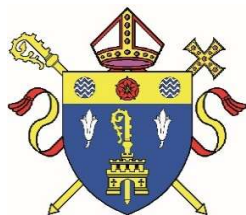


LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
5 APRIL 2025**



Registered charity number 234331

LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025

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TRUSTEES AND ADVISORS

The Charity is governed by a Trust Deed dated 31 July 1934 (as subsequently amended by schemes of the Charity Commission) and is registered by the Charity Commission of England and Wales as charity number 234331. The Diocese was created by the Holy See in 1924, the northern area formerly having been within the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle and the southern area having been within the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

Address

The Pastoral Centre
Balmoral Road
Lancaster
LA1 3BT

Trustees

The following served as trustees during the year:

The Right Rev Bishop P Swarbrick
Rev Canon M Docherty
Rev Canon P Embery
Rev Canon P Hart
Mr P Briers
Mr M Callagher
Mrs S Greenwood
Ms N Wisdom
Mr A Woowat

Appointed after the year end

Rev A Dawson (October 2025)

Custodian Trustee

Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered a body incorporated under the Charitable Trustees Incorporation Act 1872 (now Part 12 of the Charities Act 2011).

The custodian trustee holds the property and other assets of the charity on behalf of the Charity Trustees.

Secretary to the Trustees

Mrs K Woods (appointed July 2025)
Ms K Heaton-Brown (retired June 2025)

Investment managers

Quilter Cheviot
One Kingsway
London
WC2B 6AN

Solicitors

FMGS Law Ltd
1 Middle Street
Lancaster
LA1 1JZ

Auditors

MHA
Richard House
9 Winckley Square
Preston, Lancs
PR1 3HP

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Aims and objectives

The principal purpose of the charity is the furtherance of the Catholic religion within the Diocese of Lancaster. This is achieved by such charitable purposes as the Bishop of Lancaster, in his absolute discretion, shall think fit in accordance with the Trust Deed, the principal objectives of which are as follows:

- The provision, maintenance and upkeep of churches, public chapels and presbyteries.
- The provision of religious services in these churches and public chapels.
- The provision and maintenance of houses and colleges for the education and training of priests and persons wishing to become priests.
- The maintenance, support and provision of medical and surgical aid and accommodation for infirm and aged priests and the burial of deceased priests.
- The provision of support for priests and clerics working in the Diocese.
- The relief of poor persons professing the Roman Catholic Religion.
- The provision and maintenance of schools and colleges for young people.
- The provision and maintenance of houses, study halls and residences for teachers.
- The provision and upkeep of accommodation for infirm or aged priests.
- The provision and maintenance of cemeteries.
- The provision and maintenance of parish rooms and halls for the enlightenment, education and religious and moral benefit of people of the diocese.
- The provision and maintenance of hospitals and sanatoria for the poor.
- The acquisition of sites for buildings in connection with the above.
- Generally, for any such charitable purposes as, in the opinion of the Bishop, may be conducive to the advancement or maintenance of the Roman Catholic religion in the Diocese of Lancaster.
- Such charitable purposes as shall advance the religious and other charitable work of the Diocese as the trustees with the approval of the Bishop shall from time to time think fit. If at any time the Diocese shall cease to exist or there shall cease to be any religious or other charitable work carried on by the Diocese, then for such other lawful charitable purposes connected with the advancement of the Roman Catholic religion as the trustees shall determine.

Organisation, governance and decision-making

The Diocese of Lancaster has at present 70 parishes with regular services available in around 100 churches and chapels and 81 schools (a mix of academies and VA schools) throughout the whole of the historic county of Cumbria (now administered by the unitary local authorities of Cumberland and Westmorland & Furness) and those parts of Lancashire, north of the River Ribble and the west of the Pennines. The communities served by the charity are quite diverse and include towns/cities in Cumbria such as Barrow, Workington, Carlisle and Whitehaven and the whole of the Lake District. In urban areas, parishes might be just a few square miles in size, whereas in the more rural parts of Cumbria, parishes can be 200+ square miles. In Lancashire the coastal resorts of Blackpool and Morecambe fall within our boundaries, as does the city of Preston.

Although a clear structure of accountability and authority exists within the Catholic Church, as far as possible, day-to-day decision-making and actual pastoral practice takes place at local level in accordance with diocesan policies and wider Church beliefs. Individuals are encouraged to be involved with the delivery and planning of the services that our parishes provide to local communities. Parishes are, for example, expected to have various committees to advise priest-leaders on finance and property as well as the care of the charity's beneficiaries. As there are declining numbers of priests in this country, local communities are increasingly taking a greater responsibility in the running of their parishes. Whilst the trustees of the charity have overall responsibility in civil law matters, many of these local committees are constituted in Church Law, and act in an advisory capacity to Parish Priests, Priests in Charge etc ; however, their work to support their Parish Priests, Priest in Charge etc and the trustees in their own responsibilities is invaluable.

Meetings of the board of trustees, at which the operation of the charity is discussed, are held regularly through out the year with at least nine meetings per annum. Although overall governance is vested with this body, its decision-making is informed by the work of sub-committees through their regular reports. Trustees play a significant role on each of the charity's main sub-committees.

The principle sub-committees are:

Trustees' Safeguarding Sub-Committee

The diocese and its trustees are committed to safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk in accordance with civil and national Church guidelines.

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The Lancaster Diocesan Trustees' Safeguarding Sub-committee oversee safeguarding matters in accordance with recommendations arising from the recent ICSSA enquiry into historic sexual abuse. The diocese is working towards full compliance with the newly developed national catholic safeguarding standards. The Safeguarding Sub-Committee will oversee the necessary governance arrangements in order to monitor that procedures are followed and best practise is developed and maintained. The diocese is subject to on-going audit by the National Catholic Standards Agency (CSSA) which has regulatory, advisory and audit functions.

Day to day safeguarding work is undertaken by the Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator whose responsibilities include oversight of the creation and continuation of a safe environment throughout the diocese; responding when concerns are raised and undertaking the necessary liaison with statutory agencies; supporting those hurt by abuse and managing those church personnel who have caused harm. Each parish has one or more safeguarding representatives.

Finance Sub-Committee

This committee, which is supported by a Certified Accountant who is a diocesan officer, monitors the day to day financial activities of the charity, particularly its liquidity and financial health, setting and controlling the central diocesan budget, and monitors delegated expenditure by parishes. A parish may spend up to £8,000 (including VAT) per project or item without prior approval of the trustees. The Diocesan Finance Office, which reports to this committee, processes most of the charity's Gift Aid claims and the internal 'annual financial returns' submitted from parishes and other bodies; these are then consolidated into the main charity accounts. The charity's strategies against fraud (and possible bribery) also sit with this committee. The committee does not of itself currently have delegated spending powers; it is also responsible for liaising with the charity's external auditors. The Finance Committee in conjunction with the Property Committee is delegated to approve expenditure on individual property maintenance projects above the parish delegated limit of £8,000 up to £25,000. Both committees must agree otherwise the matter is to be referred to the board of trustees.

Property and Health & Safety Sub-Committee

This committee is supported by a qualified surveyor, who is also a diocesan officer, examines and makes judgment on the appropriateness, and the value for money of, property projects submitted by the trustees, or parishes of the diocese. Again, parishes must seek prior approval of the trustees for any project with a cost over £8,000. The committee also examines proposed leases, and land sales or purchases in accordance with best practice and Charity Law. Currently, all proposed leases are ratified by the full trustee body on the first granting of a lease. The Property Committee in conjunction with the Finance Committee is delegated to approve expenditure on individual property maintenance projects costing up to £25,000 and lease renewals, if no material changes to the lease. Both committees must agree otherwise the matter is to be referred to the board of trustees.

This sub-committee ensure that the statutory duties under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and other relevant statutory instruments are met within the Diocese of Lancaster. It will represent the diocese on health and safety and act to protect the health and safety of the clergy, diocesan employees, congregations and other people who might be affected by their business within the Diocese of Lancaster. We continue to develop the computerised system introduced across the diocese for the evaluation, monitoring and reporting of health and safety at each "site" operated. Training and health and safety advice and support is provided with this system.

Investment Sub-Committee

Members are drawn primarily from the Finance Sub-Committee and the diocesan Faith and Justice Commission. This sub-committee is responsible for setting policy and monitoring performance of the charity's investments, most of which are designated to individual parishes, but are under the control of the charity in civil law. Professional investment fund managers externally manage the portfolio of investments. The charity was one of the first Catholic diocese to introduce an ethical and socially responsible investment strategy, and it uses an ethical screening service to this end. The portfolio manager issues a quarterly report of investment performance and an ethical screening report twice yearly as well as meeting face-to-face annually. The investment manager ensures that the portfolio complies with the Diocesan Ethical Policy.

Board of Education and Formation

The Education Service supports 81 schools to ensure that they are successful and act in accordance with the Trust Deed of the Diocese. This involves offering advice and direction on a broad range of educational matters such as, Religious Education and curriculum issues, Catholic Life of a school, staffing and recruitment, governance, admissions, capital and academy developments. The Diocesan Schools Commissioner works closely with the Catholic Education Service, the Regional Schools Commissioners (North and Northwest), Parishes, Local Authorities, and the Department for Education to secure the best support for the schools of the Diocese.

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Our Catholic schools and sixth form college have an important part to play in the mission of the Church. Our Diocesan schools make a strong contribution to education in Cumbria and North Lancashire. They exist so that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is announced to future generations. As Bishop Paul Swarbrick says, "Our Catholic schools have been the bedrock of our mission to make Jesus Christ known and loved in our communities for nearly two centuries. Events in recent years have highlighted how vital our schools are and how their work and witness reveal Jesus Christ's presence in their locality. Our schools are an integral and critical part of the Diocese of Lancaster's mission".

Diocesan Schools Buildings Committee

This monitors the repair and development budgets for school buildings of Voluntary Aided Schools in the Diocese. In the voluntary sector, building work is commissioned by the governors/schools with the State paying up to 90% of eventual costs in grant-aid. This is provided in the form of an annual budgeted amount of 'SCA' money, which is then bid for by schools through a local committee process, aided by a professional officer, to prioritise projects according to need, and to ensure best value for the taxpayer.

As the academisation program progresses the monitoring and control of schools' building will change and this will impact on the operation and function of the Schools Building Committee.

Diocesan Youth Service Management Group

Currently two trustees serve with others on this committee which oversees the direction and management of our Diocesan Youth Service. Youth Service staff co-ordinate and train volunteers in the parishes and assist with the organisation of events for young people, including the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes where our youngsters learn to work with elderly, sick and disabled individuals and groups. The residential diocesan youth centre at Castlerigg in Keswick, which has been open for more than 40 years, draws together young people from schools and parishes from all over the Diocese and beyond, supporting both Catholics and those not of our tradition alike. The centre helps educate young people to develop their physical, mental, moral and spiritual abilities so that they grow up to enable them to contribute positively to society as well as helping them achieve their potential as human beings.

Other diocesan commissions and agencies

See below for information on other diocesan commissions and agencies.

Trustees

In accordance with clause 15 of the Trust Deed, new trustees are appointed by resolution of the trustees but only with and subject to the approval of the Bishop of Lancaster. Trustees are appointed with a view to the overall needs of the Diocese, and considering their skills and backgrounds. Recruitment is undertaken internally or externally whenever a vacancy arises, or at any time, to ensure there is an appropriate pastoral and professional representation including educational, finance, accountancy, legal and property experience. Trustees are not expected to have knowledge of all the operations of the charity upon appointment, but will learn about these through the way trustees' meetings are conducted as well as by serving on sub-committees. The responsibilities of trustees in law are clearly explained on the Charity Commission website, and training opportunities are offered as appropriate; though it is appreciated that many trustees are already in full-time employment.

The central administration of the charity has paid qualified staff supporting the work of the trustees. There are also many volunteers working at every level within the charity, many of whom have considerable professional experience. We would estimate (broadly) that volunteers provide a full-time equivalent of 75 employees, representing a donation of time equivalent to at least £1.5m for each year.

Subsidiary entities

The charity has several subsidiary charities and limited liability companies that it controls. Details of these are given in note 2 to the account. The subsidiary charities have similar aims to those of the Diocese of Lancaster. The limited companies carry out trading activities, mainly that of social centres and clubs. The financial results of all these subsidiary entities are consolidated into the group accounts.

Investment powers, policy and performance

The trustees' investment powers are governed by the Trustees Act 2000. By an Order of the Charity Commission dated 10th January 1996, the trustees were empowered to delegate certain management and dealing authority to their investment manager. Investments comprise a mix of UK FTSE 350 equities, UK gilts, cash & unit trusts, North American equities, European equities and Alternative Investment, the latter include "green" investments. All individual investments conform to the Trustees' Investment Policy which includes criteria established in accordance with the Diocesan Ethical Investment Policy which is reviewed regularly. The return on investments in recent years has been

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good when considered against comparable benchmarking. The trustees are satisfied that the capital performance and income generated are more than satisfactory and meet our current needs and strategies.

Planning for the future

In line with many other Catholic diocese in England and Wales, the charity is facing the issue of how best to deliver its services for stakeholders against the backdrop of declining numbers at church. Buildings for worship were often constructed in years gone by when demographics were quite different to today and when the principles of design were also quite different.

Our church buildings and parish communities have a special place in the hearts of many Catholics; therefore the capacity to adapt to changing circumstances does not always come easy, and the Bishop together with the trustees recognise this when plans are being considered. An important strategic review document, formed after extensive consultation, 'Fit for Mission?' remains the blueprint for many of the changes that necessarily must take place.

Our schools however remain popular, with overall pupil numbers broadly static. Many of our schools serve areas of relative social deprivation. We also have well-used church halls across the diocese, many of which are used by the wider community for non-religious use.

Review of activities – general

The activities of the charity are carried out in three main areas: parishes, schools and diocesan. All are directed towards promoting the Faith and spreading the Word of God. Most direct contact with beneficiaries is via parishes and schools, with a significant amount of support provided by the diocese to the schools and parishes. It is difficult to quantify the Spiritual "success" of these activities, but most parishes remain well supported despite the overall decline in Mass attendance and the number on roll at schools remain high. It is also difficult to gauge the financial benefit of activities. How can the "success" of rich and poor parishes be compared?

Review of activities - parishes

Most of the charity's beneficiaries' contact with the charity is at local level; that is our parishes. The reach and impact of parish ministry includes contact with people in schools, hospitals, higher education establishments, care homes and prisons. As well as religious services, parishes provide many additional activities including youth groups, social groups, and important support for some of the most vulnerable in our society.

Practical support for those in need, both at home and abroad, feature prominently in the regular activities of many parishes. Although many parish activities nourish those who attend church or are closely connected to it, the evangelising nature of the Gospel imperative and the call to service, mean that our parishes are also outward-looking communities with a sense of contributing to the common good of the wider community and building-up 'social capital'. Parishes have a degree of autonomy within the charity, not least because locally delivered services are best planned and delivered by local people. Each parish has its own bank account and is responsible for its own income and expenditure, according to the principle of subsidiarity. Financial records are also kept locally, with annual financial returns being submitted. Independent Financial Examiners are appointed in each parish and several parishes are randomly selected for more detailed external audit each year. All bank balances and account transactions can be viewed centrally for monitoring purposes, with an alert system in place for any unusual or significant transactions.

There are at present (December 2025) 46 diocesan priests working for and within the diocese, together with 11 priests on loan to us from elsewhere. A further 4 diocesan priests are engaged in non-parochial ministry outside of the diocese. There are also 30 retired priests for whom we care. Some priests and sisters from religious communities have a presence in the diocese, either working with the charity or doing similar work under their own auspices. The Diocese has undertaken several initiatives to welcome more religious priests and sisters to minister in our community. Their presence in the Diocese adds a new and vibrant element which will be beneficial to the Diocesan Family. Any overseas religious coming to the Diocese comply with all immigration and safeguarding requirements.

The diocese is aware that immigration is an important national issue, and always seeks, as a recognised Level 1 Sponsoring Body, to only invite an appropriate number of individuals into the country. These have clearly defined religious roles and the diocese undertakes to provide for their upkeep. Thanks are due to the United Kingdom Visa and Immigration Office for the role they play. It should be noted that such invitations are to complement the work done by indigenous priests (a shortage occupation at the current time) and religious communities, not replace it. Our strategy for promoting vocations to priesthood remains at the forefront of our minds, though it is recognised that this 'career' does not fit neatly into usual 'recruitment' models or remuneration packages.

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Review of activities - diocese

In addition to the principal trustees' sub-committees listed above, diocesan structures exist to support and implement the decisions of the Bishop and trustees. These include a range of committees, service delivery bodies, advisory boards and commissions to provide assistance to the Bishop in his ministry of oversight and service within the diocese. There are also several funds managed at diocesan level for the general benefit of the diocese as a whole; these include:

Chaplaincy services

Various chaplaincies exist in schools, hospitals and prisons. Chaplaincy work may be arranged by the Diocese or via individual parishes or a nominated priest may act as the chaplain to an organisation.

Faith & Justice Commission

The commission works with parishes, schools and youth groups throughout the diocese in promoting justice and peace issues, particularly in raising awareness and encouraging involvement with these. Significant emphasis is placed on a greater understanding of world development. The commission organises conferences and produces regular newsletters for the people of the diocese. A part-time worker is employed to support this work.

Sick & Retired Priests Care Fund

The diocese looks after its aged and infirm clergy through the Sick and Retired Priests Care Fund. This is a restricted fund to support those priests who have retired and those recovering from illness. The fund provides a discretionary retirement grant for priests no longer in active ministry, and a home where needed. Some retired priests continue to serve the diocesan community in a reduced role providing occasional help. The fund provides support for some retired housekeepers and manages residential properties for retired clergy situated in the diocese.

Whilst many priests generously continue to serve past conventional retirement age (75 for clergy in Church Law), we do have an increasing number of those retired due to longevity of life and medical advances. Care of these priests is included as an integral part of the diocesan Trust Deed.

Ecclesiastical Education Fund

This (restricted) fund provides financial support for the selection and formation of students preparing for the Priesthood and for the Permanent Diaconate in the diocese. Currently we have three students in training for the Diocesan Priesthood. It also supports ongoing formation of the clergy and provides for priests undertaking postgraduate studies in the UK or abroad. The fund also supports the Vocations Directors for Priesthood and the Permanent Diaconate and their teams in the work of promoting vocations.

Lancaster Diocesan Pilgrimage Trust

The Pilgrimage Trust oversees the annual diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes for the sick and disabled pilgrims and their families. The pilgrimages are extensively supported by the young people and volunteer medics and carers of the diocese who assist in the care and transporting of the sick and disabled.

Public benefit

The Charities Act 2006 has included "Public Benefit" in the definition of a charitable purpose, such that all organisations wishing to be recognised as charities must demonstrate explicitly that their aims are for the public benefit. Based on the Charity Commission guidance, specific examples of a public benefit include the advancement of religion, the advancement of education, the prevention or relief from poverty, the relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill health, disability, financial hardship etc. As a "mainstream" religious denomination (and that religion has been stated by parliament to be a charitable purpose) the trustees are confident that the existing aims and activities of the charity, as set out above, sit comfortably within the Charity Commission guidelines.

Many parishes have outreach groups/activities committed to actively working for the needy in their locality. As far as is possible, practical help is given at the point of need, rather than to schemes and projects, though the latter also often happens. Many parishes in urban areas are now involved with local food banks.

International aid also features in the activities of many parishes, usually using existing recognised charities established for this purpose (e.g. CAFOD), or through religious orders who have people on the ground to ensure that aid is used for the purpose it is given. Some parishes have formal links with the projects they support and this ensures good communication and education about the issues facing people in difficult situations abroad.

It should also be recognised that well over 1,000 weekly visits are made to the elderly in their homes throughout the year. We also have teams of chaplains working in hospitals (often on 0.2 of a post) and other healthcare facilities; with

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many of the clergy working in these places offering a round-the-clock availability throughout the year. Many of these are undertaken by volunteers.

One of the principal activities within each parish is the celebration of Mass by the parish priests. Approximately 11,500 (December 2024) people attend Sunday Mass within our Diocese. But parish priests do far more than celebrate Mass: they are active leaders in our communities and many of our clergy are involved with people at important times of their lives, such as births, marriages and bereavement. Although a church service may take only one hour, this is usually preceded by several hours of contact and preparation with those concerned. Most clergy engage in personal counselling, even if informally; others have trained to use sign-language to provide spiritual support to those who have serious hearing impairments. There is clear evidence that most of our schools - which are open to non-Catholics as well as Catholics - produce good results, both academically and socially. Although our schools are denominational in nature, OFSTED reports often comment on their positive achievements in areas of social inclusion, community cohesion, mutual respect and understanding, and promoting citizenship. Faith groups also provide important support and anchor points for persons who are new to the country. One of the strengths of church communities is that they provide community 'anchor-points', which often includes the church building itself, which has sometimes been used by generations of the same family. Of its nature, the Church does not only look after its 'own', but serves the wider locality; it is difficult to gauge the full amount of social investment that is accumulated from the efforts of people of faith, not least because they often do their work deliberately unnoticed and unsung. We know that many parishioners participate in other local charitable endeavours which may or may not have any faith connection.

The stability of parish life is important in a changing world, but that does not mean that local communities are not responding to changing times. Some youth groups, for example have been around for many years with inflow and outflow of young people; other activities for young people are established in the knowledge that they will have a timespan to serve a particular group of young people, who will inevitably move on to other things as they get older or move to university.

It is worth mentioning that many church communities collaborate with other non-Catholic church communities in social projects, so that the interaction generated avoids duplication and best allows delivery of a quality service. One such project includes the 'Street Pastors' initiative which puts volunteers on the streets of cities and towns at night to coincide with young adults' social activities. The initiative not only provides a listening ear, but often helps people get home more safely, and frees up the emergency services to deal with more pressing matters – such initiatives are always done in partnership with the local authority and the Police.

Our Lake District churches and youth centre serve people who come to the area for recreation. Similarly, those coming to seaside resorts such as Blackpool and Morecambe, often come to services during their stay and receive hospitality.

Charitable objectives

The principal objectives of the charity are the provision of churches, religious services, halls, welfare of clergy, relief of poverty and education. The days of diocesan expansion through construction of new church buildings are all but over. The challenge now is to keep existing places of worship open in the context of declining numbers of worshippers and fewer clergy. Creative twinning or merging of parishes is an on-going process, led by the diocesan bishop, who has the primary responsibility for the conduct of public religious worship. It is also true that use of motor vehicles aids mobility and facilitates journeying to other Catholic churches further afield; this being said, there is still great loyalty to local parishes.

The charity continues to respond to developments in education. Our one sixth form college and 11 secondary schools and 69 primary schools, some of which are in socially deprived areas, are run by good staff and are overseen by volunteer governing bodies. OFSTED reports are generally very positive with some outstanding schools being identified, or good schools with some outstanding features. The provision of an academy support trust, and close liaison with local authorities by the Diocesan Education Service helps to ensure that our faith-led education sector keeps up with change and can respond to developing needs quickly.

Our diocesan priests are required to take on more work as their numbers decline. The boom years for clergy were the 1960's and early 1970's. Since then the ratio of priests to people nationally has returned to where it was for much of the late 1800's and early 1900's (that is 1:750). However, we now have more churches open than 100 years ago, all of which need staffing (even if part-time). In common with other diocese and denominations, clergy are developing new ways of working to ensure the provision of quality and quantity of worship and pastoral services to our beneficiaries, which includes an ever greater use of lay leadership and deacons. At the same time, our clergy are to be commended, that they have not withdrawn from other areas of pastoral ministry to prisons, hospitals and schools for example.

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Serious incident reporting

No serious incidents have been reported during the year of review.

Review of financial performance

The group (including social clubs) reported a deficit, before investment gains, of £28k for the year (2024 surplus of £796k).

The charity (parishes and central diocese only) reported a deficit of £74k (2024: surplus £757k), including gains on sale of assets (surplus properties) of £249k (2024: £370k).

There was a decrease in the market value of group investments £1.67m (2024: increase £4.50m). Investment values have remained fairly stable post year end. The market value of group investments at 5 April 2025 was £32.25m compared to £34.57m at 5 April 2024.

At the end of the financial year, the diocese (charity) had net positive group credit bank balances of £15.4m (2024: £14.70m), with additional cash balances of £569k (2024: £201k) held as part of the investment portfolio.

The following is a summary of the financial performance of the Diocesan charity for the last six years: -

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Net results of the charity	(74)	757	(131)	412	(523)	(2,647)
Gains/(losses) on investment	(1,546)	4,265	(4,027)	1,118	7,558	(4,164)
Net movement in funds	(1,620)	5,022	(4,158)	1,530	7,035	(6,811)

Total charity funds at 5 April 2025 were £80.42m (2024: £82.04m) and total group funds were £83.04m (2024: £84.73m).

Income

Total charity incoming resources were £10.15m (2024: £9.97m) and the charity reported a deficit on activities of £74k (2024: surplus of £757k). There was a decrease in the value of investments and the unrealised loss on these for the charity was £1.55m (2024: unrealised gain £4.26m) resulting in total fund movement (decrease) of £1.6m (2024: increase £5.02m). There was a gain on disposal of assets of £249k (2024: gain £370k).

There has been a decrease in voluntary income streams of the charity with the total of donations and legacies etc decreasing from £5.56m to £5.28m. Legacy receipts decreased from £1.38m to £935k. Donations received increased from £853k to £986k. Income from Charitable Activities has increased overall from £1.48m to £1.77m.

Mass offertory collections have increased from £2.34m to £2.43m reflecting Mass attendance returning to a “new normal” following the pandemic. Mass offertory and Mass attendance remain below pre Covid 19 pandemic levels and there is an underlying downward trend in Mass attendance which has been the trend for many years now.

The average giving per head for 2025 was £4.10 (2024: £4.35) on the reported average Mass attendance figure of 11,626 (December 2024) per week, before Gift Aid, and not including other donations. This Mass attendance figure for 2024 is higher than that recorded in December 2023 of 11,020 but still significantly lower than pre-pandemic level which was circa 14,000 per week. Future Mass attendance is not expected to increase.

As the name suggests, ‘voluntary donations’ or ‘donations’ are at the discretion of the donor, and at the present time pushing for more, especially in poorer communities might be deemed inappropriate. However, the trustees note that other charities have had to respond to drops in their income by developing new methods of fundraising. The scope for this within church on a Sunday is limited, but a possible fundraising initiative in the future might be adopted.

Thanks are due to our parishioners and other donors for their continued and generous support.

Income of the charity from stocks and shares investments showed an increase from £927k in 2024 to £1m for 2025. Bank interest received increased to £234k from (2024: £196k) received. Future bank interest receipts will depend on future rates and the amount of funds placed directly on deposit. Interest is no longer paid on the total of net bank balances held.

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Trading/cost of raising funds

The trustees do not consider that the charity has any trading income and that any sale of goods etc is from charitable activities and such activities are fund raising and not trading. Such income only forms a small part of the charity's total income. Although the charity has used the standard SORP heading "Other trading activities" which include "social clubs" and "fund raising – fetes etc", the income from these is not trading income. The trading of parish centre bars and proprietary parish clubs is operated through separate limited companies the results of which are consolidated in the group accounts.

Donated goods form only a very small amount of charity income, although there is no practical method of valuing donated goods, but the total value of these is not expected to be significant. Many of these would be given as raffle prizes.

Expenditure

Resources expended by the charity in 2025 were £10.2m and the comparable figure for 2024 was £9.21m. The cost of the provision of places of worship and other buildings, including repairs and maintenance, increased from £4.25m to £5.36m. The increase in expenditure is directly attributable to the increased costs of heating and lighting and the costs of repairs and maintenance.

Two of the highest areas of expenditure are the provision of places of worship & ancillary buildings at £5.36m (2024: £4.25m), a significant number of which are listed buildings, and the provision of religious services and pastoral care at £2.57m (2024: £2.37m). These two cost headings account for approximately 77% (2024: 71%) of total expenditure of the charity and equate to around 78% (2024: circa 66%) of the total income of the charity. The cost of heating of buildings, particularly churches, and maintenance of buildings, many of which are listed, have increase significantly and are likely to remain high. Total heating costs have more than doubled. It is noted that many church heating systems are out of date and inefficient. The age and listed status of many of our properties mean that locally installed renewables, such as solar power are not often possible to consider.

The charity rarely makes external grants from central diocese; however parishes have a degree of discretion in supporting local causes. Those organisations supported by central diocese include ecumenical partnerships, £12k (2024: £12k) and for the structures of the Catholic Church nationally £69k (2024: £92k). Total of grants, donations and levies for the charity amounted to £557k (2024: £672k).

Staff costs

Total staff costs for the year were higher at £1.45m (2024: £1.43m) with most staff engaged by the parishes.

One employee of the charity received remuneration of more than £60,000 (2024: 2). See note 5 to the accounts for more details. No trustee received payment for services as a trustee, though any clergy serving as trustee will receive payment as office holders (i.e. clergy in active ministry).

We employ several professionals as senior management, to work in the central administration of the diocese in the areas of financial management, property management, safeguarding and education. There is a total of 17 (2024: 17) professional staff and support staff with a total remuneration (including pension and National Insurance cost) of circa £663k (2024: £634k).

Again, it should be noted that some of our management, and most of the charity's governance, is by the efforts of volunteers, many of whom have a lifetime of experience in their given field. This applies to the main trustee body, principal sub-committees and diocesan commissions. Parishes rely heavily on volunteers in all aspects of parish life.

A total of £504k (2024: £469k) was paid to clergy as office holders in active ministry. There has been a change in the remuneration available to priests which has resulted in the increased cost. The number of priests in active ministry has decreased from 57 to 56 as recorded at 5 April annually, including priests on loan from other religious orders, of which there were 11 at 5 April 2025 (11 as at April 2024). The decline in the number of serving priests is due to more priests retiring on reaching retirement age than there are men joining the priesthood. An increasing number of priests will retire in the coming years reducing further the number of those in active ministry.

Staff pay is determined by the trustees for those staff not engaged at parish level. The trustees may decide directly or via one of the sub-committees or boards. The pay of parish staff is decided locally following available guidance from the trustees. The Diocese is committed to ensuring that all staff, wherever engaged, are remunerated at least to the living wage level.

LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Fund Raising

Fund raising within the diocesan charity is carried out at local parish or department level and there is no co-ordinated diocesan wide fund raising structure or activity. We do not use any professional fund raisers and are not registered with any fund raising body or organisation.

Local fund raising is usually by means of appeals made at public events such as Mass or by organising events such as coffee mornings, sales or fetes for example. Appeals and events are organised by the Parish Priest or by parishioners on his behalf. A parish priest may on occasion approach an individual parishioner direct for support, but this would be rare and by exception and only if the parishioner was well known to him.

Although these public events are open to all, the majority of those who attend are regular and well known supporters i.e. local parish congregations and are often social occasions as well as fund raising opportunities. The members of the congregation are all well known to and by the parish priest and many to each other. These close relationships allow for the easy identification of people who are vulnerable and to take appropriate action to protect them such as involving a family member if a person were to offer a large or unusual donation.

The Catholic Church has a long tradition of raising funds from its supporters. These supporters range from those who are extremely poor to those who are very wealthy and will include many vulnerable people. The Church has taken care to ensure the people can only give what they can afford and that donations are freely given. People are free to attend events or not, will not be pressurised to donate and will not be contacted at home.

The Diocesan Trustees do not have a formal system for monitoring of fund raising activities and due to the nature and widespread location of such activities it would not be possible or practicable to introduce one. The Trustees will investigate any complaints or concerns regarding fund raising as part of the Diocesan Safeguarding procedures.

Reserves policy

The Diocesan Trustees recognises that the reserves of the Trust reflect the full range of activities across all parishes and the other diocesan activities. There are funds that are held for specific purposes (restricted funds). Detailed records are held which identify the range of reserves for internal management purposes (see note 13), and it should be noted that the policy for the financial management of these reserves will vary with the purpose for which they are held. All restricted funds are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that funds are being used for the purpose of each fund.

Parish based reserves often reflect endowments or legacies from previous years, many of which have been given or established to provide for the longer-term costs associated with the care of often large and old buildings, some of which are 'listed' for the public benefit of the nation. It is also important to recognise that in the canon law of the Catholic Church, each parish is an individual entity and the designation of the finances of each entity must be respected; therefore it is often not possible for cash-based funds to be simply moved from one part of the charity to another. However, given that a levy is paid on various sources of parish income to contribute to the costs of centrally provided diocesan services, then those parishes which are better off, or which have reserves are, in fact, contributing to the common good of all.

Many regular voluntary donations by the charity's beneficiaries and donors in parishes will be spent on the general purposes of the charity in that parish within a reasonably short amount of time as 'revenue' expenditure.

When a parish with unrestricted reserves in any asset class requires funding for a particular project, the trustees will consider using these reserves as either partial, or occasionally as full, funding for the project, whilst taking the longer term future of the parish and the overall diocesan position into account. However, some fundraising at local level is normally expected for significant projects, so that parish reserves are not exhausted all at once, unless this is necessary.

Diocesan reserves reflect funds held for broader or group obligations, such as those for investing in the formation of future clergy and the care of sick and retired priests, as well as funds held for specific purposes. There is no doubt that the diocese needs to consider how these reserves can best be applied in the future to help support changes that will take place due to changes in demography, pastoral need and the actual practise of the faith from place to place (i.e. where the charity is committed to provide churches in order to maintain genuine accessibility by the charity's beneficiaries, even where a particular church might be deemed financially non-viable as a standalone unit). It should be noted that the central diocesan administration does not presently hold any long term reserves itself, but has an internal historic debt to parishes, which represents previous unfunded expenditure. With the agreement of parishes, a long term plan is in place to repay this debt over an appropriate period, primarily using 'windfall' receipts.

LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The net asset distribution of the reserves set out in note 14 reflects conscious decisions which have been taken in respect of liquidity and longer term investment. Across the charity, banking and market based investment arrangements are pooled, and the trustees are satisfied that the unrestricted reserves are sufficiently liquid and under their control that they can fund the activities of the diocese for a period of more than 12 months.

The charity is currently meeting all its pension contribution arrangements and is fully compliant with auto enrolment. All pension arrangements are contributory schemes there are no final salary schemes. Clergy retirement grants are paid from a separate restricted fund with its own management body. The Clergy investment portfolio is also actively managed by Quilter Cheviot.

The total of group reserves, including endowment funds and restricted funds, at 5th April 2025 was £83.04m (2024: £84.73m) with £36.71m (2024: £36.89m) held in fixed assets, the majority of which is property (mostly churches and presbyteries); investments in shares/stocks £32.24m (2024: £34.57m) and £16m in cash at bank, including that held as part of the investment portfolio (2024 £14.90m).

Investments

Reserves are held in several different asset classes, which include cash, market-based investments and property. On occasion, reserves held in physical assets (land and buildings) may be converted from one asset class to another to provide a better income return.

As indicated above, parish cash reserve balances which are not needed for use in the short to medium-term may be pooled with those reserves of others for investment purposes. Our investments have performed quite well over several years. Most of the investment are held in FTSE 350 companies, UK gilts and more recently some North American and European companies. The portfolio valuation at 5th April 2025 was £32.24m (2024: £34.57m) including the investments of the restricted fund for Sick and Retired Priests valued at £3.44m (2024: £3.60m) which is held in a separate fund with a greater emphasis on the generation of income to provide a source of funding for our revenue obligations in this regard.

Our investment manager has a medium high balanced risk brief for potential progressive capital growth and income. In recent years the performance of our investments has compared favourably with the financial sector benchmarks considered by the Investment Committee. The investment policy has been changed to allow wider investment in overseas companies provided that all investments comply with the Diocesan Ethical Investment Policy. Investment income of the Group for the year was £1m (2024: £985k) and there was an unrealised capital loss of £1.7m (2024: unrealised gain £4.50m)

Risk management

The trustees actively review the major risks which they believe the charity is potentially exposed to, identifying the types of risk and the likelihood and potential impact of occurrence, as well as the steps that can be taken to mitigate against these. To mitigate risks the trustees maintain and regularly review a risk register and have put in place insurances, checks, controls and procedures which are communicated to parishes and other diocesan organisations.

A significant percentage of voluntary donations are in cash. Systems exist in parish for the collecting and recording of income, including cash. The Diocesan Finance office scrutinizes all the parish Annual Financial returns for anomalies or discrepancies. A number of parish Annual Financial Returns are also selected for examination each year by the external auditors who visit those parishes selected.

Staff in our Finance Office scrutinizes local bank account balances daily, noting any significant account movements which are reported to the Finance Sub-committee. Urgent action will be taken to immediately investigate any suspicious transactions or account activity.

The Property Sub-committee monitors approved projects to prevent escalation of costs. Parishes are required to report significant variations on any project's costs. School projects are also closely monitored through the School Building Committee.

At the present time, forty one schools across the diocese have converted to academy status, with each school being part of one of three diocesan multi academy trusts. Several trustees are 'members' of each of these three academy trusts. The aim is for all diocesan schools to convert to academy status in due course. Although we have a good track record with our voluntary schools, academy status is a new area of risk, especially as the directors of academy trusts are responsible for education standards and financial control.

The on-going financial and pastoral viability of a number of parishes continues to be a matter of concern. Where a parish makes a financial loss for three years in a row, this is formally reported to the trustees.

LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The central administration budget is monitored monthly and a variance report is presented to trustees.

Trustees' responsibilities in respect of the financial statements

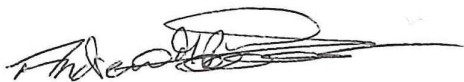
The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the financial activities of the charity during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements, giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practice and: -

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently,
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements,
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless this basis is not considered appropriate.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and to ensure that the financial statements comply with the applicable law and provisions of the Trust Deeds. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities

Appointment of auditors

A resolution to re-appoint MHA as auditors will be considered at a meeting of the trustees.



Rev A Dawson - Trustee

Date: 13 January 2026

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust (the 'parent charity') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 5 April 2025 which comprise the consolidated statement of financial activities, the charity statement of financial activities, the consolidated and charity balance sheet, the consolidated cash flow statement and the notes to the financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and parent charity's affairs as at 5 April 2025, and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent 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 group and parent 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 trustees' 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.

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 in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST

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

Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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

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:

- Enquiries with the board about any known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud,
- An evaluation of the risk of management override of controls and subsequent testing, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness,
- Auditing the risk of fraud in income by way of transactional testing at parish and central diocesan level, testing income recognition in accordance with the SORP, and testing for completeness of income around the year end,
- An evaluation of the charity's internal control environment,
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by the board, in particular in relation to future performance of the charity and,
- A review of board minutes.

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

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the FRC's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditors/audit-assurance/auditor-s-responsibilities-for-the-audit-of-the-fi/description-of-the-auditor%E2%80%99s-responsibilities-for>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST

Use of our report

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

MHA

MHA

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
14 Mannin Way Lancaster Business Park Lancaster
LA1 3SW

Date: 3rd February 2026

MHA is the trading name of MHA Audit Services LLP, a limited liability partnership in England and Wales (registered number OC455542).

MHA is eligible for appointment as auditor of the group by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

		PARISH			CENTRAL DIOCESAN AGENCIES			GROUP TOTAL	Group 2024
	Note	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Endowment £000	Total £000	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total £000	£000
INCOME FROM:	3.1								
Donations and legacies		5,052	21	-	5,073	116	94	210	5,563
Charitable activities		511	185	-	696	1,044	40	1,084	1,476
Other trading activities		1,951	-	-	1,951	106	17	123	1,839
Investments		722	-	21	743	193	369	562	1,182
Other		265	-	-	265	-	-	-	370
TOTAL		8,501	206	21	8,728	1,459	520	1,979	10,430
EXPENDITURE ON:	4.1								
Raising funds		558	13	-	571	59	-	59	584
Charitable activities		7,632	28	-	7,660	2,024	420	2,444	9,042
Other		-	-	-	-	1	-	1	8
TOTAL		8,190	41	-	8,231	2,084	420	2,504	9,634
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) before other recognised gains		311	165	21	497	(625)	100	(28)	796
Net gains/(losses) on investments	10	(1,006)	-	(34)	(1,040)	(122)	(504)	(626)	4,503
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(695)	165	(13)	(543)	(747)	(404)	(1,151)	5,299
Transfers between funds		(612)	(164)	(21)	(797)	831	(34)	797	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(1,307)	1	(34)	(1,340)	84	(438)	(354)	5,299
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS									
Total funds brought forward		65,142	381	651	66,174	4,790	13,772	18,562	79,437
FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		63,835	382	617	64,834	4,874	13,334	18,208	84,736

The Statement of Financial activities includes all recognised gains and losses in the year. All the above relate to continuing activities.
The notes to the accounts form part of the financial statements.

LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025
CHARITY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

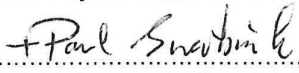
	PARISH				CENTRAL DIOCESAN AGENCIES			CHARITY TOTAL	Charity 2024
	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Endowment £000	Total £000	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total £000	£000	
Notes									
3.2									
INCOME FROM:									
Donations and legacies	5,052	21	-	5,073	112	94	206	5,279	5,557
Charitable activities	511	185	-	696	1,037	40	1,077	1,773	1,476
Other trading activities	1,510	-	-	1,510	86	17	103	1,613	1,442
Investments	722	-	21	743	124	369	493	1,236	1,123
Other	249	-	-	249	-	-	-	249	370
TOTAL	8,044	206	21	8,271	1,359	520	1,879	10,150	9,968
4.2									
EXPENDITURE ON:									
Raising funds	102	13	-	115	43	-	43	158	197
Charitable activities	7,643	28	-	7,671	1,975	420	2,395	10,066	9,014
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	7,745	41	-	7,786	2,018	420	2,438	10,224	9,211
10									
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) before other recognised gains	299	165	21	485	(659)	100	(559)	(74)	757
Net gains/(losses) on investments	(1,006)	-	(34)	(1,040)	(2)	(504)	(506)	(1,546)	4,265
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) before transfers	(707)	165	(13)	(555)	(661)	(404)	(1,065)	(1,620)	5,022
Transfers between funds	(612)	(164)	(21)	(797)	831	(34)	797	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(1,319)	1	(34)	(1,352)	170	(438)	(268)	(1,620)	5,022
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS									
Total funds brought forward	64,992	381	651	66,024	2,244	13,772	16,016	82,040	77,018
FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	63,673	382	617	64,672	2,414	13,334	15,748	80,420	82,040

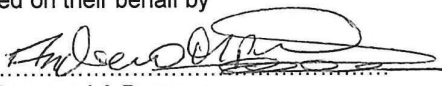
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The notes to the accounts form part of the financial statements.

LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025
BALANCE SHEET

		GROUP		CHARITY	
		2025	2024	2025	2024
		£000	£000	£000	£000
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	9	36,716	36,891	36,474	36,646
Investments	10	32,246	34,572	30,195	32,684
		68,962	71,463	66,669	69,330
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks		23	17	6	6
Debtors	11	1,066	699	1,064	705
Cash at bank and in hand		15,439	14,705	15,400	14,670
		16,528	15,421	16,470	15,381
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(2,388)	(2,101)	(2,719)	(2,671)
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		14,140	13,320	13,751	12,710
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	12	(60)	(47)	-	-
NET ASSETS		83,042	84,736	80,420	82,040
FUNDS					
Restricted income funds	13.1	13,716	14,153	13,716	14,153
Endowment funds	13.2	617	651	617	651
Parish general funds	13.3	63,835	65,142	63,673	64,992
Diocesan general funds	13.4	4,874	4,790	2,414	2,244
TOTAL FUNDS		83,042	84,736	80,420	82,040

Approved by the Trustees on 13 January 2026 and signed on their behalf by


 The Right Reverend P Swarbrick
 Bishop of Lancaster & Chair of the
 Trustees


 Reverend A Dawson
 Financial Administrator & Trustee

LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025
CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT

	2025 £000	2024 £000	
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(1,643)	(660)	
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends, interest and rents from investment	1,305	1,182	
Proceeds from sale of property, plant & equipment	417	467	
Purchase of property, plant & equipment	(5)	(370)	
Proceeds of sale of investments	3,037	3,112	
Purchase of investments	(2,009)	(2,370)	
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	1,102	1,361	
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Repayment of borrowing	-	-	
Cash inflows from new borrowing	-	-	
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	-	-	
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	1,102	1,361	
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	14,906	13,545	
Change in cash and cash equivalents due to exchange rate movement		-	
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	16,008	14,906	
Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities			
+1			
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(1,694)	5,299	
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation charges	12	12	
(Gains)/losses on investments	1,666	(4,503)	
Dividend, interest and rents from investments	(1,305)	(1,182)	
Loss/(Profit) on sale of fixed assets	(249)	(370)	
(increase)/decrease in stocks	(6)	-	
(increase)/decrease in debtors	(367)	(10)	
increase/(decrease) in creditors	300	94	
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	(1,643)	(660)	
Analysis of change in cash in hand and at bank			
Bank	15,439	14,705	change 734
Held by investment fund managers	569	201	368
	16,008	14,906	1,102

LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST
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1 ACCOUNTING POLICES

Basis of accounting

Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust is a registered charity in the United Kingdom. The address of the charity, the nature of its operations and its principal activities are all detailed in the Trustees' report and Trustees and Advisors pages of these financial statements.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102. 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) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at valuation. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

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 their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate in the preparation of the financial statements. The period of assessment is one year from the date of approval of these financial statements.

The trustees have concluded that there are no material uncertainties that cast doubt on the ability of the charity/group to continue as a going concern. The trustees are of the opinion, based on available financial data, that there will be sufficient incoming resources and assets to meet future liabilities when they fall due taking into account the expected reduction in income with expenditure remaining unchanged during the period of assessment.

A significant area of uncertainty is the value of investments and the income from these which can be drastically affected by economic and other factors beyond the control of the trustees. The trustees are of the opinion that the Charity can withstand a significant fall in the value of these and in investment income receipts, though this is not anticipated.

Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements of the group incorporate the financial statements of the Diocesan Trust, "the charity" which comprise the parishes and central diocesan agencies and subsidiary entities over which the diocese is considered to exert control. Details of the subsidiary entities are given in note 2.

Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments. Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to offset the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

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Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting end date.

Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected. If an asset is impaired, the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The impairment loss is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

If there is a decrease in the impairment loss arising from an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the impairment is reversed. The reversal is such that the current carrying amount does not exceed what the carrying amount would have been, had the impairment not previously been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

De-recognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the charity transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

Classification of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities including creditors are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised. Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

De-recognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

Judgement and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

In the opinion of the trustees there have been no significant estimate or judgements made in the process of applying the charity's accounting policies that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

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Income recognition

Income is included in the period in which the charity/group becomes entitled to the income, it is probable that it will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably. Specific policies apply to the categories of income noted below.

Legacies are accounted for on entitlement which is considered to be the earlier of notification from the executor that probate has been granted and confirmed that there are sufficient assets to make a distribution or when a distribution is received.

Collections, including Mass offerings, and other donations are accounted for on a cash received basis as such voluntary donations can only be measured with certainty upon receipt.

Gift Aid donations are accounted for on a cash received basis with any related Gift Aid or Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme tax credits accounted for on an accruals basis.

Revenue grant income is accounted for when received.

Capital grants are recognised as restricted income when received or receipt can be measured reliably and associated costs are charged against these restricted funds.

Investment income is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Income from charitable activities is accounted for on a cash received basis.

Income from fund raising activities is accounted for on a cash received basis.

Rental income from functional properties is accounted for when received under the terms of the lease or hire agreement and when it is probable that it will be received and the amount can be reliably measured.

Trading subsidiary accounts are produced on an accruals basis.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount can be reliably measured. All expenditure is included in the financial statements on an accruals basis inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on direct charitable activities mainly comprise: the provision of places of worship and associated buildings e.g. presbyteries; provision of religious services and pastoral care and support; support of education and youth services; training of priests and deacons and the financial support of sick and retired priests.

Support costs include the costs of the Finance and Property Offices, Health & Safety services, Safeguarding Office, the provision of the Pastoral Centre, which houses the administrative offices of the diocese and provide a central meeting venue, and governance costs. Support costs are apportioned to charitable activities based on an estimate of management and employee time spent in support of these activities.

Governance costs are now included under support costs and comprise those costs of the organisation administration and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements including external audit, legal and other professional services. Governance costs are apportioned to charitable activities based on an estimate of management and employee time spent in support of these activities.

Investments

Investments are initially recognised at their transaction value then subsequently included in the balance sheet at their fair value using the closing quoted market price. Any realised and unrealised gains and losses on revaluation or disposals throughout the year are included in the statement of financial activities.

Tangible fixed assets - other than schools

Functional freehold properties including churches, presbyteries, houses, parish hall/centres and similar buildings are included in the balance sheet at deemed cost. The deemed cost is the discounted insurance value at 1997, which

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

have been discounting based on inflation statistics to arrive at original cost. For the purposes of these financial statements and in line with the provisional arrangements of FRS 102 these estimates of depreciated value at 1997 are now the deemed cost.

The charity took advantage of the transitional provisions under FRS 102 to take the value of freehold property as deemed cost on transition at 6 April 2014 but as historical cost is unknown and cost per the accounts refers to an earlier valuation by the charity, the trustees have continued to show brought forward valuation and accumulated depreciation at transition date in the notes to the accounts. Depreciation has not been charged on freehold property following the introduction of FRS 102 as this charge is considered meaningless.

Freehold properties purchased since 1997 are recorded at cost. Properties donated after 1997 are included at valuation.

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost, or valuation, of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual values over the expected useful economic lives of the assets concerned. The principal annual rates and method used for this purpose are as follows:

	Rate	Method
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	25%	reducing balance basis
Motor Vehicles	25%	reducing balance basis

All additions to fixtures, fittings and other fixed assets after 6th April 1995 more than £5,000 are included at purchase cost less accumulated depreciation.

The charity owns a number of works of art, including paintings, manuscripts and sculptures. All parishes own silverware, in daily use for the purposes of the parish, which are on display within the diocese and parishes. Many have been donated, bequeathed or inherited by the diocese or parishes. Such items are not included at any value in the financial statements because it is considered that no meaningful value can be attributed to them.

Tangible fixed assets – schools property

The diocese owns land on which its voluntary aided and academy schools are built. The school buildings are occupied, improved, extended and repaired by the school governors. All voluntary aided schools, which are exempt charities, and academy schools, occupy land and buildings rent free. The nature of occupation of the land and buildings by these exempt charities and academies means that the diocesan trustees do not have the power to dispose of the land or buildings until a school ceases its occupation, which in turn would require the approval of the governing body and the Secretary of State and may involve recovery of grant aid by the DCSF or the obligation to use the proceeds for other educational provision. Consequently such land and buildings are not in direct use by the charity, do not generate any income, cannot be disposed of on the open market and cannot be used for any other purpose during the schools' occupation, which may be indefinite. In view of these restrictions the trustees believe the recoverable amount of these assets is nil and are included at nil valuation in these financial accounts.

Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Debtors and creditors within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable and payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

Cash and cash equivalents

Liquid resources comprise amounts held on deposit with recognised banks and building societies and cash on hand at parishes etc.

Provisions

These are recognised when there is a commitment made to the incurring of expenditure.

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Pension costs

The charity operates a defined contribution scheme. Contributions are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

Fund accounting

The charity/group has various types of funds for which it is responsible, and which require separate disclosure within the financial statements. These are:

Endowment funds

Funds given to the charity or its subsidiaries, subject to the restriction that they are held as capital. Income derived from endowment funds is included in the Statement of Financial Activities and may be restricted to a particular purpose.

Restricted funds

Donations, grants or legacies received which have been given for a specific purpose or purposes as specified by the donor, where such purposes are within the overall aims of the organisation. These funds may represent capital only (where the capital must be retained) or income and capital (where the donation and income deriving from them may be utilised).

General funds

These represent unrestricted funds which are available at the discretion of the Trustee in furtherance of the objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds

These are funds included within the general funds that have been set aside and designated by the trustees for specific purposes.

Parish funds

There are included within the general funds. In civil administration a parish is not a distinct legal entity but forms part of the wider diocese, but with a degree of independence and autonomy. Parish funds and assets, unless subject of a separate trust recognised in law, are funds of the Diocesan Trust and therefore the responsibility of the diocesan trustees. In Canon Law a parish is a public juridical person with the parish priest conducting his ministry under the authority of the Bishop. A parish has the right under Canon Law to acquire, retain, administer and alienate temporal goods subject to the norms of Canon Law.

Taxation

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Lancaster is a charity within the meaning of section 1119 Corporation Taxes Act (CTA) 2010. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by sections 478 - 489 of the CTA 2010 or section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 2010, to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes.

The charity's subsidiary and associated undertakings are subject to corporation tax in the same way as any commercial or charitable organisation, as appropriate.

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2 GROUP BODIES

The charity has interests in associated and subsidiary undertakings, which are consolidated in the financial statements, as follows:

Limited companies

St Kentigern's Parish Centre Ltd	Subsidiary	100%	Social club/centre
St Anthony's Parish (Preston) Centre Ltd	Subsidiary	100%	Social club/centre
St Margaret Mary's Parish Community Centre (Carlisle) Ltd	Subsidiary	100%	Social club/centre

All the above companies are incorporated in the United Kingdom.

Trusts and Charities

The charity has consolidated the financial statements of the following associated or subsidiary trusts and charities into these financial statements:

The Moyston Trust
Lancaster Diocesan Pilgrimage Trust
St Cuthbert's Carlisle School Charity
St John's Poulton 1838 Charity

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3.1 ANALYSIS OF INCOME – GROUP
CURRENT YEAR

	PARISHES				CENTRAL DIOCESAN AGENCIES			2025	2024
	Unrestricted £000	Restricted £000	Endowments £000	Total £000	Unrestricted £000	Restricted £000	Total £000	£000	£000
Donations and legacies									
Collections	2,433	-	-	2,433	-	-	-	2,433	2,345
Donations	858	21	-	879	60	50	110	989	858
Legacies	846	-	-	846	56	34	90	936	1,389
Special collections	338	-	-	338	-	10	10	348	417
Gift Aid	577	-	-	577	-	-	-	577	554
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	5,052	21	-	5,073	116	94	210	5,283	5,563
Charitable activities									
Grants received	163	170	-	333	12	-	12	345	113
Service charges receivable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sale of candles, votives etc	136	15	-	151	9	-	9	160	144
Youth Service income	-	-	-	-	491	-	491	491	435
Insurance claim receipts	35	-	-	35	-	-	-	35	46
Income from chaplaincy	85	-	-	85	12	-	12	97	54
Subscriptions and other charges *	20	-	-	20	2	36	38	58	119
Inter diocese re-charges	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Education Service income *	-	-	-	-	481	-	481	481	314
Income for graveyards & funerals	46	-	-	46	-	-	-	46	79
Other *	26	-	-	26	37	4	41	67	172
	511	185	-	696	1,044	40	1,084	1,780	1,476
Other trading activities									
Parish hall income	88	-	-	88	-	-	-	88	69
Fund raising - fetes etc	569	-	-	569	-	-	-	569	504
Rental income	1,294	-	-	1,294	106	17	123	1,417	1,266
	1,951	-	-	1,951	106	17	123	2,074	1,839
Investments									
Bank interest received	96	-	-	96	123	16	139	235	197
Dividend income	626	-	21	647	70	353	423	1,070	985
Rental and leasing income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	722	-	21	743	193	369	562	1,305	1,182
Other									
Gains and losses on sale of fixed assets	249	-	-	249	-	-	-	249	370
Other	16	-	-	16	-	-	-	16	-
	265	-	-	265	-	-	-	265	370
TOTAL GROUP INCOME 2025	8,501	206	21	8,728	1,459	520	1,979	10,707	10,430

* Comparative for 2024 restated

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

3.1 ANALYSIS OF INCOME – GROUP PREVIOUS YEAR 5 April 2024

	PARISHES				CENTRAL DIOCESAN AGENCIES			2024	2023
	Unrestricted £000	Restricted £000	Endowments £000	Total £000	Unrestricted £000	Restricted £000	Total £000	£000	£000
Donations and legacies									
Collections	2,345	-	-	2,345	-	-	-	2,345	2,265
Donations	583	70	-	653	30	175	205	858	714
Legacies	388	-	-	388	1,001	-	1,001	1,389	924
Special collections	417	-	-	417	-	-	-	417	380
Gift Aid	553	-	-	553	1	-	1	554	443
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	4,286	70	-	4,356	1,032	175	1,207	5,563	4,726
Charitable activities									
Grants received	4	3	-	7	56	50	106	113	151
Service charges receivable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sale of candles, votives etc	123	-	-	123	21	-	21	144	135
Youth Service income	-	-	-	-	435	-	435	435	442
Insurance claim receipts	46	-	-	46	-	-	-	46	28
Income from chaplaincy	62	-	-	62	(8)	-	(8)	54	79
Subscriptions and other charges*	93	-	-	93	94	46	140	119	180
Inter diocese re-charges	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Education Service income*	79	-	-	79	-	-	-	314	-
Income for graveyards & funerals	124	-	-	124	248	-	248	172	47
Other *	531	3	-	534	846	96	942	1,476	135
									1,197
Other trading activities									
Parish hall income	69	-	-	69	-	-	-	69	318
Fund raising - fetes etc	499	-	-	499	5	-	5	504	104
Rental income	976	-	-	976	271	19	290	1,266	1,301
	1,544	-	-	1,544	276	19	295	1,839	1,723
Investments									
Bank interest received	-	-	-	-	197	-	197	197	121
Dividend income	602	-	17	619	59	307	366	985	949
Rental and leasing income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	602	-	17	619	256	307	563	1,182	1,070
Other									
Gains and losses on sale of fixed assets	98	-	-	98	272	-	272	370	46
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	98	-	-	98	272	-	272	370	46
	7,061	73	17	7,151	2,682	597	3,279	10,430	8,762

* restated

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3.2 ANALYSIS OF INCOME – CHARITY
CURRENT YEAR

Donations and legacies

Collections
Donations
Legacies
Special collections
Gift Aid
Other

Charitable activities

Grants received
Service charges receivable
Sale of candles, votives etc
Youth Service income
Insurance claim receipts
Income from chaplaincy
Subscriptions and other charges *
Inter diocese re-charges
Education Service income *
Income for graveyards & funerals
Other *

Other trading activities

Parish hall income
Fund raising - fetes etc
Rental income

Investments

Bank interest received
Dividend income
Rental and leasing income
Other

Other

Gains and losses on sale of fixed assets

TOTAL CHARITY INCOME 2025

PARISHES				CENTRAL DIOCESAN AGENCIES				2025	2024
Unrestricted £000	Restricted £000	Endowments £000	Total £000	Unrestricted £000	Restricted £000	Total £000		£000	£000
2,433	-	-	2,433	-	-	-		2,433	2,345
858	21	-	879	56	51	107		986	853
846	-	-	846	56	33	89		935	1,387
338	-	-	338	-	10	10		348	419
577	-	-	577	-	-	-		577	553
-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-
5,052	21	-	5,073	112	94	206		5,279	5,557
164	170	-	334	-	-	-		334	113
-	-	-	-	6	-	6		6	-
136	15	-	151	9	-	9		160	144
-	-	-	-	492	-	492		492	435
35	-	-	35	-	-	-		35	46
85	-	-	85	-	-	-		85	54
20	-	-	20	12	36	48		68	119
-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-
-	-	-	-	481	-	481		481	314
45	-	-	45	-	-	-		45	79
26	-	-	26	37	4	41		67	172
511	185	-	696	1,037	40	1,077		1,773	1,476
88	-	-	88	-	-	-		88	69
128	-	-	128	-	-	-		128	125
1,294	-	-	1,294	86	17	103		1,397	1,248
1,510	-	-	1,510	86	17			1,613	1,442
95	-	-	95	123	16	139		234	196
627	-	21	648	1	353	354		1,002	927
-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-
722	-	-	743	124	369	493		1,236	1,123
249	-	-	249	-	-	-		249	370
249	-	-	249	-	-	-		249	370
8,044	206	21	8,271	1,359	520	1,879		10,150	9,968

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*Comparative for 2024 restated

3.2 ANALYSIS OF INCOME – CHARITY
PREVIOUS YEAR 5 April 2024

	PARISHES				CENTRAL DIOCESAN AGENCIES				2024	2023
	Unrestricted £000	Restricted £000	Endowments £000	Total £000	Unrestricted £000	Restricted £000	Total £000		£000	£000
Donations and legacies										
Collections	2,345	-	-	2,345	-	-	-		2,345	2,265
Donations	582	70	-	652	25	176	201		853	711
Legacies	387	-	-	387	1,000	-	1,000		1,387	924
Special collections	419	-	-	419	-	-	-		419	380
Gift Aid	552	-	-	552	1	-	1		553	443
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-
	4,285	70	-	4,355	1,026	176	1,202		5,557	4,723
Charitable activities										
Grants received	4	3	-	7	56	50	106		113	148
Service charges receivable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-
Sale of candles, votives etc	123	-	-	123	21	-	21		144	135
Youth Service income	-	-	-	-	435	-	435		435	442
Insurance claim receipts	46	-	-	46	-	-	-		46	28
Income from chaplaincy	62	-	-	62	(8)	-	(8)		54	79
Subscriptions and other charges*	93	-	-	93	94	46	140		119	180
Inter diocese re-charges	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-
Education Service income*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		314	-
Income for graveyards & funerals	79	-	-	79	-	-	-		79	47
Other*	124	-	-	124	248	-	248		172	135
	531	3	-	534	846	96	942		1,476	1,194
Other trading activities										
Parish hall income	69	-	-	69	-	-	-		69	84
Fund raising - fetes etc	120	-	-	120	5	-	5		125	104
Rental income	976	-	-	976	253	19	272		1,248	1,284
	1,165	-	-	1,165	258	19	277		1,442	1,472
Investments										
Bank interest received	-	-	-	-	196	-	196		196	121
Dividend income	602	-	17	619	2	306	308		927	891
Rental and leasing income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-
	602	-	17	619	198	306	504		1,123	1,012
Other										
Gains and losses on sale of fixed assets	98	-	-	98	272	-	272		370	46
	98	-	-	98	272	-	272		370	46
TOTAL CHARITY INCOME 2024	6,681	73	17	6,771	2,600	597	3,197		9,968	8,447
*restated										

LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

4.1 ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE – GROUP
PREVIOUS YEAR 5 April 2024

	PARISHES				CENTRAL DIOCESAN AGENCIES			2024	2023
	Unrestricted £000	Restricted £000	Endowments £000	Total £000	Unrestricted £000	Restricted £000	Total £000	£000	£000
Expenditure on raising funds:									
Parish fund raising events' costs	38	-	-	38	7	-	7	45	49
Other fund raising events' costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Social club bar purchases	169	-	-	169	-	-	-	169	99
Social club other costs	194	-	-	194	-	-	-	194	144
Investment management costs	51	-	-	51	16	27	43	94	84
Rental property management costs	8	-	-	8	74	-	74	82	81
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	460	-	-	460	97	27	124	584	461
Expenditure on charitable activities									
Provision of places of worship & ancillary buildings	4,018	20	-	4,038	204	6	210	4,248	3,958
Provision of religious services & pastoral care	1,867	18	-	1,885	466	5	471	2,356	2,464
Support of education & youth services	-	-	-	-	1,140	102	1,242	1,242	769
Training of prtests, deacons & seminarians	-	-	-	-	5	130	135	135	161
Support of retired priests	-	-	-	-	7	302	309	309	364
Grants, donations & levies	600	44	-	644	27	-	27	671	687
Other charitable activity costs	37	1	-	38	43	-	43	81	6
	6,522	83	-	6,605	1,892	545	2,437	9,042	8,409
Other	8	-	-	8	-	-	-	8	6
TOTAL GROUP EXPENDITURE 2024	6,990	83	-	7,073	1,989	572	2,561	9,634	8,876

LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST
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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

4.2 ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE -
CHARITY
CURRENT YEAR

Expenditure on raising funds:

- Parish fund raising events' costs
- Other fund raising events' costs
- Social club bar purchases
- Social club other costs
- Investment management costs
- Rental property management costs

- Expenditure on charitable activities**
- Provision of places of worship & ancillary buildings
- Provision of religious services & pastoral care
- Support of education & youth services
- Training of priests, deacons & seminarians
- Support of retired priests
- Grants, donations & levies
- Other charitable activities

TOTAL CHARITY EXPENDITURE
2025

	PARISHES			CENTRAL DIOCESAN AGENCIES			2025	2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowments	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Parish fund raising events' costs	24	13	-	37	-	-	37	38
Other fund raising events' costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Social club bar purchases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Social club other costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investment management costs	78	-	-	78	13	-	91	78
Rental property management costs	-	-	-	-	30	-	30	81
	102	13	-	115	43	-	158	197
Provision of places of worship & ancillary buildings	5,023	6	-	5,029	335	-	5,364	4,247
Provision of religious services & pastoral care	2,019	22	-	2,041	520	7	2,568	2,337
Support of education & youth services	-	-	-	-	1,057	-	1,057	1,242
Training of priests, deacons & seminarians	(2)	-	-	(2)	11	107	116	135
Support of retired priests	-	-	-	-	17	306	323	310
Grants, donations & levies	543	-	-	543	14	-	557	672
Other charitable activities	60	-	-	60	21	-	81	71
	7,643	28	-	7,671	1,975	420	10,066	9,014
TOTAL CHARITY EXPENDITURE	7,745	41	-	7,786	2,018	420	10,224	9,211

LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

4.2 ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE – CHARITY PREVIOUS YEAR 5 April 2024

Expenditure on raising funds:

Parish fund raising events' costs	38	-	-	-	38
Other fund raising events' costs	-	-	-	-	-
Social club bar purchases	-	-	-	-	-
Social club other costs	-	-	-	-	-
Investment management costs	51	-	-	-	51
Rental property management costs	-	-	-	-	-
	89	-	-	-	89

Expenditure on charitable activities

Provision of places of worship & ancillary buildings	4,017	20	-	-	4,037
Provision of religious services & pastoral care	1,867	18	-	-	1,885
Support of education & youth services	-	-	-	-	-
Training of priests, deacons & seminarians	-	-	-	-	-
Support of retired priests	-	-	-	-	-
Grants, donations & levies	601	44	-	-	645
Other charitable activities	37	1	-	-	38
	6,522	83	-	-	6,605
	6,611	83	-	-	6,694

TOTAL CHARITY EXPENDITURE 2024

	PARISHES			CENTRAL DIOCESAN AGENCIES			2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowments	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	38	-	-	-	-	-	38	52
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	51	-	-	-	-	27	78	66
	-	-	-	-	81	-	81	75
	89	-	-	-	81	27	197	193
	4,017	20	-	-	204	6	4,247	3,960
	1,867	18	-	-	447	5	2,337	2,448
	-	-	-	-	1,140	102	1,242	768
	-	-	-	-	5	130	135	160
	-	-	-	-	8	302	310	364
	601	44	-	-	27	-	672	685
	37	1	-	-	33	-	71	-
	6,522	83	-	-	1,864	545	9,014	8,385
	6,611	83	-	-	1,945	572	9,211	8,578

LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

5 EMPLOYEES AND OFFICE HOLDERS (including key management personnel)

The number of employees, which excludes clergy and volunteers, during the year was: -

	2025	2024
Central diocesan: administration and support services	13	13
Education Service	4	4
Youth Service including Castlerigg	14	11
Parochial	60	61
Clubs & centres	15	18
	106	107
The aggregate remuneration paid to employees was: -	£000	£000
Wages and salaries	1,305	1,305
Social security costs	79	66
Pension costs	70	60
	1,454	1,431
Amounts paid to clergy during the year: - for active ministry	504	469
retirement gratuities	175	220
	679	689

The number of employees who earned more than £60,000 (including benefits but excluding employer's national insurance and pension contributions) during the year was as follows: -

	2025	2024
£60,001 - £70,000	-	1
£80,001 - £90,000	1	1
	1	2

Employees include administrative staff at both Diocese and Parishes, together with associated and related entities. Clergy are self-employed office holders and not employees.

Key personnel

The trustees consider the board of trustees as the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling the charity and running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. All trustees give their time freely, and no trustee receives any remuneration in respect of the work undertaken in the role of trustee. There are members of the board of trustees who are also clergy of the Diocese of Lancaster, and as with other members of the clergy receive a remuneration for the work they undertake in their clerical role only. These trustees are identified in the list of trustees on page 3 " Trustees and Advisors".

Details of trustees' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in the notes the accounts. Trustees are required to disclose all relevant interests and register them with the diocesan secretary and in accordance with the trustees' policy withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest may arise.

LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

6 TRUSTEES

No trustee received any remuneration during the year or previous year. Certain trustees received allowances as serving clergy but not in their capacity as trustee.

During the year 4 trustees (2024: 4) received expenses to the value of £3,034 (2024: £3,021) in respect of travel and subsistence costs in respect of their position as a trustee.

Trustees who are also serving clergy may receive expenses in connection with their clerical role. Any such expenses have not been quantified and are not included above.

7 NET EXPENDITURE

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
This is stated after charging: -		
Depreciation	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>
Audit	<u>44</u>	<u>39</u>

8 ALLOCATED SUPPORT COSTS

Support and governance costs incurred during the year were:

	2025	2024
	£ 000	£ 000
Governance	121	73
Safeguarding *	117	-
Finance & Gift Aid Offices	103	102
Property Office & Health & Safety	148	129
Pastoral Centre	48	35
IT*	28	-
	<u>565</u>	<u>339</u>

*No amount included in the previous year

The above costs were allocated as follows based on estimate of staff and trustees' time spent of each category of activity:

Fund raising	11	7
Provision of place of worship	345	200
Provision of religious services and Pastoral care	119	68
Support of Education and youth services.	57	31
Training of clergy	11	4
Support of sick and retired priests	17	8
Grants, donations and levies	5	14
Other charitable activities	-	7
	<u>565</u>	<u>339</u>

LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

9 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

9.1 GROUP

Cost or valuation

At the beginning of the year

Additions

Disposals

At end of the year

Depreciation and impairments

At beginning of the year

Eliminated on disposals

Depreciation

Impairment

At end of the year

Net book value

Net book value at the beginning of the year

Net book value at the end of the year

PARISHES					CENTRAL DIOCESAN AGENCIES					2025	2024
Freehold land & buildings	Motor vehicles	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total		Freehold land & buildings	Motor vehicles	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total			
£000	£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000	£000		£000	£000
£	£	£	£		£	£	£	£		£	£
36,873	42	1,092	38,007		7,241	21	132	7,394		45,401	45,156
-	-	5	5		-	-	-	-		5	370
(210)	-	-	(210)		-	-	-	-		(210)	(125)
36,663	42	1,097	37,802		7,241	21	132	7,394		45,196	45,401
6,144	29	1,049	7,222		1,137	21	130	1,288		8,510	8,526
(42)	-	-	(42)		-	-	-	-		(42)	(28)
-	2	8	10		-	-	2	2		12	12
-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-		-	-
6,102	31	1,057	7,190		1,137	21	132	1,290		8,480	8,510
30,729	13	43	30,785		6,104	-	2	6,106		36,891	36,630
30,561	11	40	30,612		6,104	-	-	6,104		36,716	36,891

LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

9 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

9.2 CHARITY

	PARISHES				CENTRAL DIOCESAN AGENCIES				2025	2024
	Freehold land & buildings	Motor Vehicles	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total	Freehold land & buildings	Motor vehicles	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total		
Cost or valuation	£000 £	£000 £	£000 £	£000 £	£000 £	£000 £	£000 £	£000 £	£000 £	£000 £
At the beginning of the year	36,792	42	965	37,799	7,119	21	134	7,274	44,831	44,831
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	367	367
Disposals	(210)	-	-	(210)	-	-	-	-	(125)	(125)
At end of the year	36,582	42	965	37,589	7,119	21	134	7,274	44,863	45,073
Depreciation and impairments										
At beginning of the year	6,144	37	965	7,146	1,137	16	128	1,281	8,427	8,450
Eliminated on disposals	(42)	-	-	(42)	-	-	-	-	(42)	(28)
Depreciation	-	1	-	1	-	1	2	3	4	5
Impairment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
At end of the year	6,102	38	965	7,105	1,137	17	130	1,284	8,389	8,427
Net book value										
Net book value at the beginning of the year	30,648	5	0	30,653	5,982	5	6	5,993	36,646	36,381
Net book value at the end of the year	30,480	4	0	30,484	5,982	4	4	5,990	36,474	36,646

LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST
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10 INVESTMENTS

	Market value at start of year	Costs of investments purchased	Proceeds of sale of investments	CIMV	Market value at end of year
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
CHARITY					
Equities & unit trusts	29,212	534	(632)	(2,009)	27,105
Fixed interest	5,141	1,475	(2,398)	343	4,561
	<u>34,353</u>	<u>2,009</u>	<u>(3,030)</u>	<u>(1,666)</u>	31,666
Less					
Held for subsidiary entities	1,845	289	-	(119)	2,015
Held for third parties	23		-	(1)	22
	<u>1,868</u>	<u>289</u>		<u>(120)</u>	2,037
	32,485	1,720	(3,030)	(1,546)	29,629
Cash	<u>199</u>				566
Charity	<u>32,684</u>			<u>(1,546)</u>	30,195
GROUP					
Equities & unit trusts	29,253	534	(639)	(2,010)	27,138
Fixed interest	5,141	1,475	(2,398)	343	4,561
	<u>34,394</u>	<u>2,009</u>	<u>(3,037)</u>	<u>(1,667)</u>	31,699
Less:					
Third party	23	-	-	(1)	22
	<u>34,371</u>	<u>2,009</u>	<u>(3,037)</u>	<u>(1,666)</u>	31,677
Cash	<u>201</u>				569
Group	<u>34,572</u>			<u>(1,666)</u>	32,246

The Diocesan Trust operates a pooled investment fund where investors hold units and do not invest directly in discrete holdings.

LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST
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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

11 DEBTORS & PREPAYMENTS

	GROUP		CHARITY	
	2025 £000	2024 £000	2025 £000	2024 £000
Gift Aid and Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme recoverable	504	395	504	395
Sundry debtors	379	88	377	95
Prepayments and accrued income	183	214	183	213
Loans to clergy		2		2
	1,066	699	1,064	705

An amount of £55,473 included in sundry debtors is being repaid by an annual instalment of £18,491 each and therefore full repayment will be made within 3 years. Note that no payment was received during the year ended 5 April 2025 of 5 April 2024. All other debtors are receivable within one year.

12 CREDITORS & ACCRUALS

Amounts falling due within one year

Trade creditors	18	24	4	11
Accruals and deferred income	148	59	148	59
Taxation and social security	-	-	-	-
Other creditors	2,222	2,018	2,567	2,601
	2,388	2,101	2,719	2,671

Amounts falling due after more than one year

Other creditors	60	47	-	-
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LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

13.1 RESTRICTED FUNDS – current year

Charity: Diocesan Central Agencies
 Ecclesiastical Education Fund
 Poor Missions Fund
 Sick and Retired Priests Fund
 Funds for Overseas Missions
 Kirkham Church of St John and RC Purposes
 Catforth, Thurnham & Westby Schools
 St Ignatius Legacy
 Diocesan Catholic Caring Fund
 Good Shepherd Fund
 Legacy (M Lawton)
 Diocesan Schools Singing Program
 Mary Strand Trust
 The Moyston Fund
 Sundry Funds (restated)

	Opening balance 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Unrealised gains on investments	Closing balance 2025
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	5,418	177	(107)	(35)	(230)	5,223
	2,085	72	-	(34)	(91)	2,032
	5,442	242	(306)	80	(160)	5,298
	9	-	-	-	-	9
	338	10	-	(16)	(17)	315
	96	3	-	(19)	(4)	76
	21	-	-	-	-	21
	134	3	-	-	-	137
	71	12	(7)	(10)	-	66
	41	-	-	-	-	41
	25	-	-	-	-	25
	25	-	-	-	-	25
	(2)	-	-	-	-	(2)
	69	1	-	-	(2)	68
Total of diocesan agencies restricted fund	13,772	520	(420)	(34)	(504)	13,334

LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST
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13.1 RESTRICTED FUNDS (continued) – current year

Charity: Parishes

St John Vianney & St Monica, legacy
Our Lady of Eden, Carlisle, Reverend Turner legacy
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Carlisle Restoration Fund
St Mary, Fleetwood, legacy
St Wulstan & St Edmund, Fleetwood, Allen Millar Memorial Fund
Our Lady of the Assumption & St Cuthbert, Wigton & Silloth – Food Pantry
Our Lady of the Assumption & St Cuthbert, Wigton & Silloth- Grant
Refugee support projects (various parishes)
Workington Stella Maris Project
St Thomas, Clayton, legacy
St Mary & St James, Scorton, legacy
St Francis Goosnargh, Grant
Blessed Henry Newman, Morecambe, Grants

	Opening balance 2024 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers £000	Unrealised gains on investments £000	Closing balance 2025 £000
	36	-	-	-	-	36
	18	-	-	(18)	-	-
	16	-	(4)	29	-	41
	193	-	-	-	-	193
	30	-	(1)	-	-	29
	20	23	(14)	-	-	29
	-	7	-	(7)	-	-
	35	10	(22)	(6)	-	17
	13	10	-	-	-	23
	10	-	-	(3)	-	7
	10	-	-	(3)	-	7
	-	120	-	(120)	-	-
	-	36	-	(36)	-	-
Total of parish restricted funds	381	206	(41)	(164)	-	382
CHARITY total: all restricted funds 2025	14,153	726	(461)	(198)	(504)	13,716
GROUP total 2025: all restricted funds	14,153	726	(461)	(198)	(504)	13,716

LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025
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13.1 RESTRICTED FUNDS – [previous year 5 April 2024](#)

	Opening balance 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Unrealised gains on investments	Closing balance 2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Charity: Diocesan Central Agencies						
Ecclesiastical Education Fund		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Poor Missions Fund		4,860	160	(151)	(32)	5,418
Sick and Retired Priests Fund		1,915	56	(4)	(112)	2,085
Funds for Overseas Missions		5,002	198	(313)	100	5,442
Kirkham Church of St John and RC Purposes		9	-	-	-	9
Catforth, Thurnham & Westby Schools		295	9	-	(8)	338
St Ignatius Legacy		86	2	-	(1)	96
Diocesan Catholic Caring Fund		21	-	-	-	21
Good Shepherd Fund		134	-	-	-	134
Academy Support Grant		63	8	-	-	71
Newman School Rebuilding Fund		18	-	-	(18)	-
Legacy (M Lawton)		144	139	(102)	(181)	-
Diocesan Schools Singing Program		41	-	-	-	41
Mary Strand Trust		25	-	-	-	25
The Moyston Fund		25	-	-	-	25
Sundry Funds (restated)		-	-	(2)	-	(2)
		44	25	-	-	69
Total of diocesan agencies restricted fund		12,682	597	(572)	(252)	13,772

LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025
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Charity: Parishes

St John Vianney & St Monica, legacy
 Our Lady of Eden, Carlisle, Reverend Turner legacy
 Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Carlisle Restoration Fund
 St Mary, Fleetwood, legacy
 St Wulstan & St Edmund, Fleetwood, Allen Millar Memorial Fund
 Our Lady of the Assumption & St Cuthbert, Wigton & Silloth
 Refugee support projects (various parishes)
 Workington Stella Maris Project
 St Thomas, Clayton, legacy
 St Mary & St James, Scorton, legacy
 St Mary, Hornby, Lottery Community Grant

	Opening balance 2023 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers £000	Unrealised gains on investments £000	Closing balance 2024 £000
	36	-	-	-	-	36
	18	-	-	-	-	18
	16	-	-	-	-	16
	193	-	-	-	-	193
	33	30	(33)	-	-	30
	16	25	(21)	-	-	20
	44	3	(12)	-	-	35
	10	15	(12)	-	-	13
	10	-	-	-	-	10
	10	-	-	-	-	10
	5	-	(5)	-	-	-
Total of parish restricted funds	391	73	(83)	-	-	381
CHARITY total: all restricted funds 2024	13,073	670	(655)	(252)	1,317	14,153
GROUP total 2024: all restricted funds	13,073	670	(655)	(252)	1,317	14,153

LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST
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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Purpose of restricted funds	
Diocesan Central Agencies	
Ecclesiastical Education Fund	Training of priests and deacons of the diocese.
Poor Missions Fund	Support poor parishes and churches within the Diocese of Lancaster.
Sick and Retired Priests Fund	Financial and medical care of sick and retired clergy of the diocese.
Funds for Overseas Missions	Support for overseas missions at the discretion of the Bishop.
Kirkham Church of St John and RC Purposes	The provision and maintenance of resources and facilities for the people of Kirkham for the pursuit of the Roman Catholic religion, through the church of St John The Evangelist, Kirkham.
Catforth, Thurnham & Westby	The provision and maintenance of resources and facilities for the people of Catforth, Thurnham and Westby for the pursuit of the Roman Catholic religion in these areas and educational purposes.
St Ignatius Legacy Fund	Legacies received and previously held as general parish funds which were given for the upkeep of the parish property now in the Canonical ownership of the Diocese.
Diocesan Catholic Caring Fund	To provide support for diocesan sponsored caring activities.
Good Shepherd	To assist diocesan projects that aim to support the poor and disadvantaged, particularly the young and those with special needs.
Legacy (M Lawton)	To be applied towards the purposes of education in the Diocese of lay adults and children.
Diocesan Schools Singing Program	To be used to support sing in schools
Mary Strand Trust	To bring relief to those experiencing poverty arising from unemployment, sickness, disability or other misfortunes that life throws
The Moyston Fund	To meet similar aim as the Moyston Trust, which is to be merged with the Diocesan Trust, namely to provide for the Roman Catholic education of children and to support the Roman Catholic religion within the geographical boundaries of the Diocese of Lancaster.
Sundry	For the purposes of those funds.
Parishes	
St John Vianney & St Monica, Legacy	For the parish building fund.
Our Lady of Eden, Carlisle, Reverend Turner legacy	For the refurbishment/rebuilding of the St Ninian's Chapel, Brampton, Carlisle.
St Mary, Fleetwood, Legacy	For the saying of Masses for the nominated family members (name not published for privacy)
Our Lady & St Wilfrid, Warwick Bridge, Carlisle, Restoration Fund	For the restoration of the church of Our Lady & St Wilfrid, Warwick Bridge, Carlisle.
St Wulstan & St Edmund, Fleetwood, Allen Millar Memorial Fund	For the poor & needy parishioners of the parish of St Wulstan & St Edmund's, Fleetwood, Lancs.
Our Lady of the Assumption & St Cuthbert, Wigton & Silloth -Food Pantry	Running of a food bank to assist poor and need in the local parish area
Our Lady of the Assumption & St Cuthbert, Wigton & Silloth -Grants	Grant received to help towards cost of repairs to the church.
Christ the King, Workington, Stella Maris	To fund repairs works to the church of Our Lady and St Michael, Workington
Refugee support projects (various parishes)	To support Syrian refugee families.
St Thomas, Clayton, legacy	Maintenance and upkeep of the church.
St Mary & St James, Scorton, Legacy	Maintenance and upkeep of the church.
St Francis Goosnargh, Grant	Grant received to help towards cost of repairs to the church.
Blessed Henry Newman, Morecambe, Grants	Grants received to help towards cost of repairs to the church.

LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST
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13.2 PERMANENT ENDOWED FUNDS

CHARITY - Lancaster Capital Common Investment Fund
GROUP- Lancaster Capital Common Investment Fund

Previous year 5 April 2024

Charity - Lancaster Capital Common Investment Fund

Group- Lancaster Capital Common Investment Fund

	Opening balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Unrealised gains on investments	Closing balance
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	651	21	-	(21)	(34)	617
	651	21	-	(21)	(34)	617
	567	17	-	(17)	84	651
	567	17	-	(17)	84	651

The Lancaster Capital Common Investment Fund represents the endowment fund held by the Charity.

As a direct result of the further scheme of the Charity Commission dated 2 May 2000 (applied on this date but sealed 6 November 2000), as mentioned earlier in the Trustees' Report – Investment Powers, the trustees have transferred a portion of general reserves and reclassified these as an endowment fund "Lancaster Capital Common Investment Fund".

13.3 PARISH GENERAL FUNDS (including designated funds)

CHARITY
GROUP

Previous year 5 April 2024

Charity

Group

	Opening balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Unrealised gains/losses on investments	Closing balance
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	64,992	8,044	(7,745)	(612)	(1,006)	63,673
	65,142	8,501	(8,190)	(612)	(1,006)	63,835
	62,748	6,681	(6,611)	(684)	2,858	64,992
	62,898	7,061	(6,990)	(684)	2,857	65,142

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13.4 DIOCESAN GENERAL FUNDS (including designated funds)

5

	Opening balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Unrealised gains on investments	Closing balance
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
CHARITY	2,244	1,359	(2,018)	831	(2)	2,414
GROUP	4,790	1,459	(2,084)	831	(122)	4,874
	630	2,600	(1,945)	953	6	2,244
	2,899	2,682	(1,989)	953	245	4,790

Previous year 5 April 2024

Charity
Group

13.5 DESIGNATED FUND (included in general funds)

CHARITY: Diocesan central agencies

Evangelisation (support of evangelisation projects within the Diocese as directed by the Bishop)
Newbridge House (support spirituality projects within the Diocese as directed by the Bishop)
Vocations (support vocations at the discretion of the Bishop)
Special collections (for purposes of each special collection)

Parishes none

	Opening balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Unrealised gains on investments	Closing balance
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	194	12	(56)	22	-	172
	96	2	-	-	-	98
	21	1	-	(22)	-	-
	49	-	-	-	-	49
	360	15	(56)	-	-	319
	-	-	-	-	-	-
CHARITY total	360	15	(56)	-	-	319
GROUP total	360	15	(56)	-	-	319

LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST
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[Previous year 5 April 2024](#)

Charity: Diocesan central agencies

Evangelisation	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	232	7	(42)	(3)	-	194
Newbridge House	96	-	-	-	-	96
Vocations	21	-	-	-	-	21
Special collections	49	-	-	-	-	49
	398	7	(42)	(3)	-	360

Parishes none

Charity total 2024	398	7	(42)	-	-	360
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Group total 2024	398	7	(42)	-	-	360
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LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025
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14 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

14.1 GROUP

PARISHES GROUP BALANCES					CENTRAL DIOCESAN AGENCIES GROUP BALANCES					2025		2024
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment	Total	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total					
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000		£000		£000	
Fixed assets	30,725	-	-	30,725	4,870	1,121	5,991		36,716		36,891	
Investments	19,853	-	617	20,470	2,096	9,680	11,776		32,246		34,572	
Stock	17	-	-	17	6	-	6		23		17	
Debtors	1,027	-	-	1,027	39	-	39		1,066		699	
Cash at bank and in hand	9,566	382	-	9,948	3,342	2,149	5,491		15,439		14,705	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(964)	-	-	(964)	(999)	(425)	(1,424)		(2,388)		(2,101)	
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	(60)	-	-	(60)	-	-	-		(60)		(47)	
Internal balances:												
Loans	(1,862)	-	-	(1,862)	1,862	-	1,862		-		-	
Diocesan bonds	5,533	-	-	5,533	(6,342)	809	(5,533)		-		-	
NET ASSETS	63,835	382	617	64,834	4,874	13,334	18,208		83,042		84,736	

LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST
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14 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

14.2 CHARITY

	PARISHES				CENTRAL DIOCESAN AGENCIES				2025	2024
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment	Total	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total			
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Fixed Assets	30,483	-	-	30,483	4,870	1,121	5,991	36,474	36,646	
Investments	19,853	-	617	20,470	45	9,680	9,725	30,195	32,684	
Stock	-	-	-	-	6	-	6	6	6	
Debtors	1,025	-	-	1,025	39	-	39	1,064	705	
Cash at bank and in hand	9,523	382	-	9,905	3,346	2,149	5,495	15,400	14,670	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(882)	-	-	(882)	(1,412)	(425)	(1,837)	(2,719)	(2,671)	
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Internal balances:										
Loans	(1,862)	-	-	(1,862)	1,862	-	1,862	-	-	
Diocesan bonds	5,533	-	-	5,533	(6,342)	809	(5,533)	-	-	
NET ASSETS	63,673	382	617	64,672	2,414	13,334	15,748	80,420	82,040	

LANCASTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST
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15 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

In the opinion of the trustees there were no contingent liabilities in existence, other than in the normal course of the activities of the charity, as at 5th April 2025 or at 5th April 2024.

16 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Due to the nature of the charity's operations and the composition of the trustee body, it is inevitable that transactions may take place with organisations in which a member of the trustees may have an interest. Such transactions involving organisations in which a member of the trustee body may have an interest are conducted at arm's length.

Following his appointment as Bishop of Lancaster in April 2018, Right Reverend P Swarbrick holds positions on non-diocesan bodies, including Ushaw College.

The diocese is a shareholder in Inter-Diocesan Fuel Management Limited (IFM), a company set up in conjunction with other dioceses in order to obtain competitively priced energy for diocesan properties. Most fuel payments are made through the IFM bulk buying scheme.

At 5th April 2025 an amount of £55,473 (2024 £55,473) was owing to the diocese from IFM in respect of overpaid contributions, disclosed under other debtors and an amount of £749,968 (2024: £533,050) was owed to IFM from individual parishes and other bodies in respect of energy costs, disclosed under other creditors.

The Blessed Edward Bamber Catholic Multi Academy Trust (BEBCMAT), the Mater Christi Multi Academy Trust (Mater Christi) and the Mater Ecclesiae Multi Academy Trust (Mater Ecclesiae) are each considered as related parties as both the Roman Catholic Bishop of Lancaster and the Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered are members of BEBCMAT and Mater Christi.

During the year the Diocesan Education Service received the following amounts from the:

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
	£	£
<u>BEBCMAT</u>		
Inspection fees	4,700	3,200
Training & conference fees	11,526	3,250
Academy support services	60,278	38,640
Academy Conversion charge	18000	4,000
<u>Mater Christi</u>		
Inspection fees	6,100	4,900
Training & conference fees	8,535	8,195
Academy support services	52,541	46,335
Academy Conversion charge	6,000	-
<u>Mater Ecclesiae</u>		
Inspection fees	4,000	2,800
Training & conference fees	5,570	2,680
Academy support services	48,800	24,995
Academy Conversion charge	4,000	16,000

17 HERITAGE ASSETS

The diocese, via its parishes, holds work of art, historic treasures, plate and similar items which are not capitalised in these accounts. In the opinion of the trustees these are considered to be historical assets which are integral to the charity's overall objectives of advancing the Roman Catholic religion and do not fall under the definition of heritage assets.