference of Religious (120);
- The National Conference of School and University Chaplains (England & Wales),
- Day conference for young Catholics at St Patrick's Soho (80);
- Exeter University CathSoc (8);
- Hull University CathSoc (22);
- Chavagnes International School (14);
- Catholic Families' Network (30);
- English-speaking community in Geneva (80);
- Durham University Catholic Society (25);
- Cambridge University Catholic Chaplaincy (20).

SERIES OF TALKS

There were also series of talks, some of which were given as part of retreats.

- Fr Gregory Pearson gave retreats to the Sisters of Providence, Royston, Herts., and to the monastic community of Quarr, Isle of Wight.
- Fr Aidan Nicholas gave 24 talks as part of the Jamaican Bishops' Diaconal Training Programme and their Adult Education Programme.
- Fr Leon Pereira spoke once a week in Medjugorje on 'Spirituality in Medjugorje' June–October 2021 inclusive.
- Fr Benjamin Earl contributed to the workshop for new / re-elected Dominican priors provincial in Rome, speaking on the Dominican constitutions.
- Fr Timothy Radcliffe led a range of retreats, for example, to Polish clergy and religious (300), and recorded a video talk for Vatican General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops on 'Listening at Synods: what has religious life to teach the Church?'
- The Cambridge Community had a very successful Aquinas Lecture. It was given (online) by Douglas Hedley, Professor of Philosophy of Religion, Univ. of Cambridge: 'Yearning for Transcendence: the Christian Platonism of Werner Baierwaltes'). It had 50 attendees, including from Finland, Germany, and Italy.

Educational Apostolate (cont.)



THE DOMINICAN FORUM

These lunchtime talks on living the Christian faith remained online this year. The webinars were again hosted and supported by Smith & Williamson and CCLA (two firms of investment managers); the Province extends its gratitude for this support. Several brethren from different priories contributed to this series over the year. Themes included:

- Render Unto Caesar;
- Believing in Belonging. Why Catholics need the Church;
- Take up your cross. Penance in the Christian life;
- Hope in the Resurrection;
- Thoughts on Human Freedom;
- Vocation – Hope in the Future;

ASSOCIATED GROUPS

Our houses also give hospitality to, and support, other groups, such as the **Albertus Institute** (for Science, Religion and Public Affairs) at Edinburgh (**albertusinstitute.org/**). Fr Samuel Burke OP is a trustee of the Albertus Institute (the statutes of the Institute stipulate a Dominican friar trustee).

Covid restrictions prevented the Albertus Institute Annual Lecture from taking place; but the 'Albertus Coffee House' meetings proceeded online. The format was a half-hour presentation on a topic of public policy/ethics/science & religion followed by discussion. Thus, for example, David Christie, former senior civil servant, spoke on the relationship between scientific advice and government policy in UK Covid decision-making; Dr Elizabeth Drummond-Young and Rev Martin Robson spoke on questions regarding the extent to which safety could be prioritised in human society and its theological aspects; and Fr Samuel Burke spoke on: 'The Law and Covid- are we ceding too much liberty?'

2. EXPERTISE

Brothers also serve the wider Church through giving expert advice as consultants and members of various bodies.

- Fr Simon Gaine was appointed to the Church's International Theological Commission.
- Fr Fergus Kerr was an external reader for Cambridge University Press and Catholic University Press.
- Fr Matthew Jarvis is a member of the Order's International Commission on the Liturgy.
- Fr Robert Gay is Vice-Chair and member of the board of the Anscombe Institute for Bioethics.
- Fr Robert Ombres is on the editorial boards of three journals: *Ecclesiastical Law Journal*, *Law & Justice*, and *Angelicum*.
- Fr Brian Davies is on the Editorial Board of the *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* and has been an anonymous reader for articles submitted.
- Fr John O'Connor was an anonymous peer review reader for the *Journal of Value Inquiry*
- Fr Simon Gaine peer-reviewed articles for *Nova et Vetera* and *New Blackfriars*.
- Fr Benjamin Earl is President

Educational Apostolate (cont.)

of the commission for the review of the *Liber Constitutionum Mondialium Ordinis Praedicatorum*, and member of the Juridical Commission of the Union of Superiors General, as well as a canonical consultant for a number of different religious institutes.

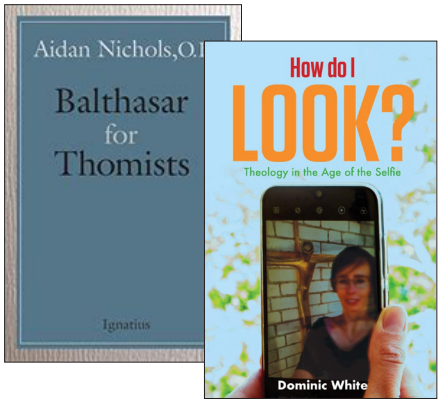
3. PUBLICATIONS

A wide audience can also be reached through publications, both electronically and in more traditional formats.

BOOKS

Books published by the brethren include:

- Fr Dominic White: *How Do I Look: Theology in the Age of the Selfie* (SCM Press);
- Fr Simon Tugwell: *Lorens of Orléans on the Decalogue and the creed* (in the *Monumenta Ordinis Praedicatorum Historica* of the Dominican Historical Institute, published by the Angelicum University Press);
- Fr Aidan Nicholas, *Balthasar for Thomists* (Ignatius Press);
- Fr Lawrence Lew, *Mysteries Made Visible: Praying the Rosary with Sacred Art* (Catholic Truth Society);
- Fr Brian Davies: *Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion* (4th ed., Oxford University Press); (with Michael Ruse) *Taking God Seriously* (Cambridge University Press).



- Fr Benjamin Earl was editor of the 2021 edition of *Liber Constitutionum et Ordinationum Fratrum Ordinis Praedicatorum*.
- Fr Bruno Clifton and Fr David Goodill finished proof-reading for forthcoming books: respectively, *Family and Identity in the Book of Judges* (Brill) and *Nature as a Guide: Wittgenstein and the Renewal of Moral Theology* (CUA Press).
- Fr Richard Finn completed an advanced draft of a history of the English Dominican Province and signed a contract for its publication by Cambridge University Press.
- Fr Aidan Nichols has had manuscripts accepted for publication by Ignatius Press: *Sigrid Undset. Reader of Hearts*; and *The Singing-Masters. Church Fathers from Greek East and Latin West.*

NEW BLACKFRIARS JOURNAL

A key part of our academic publishing mission is our bimonthly journal, *New Blackfriars*, published by Wiley-Blackwell. The Editor is Fr Brian Davies, Fr John O'Connor is Assistant Editor, and Fr Robert Ombres is Reviews Editor. Fourteen friars of the English Province are on the Editorial Board.

To mark the 800th anniversary of the arrival of the first Dominican friars to Britain, the September edition of *New Blackfriars* was dedicated to articles on the intellectual tradition of the Province. The number of article downloads per annum is approximately 140,000, from across the globe. Articles in *New Blackfriars* are available through the UN World Health Organisation Hinari project, which gives access to research for free, or at greatly reduced cost, to scholars and students of countries of low GDP.

New Blackfriars published articles by the following brethren:

- Fr Simon Gaine ('Did Christ Die for Neanderthals?');
- Fr Aidan Nicholas ('Chesterton and Holiness');
- Fr Allan White ('The Road to Scottish Dominican Inde-

Educational Apostolate (cont.)

pendence 1230–1511');

- Fr Timothy Radcliffe ('What breed are the British Dogs of the Lord?');
- Fr Richard Finn ('The Pressing Question of the Hour: Fr Vincent McNabb O.P. & the Reception of Rerum Novarum');
- Fr Fergus Kerr ('The Gilby Summa');
- Fr Oliver Keenan ('On Being a Thomist: Cornelius Ernst's Meta-Theology');
- Fr Nicholas Crowe and Fr Richard Conrad ('*Unum Necessarium*: Gerald Vann's Unifying Thomistic Vision').

OTHER JOURNALS

- Fr Timothy Radcliffe published many articles, including in *Dominican Ashram*, *The Tablet* and *Osservatore Romano*.
- Fr Simon Tugwell had accepted for publication the article, 'When did Roland of Cremona die?' and 'The early provincials of Lombardy', to *Archivum Fratrum Praedicatorum*.
- The journal, *Nova et Vetera*, published articles by: Fr Leon Pereira (with Fr Ezra Sullivan) 'Using Abortion-derived Vaccines: A Moral Analysis') and Fr Bruno Clifton ('Discerning the Literal Sense: Bringing Together Biblical Scholarship and Dogmatic Theology').
- Fr John O'Connor published 'Natural Law and Ethical Non-Naturalism' in *Studies in Christian Ethics*.
- Fr Nicholas Crowe published 'Vocations Promotion after the Exodus' in *Dominican Ashram*.
- Fr Aidan Nicholas published 'Soundings in Catholic Art-theory since the Schlegels' in *Communio*.
- Fr Thomas Crean published 'Adam before the Fall' in Sedes Sapientiae, 'What is Integralism?' in *Dowry*, and 'Pope Benedict XVI's Regensburg lecture, ten years on' in *Dieu de raison ou de violence?* (Editions Olivétan).



SPECIAL JUBILEE PUBLICATION

A significant enterprise was the publication by the Province of *Libellus Precum*, the Dominican Jubilee Prayer Book: a compilation of prayers from the Dominican tradition to mark the 800th Jubilee of the Dominican Order in Britain. The volume was edited by Fr Daniel Rowlands, Fr John Church, Fr Simon Tugwell, and others. The book has a scholarly dimension, as it includes prayers in English translation with original texts provided, and includes texts not previously published.

ONLINE PUBLISHING

Nearly every priest brother in the English Province contributed to **Torch** (**www.torch.op.org**), the preaching website of the English Dominicans.

The student friars' blog, **Godzdogz** (**www.godzdogz.op.org/**) remains very popular with hits from across the world. Among the topics of the blog articles of the academic years 2020/21 were: 'A Radical Call to Conversion', 'Visit to Gloucester Blackfriars', 'Radiating Christ: Tintoretto's Last Supper', 'Line of Duty and the Banality of Evil', 'An Oasis for the Soul; Mountains and Mosquitoes', 'Dangerous Prayer', 'Is God Calling You to Be a Dominican Friar?'.

4. EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The Dominicans' own educational institutions represent the largest apostolate of the Province. Full reports on Blackfriars Hall and its research centres, and the Studium Generale at Blackfriars, can be found on pp. 11ff.

Educational Apostolate (cont.)

THE THOMISTIC INSTITUTE

Chapters are present at both St Albert's Catholic Chaplaincy, Edinburgh, and Blackfriars, Oxford. The Institute organises talks and other academic activities and events on Catholic Theology and Philosophy, with particular reference to the thought of St Thomas Aquinas.

Edinburgh: online public lectures: 'Reading Scripture with Benedict and Francis' by Prof. Lewis Ayres (Univ. of Durham); 'Christian Politicians in the Public Sphere: The View from Augustine' by Fr Robert Dodaro OSA; 'Shakespeare: A Patriotic Catholic' by Prof. John Finnis (Univ. of Oxford and Univ. of Notre Dame). A reading group of the *Summa Theologiae* met bi-weekly and considered St. Thomas Aquinas' exploration of the theological virtues.

Oxford: The Oxford Chapter had an online talk by Dr Daniel De Haan on the nature of separated soul; but decided to postpone events until in-person events became feasible.

OTHER INSTITUTIONS

- Fr Brian Davies is Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Fordham Univ..
- Fr Simon Gaine is the Pinckaers Professor of Theological Anthropology and Ethics at the Angelicum, Rome.
- Fr Robert Ombres is a half-time Professor of Canon Law at the Angelicum.
- Fr Fergus Kerr is an Honorary Professor at the School of Divinity, Univ. of St Andrews.
- Fr Peter Hunter and Fr Aidan Nichols taught at St Michael's Seminary and Theological College in Jamaica.
- Fr Clifton Harris is a member of the Board of St Michael's Theological College, Jamaica;
- Fr Oliver Keenan is a Translation Fellow at the Centre of Barth Studies, Princeton Theological Seminary.
- Fr Dominic White is a Research Associate and Visiting Lecturer at the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology in Cambridge.
- Fr John O'Connor is an Honorary Lecturer at the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, the Univ. of Glasgow, which enables him to continue to externally co-supervise doctoral students (currently four).
- Fr Simon Gaine is on the Board of Governors of both the Angelicum and the Mater Ecclesiae College, London.
- Fr Richard Finn is a Governor of St Mary's Univ., Twickenham.
- Fr David Goodill taught Moral Theology for St Joseph's Univ., Macau.
- Fr Samuel Burke is a Tutor in Constitutional Law, Univ. of Edinburgh; Associate Lecturer in Applied Theology, St Mary's Univ..
- Fr Simon Tugwell is an Emeritus Fellow, Dominican Historical Institute.
- Fr Rudolf Löwenstein is Director of Studies at St Christina's (Primary) School.
- Fr Allan White is Principal of St Mary's Elementary School, El Centro, California, where he is also Teacher of Religion.
- For the Maryvale Institute: Fr Oliver Keenan is an Associate Lecturer, Fr Richard Ounsworth is the External Examiner for the Masters programme in Catholic Applied Theology (accredited by The Open University).

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

Friars have also had significant interaction with university staff and students through University Chaplaincy:

- Fr John Patrick Kenrick (Univ. of Leicester and De Montfort Univ.);
- Fr Dermot Morrin, and Fr Samuel Burke (Univ. of Edinburgh, Edinburgh Napier

Educational Apostolate (cont.)

Univ. and Queen Margaret Univ.);
- Fr Robert Verrill (Univ. of Cambridge);
- Fr Toby Lees (King's College, London);
- Fr Gregory Murphy (Univ. of Dundee and Univ. of Abertay);
- Fr Peter Hunter (Univ. of the West Indies (Mona campus) and the Univ. of Technology, Kingston).

5. PARTICIPATION IN THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

The brethren are also actively involved in the wider academic community.

- Fr Fergus Kerr is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.
- Eleven brethren are members of the Catholic Theological Association.
- Fr John O'Connor is a member of the Royal Society of Edinburgh Young Academy of Scotland.

Although the experience last year was of brethren unable to attend conferences, the provision of online attendance has facilitated brothers' attendance, including ones in: London, Maynooth, Cambridge, Oxford, Lyon, Jerusalem, Rome, Washington DC.

THOMISTIC EVOLUTION PROJECT

Fr Richard Conrad and Fr Simon Gaine are team members of the Thomistic Evolution Project supported by the John Templeton Foundation. Dr Daniel De Haan, Lecturer in the Studium, is another member.

This project brings together scholars from the US, continental Europe, and the UK to examine how Thomistic insights can shed light on evolutionary theory, and explores how evolutionary theory can be reconciled with a Catholic, and especially a Thomistic, understanding of doctrines, for example, regarding original sin. The project has a website (**www.thomisticevolution.org**). It organises colloquia and has already result in a jointly-written volume. Future academic publications and resources for schools on Faith and Evolution are being planned.

6. FURTHER STUDIES

Among those who undertook complementary studies for the sake of the intellectual apostolate during the year were:

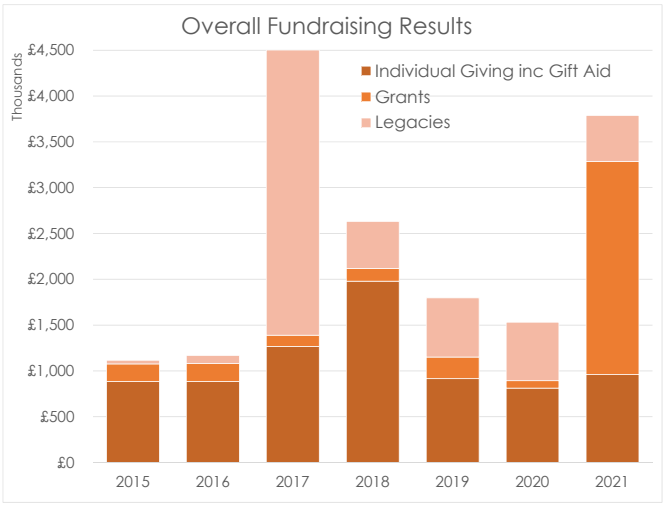
- Fr Benjamin Earl, part-time doctoral student in Canon Law at the Angelicum (as well as being Procurator General of the Order);
- Fr Leon Pereira, part-time doctoral student at the Angelicum;
- Fr David Rocks is studying for a part-time Masters in Philosophy at The Open University;
- Fr Gregory Pearson and Fr Toby Lees finished Licentiates at the Angelicum.
- Fr Matthew Jarvis started studies for a Licence in Patristics at the Institute Catholique in Lyon.

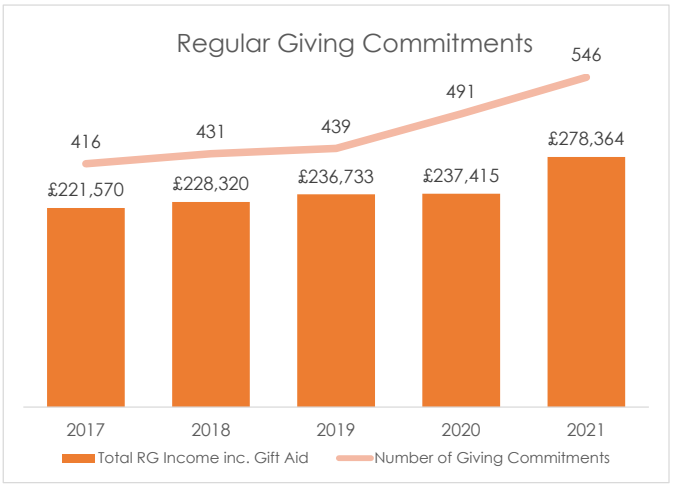
7. LAYING FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

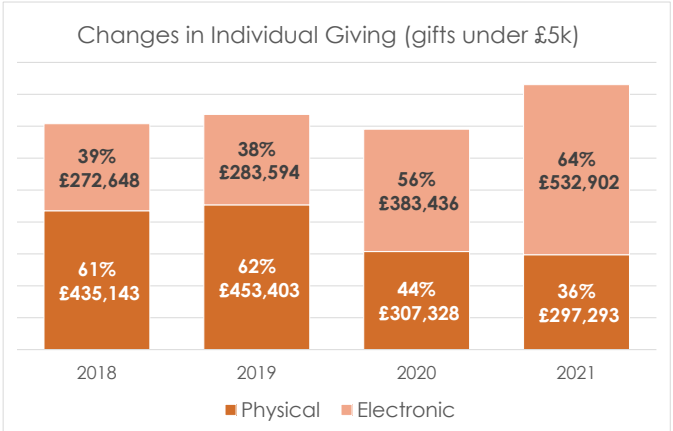
The Province has a very active intellectual mission, but it is crucial for its future health that good foundations be laid. Although most attendees at our events would prefer in-person over online attendance, online events are likely to remain more common. Hybrid events (in-person plus simultaneously recorded/live online) will also continue. Online events might tend to involve a lower quality of engagement, but have the benefit of enabling attendance by people from across the globe.

Friars have gained experience in the use of audio-visual equipment and in live-streaming. Blackfriars Studium and Hall plan to renew its audio-visual equipment to facilitate better quality recording and streaming of events.

Fundraising Performance[1] – Trends







This was a year of recovery: following the downturn caused by restrictions on worship in 2020, individual giving recovered somewhat, boosted also by a strong year for grants.

Overall Fundraising Results[2] saw a total of £3.79m (2020: 1.54m) raised for the charity, including a major pledge: following successful discussions with the Society of Jesus, c.£2m of funding over five years for teaching posts in our Oxford Studium was agreed, with the first monthly instalment in September 2021.

Mass attendance and related collection-plate giving edged back towards pre-2020 levels, with cash donations returning to around 2/3 of normal levels in the latter half of the year. Contactless card machines were introduced in Leicester, Oxford and London, however still attract less than 10% of in-person individual giving compared with cash.

Regular Giving Commitments[2] continued to rise in value across the Province: £229k (2020: £194k), given by 487 donors (2020: 450). This and online giving have more than made up for lost cash income.

The COVID crisis saw further **Changes in Individual Giving**[2], advancing the trend towards electronic payments, which made up 64% by value of individual giving under £5k (39% in pre-pandemic 2019). This included 37% of Mass stipends received (1% in 2019), largely thanks to online booking and payment via our websites.

Electronic giving has strongly assisted in Donor Acquisition: 656 new named donors were added to our database (compared with just 277 in 2019).

Legacies were again strong: £503k (2020: £639k).

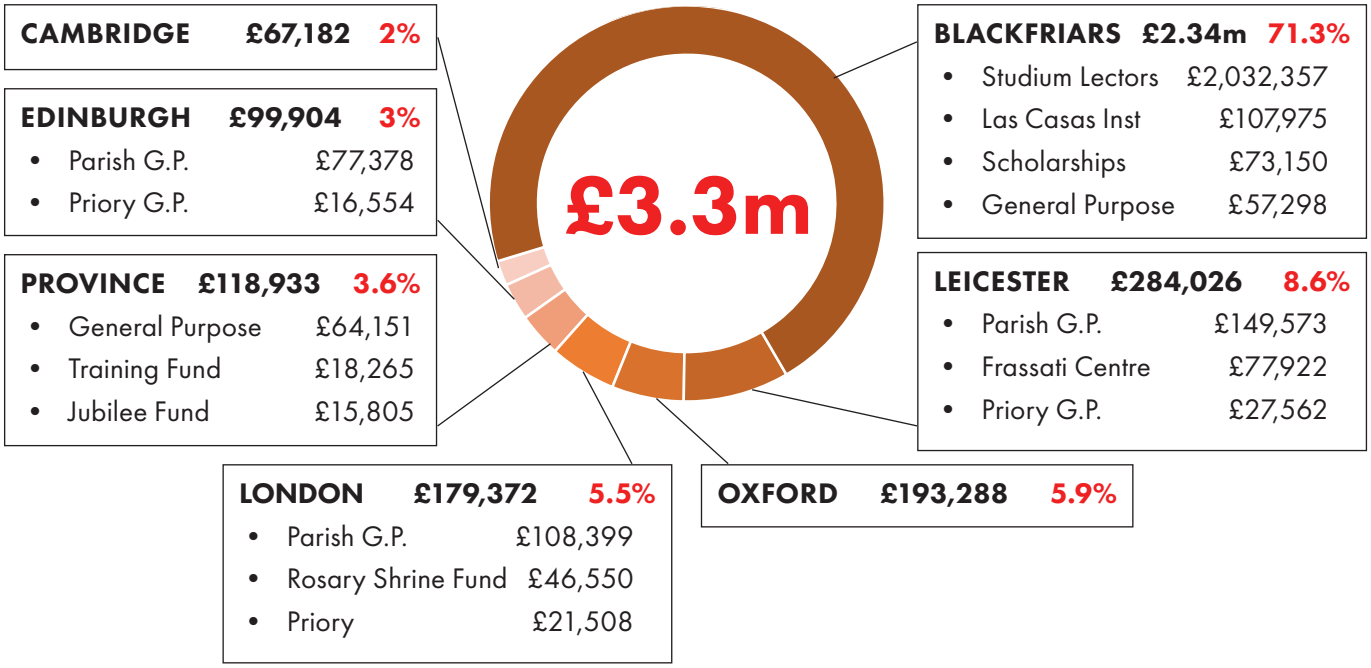
Grants received in the year totalled £330k (£80k). Blackfriars Hall, Oxford, and the Leicester Priory's Frassati Centre were the principal beneficiaries.

(1) Fundraised amounts listed here will not correspond exactly with figures listed in the audited accounts, owing to different ways of recording legacies and the income from Gift Aid. Figures here measure fundraising performance only.

(2) Note that these amounts include the expected Gift Aid value, even if the actual tax reclaim happens in a later period.

Fundraising Performance – 2021

VOLUNTARY INCOME (EXC. LEGACIES)



LEGACIES



The friars express their gratitude to all who have helped sustain our mission this year through their generous giving. We would especially like to mark the contributions of:

Grants: Allchurches Trust, Charlotte Marshall Charitable Trust, Dromintee Trust, Society of Jesus, Leicester City Council, Nottingham RC Diocesan Trust, Oxford-Scott Education Ltd, Porticus UK, Sir Harold Hood's Charitable Trust, The Edith Murphy Foundation, The Labone Charitable Trust, The Lady Marian Gibson Trust, The Rothermere Foundation, The Street Foundation, The Tolkien Trust.

Legacies: Charlotte Byrne, Peter Gabriel Carter, Eugene Curley, Ann Fitzpatrick, Margaret Herlihy, Bronac Holden, Norah Jones, Alan Maxwell. *R.I.P.*

Details of the Charity, Trustees, Advisors

NAME OF CHARITY	The English Province of the Order of Preachers
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	231192 (England and Wales) SC039062 (Scotland)
ALSO KNOWN AS	The Dominicans
PRINCIPAL OFFICE	Blackfriars, St Giles, OXFORD. OX1 3LY
TRUSTEE	The Dominican Council (a company limited by guarantee, no. 387818) Blackfriars, St Giles, OXFORD. OX1 3LY
DIRECTORS OF TRUSTEE CORPORATION	Very Rev. Fr Martin Ganeri OP Rev. Fr Simon Gaine OP Very Rev. Fr Robert Gay OP Rev. Fr David Goodill OP
PRINCIPAL OFFICER	Very Rev. Fr Martin Ganeri OP, Prior Provincial
BANKERS	The Royal Bank of Scotland RBS Bishopsgate Branch, 49 Bishopsgate, LONDON. EC2N 3AS
SOLICITORS	Farrer & Co. 66 Lincoln's Inn Fields, LONDON. WC2A 3LH
AUDITOR	RSM UK Audit LLP, Chartered Accountants The Pinnacle, 170 Midsummer Bvd., MILTON KEYNES. MK9 1BP
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT AND ADVICE	BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited 12 Throgmorton Avenue, LONDON. EC2N 2DL *and* Smith & Williamson Investment Management LLP 25 Moorgate, LONDON. EC2R 6AY
WEBSITE	https://english.op.org/

Structure, Governance & Management

INTRODUCTION

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30th September 2021. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 52ff. and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (January 2019) and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The English Province of the Order of Preachers is one of forty or so provinces of the Friars of the Order of Preachers, a religious order in the Catholic Church. The Order of Preachers was founded by St Dominic in the thirteenth century for the purpose of preaching, teaching and pastoral work in collaboration with the bishops. Members of the Order are often known as 'Dominicans', after their founder. The life of the friars is founded on the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience to which they bind themselves by vow, and is characterised by prayer, study and community life. Most of the friars are also ordained priests.

As part of the Catholic Church, the Order of Preachers is bound to the Church's Canon Law, especially as contained in the 1983 *Codex Iuris Canonici* (Code of Canon Law, hereafter *CIC*), and to the legitimate precepts of the Holy See and the Roman Pontiff. It is also bound by the laws of the dioceses in which it works, and of the Bishops' Conferences of England and Wales and of Scotland.

The Order has its own internal law contained in the *Liber Constitutionum et Ordinationum Fratrum Ordinis Praedicatorum* (Book of Constitutions and Ordinations of the Friars of the Order of Preachers, hereafter *LCO*). The General Chapter of the Order and the Master of the Order have authority, in accordance with canonical norms, over all the provinces, priories and friars of the Order.

The English Province, in addition to the above-mentioned norms, has its own canonical governing document, the 'Statute of the Province'. The Province is governed by the Provincial Chapter and by the Prior Provincial. The Provincial Chapter is a meeting of friars representing the Province which takes place every four years; its object is to 'discuss and make decisions about all that pertains to the fraternal and apostolic life and the good administration of the province' (*LCO* 351 §I). The Provincial Chapter can make changes to the Statute of the Province as well as make other ordinations concerning the governance of the Province and its priories. The Provincial Chapter elects the Prior Provincial (major superior), who governs the Province until the following Provincial Chapter.

The Prior Provincial is assisted by the Provincial Council, composed of senior officers of the Province and other members elected by the Provincial Chapter. On major financial matters the Prior Provincial and Provincial Council are advised by the Economic Council of the Province, whose members are appointed by the Provincial Chapter and which is chaired by the Provincial Bursar.

The Province is made up of a number of priories, which are local communities of friars with a large degree of self-government according to the norms of Canon Law and the internal law of the Order and the Province. The priory is 'the fundamental unit of the Order' (*LCO* 1 §VII), and the principal place where the educational and pastoral mission of the Order is pursued. Priors (local superiors) are normally elected by the members of their priory for three-year terms. Each priory is engaged in a variety of ministerial work, often centred on parish churches or university chaplaincies. Two priories are especially but not exclusively dedicated to the formation and training of priests and friars. The Prior Provincial and his Council have responsibility for the collaboration of the various priories, for the support of provincial projects and for the establishment, maintenance and en-

forcement of common policy, including those involving major financial issues.

The Charity consider that the members of the Provincial Council comprise the key management personnel, in charge of directing and controlling the charity and running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. The Prior Provincial and three other members of the Provincial Council are Directors of the Trustee Corporation, as listed on p. 32. Other members of the Provincial Council are members of the Trustee Corporation. All trustees, and all other members of the Provincial Council, give of their time freely and no remuneration was paid to any of them in the year. Details of trustee expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in notes 9 and 10 to the accounts.

The individual friars make profession of a vow of obedience, encompassing also the other 'evangelical counsels' of poverty and chastity. As a result of the profession of poverty, all that is acquired in virtue of the work or activity of a friar belongs to the friar's priory (*CIC* 668 §3; *LCO* 546). Once a friar has made definitive or 'solemn' profession, any income whatsoever that comes to the friar belongs to his priory or the Province (*LCO* 546, 548). This arrangement is given civil effect by means of a 'Deed of Disponer' in favour of the Charity made by each friar at the time of his solemn profession. Alongside the profession of poverty by the friars, there is a corresponding obligation on the Order to provide its members 'with everything that is necessary to fulfil the purpose of their vocation' (*CIC* 670).

The Dominican friars share a spirituality and mission with other branches of the 'Dominican family': nuns, sisters, members of secular institutes and fraternities of priests and laity (cf. *LCO* 1 §IX).

NATURE AND CONSTITUTION OF THE CHARITY

In order to allow for the general administration and financial maintenance of the members, priories and works of the Province, **the Province Trust** was established by Trust Deed in 1930, modified by a deed of partial revocation in 1945. Its registered objects are 'the promotion of education and the Roman Catholic religion and the establishment and maintenance of schools, churches and priories for these purposes and the upkeep of members of the Order of Preachers.' Under the name 'The English Province of the Order of Preachers', the Province Trust is registered as a charity in England and Wales, no. 231192, and in Scotland, no. SC039062.

The sole trustee of the Charity is the Dominican Council, a company limited by guarantee and governed in accordance with its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The Dominican Council was incorporated on 25 May 1944, no. 387818. Its registered office is Blackfriars, St Giles, OXFORD OX1 3LY.

The chairman *ex officio* of the Corporation and its Committee is the Prior Provincial, at present the Very Rev. Fr Martin Ganeri OP. According to its Articles of Association, 'any Roman Catholic Priest of the English Province of the Order of Preachers' (art. 6) is qualified to be a member of the Corporation. Three members of the Corporation are elected by the Corporation to serve on its Committee alongside the Prior Provincial. The members of the Committee function as the directors of the Corporation and as 'Charity Trustees' in the sense of s177 of the Charities Act 2011.

RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF CHARITY TRUSTEES

The Province has a wealth of experience among its friars, who have spent years pursuing the Province's mission and the Charity's objects by means of educational and pastoral work. Many of the friars have also served as administrators at a local level, holding offices such as prior, parish priest or bursar. The Provincial Chapter therefore has a rich pool of competent and proficient friars to draw upon when it elects the Prior Provincial and the Provincial Council.

The normal practice of the Dominican Council is to elect new members of the Corporation from the Provincial Council, and so in turn it is from among these experienced friars that the Committee is elected. As a result, the Charity Trustees, i.e. the members of the Committee of the Dominican Council, are friars of proven prudence and experience with detailed knowledge of the Charity's work and structure.

The solemnly professed friars have no personal income or property; anything that comes to them is acquired

for the Order, which in turn is obliged to support all its members, providing them with 'everything that is necessary to fulfil the purpose of their vocation' (*CIC* 670). Hence the object of the Charity includes 'the upkeep of members of the Order of Preachers'.
The members of the Committee of the Dominican Council therefore benefit from the activity of the Charity, but they do so in their capacity as members of the Order of Preachers, not as a result of being Charity Trustees.

TRAINING OF CHARITY TRUSTEES

New members of the Committee of the Dominican Council are very experienced in the work of the Province and its administration. As superiors and administrators they are already well-acquainted with the governing documents of the Order. New members of the Committee are provided with latest version the Charity Commission's publication 'The Essential Trustee: What you need to know, what you need to do' and the OSCR publication 'Guidance for Charity Trustees'. Trustees are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the other resources for Charity Trustees provided by the Charity Commission, OSCR and other sources. All Charity Trustees are provided with appropriate briefings from the Charity's professional advisors concerning their responsibilities and when this is pertinent to any decisions that have to be made by the Charity Trustees. Members of the Committee of the Dominican Council attend meetings of the Association of Provincial Bursars and seminars for Charity Trustees organised by professional advisors.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND DECISION-MAKING

The Charity is structured internally as local priories in accordance with the laws of the Order of the Preachers contained in *LCO*. These norms, together with those of the Province itself, set out requirements for financial administration and reporting, investment, property acquisition and maintenance for the Province and for each priory, and also the limits to the powers of priors and of the Prior Provincial.
In particular:

- A Prior has a limit above which he cannot authorise expenditure without the consent of the Priory Council. The Priory Council can authorise expenditure to a higher limit, which varies depending on the size of the Priory, and above this authorisation is required by the Prior Provincial or, beyond an upper limit, the Provincial Council. These limits, which are reviewed every four years, also apply to the authorisation of alienations or the incurring of liabilities. When authorisation is given by the Provincial Council, the Economic Council of the Province is consulted in advance, and a determination is made whether the matter requires an act of the Trustee Corporation.
- The annual accounts and budget of each priory are sent to the Prior Provincial (*LCO* 563) and submitted for examination by the Provincial Council (*LCO* 564), the Economic Council of the Province and the Trustee Corporation.

The limits mentioned here are reviewed every four years by the Provincial Chapter.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF SCOTTISH ACTIVITIES

The priories in Scotland are managed locally in the same way as priories in England, under the supervision of the Prior Provincial and the Provincial Council assisted by the Economic Council. The Trustees take the view that local governance structures are adequate and appropriate without an additional layer of governance specifically for Scotland.

RELATIONSHIP WITH A WIDER NETWORK

The Province is part of the Order of Preachers and of the Catholic Church. It operates in accordance with the teaching and laws of the Catholic Church, and the manner in which it realises its object, 'the promotion of education and the Roman Catholic religion', is influenced by the priorities identified by the Church and by the Order of Preachers internationally.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER CHARITIES AND ORGANISATIONS

The Charity is closely related to the **Hoper Dixon Trust** (registered charity no. 231160). Under the terms of a Scheme of 20 July 2006, that Trust exists 'for the benefit of the poor connected with or in the

neighbourhood of any house or pastoral centre under the direction of the Dominicans of the English Province of the Order of Preachers'.

The Province also co-operates in the mission of the **Catholic Dioceses** in whose territory members of the Province work. Six parishes and chaplaincies to eight universities are entrusted to the Province.

The Charity co-operates fraternally in a number of projects with **other branches of the Dominican family** (Congregations of Dominican Sisters, Dominican Secular Institute and Lay Dominican fraternities) active in Great Britain. The Province recently co-operated in the establishment of a Priestly Confraternity of St Dominic, and remains closely involved in its development and expansion.

The Province operates Blackfriars Hall, Oxford, a Permanent Private Hall of the **University of Oxford**. The Hall co-operates with the University, Colleges and other Halls in furthering its educational objective. There is also co-operation with **other religious institutes** in training candidates for the priesthood and in providing theological formation for other religious. The Hall is developing a research collaboration with the **Anscombe Bioethics Centre**, registered charity no. 274327. Members of the congregations at two of the Province's priories run overseas aid charities: the **Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust** (registered charity no. 288585) based in Oxford and the **Jean Grove Trust** (registered charity 1109593) based in Cambridge. The Province is happy to promote and support these works.

The Order's presence in Grenada and Barbados is canonically dependent on the Province. Though the presence there is not part of the Province Charity, from time to time the Charity is able to make grants for the work of the Order in the Caribbean.

FUNDRAISING DISCLOSURES

The Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016 requires charities which are subject to an audit to make disclosure in their Financial Statements about their fundraising activities.

The Dominican Friars have been mendicants since the very beginning of the Order of Preachers in the early 13th century, and benefactors have played a crucial role at every stage of our history up to and including the present day.

In 2013, impelled by an urgent need to improve the financial situation of the charity, the Province began to employ a full-time fundraiser (Development Director) to direct and manage fundraising and related communications activities on the charity's behalf. The Development Director is now assisted by a part-time Development Support Officer, with oversight provided by the Prior Provincial and the Provincial Bursar, and guidance given by the Province's Fundraising Committee.

Most funds are raised from those with whom we have close relationships, typically through their attendance as worshippers at one of our churches. Wider circles of relationships are maintained through our opt-in magazine, opt-in email newsletters, websites, and social media pages, all of which may include invitations to donate. Contact relationship data and donations data are managed centrally through a highly secure database with access restricted to a small number of employees.

We fundraise in accordance with the requirements of the Fundraising Regulator, and with our moral obligations as a Catholic charity. We fundraise responsibly at all times and with a sensitivity to the pastoral relationship that most donors have with the friars. We avoid approaches to vulnerable people and do not hold information on children. We do not exert pressure on people to donate, nor is access to the services we provide as a charity dependent on donations. We do not at this time employ third-party fundraisers, though some people do voluntarily and of their own initiative fundraise on our behalf. Subscriptions to communications can be cancelled at any time. Complaints are responded to as soon as possible; none were received in the current year (2020: none).

RISK

The trustees review annually the principal risks to which the charity is exposed, and the strategies and procedures in place to mitigate those risks. The trustees consider that the major risks can be categorised under four headings: operational, financial, reputational and regulatory. Listed below are the main risks in each category, along with the principal ways in which they are mitigated.

OPERATIONAL

The activities of the charity are highly dependent upon those friars who are responsible for their management, often with little or no professional lay assistance. For this reason there is a risk that our ministries may suffer from lack of direction, poor management and inefficiencies. It can happen that a particular friar is overburdened with responsibilities leading to stress and reduced effectiveness. To mitigate this, the trustees and especially the Prior Provincial regularly review the work of each entity of the Province, ensuring that those responsible for our works are provided with the practical and moral support required. The Province has also instituted regular meetings between the Provincial and local superiors, to offer support and share best practice. The Province maintains its commitment to ensuring that friars who are experiencing emotional or psychological difficulties are provided with appropriate professional help.

The charity is responsible for the care of a number of elderly friars. As at 30 September 2021 there were 18 friars over 70, of whom 9 were over 80. Like all of the friars, these men have no resources of their own as all earnings, pensions and other income have been donated to the charity. As far as possible older brothers continue to live in community, though where appropriate residential nursing care places are found. The Province remains committed to designating all pensions income to the Designated Sick Fund (see page 40), which covers the cost of residential care but also funds home nursing care where appropriate, as well as works in priories designed to make them more suitable for elderly and infirm brothers.

The on-going work of the charity requires that young men continue to present themselves to join the Order, and that these men be properly formed and educated for our ministries. Many religious orders in the UK have seen very low or even non-existent levels of recruitment for a number of years leading to a severely ageing demographic profile and the abandonment of numbers of ministries. The Province has committed one of its ablest young priests to work full-time as Promoter and Director of Vocations, and over the last two years ten men entered the noviciate, an unusually high number. The Province is also committed to ensuring that its friars receive the best possible intellectual, spiritual and pastoral formation.

FINANCIAL

The charity's principal assets comprise listed investments, the value of and income from which are dependent on movements in UK and world markets. A substantial long-term loss of value of these investments would threaten the long-term financial viability of the Province, and any significant reduction in investment income would cause financial difficulties even in the short term. To mitigate this, the investments are managed by reputable investment managers who adhere to a policy agreed by the trustees. The performance of investments and our investment strategy are assessed regularly by the Economic Council of the Province, aided by a lay expert, to ensure that our investments remain appropriate to the charity's needs (see further page 42).

The Development Office, under the leadership of a lay professional Development Director, with the co-operation of all friars, ensures that the Province and individual priories maintain excellent relationships with existing donors and takes the lead in seeking out and cultivating potential new sources of support. The work of the Development Office is supervised by the Provincial in consultation with the Provincial Council.

Our operations involve very large numbers of financial transactions including significant amounts of cash, bringing with it the obvious risk of fraud, theft or loss. The Province has a well-established set of 'Norms for Economic and Administrative Practice' which impose appropriate procedures for cash-handling and for the management of bank payments etc., and the Provincial Bursar visits priories regularly to support local bursars and other friars in adhering to these procedures and other good practices. The Province decided at its recent Chapter to substantially reduce the levels of expenditure that can be made without a second authorised signature.

The operation of Blackfriars Hall and Studium is at particular financial risk, depending as heavily as it does upon numbers of students. The Regent and other moderators of the Hall engage in visits to the USA to seek additional students, and the Hall is developing

with the Development Director a fundraising strategy emphasising student scholarships and support for Studium teaching with a view to providing Blackfriars with a more solid financial base in the years to come.

In the light of rapidly rising inflation, the Province faces increasing risks both to its income, as donors find their finances stretched, and in general expenditure. The value of returns on investments may also be eroded with higher inflation and loss of capital value in the markets.

REPUTATIONAL

Friars and some other volunteers working with the friars, by the nature of our activities, inevitably often operate with little immediate supervision and often in positions of considerable pastoral responsibility and trust. Mistakes and misjudgements especially by friars in such positions can lead to harm to the reputation of the whole Province. The trustees consider that the greatest risk to the reputation of the charity in terms of severity of outcome, though not of likelihood, comes from allegations of abuse by friars of children or vulnerable adults: even where these allegations are historical in nature and relate to long-deceased friars, and even where they are unfounded, they can be deeply harmful to the reputation, local and national, of the Province, its ministries and its friars. The Province works closely with the Catholic Church Insurance Association, the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service and the Safeguarding Co-ordinator of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham to deal with any such allegations in accordance with the safeguarding policy of the Catholic Church in England & Wales. A member of the Provincial Council is the Province's Safeguarding Co-ordinator, and he is responsible for ensuring that all friars are familiar with, and practise, this safeguarding policy, again in association with the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Lay people volunteer as local safeguarding representatives at each location.

The trustees also recognise the potential for reputational damage that may result from operational failures mentioned in the first paragraph of this section, and this risk is mitigated as detailed there.

REGULATORY

The trustees are keenly aware of the need to comply with relevant laws, including but not limited to those governing employment, health & safety at work, immigration and data protection, and the potential consequences of failures in this regard. The Provincial Bursar, assisted by the Economic Council of the Province, the Development Director and professional experts, takes the lead in compliance, and is aided in this regard by training sessions provided by the Association of Provincial Bursars. Each site within the Province is visited at least once a year by a professional Health & Safety advisor, to ensure that our sites are not only compliant with the Health & Safety at Work, etc. Act (1974) and related regulations, but also provide good working and living environments for the friars.

Public Benefit

The Charity Trustees have read the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and the specific guidance for charities whose objects include Education and the advancement of Religion. The Charity Trustees have taken note of the Charity Commission's advice of October 2015 concerning public benefit and fee-charging in relation to educational charities. The Charity Trustees have paid due regard to the Commission's guidance, and all who make decisions about the activities the Charity undertakes are concerned to ensure that a real religious or educational benefit is provided to a broad range of people.

The priories of the Province all celebrate liturgy which is open to the public, and the friars are available to any members of the public who wish to consult them about matters of faith and the spiritual life. The priory churches are open to the public for most of the day, and many people avail themselves of the opportunity for quiet prayer or reflection. No charge is made for admission to the churches or to religious services (cf. *CIC*, c. 1221). Offerings are customarily made on the occasion of celebration of certain rites (e.g. baptisms, marriages and funerals), but Canon Law requires that those who are not able to make an offering are not thereby excluded (*CIC*, c. 848 and c. 1181). Some charges may be made for other activities (e.g. participation in pilgrimages); the Hoper Dixon Trust, a connected charity, is in some cases able to assist with these costs.

The main educational centre of the Province, located at Blackfriars in Oxford, welcomes applications to study from any suitably qualified student. Blackfriars Hall charges fees at the level prevalent among Oxford colleges, and students are eligible for public funding in the same way as other students in higher education. The Hall is aware that public funding is not available to assist all who would benefit from studying in Oxford, especially those wishing to study for a second undergraduate degree or a postgraduate qualification. The Hall continues actively seeking funds to broaden access, having almost exhausted funds available for scholarships to students in the previous reporting period. Members of the public who are not students at Oxford may attend lectures and classes at Blackfriars on application; a small fee is normally charged, but is waived in cases of financial hardship. Blackfriars Hall and many of the priories and parishes arrange for public lectures and talks which are free of charge.

The Charity Trustees consider that the achievements and performance of the Charity demonstrate success in providing benefit to a broad public.

Provision for Sick and Elderly Friars

As of 30 September 2021, 12 friars of the Province (15%) in Great Britain were aged 70 or over, of whom 8 (10%) were 80 or over. Although most of these brothers continue to be active and enjoy reasonable health, the Charity Trustees are concerned to ensure that adequate provision is made for the care of older brothers and of any other sick brothers. The Charity maintains a Sick Fund for this purpose, of which details are given in the Financial Review and Statement of Financial Activities. At the end of the reporting period, one brother was in a nursing home (2020: two), and another two required substantial home-based nursing care; it is not unlikely that these numbers will rise, so the Trustees continue to ensure that such provision is affordable whenever necessary. While the provision and level of funds is adequate for current needs, the Charity Trustees are aware that demands could increase substantially in future years.

All pension income is designated for the Sick Fund, which at the end of the period stood at £4,320k (2020: £3,789k). While the income from this fund currently suffices, the Charity Trustees are concerned that the Sick Fund should continue to be increased to ensure that likely future demands can be met.

Priories are also concerned to keep constantly under review their provision for disabled and infirm brothers and as necessary to make various adaptations and improvements. In the current reporting period, the Priory in Edinburgh installed handrails to assist movement around the buildings.

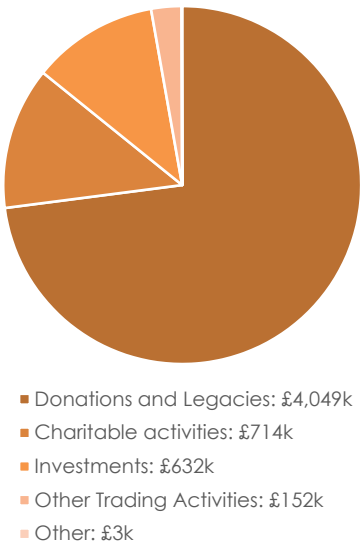
Investment Performance

The Charity's investments had a market value of £22,382k (2020: £19,991k) at the end of the reporting period. The market value of investments with Smith & Williamson was £9,391k (2020: £8,420k), and these represent the value of the Designated Sick Fund and the Designated Training Funds, plus a small part of the Restricted Training Funds. During the year, BlackRock Fund Managers Ltd closed its Charifaith fund. The Province's holdings in this fund were transferred to the new BlackRock Catholic Charities Growth & Income Fund. At the end of the year, the value of the Province's units in this fund was £12,158k (2020: £10,724k). In view of low interest rates, the Charity has continued to seek to minimise cash holdings, consistent with ensuring sufficient liquidity for medium-term spending. At 30 September 2021, £833k (2020: £847k) was directly held in cash funds, comprising 3.7% of total investment assets (2020: 4.2%). Income from cash funds over the year was £647 (2020: £4,641).

Further details of these investments may be found in note 6 to the Financial Statements.

Financial Review

FIGURE 1:
INCOME

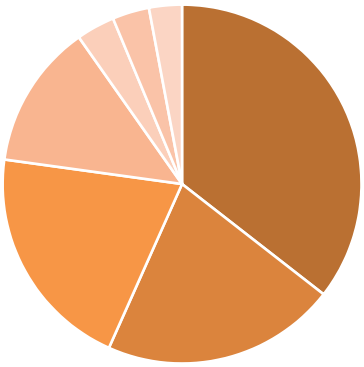


FUNDING SOURCES AND INCOME

Total income for the year ended 30 September 2021 was £5,550k (2020: £3,234k). 2021 income includes a grant of £2m to the Studium from the Society of Jesus for the training of priests, which will be spent over the coming 5 years. Aside from this new source of income, remaining income increased by £316k or 10%. Income from activities was affected by COVID again in 2020/21 but this was compensated for by fundraising activities and the generosity of our supporters, such that total income was close to pre-COVID levels. Income from ministerial services, parish activities, talks, conferences, recovered a little, increasing by 4% on 2020 but was still much lower than normal due to COVID restrictions. Income from Educational Services dropped further, by £117k, as many fewer overseas students than normal applied to study in Oxford in 2020/21. Donations and gifts recovered to pre-COVID levels, increasing by £131k, as supporters increased online giving in place of church collections and responded to special appeals including the celebration of the 800th anniversary of the arrival of the Dominicans in Great Britain in 1221. Grant income increased by £313k; Blackfriars Hall received a number of new grants to assist recovery from COVID challenges and the refurbishment of the Frassati Centre in Leicester secured a number of grants. Income from listed investments remained steady at £632k.

More details are given in note 1 to the financial statements; cf Figure 1.

FIGURE 2:
EXPENDITURE



EXPENDITURE

Expenditure totalled £3,372k for the year (2020: £3,153k), an increase of £219K, 7%. The costs of pastoral works & projects and support of the friars fell for a second year as restrictions on activities continued. Friars travel overseas to study and in the UK to deliver teaching and ministry together with the activities of the Las Casas and Aquinas Institutes continued to be replaced largely by activity online. Parish events such as pilgrimages were postponed again. Support for the Province's houses in the Caribbean was maintained. The Province's required contribution to the central costs of the Order fell by £13k.

The cost of upkeep of buildings increased again, by £174k, 17%. Daily cleaning costs that enabled the opening of buildings for public worship and students to study were substantial, the London priory started a major redecoration and refurbishment of its church and the Frassati Centre in Leicester was refurbished. Educational costs increased in respect of major scholarships and new lectorships, both funded by new grants. The costs of care of sick and elderly friars was £33k or 23% less than in the previous year.

More details on expenditure are given in note 2 to the financial statements; cf Figure 2.

Funds & Investments

INVESTMENT POLICY AND OBJECTIVES

The Charity's investment policy is set by the Trustees, after regular consultation with the Province's Economic Council and professional investment managers. The principal objective is the maximisation of returns, seeking capital growth but also a steady and, where possible, growing level of income. The Charity Trustees are concerned to manage risk and therefore maintain and review periodically, with the assistance of the Province's Economic Council and professional advisors, a high degree of diversification in the Charity's investment assets, whether held directly or through a common investment fund.

In keeping with the objects of the Charity and the teachings of the Catholic Church, the following policy is stated in the Statute of the Province: 'Investments shall be avoided in companies a significant proportion of whose activities are contrary to the moral teachings of the Catholic Church, including but not limited to those relating to sanctity of life, care for the environment, and justice and peace.' This applies both to direct investments and to those through a common investment fund.

POLICY ON RESERVES

The laws of the Order oblige the Province to ensure that funds are available to support central administration, common projects (e.g. publishing, archives, libraries), the care of sick and elderly friars, and the formation of student friars. The Charity continues to maintain a high level of reserves in order to meet these obligations. The Charity Trustees also ensure that the level of reserves held is adequate to respond to unexpected financial needs, and to be able to commit to new apostolic projects when possible. Such a level of reserves is required because of the very large potential demands made by the ownership of the priories and churches necessary to meet the requirements of the Charity's objects, many of which are listed buildings. It might not always be possible to meet urgent needs out of branch funds. The high level of reserves also produce an income for central activities, allowing contributions from branch funds to central province funds to be kept down.

The Charity Trustees' view is that an amount equal to a minimum of four months' total expenditure (i.e. £1,054k over the reporting period) should be held as free reserves.

The Charity Trustees continue to aim for an increasing level of reserves designated for the purpose of providing for the needs of older or infirm friars and the formation of novices and student friars. The Charity Trustees continue to maintain designated funds as capital funds which generate sufficient income necessary for the Province to be able to satisfy its obligations under the laws of the Order and to meet annual expenditure requirements in these priority areas.

RESERVES AND DESIGNATED FUNDS

The balance sheet shows total unrestricted funds of £12,481k (2020: £11,294k). The Province General Purpose fund accounts for £3,308k (2020: £3,125k), of which £3,080k (2020: £2,872k) are free reserves (i.e. excluding fixed assets held for charity use). This level of free reserves represents eleven months' total expenditure by the Charity.

Designated funds make up the remaining £9,172k (2020: £8,169k) of unrestricted funds, the principal of which are:

Sick Fund: This holds a balance of £4,320k (2020: £3,789k) to provide care for sick and elderly friars. Income from the pensions of the friars is allocated to this fund. Despite a number of friars in residential care over the past few years and works to provide accommodation in priories suitable for elderly and infirm friars, it has been possible to continue to build up the sick fund. While it is impossible to predict with accuracy the burden on this fund, the large number of older friars makes significant demands in the near future likely.

Student Training Fund: The Charity maintains a designated fund for the support of the friars' studies, which holds a balance of £3,373k (2020: £2,981k).

Implications of Covid-19

The Trustees have reviewed the continuing impact of COVID-19 since October 2021 on the charity's income, expenditure, commitments and its assets and liabilities, and the charity's capacity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees have concluded that the charity continues to be financially sustainable for the foreseeable future.

In early 2021–22 income supporters continued to give at similar levels as last year whilst income from ministry, talks, etc remained low; overall income was at a similar level to the same period in the previous year. Student numbers and income to Blackfriars Hall improved significantly; although overseas student numbers are still less than pre-COVID, home student numbers improved and accommodation is fully occupied. As restrictions have eased, an increase in in-person activities has seen modest increases in travel and pastoral expenditure.

The charity had free reserves of £2.9m at 30 September 2021. Most of this balance related to investments with BlackRock Catholic Charities Growth and Income Fund. If it proved necessary these investments would be partly or fully liquidated in order to cover the essential running costs of the charity. The charity also has designated funds of £9.2m invested, which can be reassigned to cover expenditure if necessary.

The uncertainties of current global economic and political issues have impacted the value of these investments. At 31 March 2022 they had fallen in value by 7%. However, the Trustees do not expect it to be necessary to liquidate investments; forecasts indicate a small deficit may be made in 2021–22 which will be covered out of cash deposits if necessary.

Trustees' Responsibilities

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales and Scotland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

a. select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

b. observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

c. make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

d. state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

e. prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, the provisions of the trust deed, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the provisions of the Book of Constitutions and Ordinations of the Friars of the Order of Preachers. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Declaration

DECLARATION

The officers of the Trustee Corporation, The Dominican Council, declare that to the best of their knowledge the annual accounts of the English Province of the Order of Preachers have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the regulations and requirements of the province Trust Deed, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the provisions of the Book of Constitutions and Ordinations of the Friars of the Order of Preachers.

The officers of the Trustee Corporation who were in office on the date of approval of these financial statements have confirmed that, as far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the auditor is unaware. Each of the officers of the Trustee Corporation has confirmed that they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as an officer of the Trustee Corporation in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to the auditor.

BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEE



Fr David Goodill OP
Secretary to the Dominican Council
24 June 2022

Auditor's Report

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE ORDER OF PREACHERS

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of The English Province of the Order of Preachers (the 'charity') for the year ended 30 September 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 30 September 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the Charities Act 2011.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We have been appointed auditors under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under those Acts.

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

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

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

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

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

OTHER INFORMATION

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

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 course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent

material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the Charities Act 2011 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' annual report; or
- proper and sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the 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

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out on page 44, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE AUDIT WAS CONSIDERED CAPABLE OF DETECTING IRREGULARITIES, INCLUDING FRAUD

Irregularities are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The objectives of our audit are to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding compliance with laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, to perform audit procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with other laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements, and to respond appropriately to identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations identified during the audit.

In relation to fraud, the objectives of our audit are to identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud, to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud through designing and implementing appropriate responses and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

However, it is the primary responsibility of management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations and for the prevention and detection of fraud.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, the audit engagement team:

- obtained an understanding of the nature of the sector, including the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in and how the charity are complying with the legal and regulatory framework;
- inquired of management, and those charged with governance, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, including any known actual, suspected or alleged instances of fraud;
- discussed matters about non-compliance with laws and regulations and how fraud might occur including assessment of how and where the financial statements may be susceptible to fraud

As a result of these procedures we consider the most significant laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements are FRS 102, Charities SORP (FRS 102), Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), the Charities Act 2011 and the charity's governing document. We performed audit procedures to detect non-compliances which may have a material impact on the financial statements which included reviewing the financial statements including the Annual Report and remaining alert to new or unusual transactions which may not be in accordance with the governing documents.

The audit engagement team identified the risk of management override of controls as the area where the financial statements were most susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. Audit procedures performed included but were not limited to testing manual journal entries and other adjustments, evaluating the business rationale in relation to significant, unusual transactions and transactions entered into outside the normal course of business and challenging judgments and estimates.

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

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the Charities Act 2011. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

RSM UK Audit LLP

RSM UK Audit LLP, Statutory Auditor
The Pinnacle, 170 Midsummer Boulevard, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK9 1BP

Date: 27 June 2022

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

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 30 September 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £
INCOME FROM:							
Donations and Legacies		261,922	3,786,816	4,048,738	566,518	1,164,153	1,730,671
Other Trading Activities		109,551	42,418	151,969	34,744	14,858	49,602
Investment Income		359,328	273,126	632,454	333,567	299,934	633,501
Charitable Activities		33,982	679,912	713,894	36,030	778,998	815,028
Other		-	3,042	3,042	283	4,679	4,962
TOTAL INCOME	1	764,783	4,785,314	5,550,097	971,142	2,262,622	3,233,764
EXPENDITURE ON:							
Raising funds							
Costs of raising voluntary income		98,763	1,273	100,036	96,767	8,328	105,095
Investment management costs		116,769	-	116,769	87,604	-	87,604
Charitable Activities		705,065	2,449,892	3,154,957	684,229	2,275,927	2,960,156
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2	920,597	2,451,165	3,371,762	868,600	2,284,255	3,152,855
GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS	6	1,175,680	1,214,272	2,389,952	(247,979)	(220,556)	(468,535)
Net income/(expenditure)		1,019,866	3,548,421	4,568,287	(145,437)	(242,189)	(387,626)
TRANSFERS							
Transfers between funds	11	166,946	(166,946)	-	103,819	(103,819)	-
Net movement in funds		1,186,812	3,381,475	4,568,287	(41,618)	(346,008)	(387,626)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS							
Total funds brought forward 1 October 2020		11,293,756	16,688,491	27,982,247	11,335,374	17,034,499	28,369,873
Total funds carried forward 30 September 2021	12	12,480,568	20,069,966	32,550,534	11,293,756	16,688,491	27,982,247

BALANCE SHEET

at 30 September 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	5	7,543,966	7,239,300
Investments	6	22,381,677	19,991,078
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS		29,925,643	27,230,378
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	7	2,142,786	693,031
Bank accounts		1,004,116	453,347
Cash in hand		5,577	6,536
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		3,152,479	1,152,914
LIABILITIES			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(496,271)	(361,414)
Net Current Assets		2,656,208	791,500
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		32,581,851	28,021,878
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	15	(31,317)	(39,631)
NET ASSETS		32,550,534	27,982,247
FUNDS			
Restricted funds			
Branch funds		14,348,119	11,547,526
Province restricted funds		5,721,847	5,140,965
Total restricted funds		20,069,966	16,688,491
Unrestricted funds			
Province general purpose		3,308,937	3,125,071
Province designated		9,171,631	8,168,685
Total unrestricted funds		12,480,568	11,293,756
TOTAL FUNDS	12	32,550,534	27,982,247

The financial statements on pages 49 to 66 were approved by the Trustee, authorised for issue on 24 June 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

David Goodill

Fr David Goodill OP

Simon Fmi Gaine OP

Fr Simon Gaine OP

} Directors of Trustee Corporation

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

for the year ended 30 September 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net movement in funds	4,568,287	(387,626)
Depreciation charges	610,051	519,830
Losses/(Gains) on investments	(2,389,952)	468,535
(Profit)/Loss on disposal of fixed assets	(60)	(1,961)
Interest received	(632,453)	(633,501)
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	(1,449,755)	386,558
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	138,326	(417,920)
NET CASH FROM/(USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES	844,444	(66,085)
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Interest received	632,453	633,501
Purchase of property and equipment	(914,717)	(798,646)
Proceeds from disposal of property and equipment	60	4,399
Purchase of investments	(647)	(4,641)
Proceeds from sale of investments	-	250,000
NET CASH (USED IN)/FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(282,851)	84,613
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Payment of finance lease liabilities	(11,783)	(11,783)
NET CASH USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES	(11,783)	(11,783)
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE YEAR	549,810	6,745
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	459,883	453,138
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	1,009,693	459,883

ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At start of year £	Cash flows £	New finance leases £	At end of year £
Cash	459,883	549,810	-	1,009,693
Finance lease obligations	(47,639)	11,783	(1,806)	(37,661)
	412,244	561,593	(1,806)	972,031

Accounting Policies

BASIS OF PREPARATION

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) effective 1 January 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing these accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (the Charities SORP (FRS 102) effective 1 January 2019) rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005, which has since been withdrawn. The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

ASSESSMENT OF GOING CONCERN

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future, being a period of at least 12 months from the date that these financial statements have been signed. In arriving at this conclusion, the charity has prepared a detailed budget and cash flow forecast which have been sensitised for the potential impact to revenue streams. Whilst a number of the charity's revenue streams are likely to be adversely impacted, the Trustees consider that the charity has sufficient unrestricted reserves, in the form of cash and a liquid investment portfolio, that could be drawn upon, should the charity be required to do so in order to meet its costs for the foreseeable future, being a period of at least 12 months from the date that these financial statements have been signed. On this basis, the Trustees consider that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going-concern basis.

FIXED ASSETS

Functional property is capitalised at cost except in the case of historic property for which no cost information is available. Such property has been capitalised using the derived cost method based on insurance replacement value and retail price index. The year the property was built is used for this purpose and as such enhanced expenditure is also incorporated into cost.

Tangible fixed assets are being depreciated over their useful economic lives. The following rates are used:

Historic Property: over expected useful lives between 10 and 371 years
Other Freehold Property: over expected useful lives between 10 and 50 years
Motor Vehicles: over 4 years on a straight-line basis
Fixtures and Fittings: over 4 years on a straight-line basis. **Leases**: over 7 years
Assets in course of construction: not depreciated.

Assets are reviewed for impairment when evidence of such impairment arises. Expenditure on tangible items is not capitalised where it is less than £2,500 or where the view is taken that it is incapable of providing any future economic benefit to the Charity.

WORKS OF ART AND HISTORIC TREASURES

Individual works of art, historic treasures and plate are not capitalised as a valuation is not considered practical.

Such items as are in the possession of the Charity were created for use in religious worship or devotion and continue to be used for these purposes. The Charity maintains stewardship by keeping a full inventory and has no intention of disposing of any of the works of art, historic treasures and plate so long as this use continues.

INVESTMENTS

All investments are valued at their market value at the balance sheet date. It is considered that market value best represents a true and fair view of the value of these assets to the Charity. Gains and losses on disposal of the investments are treated as realised. Gains and losses on the revaluation of investments are treated as unrealised. Both are recorded in the Statement of Financial Activities. Investment management fees are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when incurred.

FOREIGN CURRENCIES

Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate of ruling at the date of transaction. All differences are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

LIABILITIES

Liabilities are recorded in the financial statements when the Trustees have made a commitment to acquire goods or services.

DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

Donations and legacies are accounted for in accordance with the requirements of the SORP (being entitlement, probability and measurement). Legacies are considered receivable once the value of the legacy has been determined and probate has been granted. Legacies received by friars of the Province, who have signed Deeds of Disponor in favour of The Dominican Council, are classified as legacy income. Donated assets and services are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when a reliable estimate of the value to the charity can be readily obtained.

GRANTS RECEIVABLE

Grants receivable are accounted for in accordance with the terms of the grant, and are recognised when the conditions for receipt have been complied with.

PENSIONS RECEIVABLE

Pension income for professed members of the Order is accounted for when it is receivable.

ACTIVITIES FOR RAISING FUNDS

Fundraising, publications and other similar income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the relevant amount of income becomes receivable or the item has been sold. Property rental income is accounted for when it is receivable in accordance with the terms of the relevant agreements.

INVESTMENT INCOME

Investment income is accounted for when notified by the Charity's investment portfolio manager. Deposit interest is accounted for on a receivable basis. Interest received on cash held with investment managers is accounted for as investment income.

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

The costs of charitable activities are accounted for when they become payable. They include apportioned support costs.

SUPPORT AND GOVERNANCE COSTS

Within this heading are incorporated management and administration costs, and any other costs not directly constitutive of charitable activity, generation of funds or governance. Where support costs are attributable to a particular charitable activity, they are allocated to that activity. General support costs are apportioned on the basis of the direct costs of each activity.

NATIONAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FRIARS

The Province pays voluntary (class 3) national insurance contributions for friars when these will count towards the provision of State Pension. These costs are recognised at the end of the tax year in which HM Revenue and Customs issues notice of a gap in National Insurance Contributions.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees. The amount charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in respect of pension

costs is the contributions payable in the year.

TAXATION

The English Province of the Order of Preachers is a registered charity and as such its income and gains falling within Sections 518 to 564 of the Income Taxes Act 2007 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 are exempt from income tax and capital gains tax to the extent that they are applied to charitable objectives.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Restricted funds can only be applied for a particular purpose. Most restricted funds of the charity are 'branch funds', restricted to use for the particular purposes of a branch of the charity (a priory, a parish or Blackfriars Hall) while that branch continues in existence. Some branch funds have more specific designations; others have further restrictions that would have to be respected even in the event of a branch ceasing to operate.

There are also central restricted funds, the principal of which are:

- Training Funds – to support training of student friars of the Order;
- Historic Property Fund – comprising the Historic Property Fixed Assets (see 'Fixed Assets' above);
- Mission Funds – to support various missions of the Order.

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

The unrestricted funds of the Charity comprise general purpose funds and designated funds. General purpose funds are retained to cover future direct charitable costs, general support costs, and investment management costs.

Designated funds are those parts of the Charity's unrestricted funds designated by the Trustees to be used for particular purposes in the future. The Trustees have the power to reallocate such funds. The principal designated funds are:

- Study Funds – representing amounts designated for expenditure on students' study costs.
- Sick Funds – representing amounts designated for expenditure on the care of sick and elderly friars.

CONNECTED CHARITY

The Hoper Dixon Trust is considered to be a connected charity because the Dominican Council is one of the Trustees. The Trust's accounts are not consolidated within those of the English Province of the Order of Preachers because in the opinion of the officers of the Dominican Council the Order does not have control of the Trust. The Trust's Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet are given in notes 17 and 18 respectively.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Charity only has financial instruments and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

LEASES

Leases are classified as finance leases where the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the equipment from the lessor to the lessee.

As a lessee: equipment held under finance leases are recognised on the Balance Sheet at the commencement of the lease at its fair value measured at the lease's inception. The asset recognised is matched by a liability for the obligation to pay the lessor.

Finance charges are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

The charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The estimates and assumptions that have a risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are noted below:

CLASSIFICATION OF LEASES

The charity has used its judgement in recognising whether a lease is a finance lease or operating lease on the basis that if the risk and rewards of asset ownership are considered to be substantially transferred then the lease is recognised as a finance lease.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ANALYSIS OF INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £
INCOME						
Donations and Legacies						
Donations and gifts	69,658	913,432	983,090	29,043	822,704	851,747
Legacies	31,336	471,771	503,107	379,991	258,717	638,708
Grants received	15,000	2,401,613	2,416,613	20,594	82,732	103,326
Pensions received	145,928	-	145,928	136,890	-	136,890
Total Donations and Legacies Income	261,922	3,786,816	4,048,738	566,518	1,164,153	1,730,671
Other Trading Activities						
Fundraising, publications etc.	13,687	-	13,687	8,903	2,411	11,314
Property	95,864	42,418	138,282	25,841	12,447	38,288
Total Other Trading Activities	109,551	42,418	151,969	34,744	14,858	49,602
Income from listed investments	359,328	273,126	632,454	333,567	299,934	633,501
Charitable Activities						
Ministerial services	16,202	394,212	410,414	21,916	372,579	394,495
Educational services	17,780	285,700	303,480	14,114	406,419	420,533
Total Charitable Activities	33,982	679,912	713,894	36,030	778,998	815,028
Other Income	-	3,042	3,042	283	4,679	4,962
TOTAL INCOME	764,783	4,785,314	5,550,097	971,142	2,262,622	3,233,764

2. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £
COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS							
Costs of raising voluntary income		98,763	1,273	100,036	96,767	8,328	105,095
Investment management costs		116,769	-	116,769	87,604	-	87,604
Total costs of raising funds		215,532	1,273	216,805	184,371	8,328	192,699
EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	3						
Educational		73,981	639,270	713,251	62,785	510,746	573,531
Pastoral works and projects		191,326	249,020	440,346	152,435	300,363	452,798
Care for sick and elderly friars		90,595	21,318	111,913	121,291	24,165	145,456
Property upkeep		250,555	947,432	1,197,987	249,941	774,068	1,024,009
Support of the friars and communities		98,608	592,852	691,460	97,777	666,585	764,362
Total charitable activities		705,065	2,449,892	3,154,957	684,229	2,275,927	2,960,156
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		920,597	2,451,165	3,371,762	868,600	2,284,255	3,152,855

3. APPORTIONMENT OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Educat-ional £	Pastoral £	Sick & Elderly £	Property £	Friars & Comm-unities £	Total £
CENTRAL SUPPORT COSTS						
Friars	2,659	1,641	417	4,465	2,577	11,759
Staff	26,413	16,307	4,144	44,364	25,607	116,835
General administration	9,376	5,788	1,471	15,748	9,089	41,472
Governance costs						
Audit fees	8,473	5,231	1,329	14,231	8,214	37,478
Legal fees	7,332	4,526	1,150	12,314	7,108	32,430
Other professional Fees	1,549	956	243	2,602	1,502	6,852
Total central support costs	55,802	34,449	8,754	93,724	54,097	246,826
BRANCH SUPPORT COSTS	182,081	16,919	-	-	95,646	294,646
TOTAL SUPPORT COSTS 2021	237,883	51,368	8,754	93,724	149,743	541,472
TOTAL SUPPORT COSTS 2020	220,441	46,710	9,892	69,642	116,157	462,842

Central support costs are apportioned to activities in proportion to directly incurred expenditure.

Branch support costs are allocated to the principal activity of the branch incurring the cost.

4. STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

	2021	2020
STAFF NUMBERS		
Average number of employees	19	18
Average number of FTE employees	10	10
Employees receiving emoluments in excess of £60,000	-	-
STAFF COSTS	£	£
Salaries/Wages	413,618	383,588
Employer's national insurance costs	30,877	28,903
Pension costs	52,829	55,706
Total Staff Costs	497,324	468,197

No remuneration is paid to the trustee corporation or its directors.

VOLUNTEER NUMBERS		
Friars	78	82
Other volunteers	52	117
Total volunteers	130	199
Total Full Time Equivalent volunteers	27	89

4. STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS (CONT.)

For the purposes of this report, employees are those who have contracts of employment. The figures do not include persons paid through payroll from time to time who have no contracted hours; typically, such persons provide teaching or other ad hoc services to Blackfriars Hall, and are either employees of other institutions or students doing small amounts of part-time work.

The charity considers its key management personnel is comprised of its Trustees and other members of the Provincial Council, all of whom are Friars. The total employment benefits, including employer pension cost of key management personnel, were £nil (2020: £nil). The total of expenses reimbursed to key management personnel was £nil (2020: £nil).

The principal roles of non-friar volunteers are answering the door and telephone at the priories in Oxford and Cambridge, and church cleaning, flower arranging and similar tasks in Leicester and London, along with singing in the church choirs. The average number of hours worked by these volunteers each week is 2.6.

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS USED FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES

	Inalienable Property £	Other Property £	Motor Vehicles £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Total £
COST					
Balance brought forward 1 October 2020	1,000,613	9,053,547	81,840	2,090,530	12,226,530
Additions	-	222,460	12,304	679,953	914,717
Disposals	-	-	(9,995)	-	(9,995)
Balance carried forward 30 September 2021	1,000,613	9,276,007	84,149	2,770,483	13,131,252
DEPRECIATION					
Balance brought forward 1 October 2020	474,130	2,776,893	77,095	1,659,112	4,987,230
Disposals	-	-	(9,995)	-	(9,995)
Charge for year	4,539	283,528	4,658	317,326	610,051
Balance carried forward 30 September 2021	478,669	3,060,421	71,758	1,976,438	5,587,286
NET BOOK VALUE					
Brought forward 1 October 2020	526,483	6,276,654	4,745	431,418	7,239,300
Carried forward 30 September 2021	521,944	6,215,586	12,391	794,045	7,543,966

Historic property includes churches, places of worship and priories owned and occupied by the Order.

INVESTMENTS

	30 September 2021		30 September 2020	
	Cost £	Market Value £	Cost £	Market Value £
Catholic Charities Growth & Income Fund*	8,330,247	12,157,644	8,330,247	10,724,275
Funds managed by Smith & Williamson**	6,533,325	9,390,784	6,533,325	8,419,678
BlackRock Institutional Cash Series	778,624	833,249	777,977	847,125
	15,642,196	22,381,677	15,641,549	19,991,078

	2021 £	2020 £
Market Value at 1 October	19,991,078	20,704,972
Additions at Cost	647	4,641
Disposals at Market Value	-	(250,000)
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation	2,389,952	(468,535)
Market Value at 30 September	22,381,677	19,991,078

* As of 30 September 2021, the composition of the Catholic Charities Growth & Income Fund was as follows:

UK Equities	28.9%
Global Equities	36.3%
Fixed Income	11.1%
Property	9.6%
Alternatives	12.5%
Cash	1.6%
Total	100.0%

** As of 30 September 2021, the composition of the Funds managed by Smith & Williamson was as follows:

UK Equities	21.7%
Global Equities	52.0%
Fixed Income	6.3%
Property	3.6%
Alternatives and Multi-Asset	12.8%
Cash	3.6%
Total	100.0%

7. DEBTORS

	2021 £	2020 £
DEBTORS		
Trade debtors	7,121	27,203
Prepayments and accrued income	2,129,360	661,656
Other	6,305	4,171
Total Debtors	2,142,786	693,031

8. CREDITORS

	2021 £	2020 £
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	274,545	107,473
Taxation and social security	9,155	6,865
Accruals and deferred income	186,658	81,873
Other	25,913	165,203
Total Creditors	496,271	361,414
Deferred income (analysis)		
At 1 October	-	7,672
Amount released to income	-	(7,672)
Amount deferred in the year	4,279	-
At 30 September	4,279	-

Deferred income represents unsaid Masses and advance rent received.

9. TRANSACTIONS WITH TRUSTEES

The Trustees of the Charity are also members of the Order and as such have taken vows of poverty under which they renounce all personal right to income and capital. The Charity provides for the essential needs of all members of the Order within the Province.

10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Members of the Order arranged for grants totalling £13,901 (2020: £16,163) to be made from the Hoper Dixon Trust, a trust of which the Dominican Council is a Trustee. The beneficiaries of the Hoper Dixon Trust are the poor connected with or in the neighbourhood of any house or pastoral centre under the direction of Dominicans of the English Province of the Order of Preachers. The Hoper Dixon Trust's Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet are reproduced in notes 17 and 18 respectively.

As of 30 September 2021, the Hoper Dixon Trust owed the English Province of the Order of Preachers the sum of £21 (2020: £1,618) in respect of grants approved and payable.

FUNDS 2021

	Unrestricted Funds			Restricted Funds			Total
	Province General Purpose £	Province Designated £	Total Unrestricted Funds £	Total Branch Funds £	Total Province Restricted £	Total Restricted Funds £	2021 £
Income	446,230	318,553	764,783	4,380,344	404,970	4,785,314	5,550,097
Support costs, governance and generating funds	(339,135)	(22,659)	(361,794)	(291,697)	(5,998)	(297,695)	(659,489)
	107,095	295,894	402,989	4,088,647	398,972	4,487,619	4,890,608
Opening funds	3,125,071	8,168,685	11,293,756	11,547,526	5,140,965	16,688,491	27,982,247
Funds available for use	3,232,166	8,464,579	11,696,745	15,636,173	5,539,937	21,176,110	32,872,855
Resources directly expended on charitable activities	(283,465)	(275,338)	(558,803)	(2,020,998)	(132,472)	(2,153,470)	(2,712,273)
Inter-fund transfers	81,592	85,354	166,946	(36,898)	(130,048)	(166,946)	-
Net investment gains	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Allocation of unrealised gains in the year	278,644	897,036	1,175,680	769,842	444,430	1,214,272	2,389,952
Closing funds	3,308,937	9,171,631	12,480,568	14,348,119	5,721,847	20,069,966	32,550,534
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS							
Sick and Elderly Fund	-	(10,500)	(10,500)	10,500	-	10,500	-
Contributions to shared costs	132,608	60,838	193,446	(155,728)	(31,248)	(186,976)	6,470
Allocations	(51,016)	35,016	(16,000)	108,330	(98,800)	9,530	(6,470)
	81,592	85,354	166,946	(36,898)	(130,048)	(166,946)	-

The transfers represent the obligations of the Province to support the friars and activities of Blackfriars Hall and the individual priories, and also the obligations of the Hall and priories to support the central costs of the Province.

FUNDS 2020

FUNDS 2020	Unrestricted Funds			Restricted Funds			Total
	Province General Purpose £	Province Designated £	Total Unrestricted Funds £	Total Branch Funds £	Total Province Restricted £	Total Restricted Funds £	2020 £
Income	689,425	281,717	971,142	2,083,264	179,358	2,262,622	3,233,764
Support costs, governance and generating funds	(270,016)	(27,421)	(297,437)	(268,527)	(854)	(269,381)	(566,818)
	419,409	254,296	673,705	1,814,737	178,504	1,993,241	2,666,946
Opening funds	3,014,935	8,320,439	11,335,374	11,890,431	5,144,068	17,034,499	28,369,873
Funds available for use	3,434,344	8,574,735	12,009,079	13,705,168	5,322,572	19,027,740	31,036,819
Resources directly expended on charitable activities	(294,452)	(276,711)	(571,163)	(1,884,298)	(130,576)	(2,014,874)	(2,586,037)
Inter-fund transfers	35,710	68,109	103,819	(132,320)	28,501	(103,819)	-
Net investment gains	995	370	1,365	2,822	952	3,774	5,139
Allocation of unrealised gains in the year	(51,526)	(197,818)	(249,344)	(143,846)	(80,484)	(224,330)	(473,674)
Closing funds	3,125,071	8,168,685	11,293,756	11,547,526	5,140,965	16,688,491	27,982,247
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS							
Sick and Elderly Fund	-	(10,500)	(10,500)	10,500	-	10,500	-
Contributions to shared costs	150,726	24,884	175,610	(164,500)	(8,499)	(172,999)	2,611
Allocations	(115,016)	53,725	(61,291)	21,680	37,000	58,680	(2,611)
	35,710	68,109	103,819	(132,320)	28,501	(103,819)	-

The transfers represent the obligations of the Province to support the friars and activities of Blackfriars Hall and the individual priories, and also the obligations of the Hall and priories to support the central costs of the Province.

ALLOCATION OF ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS 2021	Province General Purpose £	Province Designated £	Total Unrestricted Funds £	Total Branch Funds £	Total Province Restricted £	Total Restricted Funds £	2021 £
Investments	2,663,297	8,027,156	10,690,453	7,152,830	4,538,394	11,691,224	22,381,677
Property	377,903	1,139,640	1,517,543	4,053,804	1,166,183	5,219,987	6,737,530
Other fixed assets	57,441	4,175	61,616	744,820	0	744,820	806,436
Current assets	489,965	660	490,625	2,642,855	18,999	2,661,854	3,152,479
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	(279,669)	-	(279,669)	(214,873)	(1,729)	(216,602)	(496,271)
Creditors: amounts falling due in more than one year	-	-	-	(31,317)	-	(31,317)	(31,317)
Net Assets	3,308,937	9,171,631	12,480,568	14,348,119	5,721,847	20,069,966	32,550,534

Balances of the principal Province funds are given in note 13.

ALLOCATION OF ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS 2020	Province General Purpose £	Province Designated £	Total Unrestricted Funds £	Total Branch Funds £	Total Province Restricted £	Total Restricted Funds £	2020 £
Investments	2,849,309	7,477,364	10,326,673	5,444,202	4,220,203	9,664,405	19,991,078
Property	252,957	663,827	916,784	4,985,207	901,145	5,886,352	6,803,136
Other fixed assets	-	25,833	25,833	408,006	2,325	410,331	436,164
Current assets	285,556	1,661	287,217	847,984	17,713	865,697	1,152,914
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	(262,751)	-	(262,751)	(98,242)	(421)	(98,663)	(361,414)
Creditors: amounts falling due in more than one year	-	-	-	(39,631)	-	(39,631)	(39,631)
Net Assets	3,125,071	8,168,685	11,293,756	11,547,526	5,140,965	16,688,491	27,982,247

13. BALANCES OF PROVINCE FUNDS

	2021 £	2020 £
PROVINCE DESIGNATED		
Sick Funds	4,320,246	3,789,029
Study Funds	3,372,856	2,980,879
Other*	1,478,529	1,398,777
Total Province Designated	9,171,631	8,168,685
PROVINCE RESTRICTED		
Training Funds	4,510,816	4,000,846
Inalienable Property Fund	521,944	526,483
Mission Funds	321,971	301,690
Other*	367,116	311,946
Total Province Restricted	5,721,847	5,140,965

* includes a number of smaller funds designated or restricted for specific charitable activities of the Province.

14. ACTIVITIES IN SCOTLAND

	2021 £	2020 £
Income from activities in Scotland	208,661	204,552
Expenditure on activities in Scotland	(234,449)	(271,394)
Net (Expenditure)/Income relating to activities in Scotland	(25,788)	(66,842)

15. OPERATING & FINANCE LEASE COMMITMENTS

FINANCE LEASES

At the reporting date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payment under noncancellable finance leases, which fall due as follows:

Equipment:	2021 £	2020 £
Within one year	6,345	8,008
In 2 - 5 years	31,317	35,263
After more than 5 years	-	4,368
	31,317	39,631
	37,662	47,639

16. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

At 30 September 2021 the charity had capital commitments of £264,137 (2020: £nil) in respect of roof repairs.

17. HOPER DIXON TRUST STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

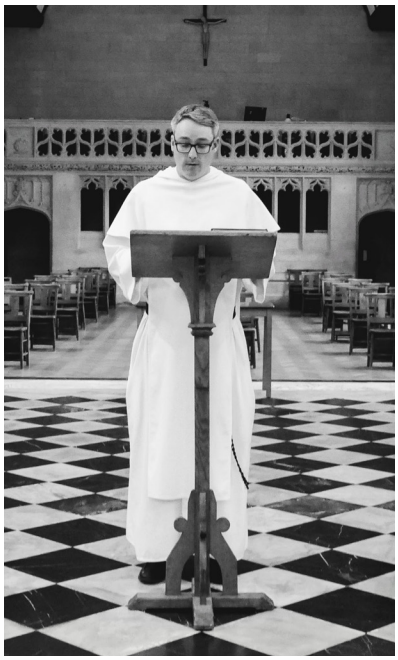
	Unrestricted Funds			
	Income Fund £	Designated Capital Fund £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
INCOME				
Donations and Legacies	20,000	-	20,000	-
Investment income:				
Income from investments	16,188	-	16,188	16,080
Income from bank deposits	-	-	-	9
TOTAL INCOME	36,188	-	36,188	16,089
EXPENDITURE				
Expenditure on charitable activities:				
Grants payable	13,901	-	13,901	16,163
Support costs for grants payable	39	-	39	55
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	13,940	-	13,940	16,218
NET GAINS ON INVESTMENT ASSETS	-	58,034	58,034	16,541
Net income and movement in funds	22,248	58,034	80,282	16,412
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Fund balances brought forward at 1 October	11,030	535,996	547,026	530,614
Fund balances carried forward at 30 September	33,278	594,030	627,308	547,026

18. HOPER DIXON TRUST BALANCE SHEET

	2021 £	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS		
Investments	594,030	535,996
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank balances	33,299	12,648
LIABILITIES		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(21)	(1,618)
Net current assets	33,278	11,030
NET ASSETS	627,308	547,026
FUNDS		
Unrestricted Funds		
Income Fund	33,278	11,030
Capital Fund	594,030	535,996
TOTAL FUNDS	627,308	547,026

The Dominican Friars

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800
1221–2021

CONTACT DETAILS

Dominican Friars' Development Office, Blackfriars, St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LY

development@english.op.org 01865 610208

THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE ORDER OF PREACHERS

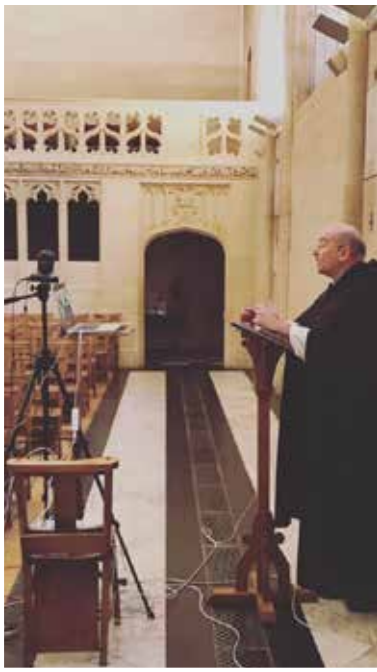
England & Wales - Charity number 231192

Accounts

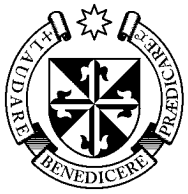
The Dominican Friars

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



The English Province of the Order of Preachers.
Registered charity 231192 (England and Wales) and SC039062 (Scotland)



The Dominican Friars

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

FOR THE PERIOD 1ST OCT 2019 – 30TH SEPT 2020

The English Province of the Order of Preachers.
Registered charity 231192 (England and Wales) and SC039062 (Scotland)

The Dominican Friars in Britain



KEY FACTS

Houses: 4 in England,
1 in Scotland
(+ 2 canonically associated in West Indies)

Total Friars: 82

- 60 in UK,
- 9 in West Indies,
- 7 assig. to other provinces
- 3 working overseas
- 3 on leave

Bishops: 1

Priests: 61
(+ 7 in West Indies)

Novices /
Student brothers: 9

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THE DOMINICAN FRIARS (est. 1216) are an international Catholic religious order with a specialisation in preaching, teaching and pastoral work. Officially titled the 'Order of Preachers', they are known as 'Dominicans' after their founder, St Dominic.

THE 'PROVINCE OF ENGLAND'

The friars first established themselves in Britain in 1221, as the 'Province of England'. The Province (one of around 40) endures to this day. It is legally constituted as a single charity 'The English Province of the Order of Preachers', with responsibility for the friars' work in England, Wales and Scotland.

PRIORIES

The Province is made up of a number of priories, which are local communities of friars with a large degree of self-government. Currently these are in Oxford, London, Cambridge, Leicester, and Edinburgh. The Dominican houses in Grenada and Jamaica in the West Indies are also canonically dependent on this Province, and supported by grants, though not part of this charity.

OBJECT OF THE CHARITY

The Province Trust Deed lists ten charitable purposes, which for the purpose of registration as a Charity are summarised as 'the promotion of education and the Roman Catholic religion and the establishment and maintenance of schools, churches and priories for these purposes and the upkeep of members of the Order of Preachers'.

OUR MISSION: THE AIMS OF THE CHARITY

The ultimate aim and purpose of the Catholic Church and therefore of the Order of Preachers is 'the salvation of souls' (cf. *CIC* 1752; *LCO* 1 §2). In furtherance of this goal, the Order of Preachers and the English Province aim to provide effective preaching, teaching and pastoral care flowing from fraternal religious communities of prayer and study. Through the work of the friars we seek to awaken and deepen faith, hope and charity, to the benefit of those to whom we minister, to their families and to the wider community.

More detailed information can be found on pp. 33ff.

Message from the Prior Provincial

"This was an unexpectedly difficult year for us, as it was for so many. We entered it with expectations of planning with joy for our Province's 800th anniversary jubilee year in 2021, but instead we had to learn to take our apostolates online and provide pastoral care in new ways. Our finances were badly hit, but the generosity of our supporters has helped us through, as ever. Our province has survived far worse than this!

"This year more than any other we have come to realise the inherently physical nature of the faith we profess, and in the forced absence from our churches and priories of so many friends, we have come to value ever more greatly those friendships. We look forward to a renewal of these friendships in the months to come."

Very Rev Dr Martin Ganeri OP, Prior Provincial



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Objectives & Strategies for the Year 2019–20

(A) RECRUITMENT & TRAINING To train priests and religious for pastoral and educational ministry, and to maintain the success of the full-time Director and Promoter of Vocations in drawing larger numbers of young men to enter the Province.	• Through pastoral engagement and work with young people, promote the Dominican vocation as a worthy and fulfilling life in the service of God and his people; • Through prudent investment and fundraising provide funds to help support student friars and the communities in which they live; • Plan for the future needs of the Province's centre of studies ('Studium') by identifying and training future teachers.
(B) MINISTRY To continue effective and responsive ministry in the priories and parishes of the Province.	• Continue the training and ordination to the clerical state of friars who will work in the Province's priories and parishes; • Ensure the friars are present in the locations where they are best able to minister; • Secure celebration of the liturgy and the sacraments in a way that responds to the pastoral needs of each place;
(C) BLACKFRIARS HALL To maintain and support the educational and research activities of Blackfriars Hall and particularly to develop the research projects of the Las Casas and Aquinas Institutes, and foster links with the other private halls of the University.	• Expand the number of postgraduate students, especially in theology and philosophy; • Continue to encourage visiting research scholars; • Continue collaboration with the Anscombe Bioethics Centre (registered charity no. 274327); • Continue to enhance the programmes of the Las Casas and Aquinas Institutes, seeking new sources of funding and collaborating with similar institutions elsewhere.
(D) BLACKFRIARS STUDIUM Strengthen the Province's centre of studies in Oxford, ensuring proper levels of funding and administrative support.	• Foster links with other religious congregations to open up a wider pool of prospective students and teachers. • Raise funds, so that an adequate and sustainable system of payment for lecturers can be provided.

Of these objectives (a), (b), (e), (g) and (h) applied to Scotland as well as to England and Wales; (c), (d) and (f) were specific to England and Wales, although not to the exclusion of participation by friars assigned to Scottish priories.

(E) BUILDINGS To maintain the buildings of the Province so that they are fitting places for the religious life, including for older and sick members of the Order, and for the pastoral and educational apostolate.	• Ensure that regular surveys of the buildings are conducted; • Perform the maintenance works identified by surveys, as prioritised; • Identify, where possible, external sources of funding for maintaining buildings. • Carry out plans for renovation of insulation and heating for the churches, chapels and priories of the Province.
(F) LONDON AND LEICESTER Support and develop the mission of the Rosary Shrine in London and Holy Cross Priory in Leicester to their local and extended surrounding areas.	• Finalise strategic development plans; • Take forward fundraising for fabric maintenance, facilities renovations, and the support of the priory communities.
(G) 2021 ANNIVERSARY Commence planning for suitable ways to mark the Province's 800th anniversary in 2021, including events, strategic development initiatives, and opportunities for recruitment, fundraising and communications.	• Finalise and implement programme of events and publications to mark the Jubilee year • Plan fundraising as appropriate to support the Jubilee events and wider work of the Province
(H) IMPACT OF COVID-19 From the middle of the financial year, steps were taken to comply with public-health mandates and to mitigate the impact of these restrictions on the Province's mission and its income.	• Comply with mandated regulations on social distancing and other measures • Prioritise pastoral care for those suffering as a result of the pandemic and related restrictions • Encourage laypeople to return to church when possible • Further develop online presence and introduce virtual meetings and events • Support employees and friars in remote working • Promote electronic giving to replace lost cash income • Run emergency appeals to offset lost income

The Year in Review: Key Facts

BROADCASTING TO THE WORLD [p.10]



DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES FIND A HOME AT ROSARY SHRINE [p.18]



FRASSATI CENTRE WORKS BEGAN IN LEICESTER [p.15]

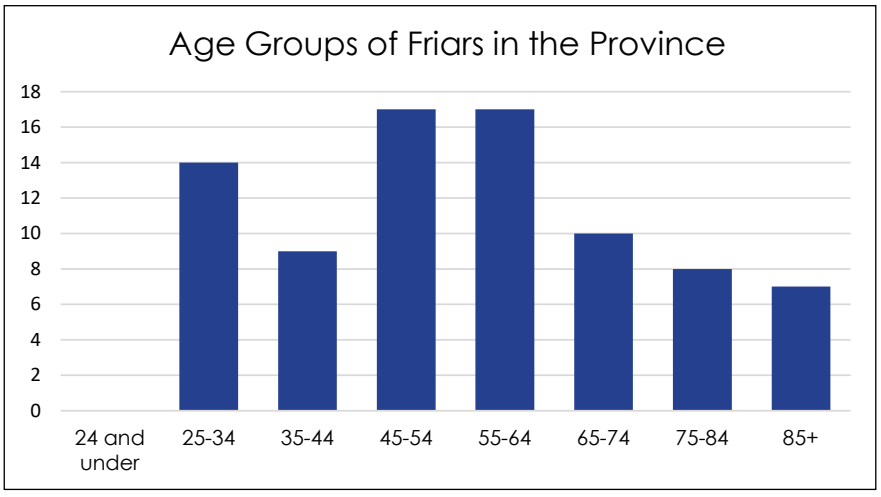


CAMBRIDGE: MASS IN THE OPEN AIR [p.21]





Figures from the 2020 *Catalogus* of the Province. Excludes those assigned in the West Indies (8), those serving as bishops (1), and those from other provinces resident in the UK (1).

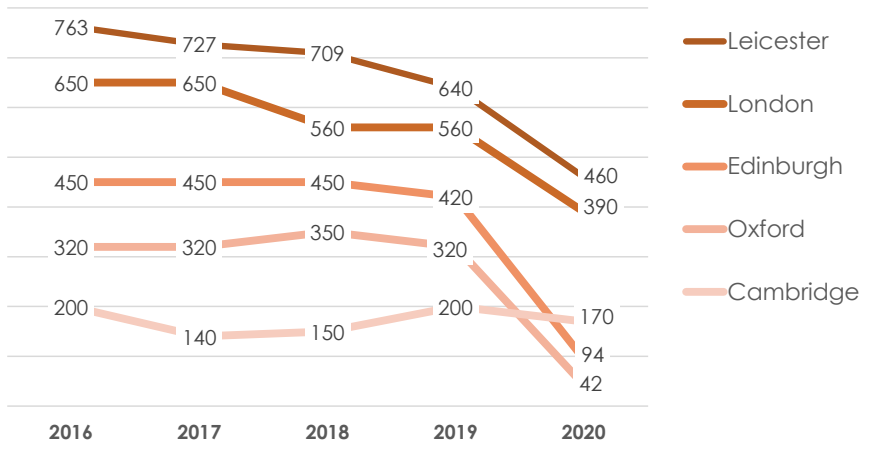




Pastoral offices include parish priests, assistant priests, chaplains etc. (37 in previous year). Some are part-time: the count is 16 (22) if considered as 'full-time equivalents'. Some individuals hold more than one office. Paid work means the Charity receives income as a result of this work (89% paid in previous year).

The Year in Review: Pastoral Figures

ESTIMATED TYPICAL SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE AT DOMINICAN PRIORIES*



*Sunday Mass attendance figures are included merely to provide a rough idea of the scale of pastoral work in each priory. These exclude the many other forms of pastoral ministry undertaken (*see below*) and the many and varied other ministries that happen within this Province (*see the reports in* pp.9–29). They are of course susceptible to vagaries of local populations and of measurement.

Please note that these figures represent **average attendance in Sept 2020**, at which time restrictions remained in place on gathering for public worship, and many individuals chose to stay away from churches. Cambridge bucked the downwards trend by introducing outside Masses in their garden.

SACRAMENTAL STATISTICS

Baptisms	Infants: 62 (2019: 95) Adults/older children: 3 (15) TOTAL: 65 (110)
Receptions of Baptised Christians into the Catholic Church	10 (17)
Confirmations	19 (41)
First Communions	Children: 15 (60) Adults: 9 (17) TOTAL: 24 (77)
Public Masses each week	Sundays: 28 (30) Weekdays: 58 (79) TOTAL: 86 (109)
Average Mass attendance	Sundays: 1,321 (2,944) Weekdays: 206 (349)
Sacrament of Penance (Confession)	9 hours scheduled per week (11) Average of 54 other individual confessions per week (46)
Marriages	12 (22)
Funerals	57 (63)
Hours of Pastoral Contact	162 (323)

The age-profile of the Province is such that at present there are fewer friars available to engage in full-time pastoral work, but more engaged in study and other forms of preparation for such work. Moreover, it is impossible to reduce the effectiveness of pastoral ministry to statistics; but the Charity Trustees consider that these figures indicate that the Province is continuing to provide in its parishes, priories and other apostolates the sacramental and pastoral resources that are a necessary prerequisite for effective and responsive ministry. A very considerable number of people benefit from this activity of the Charity.

It is to be noted that 3 friars (4) who are not resident in priories carry out pastoral work in various other parishes and chaplaincies in England and Scotland.

Plans for Future Periods

The Charity Trustees view the following as particular objectives for the year to September 2021:

(A) RECRUITMENT & TRAINING

To train priests and religious for pastoral and educational ministry, and to maintain the success of the full-time Director and Promoter of Vocations in drawing larger numbers of young men to enter the Province.

(B) MINISTRY

To continue effective and responsive ministry in the priories and parishes of the Province.

(C) BLACKFRIARS HALL

To maintain and support the educational and research activities of Blackfriars Hall and particularly to develop the research projects of the Las Casas and Aquinas Institutes, and foster links with the other private halls of the University.

(D) BLACKFRIARS STUDIUM

Strengthen the Province's centre of studies in Oxford, ensuring proper levels of funding and administrative support. Foster links with other religious congregations to open up a wider pool of prospective students and teachers. Raise funds, so that an adequate and sustainable system of payment for lecturers can be provided.

(E) BUILDINGS

To maintain the buildings of the Province so that they are fitting places for the religious life, including for older and sick members of the Order, and for the pastoral and educational apostolate.

(F) LONDON AND LEICESTER

Support and develop the mission of the Rosary Shrine in London and Holy Cross Priory in Leicester to their local and extended surrounding areas; refine development plans and take forward fundraising for improving the facilities that support these missions.

(G) 2021 ANNIVERSARY

Commence planning for suitable ways to mark the Province's 800th anniversary in 2021, including events, strategic development initiatives, and opportunities for recruitment, fundraising and communications.

(H) COVID-19

Continue to comply with public-health mandates as necessary, and to mitigate the impact of current and anticipated future restrictions on the Province's mission and income, in particular investing in online platforms and digital systems to support these goals.

Review of Activities



INTRODUCTION

The friars have continued their pastoral work in the parishes and chaplaincies both attached to the priories of the Province and elsewhere; and their educational apostolate which is undertaken alongside the pastoral work, and in a special way within Blackfriars, Oxford. As far as can be determined, in the course of the present reporting period friars and communities of the Province were involved in the concrete activities listed on the following pages. These reports are grouped by geographical location and followed by a Province-wide round-up of the wide range of educational activities undertaken.

Blackfriars: Priory of the Holy Spirit, Oxford

Oxford priory (known as 'Blackfriars') has as its principal work the formation of student Dominicans and other religious in our Studium (*see p.27*). The friars also undertake pastoral work, through the liturgy and preaching in their own church, with several flourishing youth groups, and in co-operation with local parishes, the Defence Academy at Shrivenham and the Catholic Chaplaincy to the University of Oxford. Blackfriars offers the most central open Catholic church in Oxford, with sung Divine Office and daily Mass.

The priory responded to the Covid-19 crisis by establishing a high-quality live stream for Masses, with an increase in video output (*see below*) along with regular electronic newsletters and Zoom events to keep the congregation engaged with life at the Priory. The online activity had an international reach and appeal, and this helped secure income in difficult times.

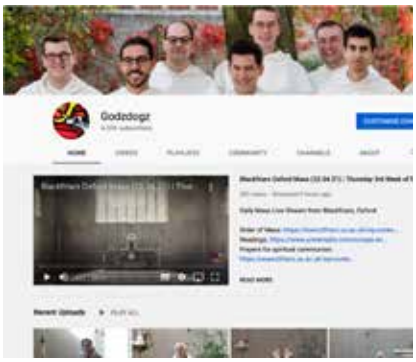
Prior: Robert Gay OP

21 resident friars, including

- 8 full-time students
- 1 friar of another Province engaged in full-time study.

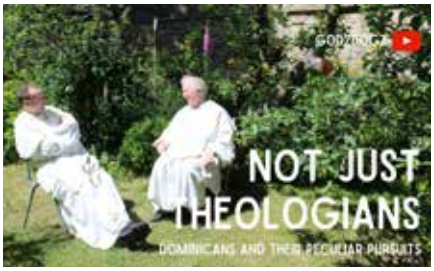
www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk/priory

GODZDOGZ: FROM BLOG TO VIDEO BROADCASTS



The student brothers have blogged for some years at **english.op.org/godzdogz** and have a strong following. When the lockdowns prevented personal contact, the brothers found a new way to preach the gospel. As soon as public worship was suspended, Blackfriars began to livestream its liturgies, with the first on Sunday 22nd March. The 'Godzdogz' YouTube page was used, with its existing base of subscribers. The priory livestreamed Mass daily, plus occasional special events such as a Rosary vigil at Pentecost and a sung Compline retreat in the seven days before Christmas. On Sundays and major feasts the homily at Mass was extracted and posted as a separate video.

During the week, up to 150 viewers joined live, and ordinarily close to 500 had watched by the end of the day; on Sundays, those numbers doubled. Our most popular livestream was Good Friday, when 600 viewers joined live and 2000 had watched by the end of the day. In the period from March 2020 to April 2021, the channel had 3.9m impressions, 470,000 views, and gained almost 3000 new subscribers. Almost half of the viewers are in the UK, then the US at 12%, and we have also had regular viewers from as far away as Singapore.



The additional traffic provided the impetus to create more video content for this wider audience. These included short meditations, such as a Holy Week retreat on the Seven Last Words, and a set of longer videos reflecting on the Stations of the Cross in the priory church. The student brothers also produced a short podcast called 'Not Just Theologians', interviewing members of the province about their passions and pursuits outside of theology, a series which proved popular among viewers.

Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford

Blackfriars Hall is one of three Catholic Permanent Private Halls in **Oxford University**. It welcomes postgraduate students taking degrees in a range of humanities subjects, and hosts a small number of visiting students and academics. It shares facilities, staff and resources with **Blackfriars Studium** (*see p.27*) but is institutionally separate.

The Hall specialises in Catholic theology and philosophy in the Thomistic tradition. Research activity is focussed largely on its two research centres (*see over*).

CHANGING TIMES

Following the 2020 Provincial Chapter, Fr John O'Connor was appointed Regent and Fr Bruno Clifton Vice-Regent.

The academic life of the Hall was affected significantly by the pandemic. University teaching was delivered online, and, following government and university guidelines, many students returned home. Thankfully, the guidelines for Michaelmas Term of academic year 2020/21 allowed postgraduate students to return and student events to take place, though with severe restrictions; all teaching remained online. The focus during summer 2020 was getting Covid-safe procedures in place to allow normal academic



life to return as much as possible.

Work on the new annexe building was completed in autumn 2019, and Hall offices were moved to the new building. The annexe has a SCR and a Research Room, the latter offering workspaces for academic staff and visiting scholars, facilitating an interdisciplinary research environment. Unfortunately, shortly after opening, the annexe had to be closed to non-essential personnel. The building will be relaunched as soon as rules allow.

DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI

In-person events, such as the Annual Alumni Dinner, were not possible. A farewell event for students at the end of Trinity Term was held online. The 800th anniversary campaign for Blackfriars had to be suspended in March 2020, with effort instead put into an emergency appeal planned for October 2020.

ACADEMIC EVENTS

In addition to the many events of the Aquinas and Las Casas Institutes (*see over*), the Hall also enjoys a partnership with the **Anscombe Centre for Bioethics**, a Catholic academic institute that engages with moral questions arising in clinical practice and biomedical research. Some of the planned events co-sponsored by Blackfriars had to be cancelled, but the following did take place:

- A half-day symposium on 'Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide: Philosophical and Empirical Perspectives' with Dr Jorge Martinez (Assoc. Prof., Pont. Catholic Univ. of Chile), Prof. David Albert Jones (Director of the Centre), Prof David Paton (Prof. of Industrial Economics, Univ. of Nottingham) and Dr Pia Jolliffe (Research Fellow, Blackfriars Hall).
- Maureen Condic, Assoc. Prof. of Neurobiology and Anatomy, Univ. of Utah, gave the tenth annual Anscombe Memorial Lecture, on 'Twinning and human individuality', followed by a reception in the Priory and Mass for benefactors of the Centre.

Regent: John O'Connor OP
Vice-Regent: Bruno Clifton OP

Students: 47 from 9 countries (33 postgraduates, 2 undergraduates, 12 visiting students).

www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk

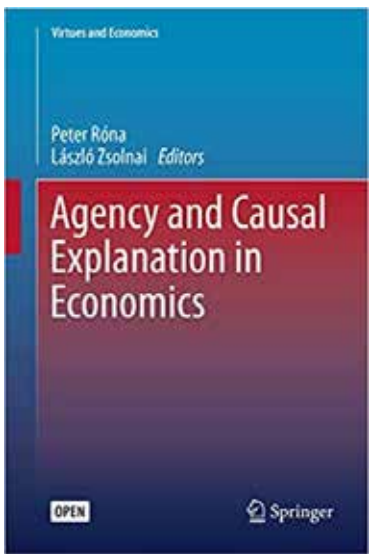
Blackfriars: Las Casas Institute

The Las Casas Institute for Social Justice is a research centre for applied Catholic Social Teaching based at Blackfriars Hall. The academic year 2019–20 was characterized first by the successful publication and reception of books linked to the Institute's research programmes, second by the transition of popular seminars and lectures from public gatherings to on-line events in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and third the continued growth of the Institute's fellowship.



ECONOMICS AS A MORAL SCIENCE

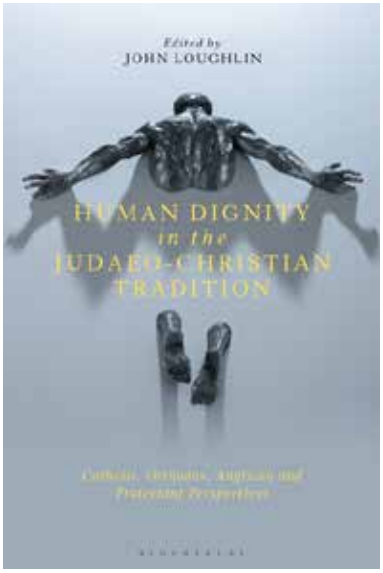
The fourth volume in the 'Virtues and Economics' book series edited by Profs Peter Rona and Laszlo Zsolnai, 'Agency and Causal Explanation in Economics' was launched in October 2019, and the international symposium on 'Free Will and Economics' was held from 4–6 October 2019. In January 2020, Dr Agniezska Wincowizc Price joined the Las Casas Institute as a part-time Junior Research Fellow funded for three years to contribute research linked to the Economics research programme and to assist Prof. Rona in the editing of conference papers for publication. The continuing impact of earlier publications was confirmed by news that chapters from the 'Economics as a Moral Science' volumes published by Springer saw 1,216 downloads during 2019, and a further 592 in the first six months of 2020.



DIGNITY SERIES

A book edited by Prof. John Loughlin, *Human Dignity in the Judaeo-Christian Tradition — Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant Perspectives* was launched on in November 2019. This was a collection of papers from earlier lectures and seminars in the Dignity series. Initial book reviews have been very positive.

Events in the Dignity programme have included a reading group on 'War, Peace and the Christian', led by Dr Maria Power and Edward Hadas, as well as a lecture by Edward Hadas: on 'Improving the modern approach to freedom'. A seminar was held



Blackfriars: Las Casas Institute

in January 2020 on 'Human Dignity and Mother Earth: Historic and Contemporary Sources in Conversation for a Socio-Ecological Ethic' with two panellists: Christopher Hrynkow from the University of Saskatchewan and Dr Jack Cunningham of Bishop Grosseteste University. The Respondent was Prof. Celia Deane-Drummond from Campion Hall. Oxford.

More recently, during the restrictions in place due to COVID-19, a set of two lectures on just war theory and its applicability to modern warfare was held online with the speakers Frank Ledwidge and Edward Hadas.



THE FUTURE OF THE HUMANITIES

In conjunction with Georgetown University, the Institute held a series of lectures and seminars around the theme of Shakespeare and Christianity. Led by Blackfriars Fellow, Prof. Michael Scott, speakers included Rev. Dr Paul Edmondson, Dr Beatrice Groves, Trinity College, Prof. Michael Collins, Georgetown, Dr Yvette Khoury, Blackfriars, Clare Asquith, Prof. Paulina Kewes, Jesus College, Oxford, Dr Elizabeth Schafer, Royal Holloway University, and the Very Rev. Dr Rowan Williams, Magdalene College, Cambridge

Later talks on this theme were delivered by webinars with Dr Bonnie Lander Johnson, Andrew Moran, John Drakakis, and Molly Clark



Earlier in the year the Humanities programme also hosted a lecture in London by Julia Gillard, former Prime Minister of Australia, on 'Women in Public Life: Transforming a Culture'. This was followed by a Round-Table Discussion with Baroness Mary Goudie, Baroness Margaret Prosser and Prof. Rosie Campbell, and chaired by Prof. Evelyn Welch, Provost, Kings College, London.

The Las Casas Annual Lecture for 2019 was delivered on 5th December 2019 by Isabella Tree: 'Wilding – the return of nature to a British farm'.

SPONSORS & BENEFACTORS

Special thanks are due to all of those who supported the Institute, and in particular to the Mallinckrodt Foundation, Michael Oborne, and Robert Calderisi.

Director: Richard Finn OP

www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk/lascasas

YouTube: 'Las Casas Institute'

Blackfriars: The Aquinas Institute

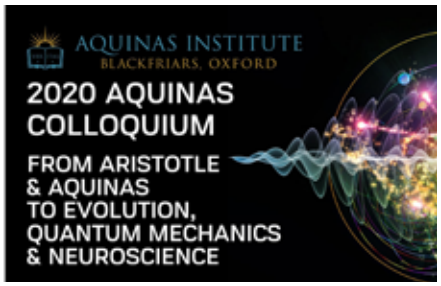
ANNUAL PROGRAMME

- Aquinas Lecture by Prof Russell Hittinger (Lumen Christi Institute, University of Chicago): 'Tradition or Pottage? Reflections on Catholic Social Doctrine.'
- Aquinas Seminar Series (7 seminars): 'Evolution and Human Origins: Theological & Philosophical Reflections.'
- Aquinas Colloquium: 'From Aristotle and Aquinas to Evolution, Quantum Mechanics and Neuroscience.'
- Monday evening Aquinas study group for young people; in Trinity Term this was held online owing to COVID restrictions.
- Thomistic Institute lectures (*see below*).
- A public lecture on 'Aquinas and the Latin Averroists'.
- Study week for students and young adults, held online.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

The theme of the Aquinas Seminar Series, and of one paper in the Colloquium, were chosen to accompany the Thomistic Evolution Project (*see below*).

Prof Ryan Meade and Mr Michael Wee became associate members of the Institute in view of their part-time research on, respectively, what, from a



Thomist perspective, makes for just regulations; and connatural moral knowledge in Aquinas and Wittgenstein, especially as regards prudence.

SUPPORTING RESEARCH

The Institute hosted Prof Robert Koons as a visiting scholar to work on 'An Aristotelian Framework for Quantum Theory.'

The Director supervised a MSt student on Aquinas, especially on his account of the Incarnation, and advised the author of a new commentary on part of the *Summa Theologiae*.

DISSEMINATION

The Aquinas Lecture, Seminar and Colloquium papers, and Study Week talks were uploaded to **YouTube** or **SoundCloud**.

The Director and other members of the Institute made three lockdown podcasts during Trinity Term, a number of videos for the English version of **iAquinas**, and a short video introducing the Institute.

An earlier Aquinas Lecture and some previous seminar papers were published in a special issue of *New Blackfriars* for November 2019 on 'The Rational Animal and Modern Science'.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Thomistic Institute continued funding evening lectures by international speakers, attracting large numbers of young people (*see p.27*).

The Institute is participating in the **Thomistic Evolution Project**, led by the US Dominicans but involving an international team of men and women, to bring into conversation with each other current evolutionary biology and Aquinas' account of human nature. A workshop was held in August, and further workshops will lead to a published collection of papers.

BENEFACTORS

We gratefully acknowledge a donation of £11,637, and several smaller one-off or recurring gifts.

We thank the benefactors who have enabled the Thomistic Institute to fund work in Europe.

The current stage of the Thomistic Evolution Project is being generously funded by the Templeton Foundation..

Director: Richard Conrad OP

www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk/aquinas

Holy Cross Priory & Parish, Leicester

Holy Cross Priory has proved resilient despite the lockdowns. Our large church served well in allowing us to maintain services while keeping people at a safe distance. Up to March 2020, life continued as usual, serving our culturally diverse parish. Ours was the first city in the country to face a complete lockdown in June. When church services were allowed, attendance gradually recovered to well over half the usual levels.



APOSTOLATES

The priory provides a chaplain to **Leicester** and **De Montfort universities** and the two student groups enjoyed many social events and met for discussion and talks. After lockdown, they continued to attend Mass here.

Chaplaincy to **HMP Leicester**. More prisoners now have access to weekly Mass, and increased volunteer support worked well.

Chaplaincy to **Leicester Royal Infirmary** continued and was not confined to working with Covid patients but included attending terminally ill patients of various ages and conditions.

The parish scripture group moved quickly to Zoom and continued to attract a good number of participants from a much wider area. Many other activities had to be suspended.

Our priests continued to be active in teaching and preaching remotely, including in the Studium and abroad.

EVENTS

In the first half of the year there were regular events involving young adults, students and lay Dominicans. A performance in October of Rossini's *Stabat Mater* was attended by 330 people. Special events included a talk on Catholic bioethics and a day of Marian prayer in October. A study day on the Dominican Rite was held in November. In December we hosted 3 visiting students who gave the parish retreat. Fr Matthew Jarvis gave the presidential lecture for the **Leicester Theological Society** in January to about 40 people. Confirmations were performed by the bishop in February. From March, there were few events; one exception was Prof. Robin Graham-Brown's talk on Christians in the Holy Land in March.

DEVELOPMENT

The restrictions had at least one positive result; the renovations of the Frassati parish centre began in earnest with demolitions over the summer and repairs to the roof. Plans were adjusted for greater flexibility of use and a more spacious open-plan first floor, and to offer caterers a good working space in the ground-floor kitchen.

In addition to the financial help of parishioners, grants were won to provide security grilles for the church windows, and for aspects of the Frassati Centre.

Prior: John-Patrick Kenrick OP

5 friars

www.holycrossleicester.org

St Albert's Parish & Chaplaincy, Edinburgh



The House of St Albert the Great serves a thriving Parish and vibrant Catholic Chaplaincy to the University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh Napier University, and Queen Margaret University.

CHAPLAINCY LIFE

The Catholic Chaplaincy serves the pastoral and spiritual needs of university students and staff. The weekly Mass attendance is ordinarily about 450. Staff bring their families and continue to attend after retirement, so that the weekly congregation includes people of every age. Baptisms, weddings and funerals are a regular feature of Chaplaincy life as well as instruction in the faith for both adults and children. There are regular talks on issues of justice and peace, faith and the arts, and contemporary ethical issues. The St Albert's Catholic Chaplaincy Staff Fellowship meets regularly. **The Albertus Institute**, which is not part of the Parish but closely linked to it, organises a series of 'Coffee House' events, to facilitate informed group discussion on issues of public interest.

MINISTRY IN LOCKDOWN

With the lockdown in March 2020, we began to live stream Mass and many of these events went online also. An email was sent daily to over 200 parishioners and each weekend a newsletter. When public masses were allowed again, we found that social distancing limited the capacity of the Chapel to 17, so we celebrate three additional Sunday Masses in a nearby parish church.

SPECIAL EVENTS

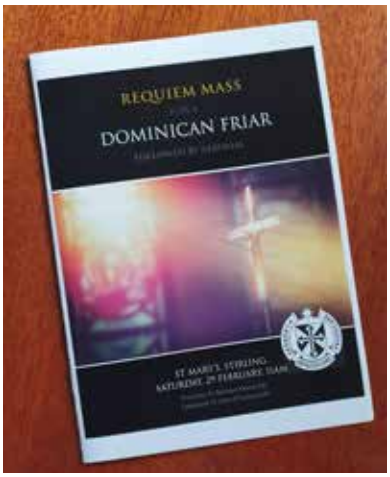
Two very significant events happened during the course of this year before the lockdown began. **The University of Edinburgh** conferred an Honorary Doctorate on Fr Fergus Kerr in December.

At the end of February the community celebrated a Requiem Mass in Stirling for



St Albert's Parish & Chaplaincy, Edinburgh

a medieval Dominican friar whose remains had been discovered at the site of the pre-Reformation Priory in the city. This was followed by the reburial of the friar's remains. This initiative came from the civic authorities in Stirling, who were represented at the Mass and Reburial, and who hosted a reception and lecture afterwards.



CATHOLIC STUDENTS' UNION

The Catholic Students' Union, an official University of Edinburgh student society, continues to be very active. It has a membership of almost 120 students; but many other students attend Mass and participate in the life of the Chaplaincy as well. Among the student events this year were two student retreats, and a range of catechetical and social events including a weekly Theology (Faith & Reason) group. The Young Women's Fellowship and a newly formed Frassati Fellowship for young men met regularly and have continued online through the lockdown. The Midweek meal, Friday baked potato lunch, and social events after the Sunday Student Mass were held each week until this was no longer possible. Before lockdown the CSU held their Christmas Carol Concert, St Andrew's Night Ball and Burns Night Supper. Students also helped out at a local project for homeless people.

In September 2020 we launched an online platform to help us keep in touch with those who have been involved in the Chaplaincy over many decades, **www.stalbertsnetwork.org**. We hope this will strengthen current friendships and to renew old friendships.

We are grateful once again to The Lady Marian Gibson Trust for providing financial support for the lay chaplain.



This year Fr. Samuel served as Dominican liaison to the two chapters of the **Thomistic Institute** at the University of Edinburgh and the University of St. Andrews. Both chapters organise public lectures and other activities which showcase the best of Catholic thought in the academy

THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

Fr John O'Connor was Superior of the community and Parish Priest until his departure for Oxford in July. Fr Dermot Morrin replaced him as Superior and Parish Priest. Fr Samuel Burke was ordained as a priest also in July and continued to work alongside Fr Dermot Morrin as chaplain. They are assisted in their work with students by Lilian Lee who is employed as a lay chaplain. Fr Aelred Connelly continued his work as part of the chaplaincy team at HM Young Offenders' Institution and Prison at Polmont. In September, Fr Fergus Kerr retired as Editor of New Blackfriars, a journal of Theology, Philosophy and Cultural Affairs. He had been Editor for 25 years.

4 / 5 resident friars

www.scotland.op.org

St Dominic's Priory & Rosary Shrine, London

St Dominic's Priory is a hub for Catholic Faith and culture in a diverse and dynamic part of north-west Londons. At the centre of all this activity is the Priory church, a Grade II* listed building that is the largest Catholic parish church in London, and which serves as the Diocesan Shrine to Our Lady of the Rosary; the only designated Rosary Shrine in the UK.

Members of the priory are all engaged in a wide range of ministries serving the parish and Shrine, and also that support the wider community and have an international outreach.

The Prior Provincial resides and has his office here.

CHAPLAINCIES PROVIDED

- 2 friars serve the 2 local Catholic primary schools and the Parish Priest is foundation Governor for both
- Lead Chaplain, UCL NHS Trust
- Friars assist the Chaplain at the Royal Free Hospital
- Chaplain to Imperial College
- 1 friar serves 2 nursing homes
- Assistant RC Chaplain to HMP Wandsworth
- Spiritual Director to the Westminster Curia of the Legion of Mary



LITURGY AND DEVOTIONS

- Monthly Eucharistic Processions with Healing Prayers;
- Weekly torchlit Rosary Processions in October and May;
- Weekly 'Missa Cantata' in the Dominican Rite (live-streamed from March 2020). Young adults assisted in serving, singing the chants, and providing refreshments afterwards. Catechesis was also provided by a friar for this group once a week;
- Annual Pro-Life Vigil;
- A Day with Mary;
- International World Priest Rosary Relay;
- Daily Adoration and Mass

When permitted, the church was open for:

- Rosary groups (twice a day)
- Mothers' Prayer group
- Bereavement Prayer group
- Visits by Catholic Schools and first Communion groups from neighbouring parishes;
- Occasional pilgrimages by various diocesan Groups;
- Legion of Mary Pilgrimages and annual events.

A HOME FOR COMMUNITIES

A Filipino choir sings at one monthly Mass, on feast days and the Simbang Gabi novena of Masses in preparation for Christmas. The Filipino community hosts a hot meal for all in the parish Hall afterwards.

The **Catholic Medical Association** held two day retreats here, and its annual Requiem Mass. Another Mass was live-streamed from here for their online conference on Care for the Dying.

INTELLECTUAL APOSTOLATE

Several members of the Priory provide teaching support to

St Dominic's Priory & Rosary Shrine, London

the Studium in Oxford. One friar is engaged in research and translation work at **Princeton Theological Seminary**, and another teaches full-time in a primary school. Several friars give talks to University chaplaincies in the UK, and for the **Thomistic Institute**, and also preach retreats in the USA.

The friars continue to engage in catechesis and talks online: new opportunities have arisen, with invitations from the USA, Singapore, and across the UK.

ART AND CULTURE

Our historic Willis organ is used every Sunday, but it is during the regular monthly recital that it is heard in all its splendour. Notable organists visited in the last year to give recitals.

The annual Art Exhibition, which attracts local artists, was held in October, and was visited by Bishop Michael Campbell who also celebrated our annual Rosary Sunday Mass.

On the cusp of the first lockdown in March 2020, the Rosary Shrine hosted the **Bach Players** who performed Pergolesi's 'Stabat Mater'. The poignant tones of this piece were especially fitting as we entered into a prolonged period of silence.

ONLINE APOSTOLATE

The pandemic led to an increase in our online activity. A professional livestream system was installed in the church, and the daily Mass, and occasional devotions and processions have been streamed to a dedicated YouTube channel. We began broadcasting the Dominican rite Mass every Sunday and holy day; and Sunday catechesis to a newly-formed youth group has attracted attendance from North America and Asia.

In addition, we officially launched the VR tour of the Rosary Shrine in May which received coverage in Catholic news sites such as Aleteia.

PROMOTING THE ROSARY

In April, the Dominican Order had its first international Rosary Rally which was prayed by the friars at the Rosary Altar and live-streamed. Subsequently, two friars led a daily Rosary on the Rosary's Shrine's Facebook page, and this led to a national Rosary Crusade in May in which the Rosary Shrine had a major role, leading hundreds online in a daily Live Rosary. From May, the friars committed to praying a live-streamed Rosary every Friday with an international following of over 100.

DEVELOPING THE SHRINE

In this year, preparations were made for the restoration of the apse, High Altar and tabernacle and for the restoration and re-gilding of the Nativity chapel.

The shift to online ministry has given us a greater local and international profile. Many have been encouraged by photos they have seen on social media of the beauty of the church and the Rosary Garden, and the videos of the Liturgy celebrated in the church, and this led to an increase in new visitors when the lockdown eased.

We are grateful to our supporters, friends, and benefactors who have helped us and accompanied us in these difficult times, and we are privileged to serve all those who have found solace in prayer through Our Lady of the Rosary and through this Rosary Shrine. We look forward with hope and confidence as large restoration works will be taking place, in preparation for the 800th Jubilee of the Province and the 450th anniversary of the feast of the Holy Rosary.

Prior: Thomas Skeats OP / Lawrence Lew OP (from Aug. 2020)

11 resident friars

www.rosaryshrine.co.uk

Blackfriars: Priory of St Michael, Cambridge

The Priory of St Michael Archangel is the location of the Province's noviciate, where new friars spend their first year in the Order.

Members of the priory are also involved in writing, preaching and teaching. They provide pastoral care for a congregation of c.150 people, as well as assisting with the sacramental needs of the adjacent parishes.

The priory promotes projects supporting educational provision in Ethiopia in co-operation with the **Jean Grove Trust** (reg. charity 1109593).

The priory had no novices this year. We welcomed, in November, Fr Colin Carr, formerly of St. Dominic's Newcastle, and he has thrown himself into the pastoral apostolate of the house, especially the growing demand for the Sacrament of Penance. This summer, with Fr Bruno moving to Blackfriars Hall, Oxford, to be Vice Regent, Fr Gregory Pearson arrived to start as Novice Master, with two novices starting in September. Fr Robert Verrill is the acting University Chaplain until Easter, and Fr Nicholas Crowe will be living with us in the vacations while he studies for his Master's in Theology at the University of Fribourg.



APOSTOLATES

The Priory offers a programme of theological education in the form of regular talks, advertised in the city of Cambridge and environs, as well as at the University Catholic Chaplaincy. This year's Aquinas Lecture (Jan) by Prof. Catherine Pickstock, Norris-Hulse Professor of Divinity at the University of Cambridge, on 'Truth as Conformation: Forgotten Theorists of Verity', which attracted a full house. Fr Bruno continued his teaching in Oxford and Fr Dominic at the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology, also taking on Master's supervisions for the Faculty of Divinity of the University of Cambridge. Fr Euan, in spite of a serious illness from which he is now recovering, continued his writing work for Redemptorist Publications.

We also took on new apostolates. In October we hosted an art exhibition of work by our fellow Dominican, Sr Marie Pavlina Kasparova OP, and other Central European Christian artists, hosted by Zoltan Körösvölgyi of Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest.

In the absence of novices, we let **Radio Maria England** use a noviciate room pending completion of their studio premises. This made it easy to broadcast Mass, Lauds and Vespers every day during the lockdown, though it had been planned for a while before that, reaching many new participants all over the world, one of whom is now being prepared for baptism. We have expanded our website, treating lockdown as a 'retreat' for which we provided regular meditations, to which we also asked our Sisters and lay

Blackfriars: Priory of St Michael, Cambridge



people to contribute. Our new Facebook group has over 260 members. We are continuing the radio apostolate with the reopening of our premises for public worship, and have also taken on a programme for talks on the Sacraments for Radio Maria, in collaboration with the Dominican Sisters in Cambridge.

Fr Dominic's Wisdom Circle discussion group is continuing, and he hosted a conference of the **Friends of Sophia** (theme: 'Divine Harmony') at the Margaret Beaufort Institute on Zoom, and this attracted a global audience of 90 participants. See **www.friendsofsophia.com**

Fr Bob Eccles continued as Assistant Priest at St Lawrence's parish and supported many people through the Covid crisis.

THE EFFECT OF THE PANDEMIC

The Covid crisis affected the priory in two stages. Firstly was the cessation of public masses and office, but thanks to the good offices of Radio Maria we kept up an apostolate of sorts.

The second stage was when it became possible to allow a certain number of people to come back to our Eucharist. We quickly realised that our garden could be used to accept a large amount of people, while still staying within the confines of government regulations and the stipulations of the Bishops of England and Wales. The Bishops forbade collections, so we tried to encourage more standing orders to the priory, with concomitant Gift Aid declarations. Our income from Masses did go down, but we managed to host well-attended Masses during the summer.

Prior: Euan Marley OP

Eight resident friars including one full-time student, and two novices.

www.blackfriarscambridge.org.uk

Educational Apostolate

Education and the intellectual apostolate are a key part of the Dominican charism. The Intellectual Life of the Province of England was affected significantly by the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. Lockdown started on 23 March 2020, with severe restrictions on events for the rest of the academic year. Many events were cancelled, but the Studium teaching, and some of the events organised by the brethren, moved online. Audiences unused to working with technologies such as Zoom learned to participate in this way. The brethren also used the opportunity to learn more about how our ministries might avail of electronic media platforms.

1. TALKS AND PUBLIC LECTURES

Talks and public lectures by the brethren were given in our priories and parishes, in other venues, as well as online. Most were open to the general public, but some were for specific groups (e.g. Lay Dominicans or young adults). Some of the talks and public lectures were one-off and some formed parts of series.

In some cases, such as the Edinburgh Parish series of monthly talks on Theology and the arts, 'Holy Ground' (average attendance approximately 20-25), the speakers were non-



Dominicans. This allowed the parish to establish connections with local academics.

- Three student friars in Oxford ran the 'Aquinas Group', which meets weekly in Oxford academic term and with an attendance of 12–20. Many of the talks were by Dominican friars. In Trinity Term 2020, the events went online due to lockdown; these had similar or slightly larger attendances than the pre-lockdown situation.
- The Leicester Parish has a Scripture Study Group that met weekly with an attendance of 15–20, including during lockdown.
- fr. Fergus Kerr led an Aquinas' *Summa* reading group in Edinburgh.
- Our London Parish (the Rosary Shrine) provides an important venue. Evening talks at the shrine attracted 15–20 people; but for some events such as the 'Day with Mary' on 23 November 2019, the attendance was approximately 300 people.

RANGE OF THEMES

The topics on which the brethren gave talks on were wide and varied and included (a selection):

- 'The Eucharist in the Old Testament';
- 'Is there evidence for Jesus?';
- 'Marriage as Covenant';
- 'Why we sing the liturgy?';
- 'Music and the Dominican Tradition';
- 'Joy in the Gospels';
- 'Being a Dominican Preacher';
- 'Quelle personne humaine, dans quelle Eglise pour quel monde?';
- 'Life and Learning';
- 'What I have learnt as a religious from the pandemic';

Educational Apostolate (cont.)

- 'Como Hablar de Dios';
- 'Acedia in the Fathers and St Thomas Aquinas';
- 'The Journey of Healing' (series of 18 talks in San Francisco over 9 days by fr. Allan White, with average 300 approx. in attendance);
- 'The Mission of an Apostle' (series of 18 talks over 9 days);
- 'The Book of Jonah';
- 'The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament';
- 'Aquinas on Jesus's Parables';
- 'Aquinas' Commentary of Matthew 5';
- 'An Introduction to Natural Law';
- 'Mary, Mother of All Souls';
- 'Behold, the Heart of Mary';
- 'What we have seen in Heaven: towards a New Theology for Christian Art';
- talks on Medjugorje;
- 'Religious Liberty and the Second Vatican Council';
- 'Finding Christ in the Old Testament';
- 'Aquinas and Quantum Theory';
- various talks on the statutes of religious congregations;
- 'Christianity and Tragedy';
- 'Charismatic Renewal';
- 'Mathematics, metaphysics and mysticism';
- 'Christ's Resurrection';
- 'Why I became a Dominican?';
- 'Preaching on Matthew';
- 'Christian Discipleship';
- 'Scripture and Creation: *Laudato Si'* ';
- fr. Matthew Jarvis organised and spoke at a Study Day on the Dominic Rite at Leicester.

This list does not include general catechetical talks given to students in our university chaplaincies, or in our priories and parishes.

GEOGRAPHY

Among the places in the UK at which talks were given were: Abingdon, Bangor, Cambridge, Cardigan, Clitheroe, Darlington, Edinburgh, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, London, Ludlow, Manchester, Newcastle, Oakham, Oxford, Perth, St Andrews, Sawston, Spilsby (Lincolnshire), Sussex, York.

Places outside the UK at which talks were given include: Batavia (Illinois), Brussels, Hague, Krakow, Malta, Montreal, St Louis, San Francisco, Trinidad, Vatican (lecture by fr. Timothy Radcliffe on 'The Holy Spirit as the Protagonist of Evangelisation,' Conference on the New Evangelisation, approx.. 1,300 attendees), Waco (Texas).

DOMINICAN FAMILY

Whilst the bulk of the talks mentioned and referred to above were open to the general public, talks were also given to Dominican friars at St Louis, the **Dominican Sisters in Crawley, Lymington** and **Stone**, to the Dominican Secular Institute at Leicester, and to several Lay Fraternities.

Several of the brethren gave talks at the annual Dominican Seminar (annual 2-day event for members of the Dominican Family).

fr. Timothy Radcliffe recorded two videos for an initiative for 17 congregations of Dominican sisters from the US, Zimbabwe, and Zambia; and he gave a webinar to the Provincial Assembly of Columbia.

OTHER GROUPS

Among other groups to whom the brethren gave talks were:

- Dominican Nuns of Northern Europe,
- Buckfast Study Week (annual event for young adults and run by the brethren),
- Students at Imperial College,
- Westminster Cathedral Choir School,
- Headteachers, Shrewsbury diocese,

Educational Apostolate (cont.)

- Religious of Lancaster dioc.,
- Priests of Trinidad,
- Students of Stonyhurst,
- Conference at Montreal held by Le Pèlerin Institute,
- Groups of Dutch and Belgian business people,
- Newman Assoc., Worcester,
- Communities of the English Benedictine Congregation.

Following lockdown, numerous brothers continued giving talks using Zoom or similar technologies.

ASSOCIATED GROUPS

Our houses also give hospitality to, and support, other groups, such as the **Albertus Institute** (for Science, Religion and Public Affairs) in Edinburgh (**albertusinstitute.org**). The institute organised several 'coffee house' events (average attendance 25) at which political topics were discussed from a Christian perspective. It organised a one-day Conference on 'Atheisms: History, Science, and Religion' at the Faculty of Divinity, University of Edinburgh (attendance: approx. 50). Fr. Samuel Burke replaced fr. John O'Connor on the Board of the Albertus Institute, following fr. John's move to Oxford.

DOMINICAN YOUTH MOVEMENT

A study weekend was held on the Holy Spirit in December 2019 at SPEC, led by student brothers Pablo and Bede. 15 attended.

SUMMER SCHOOL

The usual Summer School was undertaken through online sessions this year with around 20–35 live participants. Videos can be viewed on the **Aquinas Institute's YouTube**.

THE DOMINICAN FORUM

The Province took its series of lunchtime talks on living the Christian faith online from the middle of the year, and in this way reached out to many new participants. The meetings and webinars were again hosted and supported by Smith & Williamson and CCLA (two firms of investment managers); the Province extends its gratitude for this support. Several brethren from different priories contributed to this series over the year. Themes included:

- What should a Christian family be like?
- Living with others
- What is Faith?
- Going to church at home
- Lessons from lockdown
- Courage



2. EXPERTISE

As well as giving and arranging talks, brothers also serve the wider Church through giving expert advice as consultants and members of various bodies.

- fr. Richard Conrad was an external reader for Cambridge University Press.
- fr. Timothy Radcliffe gave endorsements to several books.
- fr. Matthew Jarvis was President of the Leicester Theological Society.
- fr. Andrew Brookes is Theological Advisor to 'The Faith Companion' magazine.

Educational Apostolate (cont.)

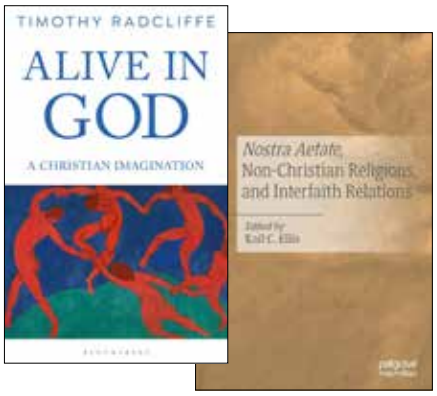
- fr. Thomas Crean was a theological advisor for the 'Reformation' documentary produced for EWTN.
- fr. Robert Gay is on the board of the Anscombe Institute for Bioethics.
- fr. Robert Ombres is on the editorial boards of three journals: Ecclesiastical Law Journal, Law & Justice, and Angelicum.
- fr. Benjamin Earl is a canonical consultant for a number of different religious institutes.

3. PUBLICATIONS

A wide audience can also be reached through publications, both electronically and in more traditional formats.

BOOKS

- fr. Martin Ganeri contributed a chapter on, 'Catholic Teaching on Hinduism and Buddhism: phenomenology of religion and its implication in the case of Hindu theism' to *Nostra Aetate, Non-Christian Religions and Interfaith Relations* (Palgrave Macmillan).
- fr. Simon Tugwell has a book in preparation: *Lorens of Orléans on the Decalogue and the Creed* (Instituto Storico Domenicano).
- fr. Richard Conrad published a book chapter co-written with fr. Peter Hunter, 'Why Aquinas Would Agree That Human Economic Behaviour is Largely Predictable', for the book, *Agency and Causal Explanation* (Springer).
- fr. David Goodill has had a book accepted for publication by The Catholic University of America Press.
- fr. Bede Mullens (student friar) co-authored a chapter, 'Augustine's "Inner Self" and Identity Politics', for the book, *Augustine in a Time of Crisis* (Palgrave Macmillan).
- fr. Robert Ombres published a book chapter with A. McGrath entitled, 'Roman Catholic Canon Law' in *Church Laws and Ecumenism* (ed. N. Doe).
- fr. Gregory Pearson translated an article on canon law from Italian to English for a *festschrift*.
- fr. Dominic White wrote a book chapter, 'Artists and the Poor: A Dialogue for Fullness of Life' for the book, *Fullness of Life and Justice for All: Dominican Perspectives* (ATF Theology).
- fr. Thomas Crean wrote 'Sacrifice, Penance and Reparation in the Message of Fatima' in *Fatima 100 years later: a Marian Call for the Whole Church* (ed. Serafino Lanzetta). He also wrote the following books: *Integralism: a manual of political philosophy* (Editions Scholasticae; co-authored with Alan Fimister) and *De Oratione* (Aroucan Press), a translation from the Latin of Humbert of Romans.



- The publications by fr. Timothy Radcliffe are too numerous to list here. A highlight is his book, *Alive in God: A Christian Imagination* (Bloomsbury). Other notable publications include translations into Vietnamese, Italian, French of some of his books. Among other publications in which fr. Timothy Radcliffe published are: *Osservatore Romano*, *The Tablet*, *The Roberts Reporter*, *La Croix*, and *Avvenire*.

Educational Apostolate (cont.)

NEW BLACKFRIARS JOURNAL

An important part of our corporate mission in publishing is our bimonthly journal, published by Wiley-Blackwell. The current Editor is fr. Brian Davies, who was appointed by the Provincial Chapter in March 2020, to replace fr. Fergus Kerr who was Editor for 25 years. The Assistant Editor is fr. John O'Connor, and fr. Robert Ombres is Reviews Editor. Fourteen friars of the English Province are on the newly constituted Editorial Board. The number of article downloads per annum is approximately 140,000 and from across the globe. As *New Blackfriars* is published by Wiley-Blackwell, articles in New Blackfriars are available through the UN World Health Organisation Hinari project, which gives access to research for free, or at greatly reduced cost, to scholars and students of countries of low GDP.

OTHER JOURNALS

- fr. Richard Conrad published two papers ('The Rational Animal and Modern Science', 'Aquinas on the Unfolding Law'), for the journals, *New Blackfriars* and *Law and Justice*, respectively.
- fr. John O'Connor had an article on 'Natural Law and ethical Non-Naturalism'



accepted by *Studies in Christian Ethics*.

- fr. Bruno Clifton had an article accepted by the journal, *Nova et Vetera*.
- fr. Benjamin Earl published 'Spirituality of Dominican legislation for the exercise of government' in *Analecta Ordinis Praedicatorum* and 'Opera propria: property or patrimony? Consequences for mutual relations between bishops and religious' in *Commentarium pro Religiosis et Missionaribus*.
- fr. Thomas Crean wrote 'Hilary of Poitier on the inter-Trinitarian Relation of the Son and the Holy Spirit' for *Augustinianum*.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

As well as academic publishing, brothers were also engaged in publication at a popular level in the service of the Church.

- fr. Neil Ferguson has written several pieces for *Living Word* published by Redemptorist Publications;
- fr. Andrew Brookes has written for the *Faith Companion*, a magazine for Catholic parishes.
- fr. Isidore Clarke wrote a pamphlet, 'Coping With Illness' for distribution to the Leicester Parish, as well as hospitals and care homes in Leicester.

ONLINE PUBLISHING

Nearly every brother in the province contributed to **Torch**, the preaching website of the English Dominicans, which had an estimated* 243,348 (293,615) unique pageviews during the year. Its international audience was an estimated 55,165 (50,809) visitors, including a core of around 16,680 (4,197) returning visitors, who are typically email notification subscribers or followers of the Province's Facebook page.

The student brothers' blog, **Godzdogz**, received an estimated* 151,521 (94,309) unique pageviews during the year. The audience is estimated at 95,947 (56,183) visitors, including 13,926 (2,771) returning visitors. Among the topics were: 'Friendship vs Prudence? St Therese of Lisieux's Little Way', a series of eight short articles on each of the beatitudes, 'Christianity and Tragedy: the case of St Alexius' and 'Diaconal Ordination', 'What

Educational Apostolate (cont.)

has racism got to do with me?' And in response to the lockdown, the Godzdogz blog provided links to 'Spiritual Resources for Times of Isolation', which was very well received.

[**Statistics from Google Analytics accessed 6 May 2021*].

4. EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

BLACKFRIARS, OXFORD

A key intellectual apostolate of the Province of England is the Studium Generale ('Blackfriars Studium') at Blackfriars, Oxford. Following the 2020 Provincial Chapter, fr. Simon Gaine stood down as Regent of the Province and fr. David Goodill stood down as Acting-Regent of Blackfriars Studium and Hall. Fr. John O'Connor was appointed Regent, which includes being Regent of the Province and Regent of Blackfriars Studium and Hall; and fr. Bruno Clifton was appointed Vice-Regent.

BLACKFRIARS STUDIUM

The Studium offers a first cycle of studies leading to an STB accredited by the Angelicum. The Studium had nine Dominican students enrolled, including a friar from the Province of Southern Germany and Austria. The Studium also had 13 others in the student body: Benedictines, Franciscans (Conventual and Capuchin) and an Oratorian. Due to lockdown, the teaching in the final term had to be online. The teaching is largely provided by Dominican friars as well as other religious and lay people; 17 Dominican friars taught on the Studium's STB programme. Three friars are involved in the governance of the Studium (fr. John O'Connor, fr. Bruno Clifton, and fr. Robert Gay).

BLACKFRIARS HALL

Blackfriars Hall is a Permanent Private Hall of the University of Oxford (*report on p.11*). The Hall hosts two institutes, the **Aquinas Institute** and the **Las Casas Institute for Social Justice**, and enjoys a partnership with the **Anscombe Bioethics Centre** (registered charity no. 274327).

As well as providing opportunities for the brethren, the two institutes, together with the Hall, continue to provide a basis for non-Dominican scholars and Dominicans from outside the Province to collaborate with us in our intellectual mission. ***Reports on the activities of the Institutes are on pp. 12–14.***

In addition to the work of Blackfriars Hall, friars participate in the wider life of the University.

- fr. Richard Ounsworth supervised a Masters thesis, and gave eight undergraduate tutorials.
- fr. Richard Conrad supervised an MSt. dissertation, and directed an undergraduate in Applied Theology.
- fr. Richard Conrad, fr. Richard Finn, and fr. Simon Gaine are members of the Faculty of Theology and Religion, and fr. Richard Finn is also member of the Faculty of Classics.

THOMISTIC INSTITUTE

This is a US-based organisation aimed at strengthening the intellectual formation of Christians at universities. Chapters of this are present in Oxford and are beginning to be formed elsewhere in our province. The year began with an extremely successful collaboration between the Fathers of the Oxford Oratory and a number of other Catholic charities and organisations, that brought Bishop Robert Barron to Oxford for a lecture at the University Church to celebrate the canonisation of St John Henry Newman.

There were various other events: a lecture and discussion group with fr. Thomas Joseph White, and lectures from fr. Andrew Hofer who was on sabbatical in Oxford, fr. Romanus Cessario,

Educational Apostolate (cont.)

fr. Mariusz Tabaczek, and Professor John Lennox on the relationship between science and religion. The latter lecture was so popular it had to move to the priory church. Many plans were affected badly by the pandemic, but during lockdown there were two very popular lectures online: fr. Simon Gaine on Christology, and fr. Richard Ounsworth on eschatology. All the way through lockdown, some of the lectors in Oxford were engaged in reading groups with students from around the world, all coordinated from Washington DC.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OUTSIDE OXFORD

- fr. Fergus Kerr was conferred with an Honorary Doctorate in Divinity at the University of Edinburgh for his services to Scottish Catholic Theology; during the Oration by Prof. David Fergusson, fr. Fergus was described as the most important Scottish Catholic theologian of the twentieth century.
- fr. Brian Davies is Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Fordham University.
- fr. Robert Ombres is a half-time Professor of Canon Law at the Angelicum.
- fr. Neil Ferguson taught at the Centro de Estudios orden de Predicadores, a faculty of La Universidad de Sto. Tomas, Tucuman, Argentina.
- fr. Peter Hunter and fr. Aidan Nichols taught at St Michael's Seminary and Theological College in Jamaica.
- fr. Oliver Keenan is a Translation Fellow at the Centre of Barth Studies, Princeton Theological Seminary.
- fr. Dominic White is a Research Associate at the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology in Cambridge. For the University of Cambridge he supervised four MPhil students for their essays, marked one MPhil dissertation, and led a seminar on 'Dominican Spirituality' for the MA programme in Christian Spirituality at St Mary's University, Twickenham.
- fr. Richard Finn is a Governor of St Mary's University, Twickenham,
- fr. Simon Gaine is a Governor of the Angelicum.
- Due to moving to Oxford, fr. John O'Connor resigned from his part-time lectureship at the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Glasgow; but he has since been made an Honorary Lecturer, enabling him to continue to externally co-supervise doctoral students (currently three).
- Fr. David Goodill taught Moral Theology and Catholic Social Teaching for St Mary's College, Oscott. He also taught on the programme for deacons.
- fr. Martin Ganeri was an External Examiner for a University of Cambridge doctoral thesis.
- fr. Fergus Kerr is an Honorary Professor, School of Divinity, University of St Andrews,
- fr. Simon Tugwell is an Emeritus Fellow, Dominican Historical Institute.
- fr. Rudolf Löwenstein is Director of Studies at St Christina's (Primary) School.
- fr. Allan White is Principal of St Mary's Elementary School, El Centro, California, where he is also a Teacher of Religion.

For the Maryvale Institute:

- fr. Oliver Keenan taught on the deacons' programme and is an Associate Lecturer,
- fr. Richard Ounsworth supervised an undergraduate finalist's long essay,
- fr. John O'Connor was the

Educational Apostolate (cont.)

External Examiner for the Masters programme in Catholic Applied Theology (accredited by The Open University).

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

Friars have also had significant interaction with university staff and students through University Chaplaincy:

- fr. David Rocks (University of Leicester and De Montfort University),
- fr. Matthew Jarvis (University of Leicester);
- fr. John O'Connor, fr. Dermot Morrin, and Samuel Burke (University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh Napier University and Queen Margaret University);
- fr. Thomas Skeats (Kings College, London);
- fr. Gregory Murphy (University of Dundee and University of Abertay).

5. FURTHER STUDIES

Among those who undertook complementary studies for the sake of the intellectual apostolate during the year were:

- fr. Benjamin Earl, part-time doctoral student in Canon Law at the Angelicum (as well as being Procurator General of the Order);



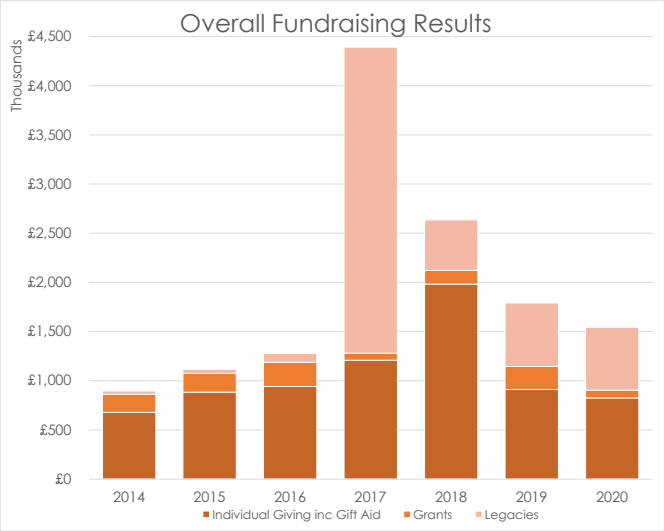
- fr. Leon Pereira, part-time doctoral student at the Angelicum;
- fr. David Rocks is studying for a part-time Masters in Philosophy at The Open University;
- fr. Gregory Pearson and fr. Toby Lees finished Licentiates at the Angelicum.
- In September 2020 fr. Matthew Jarvis started studies for a Licence in Patristics at the Institute Catholique in Lyon.

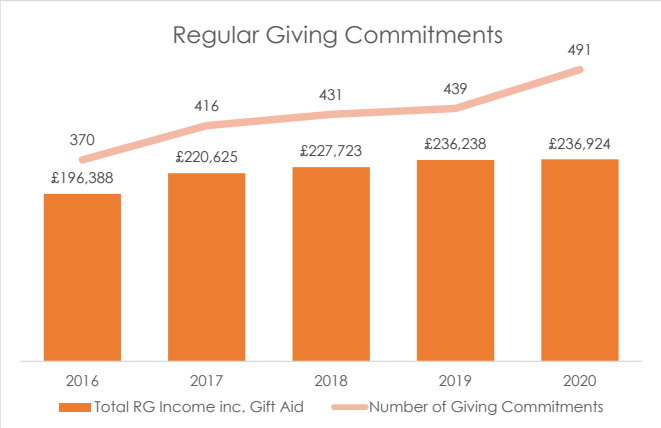
6. LAYING FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

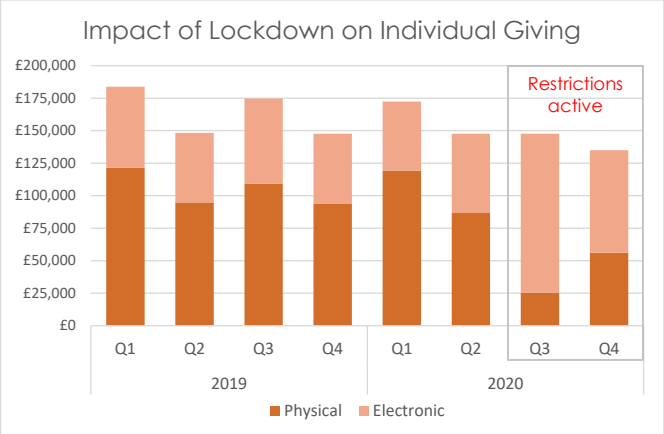
The Province of England has a very active intellectual mission, but it is crucial for its future health that good foundations are laid. Although most attendees at our events would prefer in-person events over online events, online events are likely to become more common when the Covid-19 restrictions are hopefully lifted, than they were pre-Covid-19. Hybrid events (in-person plus simultaneously recorded/live online) will also continue. Online events might tend to involve a lower quality of engagement, but they have the benefit of enabling attendance of people from across the globe.

The audio-visual live-streaming of Masses from Edinburgh, Leicester, and Oxford during the lockdown provided good experience in using audio-visual equipment. The Aquinas Group in Oxford; the Thomistic Institutes in Edinburgh, London, and Oxford; and the Catholic student society events run by some of our university chaplaincies (e.g. Edinburgh, Leicester) have also helped friars gain experience. Blackfriars Studium and Hall plan to renovate its lecture room audio-visual equipment to facilitate better quality recording and streaming of events.

Fundraising Performance[1] – Trends







This was a financial year of two distinct halves: the first two quarters were strong thanks in part to the launch of the 800th Anniversary Campaign for Blackfriars, Oxford. Fundraising was then deeply impacted in the second half of the financial year, when restrictions imposed on public worship and other gatherings eroded weekly church collections and saw several capital campaigns suspended as efforts shifted to emergency appeals and the promotion of electronic giving. The impact varied greatly between houses, with some able to switch more swiftly to online ministry and fundraising than others.

Overall Fundraising Results saw a total of £1.54m (2019: 1.79m) raised for the charity as a whole.

With donors unable to give in person, **Regular Giving Commitments** jumped to 491 (2019: 439), given by 450 donors (2019: 400): this stabilised this income stream in the current year, and will hopefully provide a bigger, more resilient baseline of income in future years.

The switch to electronic forms of **Individual Giving** was also driven by a large increase in single gifts via our websites, in response to special appeals: 796 gifts worth £89k[2] (2019: 128 gifts worth £18k [2]). In the final quarter, physical donations bounced back as churches were able to open in a restricted way, though cash only achieved half the level of the same quarter in 2019.

Legacies were again strong and helped ensure liquidity: £639k (£646k). A large legacy to the Leicester Priory of £256k was gratefully received and will help with the costs of buildings repairs and refurbishment.

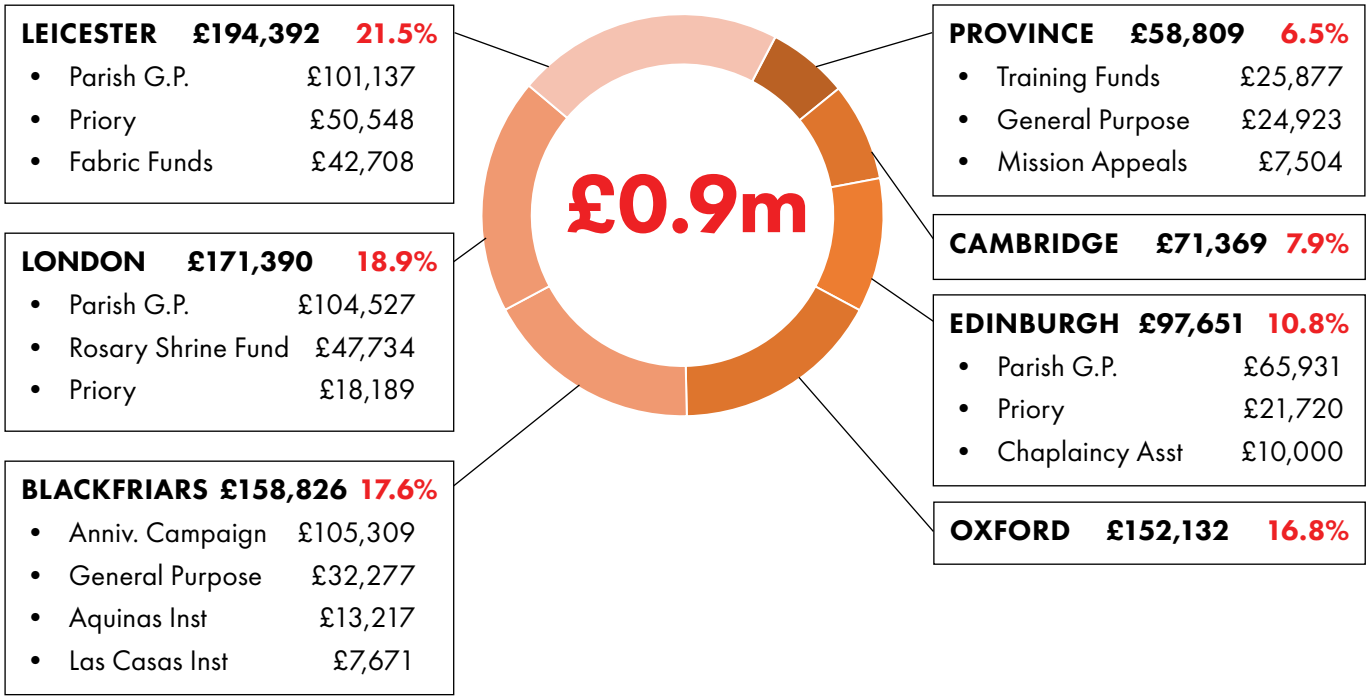
It was a difficult year for grant applications, achieving only £80k (£235k). Grant-makers were typically prioritising 'Covid relief', though some significant grants were won that will show in the next annual report.

(1) Fundraised amounts listed here will not correspond exactly with figures listed in the audited accounts, owing to different ways of recording legacies and the income from Gift Aid. Figures here measure fundraising performance only.

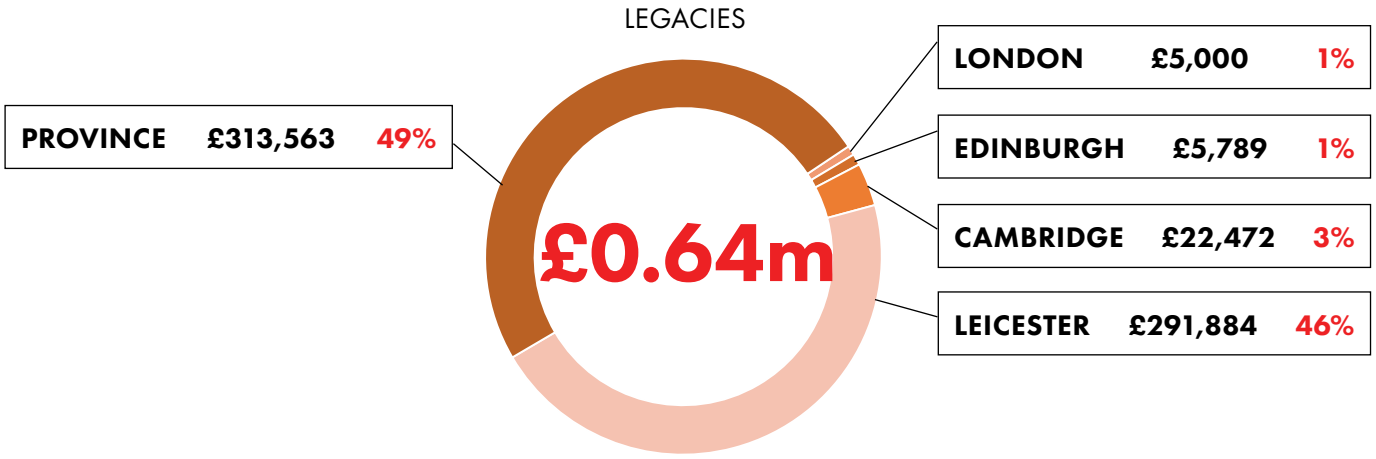
(2) Note that these amounts include the expected Gift Aid value, even if the actual tax reclaim happens in a later period.

Fundraising Performance – 2020

VOLUNTARY INCOME (EXC. LEGACIES)



LEGACIES



The friars express their gratitude to all who have helped sustain our mission this year through their generous giving. We would especially like to mark the contributions of:

Grants: Allchurches Trust Ltd, Florence Turner Trust, Miss S M G Ross Trust, Porticus UK, Sir Harold Hood's Charitable Trust, The Huntly and Margery Sinclair Charitable Trust, The J Reginald Corah Foundation Fund, The Lady Marian Gibson Trust, The Maud Elkington Charitable Trust, The Tolkien Trust, White Oak Charitable Trust

Legacies: Dr Robert Dick, Michael Downie, Anne Dwyer, Brown Hart, Wasyl Lapinskyj, Margaret McVay, Elizabeth Nance, Molly Pearson, Marlene Ann Raftery, Prof. Barbara Raw, Pauline Watts. *R.I.P.*

Details of the Charity, Trustees, Advisors

NAME OF CHARITY	The English Province of the Order of Preachers
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	231192 (England and Wales) SC039062 (Scotland)
ALSO KNOWN AS	The Dominicans
PRINCIPAL OFFICE	Blackfriars, St Giles, OXFORD. OX1 3LY
TRUSTEE	The Dominican Council (a company limited by guarantee, no. 387818) Blackfriars, St Giles, OXFORD. OX1 3LY
DIRECTORS OF TRUSTEE CORPORATION	Very Rev. fr Martin Ganeri Rev. fr Simon Gaine OP Rev. fr John Farrell OP (to 31 March 2020) Very Rev. fr Robert Gay OP (from 31 March 2020) Rev. fr Richard Ounsworth OP (to 23 Sept 2020) Rev. fr David Goodill OP (from 23 Sept 2020)
PRINCIPAL OFFICER	Very Rev. fr Martin Ganeri OP, Prior Provincial
BANKERS	The Royal Bank of Scotland RBS Bishopsgate Branch, 49 Bishopsgate, LONDON. EC2N 3AS
SOLICITORS	Farrer & Co. 66 Lincoln's Inn Fields, LONDON. WC2A 3LH
AUDITOR	RSM UK Audit LLP, Chartered Accountants The Pinnacle, 170 Midsummer Bvd., MILTON KEYNES. MK9 1BP
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT AND ADVICE	BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited 12 Throgmorton Avenue, LONDON. EC2N 2DL *and* Smith & Williamson Investment Management LLP 25 Moorgate, LONDON. EC2R 6AY
WEBSITE	https://english.op.org/

Structure, Governance & Management

INTRODUCTION

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30th September 2020. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 51ff. and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (January 2019) and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The English Province of the Order of Preachers is one of forty or so provinces of the Friars of the Order of Preachers, a religious order in the Catholic Church. The Order of Preachers was founded by St Dominic in the thirteenth century for the purpose of preaching, teaching and pastoral work in collaboration with the bishops. Members of the Order are often known as 'Dominicans', after their founder. The life of the friars is founded on the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience to which they bind themselves by vow, and is characterised by prayer, study and community life. Most of the friars are also ordained priests.

As part of the Catholic Church, the Order of Preachers is bound to the Church's Canon Law, especially as contained in the 1983 *Codex Iuris Canonici* (Code of Canon Law, hereafter *CIC*), and to the legitimate precepts of the Holy See and the Roman Pontiff. It is also bound by the laws of the dioceses in which it works, and of the Bishops' Conferences of England and Wales and of Scotland.

The Order has its own internal law contained in the *Liber Constitutionum et Ordinationum Fratrum Ordinis Praedicatorum* (Book of Constitutions and Ordinations of the Friars of the Order of Preachers, hereafter *LCO*). The General Chapter of the Order and the Master of the Order have authority, in accordance with canonical norms, over all the provinces, priories and friars of the Order.

The English Province, in addition to the above-mentioned norms, has its own canonical governing document, the 'Statute of the Province'. The Province is governed by the Provincial Chapter and by the Prior Provincial. The Provincial Chapter is a meeting of friars representing the Province which takes place every four years; its object is to 'discuss and make decisions about all that pertains to the fraternal and apostolic life and the good administration of the province' (*LCO* 351 §I). The Provincial Chapter can make changes to the Statute of the Province as well as make other ordinations concerning the governance of the Province and its priories. The Provincial Chapter elects the Prior Provincial (major superior), who governs the Province until the following Provincial Chapter.

The Prior Provincial is assisted by the Provincial Council, composed of senior officers of the Province and other members elected by the Provincial Chapter. On major financial matters the Prior Provincial and Provincial Council are advised by the Economic Council of the Province, whose members are appointed by the Provincial Chapter and which is chaired by the Provincial Bursar.

The Province is made up of a number of priories, which are local communities of friars with a large degree of self-government according to the norms of Canon Law and the internal law of the Order and the Province. The priory is 'the fundamental unit of the Order' (*LCO* 1 §VII), and the principal place where the educational and pastoral mission of the Order is pursued. Priors (local superiors) are normally elected by the members of their priory for three-year terms. Each priory is engaged in a variety of ministerial work, often centred on parish churches or university chaplaincies. Two priories are especially but not exclusively dedicated to the formation and training of priests and friars. The Prior Provincial and his Council have responsibility for the collaboration of the various priories, for the support of provincial projects and for the establishment, maintenance and en-

forcement of common policy, including those involving major financial issues.

The Charity consider that the members of the Provincial Council comprise the key management personnel, in charge of directing and controlling the charity and running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. The Prior Provincial and three other members of the Provincial Council are Directors of the Trustee Corporation, as listed on p. 32. Other members of the Provincial Council are members of the Trustee Corporation. All trustees, and all other members of the Provincial Council, give of their time freely and no remuneration was paid to any of them in the year. Details of trustee expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in notes 9 and 10 to the accounts.

The individual friars make profession of a vow of obedience, encompassing also the other 'evangelical counsels' of poverty and chastity. As a result of the profession of poverty, all that is acquired in virtue of the work or activity of a friar belongs to the friar's priory (*CIC* 668 §3; *LCO* 546). Once a friar has made definitive or 'solemn' profession, any income whatsoever that comes to the friar belongs to his priory or the Province (*LCO* 546, 548). This arrangement is given civil effect by means of a 'Deed of Disponer' in favour of the Charity made by each friar at the time of his solemn profession. Alongside the profession of poverty by the friars, there is a corresponding obligation on the Order to provide its members 'with everything that is necessary to fulfil the purpose of their vocation' (*CIC* 670).

The Dominican friars share a spirituality and mission with other branches of the 'Dominican family': nuns, sisters, members of secular institutes and fraternities of priests and laity (cf. *LCO* 1 §IX).

NATURE AND CONSTITUTION OF THE CHARITY

In order to allow for the general administration and financial maintenance of the members, priories and works of the Province, **the Province Trust** was established by Trust Deed in 1930, modified by a deed of partial revocation in 1945. Its registered objects are 'the promotion of education and the Roman Catholic religion and the establishment and maintenance of schools, churches and priories for these purposes and the upkeep of members of the Order of Preachers.' Under the name 'The English Province of the Order of Preachers', the Province Trust is registered as a charity in England and Wales, no. 231192, and in Scotland, no. SC039062.

The sole trustee of the Charity is the Dominican Council, a company limited by guarantee and governed in accordance with its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The Dominican Council was incorporated on 25 May 1944, no. 387818. Its registered office is Blackfriars, St Giles, OXFORD OX1 3LY.

The chairman *ex officio* of the Corporation and its Committee is the Prior Provincial, at present the Very Rev. fr. Martin Ganeri OP. According to its Articles of Association, 'any Roman Catholic Priest of the English Province of the Order of Preachers' (art. 6) is qualified to be a member of the Corporation. Three members of the Corporation are elected by the Corporation to serve on its Committee alongside the Prior Provincial. The members of the Committee function as the directors of the Corporation and as 'Charity Trustees' in the sense of s177 of the Charities Act 2011.

RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF CHARITY TRUSTEES

The Province has a wealth of experience among its friars, who have spent years pursuing the Province's mission and the Charity's objects by means of educational and pastoral work. Many of the friars have also served as administrators at a local level, holding offices such as prior, parish priest or bursar. The Provincial Chapter therefore has a rich pool of competent and proficient friars to draw upon when it elects the Prior Provincial and the Provincial Council.

The normal practice of the Dominican Council is to elect new members of the Corporation from the Provincial Council, and so in turn it is from among these experienced friars that the Committee is elected. As a result, the Charity Trustees, i.e. the members of the Committee of the Dominican Council, are friars of proven prudence and experience with detailed knowledge of the Charity's work and structure.

The solemnly professed friars have no personal income or property; anything that comes to them is acquired

for the Order, which in turn is obliged to support all its members, providing them with 'everything that is necessary to fulfil the purpose of their vocation' (*CIC* 670). Hence the object of the Charity includes 'the upkeep of members of the Order of Preachers'.
The members of the Committee of the Dominican Council therefore benefit from the activity of the Charity, but they do so in their capacity as members of the Order of Preachers, not as a result of being Charity Trustees.

TRAINING OF CHARITY TRUSTEES

New members of the Committee of the Dominican Council are very experienced in the work of the Province and its administration. As superiors and administrators they are already well-acquainted with the governing documents of the Order. New members of the Committee are provided with latest version the Charity Commission's publication 'The Essential Trustee: What you need to know, what you need to do' and the OSCR publication 'Guidance for Charity Trustees'. Trustees are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the other resources for Charity Trustees provided by the Charity Commission, OSCR and other sources. All Charity Trustees are provided with appropriate briefings from the Charity's professional advisors concerning their responsibilities and when this is pertinent to any decisions that have to be made by the Charity Trustees. Members of the Committee of the Dominican Council attend meetings of the Association of Provincial Bursars and seminars for Charity Trustees organised by professional advisors.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND DECISION-MAKING

The Charity is structured internally as local priories in accordance with the laws of the Order of the Preachers contained in *LCO*. These norms, together with those of the Province itself, set out requirements for financial administration and reporting, investment, property acquisition and maintenance for the Province and for each priory, and also the limits to the powers of priors and of the Prior Provincial.
In particular:

- A Prior has a limit above which he cannot authorise expenditure without the consent of the Priory Council. The Priory Council can authorise expenditure to a higher limit, which varies depending on the size of the Priory, and above this authorisation is required by the Prior Provincial or, beyond an upper limit, the Provincial Council. These limits, which are reviewed every four years, also apply to the authorisation of alienations or the incurring of liabilities. When authorisation is given by the Provincial Council, the Economic Council of the Province is consulted in advance, and a determination is made whether the matter requires an act of the Trustee Corporation.
- The annual accounts and budget of each priory are sent to the Prior Provincial (*LCO* 563) and submitted for examination by the Provincial Council (*LCO* 564), the Economic Council of the Province and the Trustee Corporation.

The limits mentioned here are reviewed every four years by the Provincial Chapter.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF SCOTTISH ACTIVITIES

The priories in Scotland are managed locally in the same way as priories in England, under the supervision of the Prior Provincial and the Provincial Council assisted by the Economic Council. The Trustees take the view that local governance structures are adequate and appropriate without an additional layer of governance specifically for Scotland.

RELATIONSHIP WITH A WIDER NETWORK

The Province is part of the Order of Preachers and of the Catholic Church. It operates in accordance with the teaching and laws of the Catholic Church, and the manner in which it realises its object, 'the promotion of education and the Roman Catholic religion', is influenced by the priorities identified by the Church and by the Order of Preachers internationally.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER CHARITIES AND ORGANISATIONS

The Charity is closely related to the **Hoper Dixon Trust** (registered charity no. 231160). Under the terms of a Scheme of 20 July 2006, that Trust exists 'for the benefit of the poor connected with or in the

neighbourhood of any house or pastoral centre under the direction of the Dominicans of the English Province of the Order of Preachers'.

The Province also co-operates in the mission of the **Catholic Dioceses** in whose territory members of the Province work. Six parishes and chaplaincies to eight universities are entrusted to the Province.

The Charity co-operates fraternally in a number of projects with **other branches of the Dominican family** (Congregations of Dominican Sisters, Dominican Secular Institute and Lay Dominican fraternities) active in Great Britain. The Province recently co-operated in the establishment of a Priestly Confraternity of St Dominic, and remains closely involved in its development and expansion.

The Province operates Blackfriars Hall, Oxford, a Permanent Private Hall of the **University of Oxford**. The Hall co-operates with the University, Colleges and other Halls in furthering its educational objective. There is also co-operation with **other religious institutes** in training candidates for the priesthood and in providing theological formation for other religious. The Hall is developing a research collaboration with the **Anscombe Bioethics Centre**, registered charity no. 274327. Members of the congregations at two of the Province's priories run overseas aid charities: the **Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust** (registered charity no. 288585) based in Oxford and the **Jean Grove Trust** (registered charity 1109593) based in Cambridge. The Province is happy to promote and support these works.

The Order's presence in Grenada and Barbados is canonically dependent on the Province. Though the presence there is not part of the Province Charity, from time to time the Charity is able to make grants for the work of the Order in the Caribbean.

FUNDRAISING DISCLOSURES

The Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016 requires charities which are subject to an audit to make disclosure in their Financial Statements about their fundraising activities.

The Dominican Friars have been mendicants since the very beginning of the Order of Preachers in the early 13th century, and benefactors have played a crucial role at every stage of our history up to and including the present day.

In 2013, impelled by an urgent need to improve the financial situation of the charity, the Province began to employ a full-time fundraiser (Development Director) to direct and manage fundraising and related communications activities on the charity's behalf. The Development Director is now assisted by a part-time Development Support Officer, with oversight provided by the Prior Provincial and the Provincial Bursar, and guidance given by the Province's Fundraising Committee.

Most funds are raised from those with whom we have close relationships, typically through their attendance as worshippers at one of our churches. Wider circles of relationships are maintained through our opt-in magazine, opt-in email newsletters, websites, and social media pages, all of which may include invitations to donate. Contact relationship data and donations data are managed centrally through a highly secure database with access restricted to a small number of employees.

We fundraise in accordance with the requirements of the Fundraising Regulator, and with our moral obligations as a Catholic charity. We fundraise responsibly at all times and with a sensitivity to the pastoral relationship that most donors have with the friars. We avoid approaches to vulnerable people and do not hold information on children. We do not exert pressure on people to donate, nor is access to the services we provide as a charity dependent on donations. We do not at this time employ third-party fundraisers, though some people do voluntarily and of their own initiative fundraise on our behalf. Subscriptions to communications can be cancelled at any time. Complaints are responded to as soon as possible; none were received in the current year (2019: none).

RISK

The trustees review annually the principal risks to which the charity is exposed, and the strategies and procedures in place to mitigate those risks. The trustees consider that the major risks can be categorised under four headings: operational, financial, reputational and regulatory. Listed below are the main risks in each category, along with the principal ways in which they are mitigated.

OPERATIONAL

The activities of the charity are highly dependent upon those friars who are responsible for their management, often with little or no professional lay assistance. For this reason there is a risk that our ministries may suffer from lack of direction, poor management and inefficiencies. It can happen that a particular friar is overburdened with responsibilities leading to stress and reduced effectiveness. To mitigate this, the trustees and especially the Prior Provincial regularly review the work of each entity of the Province, ensuring that those responsible for our works are provided with the practical and moral support required. The Province has also instituted regular meetings between the Provincial and local superiors, to offer support and share best practice. The Province maintains its commitment to ensuring that friars who are experiencing emotional or psychological difficulties are provided with appropriate professional help.

The charity is responsible for the care of a number of elderly friars. As at 30 September 2020 there were 18 friars over 70, of whom 9 were over 80. Like all of the friars, these men have no resources of their own as all earnings, pensions and other income have been donated to the charity. As far as possible older brothers continue to live in community, though where appropriate residential nursing care places are found. The Province remains committed to designating all pensions income to the Designated Sick Fund (see page 40), which covers the cost of residential care but also funds home nursing care where appropriate, as well as works in priories designed to make them more suitable for elderly and infirm brothers.

The on-going work of the charity requires that young men continue to present themselves to join the Order, and that these men be properly formed and educated for our ministries. Many religious orders in the UK have seen very low or even non-existent levels of recruitment for a number of years leading to a severely ageing demographic profile and the abandonment of numbers of ministries. The Province has committed one of its ablest young priests to work full-time as Promoter and Director of Vocations, and over the last two years ten men entered the noviciate, an unusually high number. The Province is also committed to ensuring that its friars receive the best possible intellectual, spiritual and pastoral formation.

FINANCIAL

The charity's principal assets comprise listed investments, the value of and income from which are dependent on movements in UK and world markets. A substantial long-term loss of value of these investments would threaten the long-term financial viability of the Province, and any significant reduction in investment income would cause financial difficulties even in the short term. To mitigate this, the investments are managed by reputable investment managers who adhere to a policy agreed by the trustees. The performance of investments and our investment strategy are assessed regularly by the Economic Council of the Province, aided by a lay expert, to ensure that our investments remain appropriate to the charity's needs (see further page 42).

The Development Office, under the leadership of a lay professional Development Director, with the co-operation of all friars, ensures that the Province and individual priories maintain excellent relationships with existing donors and takes the lead in seeking out and cultivating potential new sources of support. The work of the Development Office is supervised by a committee comprised of friars and lay people with appropriate expertise.

Our operations involve very large numbers of financial transactions including significant amounts of cash, bringing with it the obvious risk of fraud, theft or loss. The Province has a well-established set of 'Norms for Economic and Administrative Practice' which impose appropriate procedures for cash-handling and for the management of bank payments etc., and the Provincial Bursar visits priories regularly to support local bursars and other friars in adhering to these procedures and other good practices. The Province decided at its recent Chapter to substantially reduce the levels of expenditure that can be made without a second authorised signature.

The operation of Blackfriars Hall and Studium is at particular financial risk, depending as heavily as it does upon numbers of students. The Regent and other moderators of the Hall engage in visits to the USA to

seek additional students, and the Hall is developing with the Development Director a fundraising strategy emphasising student scholarships and support for Studium teaching with a view to providing Blackfriars with a more solid financial base in the years to come.

REPUTATIONAL

Friars and some other volunteers working with the friars, by the nature of our activities, inevitably often operate with little immediate supervision and often in positions of considerable pastoral responsibility and trust. Mistakes and misjudgements especially by friars in such positions can lead to harm to the reputation of the whole Province. The trustees consider that the greatest risk to the reputation of the charity in terms of severity of outcome, though not of likelihood, comes from allegations of abuse by friars of children or vulnerable adults: even where these allegations are historical in nature and relate to long-deceased friars, and even where they are unfounded, they can be deeply harmful to the reputation, local and national, of the Province, its ministries and its friars. The Province works closely with the Catholic Church Insurance Association, the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service and the Safeguarding Co-ordinator of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham to deal with any such allegations in accordance with the safeguarding policy of the Catholic Church in England & Wales. A member of the Provincial Council is the Province's Safeguarding Co-ordinator, and he is responsible for ensuring that all friars are familiar with, and practise, this safeguarding policy, again in association with the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Lay people volunteer as local safeguarding representatives at each location.

The trustees also recognise the potential for reputational damage that may result from operational failures mentioned in the first paragraph of this section, and this risk is mitigated as detailed there.

REGULATORY

The trustees are keenly aware of the need to comply with relevant laws, including but not limited to those governing employment, health & safety at work, immigration and data protection, and the potential consequences of failures in this regard. The Provincial Bursar, assisted by the Economic Council of the Province, the Development Director and professional experts, takes the lead in compliance, and is aided in this regard by training sessions provided by the Association of Provincial Bursars. Each site within the Province is visited at least once a year by a professional Health & Safety advisor, to ensure that our sites are not only compliant with the Health & Safety at Work, etc. Act (1974) and related regulations, but also provide good working and living environments for the friars.

Public Benefit

The Charity Trustees have read the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and the specific guidance for charities whose objects include Education and the advancement of Religion. The Charity Trustees have taken note of the Charity Commission's advice of October 2015 concerning public benefit and fee-charging in relation to educational charities. The Charity Trustees have paid due regard to the Commission's guidance, and all who make decisions about the activities the Charity undertakes are concerned to ensure that a real religious or educational benefit is provided to a broad range of people.

The priories of the Province all celebrate liturgy which is open to the public, and the friars are available to any members of the public who wish to consult them about matters of faith and the spiritual life. The priory churches are open to the public for most of the day, and many people avail themselves of the opportunity for quiet prayer or reflection. No charge is made for admission to the churches or to religious services (cf. *CIC*, c. 1221). Offerings are customarily made on the occasion of celebration of certain rites (e.g. baptisms, marriages and funerals), but Canon Law requires that those who are not able to make an offering are not thereby excluded (*CIC*, c. 848 and c. 1181). Some charges may be made for other activities (e.g. participation in pilgrimages); the Hoper Dixon Trust, a connected charity, is in some cases able to assist with these costs.

The main educational centre of the Province, located at Blackfriars in Oxford, welcomes applications to study from any suitably qualified student. Blackfriars Hall charges fees at the level prevalent among Oxford colleges, and students are eligible for public funding in the same way as other students in higher education. The Hall is aware that public funding is not available to assist all who would benefit from studying in Oxford, especially those wishing to study for a second undergraduate degree or a postgraduate qualification. The Hall continues actively seeking funds to broaden access, having almost exhausted funds available for scholarships to students in the previous reporting period. Members of the public who are not students at Oxford may attend lectures and classes at Blackfriars on application; a small fee is normally charged, but is waived in cases of financial hardship. Blackfriars Hall and many of the priories and parishes arrange for public lectures and talks which are free of charge.

The Charity Trustees consider that the achievements and performance of the Charity demonstrate success in providing benefit to a broad public.

Provision for Sick and Elderly Friars

As of 30 September 2020, 21 friars of the Province (28%) in Great Britain were aged 70 or over, of whom 11 (15%) were 80 or over. Although most of these brothers continue to be active and enjoy reasonable health, the Charity Trustees are concerned to ensure that adequate provision is made for the care of older brothers and of any other sick brothers. The Charity maintains a Sick Fund for this purpose, of which details are given in the Financial Review and Statement of Financial Activities. At the end of the reporting period, two brothers were in nursing homes (2019: two), and another two required substantial home-based nursing care; it is not unlikely that these numbers will rise, so the Trustees continue to ensure that such provision is affordable whenever necessary. While the provision and level of funds is adequate for current needs, the Charity Trustees are aware that demands could increase substantially in future years.

All pension income is designated for the Sick Fund, which at the end of the period stood at £3,789k (2019: £3,818k). While the income from this fund currently suffices, the Charity Trustees are concerned that the Sick Fund should continue to be increased to ensure that likely future demands can be met.

Priories are also concerned to keep constantly under review their provision for disabled and infirm brothers and as necessary to make various adaptations and improvements. In the current reporting period the Priory in Cambridge completed the installation of a wheelchair-adapted lift to allow disabled brothers as well as members of the congregation to move more easily between floors, and the project will be partly subsidised from the Sick Fund. Work was also undertaken in the Leicester Priory to improve bathrooms for the care of elderly and infirm brothers.

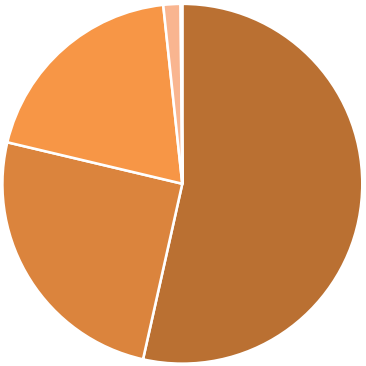
Investment Performance

The Charity's investments had a market value of £19,991k (2019: £20,705k) at the end of the reporting period. The market value of investments with Smith & Williamson was £8,420k (2019: £8,630k), and these represent the value of the Designated Sick Fund and the Designated Training Funds, plus a small part of the Restricted Training Funds. During the year, BlackRock Fund Managers Ltd closed its Charifaith fund. The Province's holdings in this fund were transferred to the new BlackRock Catholic Charities Growth & Income Fund. At the end of the year, the value of the Province's units in this fund was £10,724k (2019: Charifaith: £10,969k). In view of low interest rates, the Charity has continued to seek to minimise cash holdings, consistent with ensuring sufficient liquidity for medium-term spending. At 30 September 2020, £847k (2019: £1,106k) was directly held in cash funds, comprising 4.2% of total investment assets (2019: 5.3%). Income from cash funds over the year was £4,641 (2019: £9,017).

Further details of these investments may be found in note 6 to the Financial Statements.

Financial Review

FIGURE 1:
INCOME



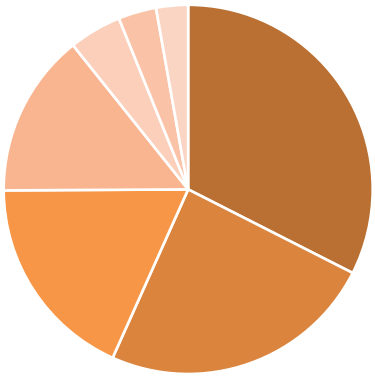
- Donations and Legacies: £1,731k
- Charitable activities: £815k
- Investments: £634k
- Other Trading Activities: £50k
- Other: £5k

FUNDING SOURCES AND INCOME

Total income for the year ended 30 September 2020 was £3,234k (2019: £3,659k), a decrease of 11.6%. Church closures and restricted attendance for the second half of the financial year caused a fall of collections income of £66k or 37%. Income from ministerial services, parish activities, parish, conferences, talks etc fell by £67k or 14.5%. Blackfriars Hall had to refund student accommodation for periods students could not live in Oxford due to COVID 19 restrictions, which meant a drop in rental income of £29k rather than the increase planned following the construction of new student flats in part of the 33 St Giles property. Grant income fell by £113k, due largely to the receipt of a one-off grant in the previous year by the Edinburgh priory. Legacy income of £638k was of a similar level to last year (2019: £647k). Parishioners and supporters responded generously to appeals for support during the year; this generated an increase in donations and gifts of £102k, or 89%, compared to the previous year. The Province also received special COVID-19 relief grants from a number of grant-makers who support the Order's work. Income from listed investments fell by 4.7% to £634k (2019: £665k).

More details are given in note 1 to the financial statements; cf Figure 1.

FIGURE 2:
EXPENDITURE



- Property upkeep: £1,024k
- Friars and communities: £764k
- Educational: £574k
- Pastoral: £453k
- Sick and elderly: £145k
- Raising voluntary income: £105k
- Investment management: £88k

EXPENDITURE

Expenditure totalled £3,153k (2019: £3,163k) for the year, a small decrease of 0.3%. The costs of educational activities, pastoral work & projects and support of the friars and communities fell by £264k in total. This reflects the restrictions and changes to ways in which ministry was delivered during the year. Friars' overseas travel to study and travel to deliver ministry & teaching were replaced largely by activity online from March 2020. Parish events such as pilgrimages were postponed and there was reduced activity from the Las Casas and Aquinas Institutes. Support for the Province's houses in the West Indies was maintained. The Province's required contribution to the central costs of the Order fell by £11k.

The cost of upkeep of buildings rose again. The newly refurbished 32-33 St Giles was brought into use as teaching space and offices for Blackfriars Hall, student accommodation and Province administration. The annual depreciation charge on the refurbishment together with the Hall's increased running costs of its larger premises accounts for much of the £251k or 32% increase in costs of property upkeep. The costs of care of sick and elderly friars was £27k or 23% higher than in the previous year. Investment management costs fell whilst costs of raising voluntary income increased slightly to £105k, representing 6.6% of associated income raised.

More details on expenditure are given in note 2 to the financial statements; cf Figure 2.

Funds & Investments

INVESTMENT POLICY AND OBJECTIVES

The Charity's investment policy is set by the Trustees, after regular consultation with the Province's Economic Council and professional investment managers. The principal objective is the maximisation of returns, seeking capital growth but also a steady and, where possible, growing level of income. The Charity Trustees are concerned to manage risk and therefore maintain and review periodically, with the assistance of the Province's Economic Council and professional advisors, a high degree of diversification in the Charity's investment assets, whether held directly or through a common investment fund.

In keeping with the objects of the Charity and the teachings of the Catholic Church, the following policy is stated in the Statute of the Province: 'Investments shall be avoided in companies a significant proportion of whose activities are contrary to the moral teachings of the Catholic Church, including but not limited to those relating to sanctity of life, care for the environment, and justice and peace.' This applies both to direct investments and to those through a common investment fund.

POLICY ON RESERVES

The laws of the Order oblige the Province to ensure that funds are available to support central administration, common projects (e.g. publishing, archives, libraries), the care of sick and elderly friars, and the formation of student friars. The Charity continues to maintain a high level of reserves in order to meet these obligations. The Charity Trustees also ensure that the level of reserves held is adequate to respond to unexpected financial needs, and to be able to commit to new apostolic projects when possible. Such a level of reserves is required because of the very large potential demands made by the ownership of the priories and churches necessary to meet the requirements of the Charity's objects, many of which are listed buildings. It might not always be possible to meet urgent needs out of branch funds. The high level of reserves also produce an income for central activities, allowing contributions from branch funds to central province funds to be kept down.

The Charity Trustees' view is that an amount equal to a minimum of four months' total expenditure (i.e. £1,054k over the reporting period) should be held as free reserves.

The Charity Trustees continue to aim for an increasing level of reserves designated for the purpose of providing for the needs of older or infirm friars and the formation of novices and student friars. The Charity Trustees continue to maintain designated funds as capital funds which generate sufficient income necessary for the Province to be able to satisfy its obligations under the laws of the Order and to meet annual expenditure requirements in these priority areas.

RESERVES AND DESIGNATED FUNDS

The balance sheet shows total unrestricted funds of £11,294k (2019: £11,335k). The Province General Purpose fund accounts for £3,125k (2019: £3,015k), of which £2,872k (2019: £2,572k) are free reserves (i.e. excluding fixed assets held for charity use). This level of free reserves represents ten months' total expenditure by the Charity.

Designated funds make up the remaining £8,169k (2019: £8,320k) of unrestricted funds, the principal of which are:

Sick Fund: This holds a balance of £3,789k (2019: £3,818k) to provide care for sick and elderly friars. Income from the pensions of the friars is allocated to this fund. Despite a number of friars in residential care over the past few years and works to provide accommodation in priories suitable for elderly and infirm friars, it has been possible to continue to build up the sick fund. While it is impossible to predict with accuracy the burden on this fund, the large number of older friars makes significant demands in the near future likely.

Student Training Fund: The Charity maintains a designated fund for the support of the friars' studies, which holds a balance of £2,981k (2019: £3,026k).

Implications of Covid-19

The Trustees have reviewed the impact of COVID-19 since September 2020 on the charity's income, expenditure, commitments and its assets and liabilities, and the charity's capacity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees have concluded that the charity continues to be financially sustainable for the foreseeable future.

In 2020-21 the charity has experienced a drop in income from charitable activities in response to the challenging economic situation. In our churches and chapels, socially-distanced reduced capacities have meant significantly reduced income from collections. Blackfriars Hall has experienced a substantial reduction in student numbers and fees. The friars have continued, however, to develop an online ministry, resulting in a switch to electronic giving and a growth in benefactors. Services are live-streamed and online attendance has been high. University teaching by the Hall and chaplaincy work has been delivered virtually. Articles, talks and conference attendance have taken place online accompanied by requests for financial support. In addition, special fundraising activities are taking place online. The response of existing and new friends and supporters has continued to be most encouraging.

The charity had free reserves of £2.9m at 30 September 2020. Most of this balance related to investments with Charifaith, which fell in value by 13% by 31 March 2020, but by 30 September 2020 recovered to 98% of their 30 September 2019 valuation. If it had proved necessary, these investments would have been partly or fully liquidated in order to cover the essential operating costs of the charity. The charity also has designated funds of £7.5m invested, which can be reassigned to cover expenditure if necessary. It has not been necessary to do so. The charity expects to break even in the year ending 30 September 2021.

Trustees' Responsibilities

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales and Scotland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

a. select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

b. observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

c. make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

d. state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

e. prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, the provisions of the trust deed, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the provisions of the Book of Constitutions and Ordinations of the Friars of the Order of Preachers. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

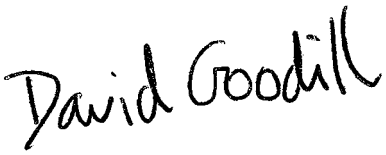
Declaration

DECLARATION

The officers of the Trustee Corporation, The Dominican Council, declare that to the best of their knowledge the annual accounts of the English Province of the Order of Preachers have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the regulations and requirements of the province Trust Deed, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the provisions of the Book of Constitutions and Ordinations of the Friars of the Order of Preachers.

The officers of the Trustee Corporation who were in office on the date of approval of these financial statements have confirmed that, as far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the auditor is unaware. Each of the officers of the Trustee Corporation has confirmed that they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as an officer of the Trustee Corporation in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to the auditor.

BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEE



fr David Goodill OP
Secretary to the Dominican Council
23 July 2021

Auditor's Report

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE ORDER OF PREACHERS

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of The English Province of The Order Of Preachers (the 'charity') for the year ended 30 September 2020 which comprise 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 FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 30 September 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the Charities Act 2011.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We have been appointed auditors under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under those Acts.

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

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

OTHER INFORMATION

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

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether

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 where the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the Charities Act 2011 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is not consistent in any material respect with the Annual Report; or
- proper and sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the 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

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out on page 44, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

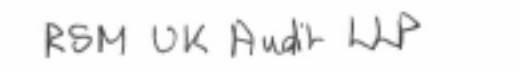
AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

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

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the Charities Act 2011. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Date: 26 July 2021

RSM UK Audit LLP, Statutory Auditor
The Pinnacle, 170 Midsummer Boulevard, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK9 1BP

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

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 30 September 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £	Unrestricted Funds 2019 £	Restricted Funds 2019 £	Total Funds 2019 £
INCOME FROM:							
Donations and Legacies		566,518	1,164,153	1,730,671	288,988	1,661,279	1,950,267
Other Trading Activities		34,744	14,858	49,602	57,075	58,178	115,253
Investment Income		333,567	299,934	633,501	380,505	284,232	664,737
Charitable Activities		36,030	778,998	815,028	39,278	881,368	920,646
Other		283	4,679	4,962	195	7,617	7,812
TOTAL INCOME	1	971,142	2,262,622	3,233,764	766,041	2,892,674	3,658,715
EXPENDITURE ON:							
Raising funds							
Costs of raising voluntary income		96,767	8,328	105,095	85,723	8,988	94,711
Investment management costs		87,604	-	87,604	122,884	-	122,884
Charitable Activities		684,229	2,275,927	2,960,156	638,302	2,307,057	2,945,359
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2	868,600	2,284,255	3,152,855	846,909	2,316,045	3,162,954
(LOSSES)/GAINS ON INVESTMENTS	6	(247,979)	(220,556)	(468,535)	145,077	330,747	475,824
Net (expenditure)/income		(145,437)	(242,189)	(387,626)	64,209	907,376	971,585
TRANSFERS							
Transfers between funds	11	103,819	(103,819)	-	102,317	(102,317)	-
Net movement in funds		(41,618)	(346,008)	(387,626)	166,526	805,059	971,585
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS							
Total funds brought forward 1 October 2019		11,335,374	17,034,499	28,369,873	11,168,848	16,229,440	27,398,288
Total funds carried forward 30 September 2020	12	11,293,756	16,688,491	27,982,247	11,335,374	17,034,499	28,369,873

BALANCE SHEET

at 30 September 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	5	7,239,300	6,962,922
Investments	6	19,991,078	20,704,972
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS		27,230,378	27,667,894
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	7	693,031	1,079,589
Bank accounts		453,347	445,401
Cash in hand		6,536	7,737
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		1,152,914	1,532,727
LIABILITIES			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(361,414)	(830,748)
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		791,500	701,979
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		28,021,878	2,369,873
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	15	(39,631)	-
NET ASSETS		27,982,247	28,369,873
FUNDS			
Restricted funds			
Branch funds		11,547,526	11,890,431
Province restricted funds		5,140,965	5,144,068
Total restricted funds		16,688,491	17,034,499
Unrestricted funds			
Province general purpose		3,125,071	3,014,935
Province designated		8,168,685	8,320,439
Total unrestricted funds		11,293,756	11,335,374
TOTAL FUNDS	12	27,982,247	28,369,873

The financial statements on pages 48 to 65 were approved by the Trustee, authorised for issue on 23 July 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

David Goodill
.....
fr David Goodill OP

Simon Fmi Gaine OP
.....
fr Simon Gaine OP

} Directors of Trustee Corporation

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

for the year ended 30 September 2020	2020 £	2019 £
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net movement in funds	(387,626)	971,585
Depreciation charges	519,830	340,856
Losses/(Gains) on investments	468,535	(475,824)
(Profit)/Loss on disposal of fixed assets	(1,961)	-
Interest received	(633,501)	(664,737)
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	386,558	(168,295)
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	(417,920)	411,460
NET CASH (USED IN)/FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	(66,085)	415,045
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Interest received	633,501	664,737
Purchase of property and equipment	(798,646)	(1,633,205)
Proceeds from disposal of property and equipment	4,399	-
Purchase of investments	(4,641)	(1,291,665)
Proceeds from sale of investments	250,000	1,950,000
NET CASH FROM/(USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES	84,613	(310,133)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Payment of finance lease liabilities	(11,783)	-
Net cash used inc financing activities	(11,783)	-
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE YEAR	6,745	104,912
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	453,138	348,226
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	459,883	453,138

ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At start of year £	Cash flows £	New finance leases £	At end of year £
Cash	453,138	6,745	-	459,883
Finance lease obligations	-	11,783	(59,422)	(47,639)
	453,138	18,528	(59,422)	412,244

Accounting Policies

BASIS OF PREPARATION

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) effective 1 January 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing these accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (the Charities SORP (FRS 102) effective 1 January 2019) rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005, which has since been withdrawn. The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

ASSESSMENT OF GOING CONCERN

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future, being a period of at least 12 months from the date that these financial statements have been signed. In arriving at this conclusion, the charity has prepared a detailed budget and cash flow forecast which have been sensitised for the potential impact to revenue streams. Whilst a number of the charity's revenue streams are likely to be adversely impacted, the Trustees consider that the charity has sufficient unrestricted reserves, in the form of cash and a liquid investment portfolio, that could be drawn upon, should the charity be required to do so in order to meet its costs for the foreseeable future, being a period of at least 12 months from the date that these financial statements have been signed. On this basis, the Trustees consider that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going-concern basis.

FIXED ASSETS

Functional property is capitalised at cost except in the case of historic property for which no cost information is available. Such property has been capitalised using the derived cost method based on insurance replacement value and retail price index. The year the property was built is used for this purpose and as such enhanced expenditure is also incorporated into cost.

Tangible fixed assets are being depreciated over their useful economic lives. The following rates are used:

Historic Property: over expected useful lives between 10 and 371 years
Other Freehold Property: over expected useful lives between 10 and 50 years
Motor Vehicles: over 4 years on a straight-line basis
Fixtures and Fittings: over 4 years on a straight-line basis. **Leases**: over 7 years
Assets in course of construction: not depreciated.

Assets are reviewed for impairment when evidence of such impairment arises. Expenditure on tangible items is not capitalised where it is less than £2,500 or where the view is taken that it is incapable of providing any future economic benefit to the Charity.

WORKS OF ART AND HISTORIC TREASURES

Individual works of art, historic treasures and plate are not capitalised as a valuation is not considered practical.

Such items as are in the possession of the Charity were created for use in religious worship or devotion and continue to be used for these purposes. The Charity maintains stewardship by keeping a full inventory and has no intention of disposing of any of the works of art, historic treasures and plate so long as this use continues.

INVESTMENTS

All investments are valued at their market value at the balance sheet date. It is considered that market value best represents a true and fair view of the value of these assets to the Charity. Gains and losses on disposal of the investments are treated as realised. Gains and losses on the revaluation of investments are treated as unrealised. Both are recorded in the Statement of Financial Activities. Investment management fees are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when incurred.

FOREIGN CURRENCIES

Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate of ruling at the date of transaction. All differences are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

LIABILITIES

Liabilities are recorded in the financial statements when the Trustees have made a commitment to acquire goods or services.

DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

Donations and legacies are accounted for in accordance with the requirements of the SORP (being entitlement, probability and measurement). Legacies are considered receivable once the value of the legacy has been determined and probate has been granted. Legacies received by friars of the Province, who have signed Deeds of Disponor in favour of The Dominican Council, are classified as legacy income. Donated assets and services are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when a reliable estimate of the value to the charity can be readily obtained.

GRANTS RECEIVABLE

Grants receivable are accounted for in accordance with the terms of the grant, and are recognised when the conditions for receipt have been complied with.

PENSIONS RECEIVABLE

Pension income for professed members of the Order is accounted for when it is receivable.

ACTIVITIES FOR RAISING FUNDS

Fundraising, publications and other similar income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the relevant amount of income becomes receivable or the item has been sold. Property rental income is accounted for when it is receivable in accordance with the terms of the relevant agreements.

INVESTMENT INCOME

Investment income is accounted for when notified by the Charity's investment portfolio manager. Deposit interest is accounted for on a receivable basis. Interest received on cash held with investment managers is accounted for as investment income.

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

The costs of charitable activities are accounted for when they become payable. They include apportioned support costs.

SUPPORT AND GOVERNANCE COSTS

Within this heading are incorporated management and administration costs, and any other costs not directly constitutive of charitable activity, generation of funds or governance. Where support costs are attributable to a particular charitable activity, they are allocated to that activity. General support costs are apportioned on the basis of the direct costs of each activity.

NATIONAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FRIARS

The Province pays voluntary (class 3) national insurance contributions for friars when these will count towards the provision of State Pension. These costs are recognised at the end of the tax year in which HM Revenue and Customs issues notice of a gap in National Insurance Contributions.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees. The amount charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in respect of pension

costs is the contributions payable in the year.

TAXATION

The English Province of the Order of Preachers is a registered charity and as such its income and gains falling within Sections 518 to 564 of the Income Taxes Act 2007 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 are exempt from income tax and capital gains tax to the extent that they are applied to charitable objectives.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Restricted funds can only be applied for a particular purpose. Most restricted funds of the charity are 'branch funds', restricted to use for the particular purposes of a branch of the charity (a priory, a parish or Blackfriars Hall) while that branch continues in existence. Some branch funds have more specific designations; others have further restrictions that would have to be respected even in the event of a branch ceasing to operate.

There are also central restricted funds, the principal of which are:

- Training Funds – to support training of student friars of the Order;
- Historic Property Fund – comprising the Historic Property Fixed Assets (see 'Fixed Assets' above);
- Mission Funds – to support various missions of the Order.

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

The unrestricted funds of the Charity comprise general purpose funds and designated funds. General purpose funds are retained to cover future direct charitable costs, general support costs, and investment management costs.

Designated funds are those parts of the Charity's unrestricted funds designated by the Trustees to be used for particular purposes in the future. The Trustees have the power to reallocate such funds. The principal designated funds are:

- Study Funds – representing amounts designated for expenditure on students' study costs.
- Sick Funds – representing amounts designated for expenditure on the care of sick and elderly friars.

CONNECTED CHARITY

The Hoper Dixon Trust is considered to be a connected charity because the Dominican Council is one of the Trustees. The Trust's accounts are not consolidated within those of the English Province of the Order of Preachers because in the opinion of the officers of the Dominican Council the Order does not have control of the Trust. The Trust's Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet are given in notes 17 and 18 respectively.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Charity only has financial instruments and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

LEASES

Leases are classified as finance leases where the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the equipment from the lessor to the lessee.

As a lessee: equipment held under finance leases are recognised on the Balance Sheet at the commencement of the lease at its fair value measured at the lease's inception. The asset recognised is matched by a liability for the obligation to pay the lessor.

Finance charges are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

The charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The estimates and assumptions that have a risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are noted below:

CLASSIFICATION OF LEASES

The charity has used its judgement in recognising whether a lease is a finance lease or operating lease on the basis that if the risk and rewards of asset ownership are considered to be substantially transferred then the lease is recognised as a finance lease.

1. ANALYSIS OF INCOME

ANALYSIS OF INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £	Unrestricted Funds 2019 £	Restricted Funds 2019 £	Total Funds 2019 £
INCOME						
Donations and Legacies						
Donations and gifts	29,043	822,704	851,747	34,082	919,878	953,960
Legacies	379,991	258,717	638,708	116,768	530,132	646,900
Grants received	20,594	82,732	103,326	5,500	211,269	216,769
Pensions received	136,890	-	136,890	132,638	-	132,638
Total Donations and Legacies Income	566,518	1,164,153	1,730,671	288,988	1,661,279	1,950,267
Other Trading Activities						
Fundraising, publications etc.	8,903	2,411	11,314	10,098	5,915	16,013
Property	25,841	12,447	38,288	46,977	52,263	99,240
Total Other Trading Activities	34,744	14,858	49,602	57,075	58,178	115,253
Income from listed investments	333,567	299,934	633,501	380,505	284,232	664,737
Charitable Activities						
Ministerial services	21,916	372,579	394,495	24,156	436,873	461,029
Educational services	14,114	406,419	420,533	15,122	444,495	459,617
Total Charitable Activities	36,030	778,998	815,028	39,278	881,368	920,646
OTHER INCOME	283	4,679	4,962	195	7,617	7,812
TOTAL INCOME	971,142	2,262,622	3,233,764	766,041	2,892,674	3,658,715

ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £	Unrestricted Funds 2019 £	Restricted Funds 2019 £	Total Funds 2019 £
COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS							
Costs of raising voluntary income		96,767	8,328	105,095	85,723	8,988	94,711
Investment management costs		87,604	-	87,604	122,884	-	122,884
Total costs of raising funds		184,371	8,328	192,699	208,607	8,988	217,595
EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	3						
Educational		62,785	510,746	573,531	77,696	566,484	644,180
Pastoral works and projects		152,435	300,363	452,798	210,216	338,360	548,576
Care for sick and elderly friars		121,291	24,165	145,456	93,644	24,425	118,069
Property upkeep		249,941	774,068	1,024,009	127,363	645,607	772,970
Support of the friars and communities		97,777	666,585	764,362	129,383	732,181	861,564
Total charitable activities		684,229	2,275,927	2,960,156	638,302	2,307,057	2,945,359
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		868,600	2,284,255	3,152,855	846,909	2,316,045	3,162,954

3. ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Educat-ional £	Pastoral £	Sick & Elderly £	Property £	Friars & Comm-unities £	Total £
CENTRAL SUPPORT COSTS						
Friars	1,295	1,023	329	2,313	1,726	6,686
Staff	21,845	17,247	5,540	39,003	29,114	112,749
General administration	8,609	6,797	2,183	15,371	11,473	44,433
Governance costs						
Audit fees	5,164	4,077	1,310	9,221	6,883	26,655
Legal fees	528	417	134	943	704	2,726
Other professional Fees	1,563	1,234	396	2,791	2,083	8,067
Total central support costs	39,004	30,795	9,892	69,642	51,983	201,316
BRANCH SUPPORT COSTS	181,437	15,915	-	-	64,174	261,526
TOTAL SUPPORT COSTS 2020	220,441	46,710	9,892	69,642	116,157	462,842
TOTAL SUPPORT COSTS 2019	194,758	58,846	7,073	46,306	143,973	450,956

Central support costs are apportioned to activities in proportion to directly incurred expenditure.

Branch support costs are allocated to the principal activity of the branch incurring the cost.

4. STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

	2020	2019
STAFF NUMBERS		
Average number of employees	18	17
Average number of FTE employees	10	10
Employees receiving emoluments in excess of £60,000	-	-
STAFF COSTS	£	£
Salaries/Wages	383,588	336,596
Employer's national insurance costs	28,903	25,298
Pension costs	55,706	57,845
Total Staff Costs	468,197	419,739

No remuneration is paid to the trustee corporation or its directors.

VOLUNTEER NUMBERS		
Friars	82	75
Other volunteers	117	158
Total volunteers	199	233
Total Full Time Equivalent volunteers	89	86

4. STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS (CONT.)

For the purposes of this report, employees are those who have contracts of employment. The figures do not include persons paid through payroll from time to time who have no contracted hours; typically, such persons provide teaching or other ad hoc services to Blackfriars Hall, and are either employees of other institutions or students doing small amounts of part-time work.

The charity considers its key management personnel is comprised of its Trustees and other members of the Provincial Council, all of whom are Friars. The total employment benefits, including employer pension cost of key management personnel, were £nil (2019: £nil). The total of expenses reimbursed to key management personnel was £nil (2019: £nil).

The principal roles of non-friar volunteers are answering the door and telephone at the priories in Oxford and Cambridge, and church cleaning, flower arranging and similar tasks in Leicester and London, along with singing in the church choirs. The average number of hours worked by these volunteers each week is 2.6.

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS USED FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES

	Inalienable Property £	Other Property £	Asset in the course of construction	Motor Vehicles £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Total £
COST						
Balance brought forward 1 October 2019	1,000,613	7,358,675	1,238,449	91,541	1,793,598	11,482,876
Additions	-	483,612	-	6,328	308,706	798,646
Disposals	-	-	-	(16,029)	(38,963)	(54,992)
Transfers	-	1,211,260	(1,238,449)	-	27,189	-
Balance carried forward 30 September 2020	1,000,613	9,053,547	-	81,840	2,090,530	12,226,530
DEPRECIATION						
Balance brought forward 1 October 2019	467,329	2,427,932	-	84,477	1,540,216	4,519,954
Disposals	-	-	-	(13,591)	(38,963)	(52,554)
Charge for year	6,801	348,961		6,209	157,859	519,830
Balance carried forward 30 September 2020	474,130	2,776,893	-	77,095	1,659,112	4,987,230
NET BOOK VALUE						
Brought forward 1 October 2019	533,284	4,930,743	1,238,449	7,064	253,382	6,962,922
Carried forward 30 September 2020	526,483	6,276,654	-	4,745	431,418	7,239,300

Historic property includes churches, places of worship and priories owned and occupied by the Order.

Asset in the course of construction: during the year a property included in Other Property underwent a major refurbishment that was incomplete at 30 September 2019. The asset came into use in December 2019.

6. INVESTMENTS

INVESTMENTS

	30 September 2020		30 September 2019	
	Cost £	Market Value £	Cost £	Market Value £
Catholic Charities Growth & Income Fund*	8,330,247	10,724,275	8,330,247	10,969,359
Funds managed by Smith & Williamson**	6,533,325	8,419,678	6,533,325	8,629,736
BlackRock Institutional Cash Series	777,977	847,125	1,018,198	1,105,877
	15,641,549	19,991,078	15,881,770	20,704,972

	2020 £	2019 £
Market Value at 1 October	20,704,972	20,887,483
Additions at Cost	4,641	1,291,665
Disposals at Market Value	(250,000)	(1,950,000)
Net (loss)/gain on revaluation	(468,535)	475,824
Market Value at 30 September	19,991,078	20,704,972

* As of 30 September 2020, the composition of the Catholic Charities Growth & Income Fund was as follows:

UK Equities	26.8%
Global Equities	33.4%
Fixed Income	17.3%
Property	7.5%
Alternatives	13.6%
Cash	1.4%
Total	100.0%

** As of 30 September 2020, the composition of the Funds managed by Smith & Williamson was as follows:

UK Equities	18.5%
Global Equities	48.6%
Fixed Income	9.2%
Property	7.2%
Alternatives and Multi-Asset	11.9%
Cash	4.6%
Total	100.0%

7. DEBTORS

	2020 £	2019 £
DEBTORS		
Trade debtors	27,203	103,903
Prepayments and accrued income	661,656	960,751
Other	4,172	14,935
Total Debtors	693,031	1,079,589

8. CREDITORS

	2020 £	2019 £
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	107,473	363,963
Taxation and social security	6,865	5,464
Accruals and deferred income	81,873	350,869
Other	165,203	110,452
Total Creditors	361,414	830,748
Deferred income (analysis)		
At 1 October	7,672	31,875
Amount released to incoming resources	(7,672)	(31,875)
Amount deferred in the year	-	7,672
At 30 September	-	7,672

Deferred income represents unsaid Masses and advance rent received.

9. TRANSACTIONS WITH TRUSTEES

The Trustees of the Charity are also members of the Order and as such have taken vows of poverty under which they renounce all personal right to income and capital. The Charity provides for the essential needs of all members of the Order within the Province.

10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Members of the Order arranged for grants totalling £16,163 (2019: £20,004) to be made from the Hoper Dixon Trust, a trust of which the Dominican Council is a Trustee. The beneficiaries of the Hoper Dixon Trust are the poor connected with or in the neighbourhood of any house or pastoral centre under the direction of Dominicans of the English Province of the Order of Preachers. The Hoper Dixon Trust's Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet are reproduced in notes 17 and 18 respectively.

As of 30 September 2020, the Hoper Dixon Trust owed the English Province of the Order of Preachers the sum of £1,618 (2019: £5,040) in respect of grants approved and payable.

11. FUNDS 2020

FUNDS 2020

	Unrestricted Funds			Restricted Funds			Total
	Province General Purpose £	Province Designated £	Total Unrestricted Funds £	Total Branch Funds £	Total Province Restricted £	Total Restricted Funds £	2020 £
Income	689,425	281,717	971,142	2,083,264	179,358	2,262,622	3,233,764
Support costs, governance and generating funds	(270,016)	(27,421)	(297,437)	(268,527)	(854)	(269,381)	(566,818)
	419,409	254,296	673,705	1,814,737	178,504	1,993,241	2,666,946
Opening funds	3,014,935	8,320,439	11,335,374	11,890,431	5,144,068	17,034,499	28,369,873
Funds available for use	3,434,344	8,574,735	12,009,079	13,705,168	5,322,572	19,027,740	31,036,819
Resources directly expended on charitable activities	(294,452)	(276,711)	(571,163)	(1,884,298)	(130,576)	(2,014,874)	(2,586,037)
Inter-fund transfers	35,710	68,109	103,819	(132,320)	28,501	(103,819)	-
Net investment gains	995	370	1,365	2,822	952	3,774	5,139
Allocation of unrealised gains in the year	(51,526)	(197,818)	(249,344)	(143,846)	(80,484)	(224,330)	(473,674)
Closing funds	3,125,071	8,168,685	11,293,756	11,547,526	5,140,965	16,688,491	27,982,247
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS							
Sick and Elderly Fund	-	(10,500)	(10,500)	10,500	-	10,500	-
Contributions to shared costs	150,726	24,884	175,610	(164,500)	(8,499)	(172,999)	2,611
Allocations	(115,016)	53,725	(61,291)	21,680	37,000	58,680	(2,611)
	35,710	68,109	103,819	(132,320)	28,501	(103,819)	-

The transfers represent the obligations of the Province to support the friars and activities of Blackfriars Hall and the individual priories, and also the obligations of the Hall and priories to support the central costs of the Province.

FUNDS 2019

	Unrestricted Funds			Restricted Funds			Total
	Province General Purpose £	Province Designated £	Total Unrestricted Funds £	Total Branch Funds £	Total Province Restricted £	Total Restricted Funds £	2019 £
Income	458,729	307,312	766,041	2,731,139	161,535	2,892,674	3,658,715
Support costs, governance and generating funds	(287,346)	(97,709)	(385,055)	(8,988)	(380)	(9,368)	(394,423)
	171,383	209,603	380,986	2,722,151	161,155	2,883,306	3,264,292
Opening funds	2,932,241	8,236,607	11,168,848	11,158,040	5,071,400	16,229,440	27,398,288
Funds available for use	3,103,624	8,446,210	11,549,834	13,880,191	5,232,555	19,112,746	30,662,580
Resources directly expended on charitable activities	(239,199)	(222,655)	(461,854)	(2,129,135)	(177,542)	(2,306,677)	(2,768,531)
Inter-fund transfers	98,149	4,168	102,317	(121,888)	19,571	(102,317)	-
Net investment gains	43,531	16,829	60,360	125,748	42,452	168,200	228,560
Allocation of unrealised gains in the year	8,830	75,887	84,717	135,515	27,032	162,547	247,264
Closing funds	3,014,935	8,320,439	11,335,374	11,890,431	5,144,068	17,034,499	28,369,873
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS							
Sick and Elderly Fund	-	(10,500)	(10,500)	10,500	-	10,500	-
Contributions to shared costs	200,617	39,521	240,138	(234,277)	(5,750)	(240,027)	111
Allocations	(102,468)	(24,853)	(127,321)	101,889	25,321	127,210	(111)
	98,149	4,168	102,317	(121,888)	19,571	(102,317)	-

The transfers represent the obligations of the Province to support the friars and activities of Blackfriars Hall and the individual priories, and also the obligations of the Hall and priories to support the central costs of the Province.

12. ALLOCATION OF ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

ALLOCATION OF ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS 2020	Province General Purpose £	Province Designated £	Total Unrestricted Funds £	Total Branch Funds £	Total Province Restricted £	Total Restricted Funds £	2020 £
Investments	2,849,309	7,477,364	10,326,673	5,444,202	4,220,203	9,664,405	19,991,078
Property	252,957	663,827	916,784	4,985,207	901,145	5,886,352	6,803,136
Other fixed assets	-	25,833	25,833	408,006	2,325	410,331	436,164
Current assets	285,556	1,661	287,217	847,984	17,713	865,697	1,152,914
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	(262,751)	-	(262,751)	(98,242)	(421)	(98,663)	(361,414)
Creditors: amounts falling due in more than one year	-	-	-	(39,631)	-	(39,631)	(39,631)
Net Assets	3,125,071	8,168,685	11,293,756	11,547,526	5,140,965	16,688,491	27,982,247

Balances of the principal Province funds are given in note 13.

ALLOCATION OF ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS 2019	Province General Purpose £	Province Designated £	Total Unrestricted Funds £	Total Branch Funds £	Total Province Restricted £	Total Restricted Funds £	2019 £
Investments	3,049,641	7,256,833	10,306,474	6,384,554	4,013,944	10,398,498	20,704,972
Property	436,630	1,038,994	1,475,624	4,118,874	1,107,978	5,226,852	6,702,476
Other fixed assets	-	22,950	22,950	235,171	2,325	237,496	260,446
Current assets	219,043	1,662	220,705	1,291,778	20,244	1,312,022	1,532,727
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	(690,379)	-	(690,379)	(139,946)	(423)	(140,369)	(830,748)
Net Assets	3,014,935	8,320,439	11,335,374	11,890,431	5,144,068	17,034,499	28,369,873

13. BALANCES OF PROVINCE FUNDS

	2020 £	2019 £
PROVINCE DESIGNATED		
Sick Funds	3,789,029	3,818,413
Study Funds	2,980,879	3,025,523
Other*	1,398,777	1,476,504
Total Province Designated	8,168,685	8,320,440
PROVINCE RESTRICTED		
Training Funds	4,000,846	4,115,169
Inalienable Property Fund	526,483	533,284
Mission Funds	301,690	328,493
Other*	311,946	167,123
Total Province Restricted	5,140,965	5,144,069

* includes a number of smaller funds designated or restricted for specific charitable activities of the Province.

14. ACTIVITIES IN SCOTLAND

	2020 £	2019 £
Income from activities in Scotland	204,552	317,351
Expenditure on activities in Scotland	(271,394)	(275,698)
Net (Expenditure)/Income relating to activities in Scotland	(66,842)	41,653

15. OPERATING & FINANCE LEASE COMMITMENTS

OPERATING LEASES

At the reporting date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payment under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Within one year: Property	-	19,065

FINANCE LEASES

At the reporting date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payment under noncancellable finance leases, which fall due as follows:

Equipment:	2020 £	2019 £
Within one year	8,008	-
In 2 - 5 years	35,263	-
After more than 5 years	4,368	-
	39,631	-
	47,639	-

16. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

At 30 September 2020, the charity had no capital commitments (2019: £461,760).

17. HOPER DIXON TRUST STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds			
	Income Fund £	Designated Capital Fund £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
INCOME				
Donations and Legacies	-	-	-	-
Investment income:				
Income from investments	16,080	-	16,080	15,801
Income from bank deposits	9	-	9	71
TOTAL INCOME	16,089	-	16,089	15,872
EXPENDITURE				
Expenditure on charitable activities:				
Grants payable	16,163	-	16,163	20,004
Support costs for grants payable	55	-	55	60
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	16,218	-	16,218	20,064
NET GAINS ON INVESTMENT ASSETS	-	16,541	16,541	31,054
Net income (expenditure) and movement in funds	(129)	16,541	16,412	26,862
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Fund balances brought forward at 1 October	11,159	519,455	530,614	503,752
Fund balances carried forward at 30 September	11,030	535,996	547,026	530,614

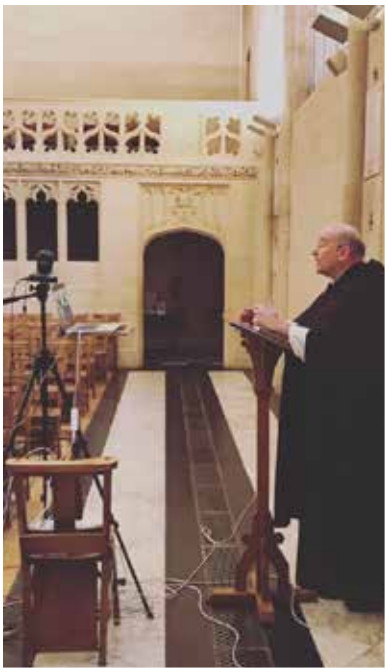
18. HOPER DIXON TRUST BALANCE SHEET

	2020 £	2019 £
FIXED ASSETS		
Investments	535,996	519,455
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank balances	12,648	16,199
LIABILITIES		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(1,618)	(5,040)
Net current assets	11,030	11,159
NET ASSETS	547,026	530,614
FUNDS		
Unrestricted Funds		
Income Fund	11,030	11,159
Capital Fund	535,996	519,455
TOTAL FUNDS	547,026	530,614

The Dominican Friars

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CONTACT DETAILS

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