

THE PROTESTANT ALLIANCE

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Charity Registration Number 237987

CONTENTS

REPORTS

Page

Report of the Trustees

1 - 4

Report of the Independent Examiner

5

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Financial Activities

6

Balance Sheet

7

Notes to the Financial Statements

8 -14

THE PROTESTANT ALLIANCE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities published on 16 July 2014.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Council Members confirm that they have complied with their duties under section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to refer to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

The objects of The Protestant Alliance are:

- To bring the saving faith of the Lord Jesus Christ to Roman Catholics, Anglo-Catholics and to all those not knowing the Scriptures or the power of God.
- To maintain against all encroachment the Scriptural Doctrines of the Reformation and the principles of religious liberty. Where possible to relieve poverty and advance religion among persecuted Protestants.
- To seek to preserve the purity of the Gospel as recorded in the Holy Scriptures.

REVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE DELIVERING PUBLIC BENEFIT

The benefits of the work of The Protestant Alliance are the dissemination and distribution of information about the Scriptural Doctrines of the Reformation and the relief of poverty and advancement of religion among persecuted Protestants. These are achieved by:

- Producing a periodical entitled "The Reformer".
- A preaching and lecturing ministry by Mr Charles Scott-Pearson.
- Bearing witness at Protestant Martyr Commemoration meetings, principally in areas of England which were badly affected by the Marian persecution of Protestants from 1553 to 1558.
- Attending County and Agricultural shows.
- Supporting the Protestant cause in Lithuania by helping with the provision of good Biblical literature.

It is the firm and unshakeable position of The Protestant Alliance that the preaching of the Christian Gospel is beneficial not only to those who hear and respond positively to it, but also to society as a whole. History shows that when Biblical principles have been the bedrock of society there has been a general peace and tranquillity. As Biblical principles have receded in British society, we have seen a dramatic increase in crime and disorder, particularly violent crime. The public benefit of Biblical preaching to society is immeasurable.

The Council confirm that they have complied with their duties under section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to refer to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

The Trustees are grateful for the assistance of volunteers in administration at nil cost to the charity.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR

Details of the financial position of The Protestant Alliance for the year ended 31 March 2024 are shown on pages 6 to 14. The funds have been applied to the objects of the charity in accordance with the Statement of Financial Activities on page 6.

THE PROTESTANT ALLIANCE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)

FINANCIAL REVIEW (CONTINUED)

Total income received for the year was £75,824 (2023: £33,342) of which £2,343 (2023: £3,097) was restricted. The surplus on general unrestricted fund before net gains or losses on investments was £117 (2023: deficit £46,977). The deficit on restricted funds was £5,648 (2023: surplus £3,097). The net deficit before net gains or losses on investments was £5,531 (2023: £43,880). Net gains on investments were £9,842 (2023: £4,276), resulting in an overall net surplus of £4,311 (2023: deficit £48,156).

The Protestant Alliance had been operating on a deficit on the General Fund for some years prior to the year ended 31 March 2024, which had resulted in its reserves being progressively diminished. However, liquidity remains very good. The Trustees prayerfully anticipate the Lord providing all the needs of the charity according to His riches in glory.

Present levels of voluntary income excluding legacies are inadequate to sustain current levels of expenditure. The declining income in recent years reflects the diminishing constituency of Protestant Christianity in the United Kingdom. Nevertheless, there has been a welcome increase in income when "The Reformer" magazine has been published. However, staff shortages due to the low levels of income and a lack of voluntary help are still hampering the work, particularly as increasing regulatory requirements for banking have had to be met to ensure the charity can continue to operate. An internal review is being conducted by the Trustees to consider changes to the business model of the charity.

The Council is grateful to supporters for their continued sacrificial giving. Funds are raised almost entirely through the freewill giving of supporters. Funds are not raised in any way from the general public. The Trustees are encouraged by the promise of further legacies, uncertain in amount and timing, which will help future finances.

There are no restrictions on the Trustees' power to invest although their policy is to invest in low-risk investments, and having regard to social, environmental and ethical considerations.

GRANT-MAKING POLICY

It is the policy of the Council to make grants from time to time in accordance with the charity's objectives.

RESERVES POLICY

It is the policy of the Council to maintain unrestricted funds, which are the free reserves of the charity, at a level which equates to approximately three months unrestricted expenditure.

FINANCIAL POSITION AT THE YEAR END

The unrestricted general fund carried forward was £225,297 (2023: £215,338). Restricted funds carried forward were £15,188 (2023: £20,836).

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Council and staff will continue to publish and distribute "The Reformer", arrange events, preach, and witness to bring the saving faith of the Lord Jesus Christ to others in the light of Holy Scripture.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Trust is a registered charity, number 237987, and is governed by a constitution dated 3 October 1992. The Trustees are the members of the Council of Management who are elected by members at the Annual General Meeting. They are appointed for one year. Names of prospective Council Members are considered by the Council and proposed at the Annual General Meeting. The Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Clerk are appointed by the Council every year.

THE PROTESTANT ALLIANCE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

TRUSTEES AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

C N Banks (Chairman), F Raynsford (Deputy Chairman), H W Philpott (Clerk/Minutes Secretary), D E Fayers, C J David, A P Toms, M Aldridge (resigned 11 May 2024), and P Simpson (from 9 October 2023).

The following resigned during the year: M Mullins (23 August 2023) and A J Williams (5 October 2023).

LIFE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

T F Cook, G Glassbrook.

PRINCIPAL OFFICE

7 Jubilee Cottages
Station Road
Marston Moretaine
Bedford MK43 0PN

OFFICE HOLDERS

C W Scott-Pearson	(General Secretary)
K W Burden	(Hon Treasurer)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

M D Smith FCA
47 The Willows
Little Harrowden
Wellingborough
Northants NN9 5BJ

BANKERS

Barclays Bank plc

THE PROTESTANT ALLIANCE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The charity Trustees are responsible for preparing a Trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity Trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the Trustees on 18 January 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

C Banks

C BANKS
Chairman

THE PROTESTANT ALLIANCE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PROTESTANT ALLIANCE

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Protestant Alliance ('the Trust') for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 6 to 14.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the Charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts of the Trust in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the Act.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

M D Smith

M D Smith FCA
47 The Willows
Little Harrowden
Wellingborough
Northants NN9 5BJ

18 January 2025

THE PROTESTANT ALLIANCE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Income Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Subscriptions, donations and legacies	2	69,880	1,523	71,403	30,546
Sale of books and pamphlets	4	25	-	25	71
Investment income	3	3,576	820	4,396	2,725
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		73,481	2,343	75,824	33,342
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Cost of books and pamphlets for sale	4	35	-	35	110
Charitable activities	5	73,329	7,991	81,320	77,112
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		73,364	7,991	81,355	77,222
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net income / (expenditure) for the year		117	(5,648)	(5,531)	(43,880)
Net gain/(loss) on fixed asset investments	9	9,842	-	9,842	(4,276)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS for the year		9,959	(5,648)	4,311	(48,156)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		215,338	20,836	236,174	284,330
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		225,297	15,188	240,485	236,174
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

THE PROTESTANT ALLIANCE

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2024

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Income Funds	2024 Total Funds	2023 Total Funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Fixed Assets	8	26,513	-	26,513	31,308
Investment Assets	9	118,569	-	118,569	108,727
Total Fixed Assets		<u>145,082</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>145,082</u>	<u>140,035</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	10	564	-	564	599
Debtors	11	1,766	299	2,065	4,842
Charities Deposit Funds		16,372	17,692	34,064	17,896
Cash at Bank and in Hand		64,608	(2,803)	61,805	76,385
Total Current Assets		<u>83,310</u>	<u>15,188</u>	<u>98,498</u>	<u>99,722</u>
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due					
within one year	12	(3,095)	-	(3,095)	(3,583)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>80,215</u>	<u>15,188</u>	<u>95,403</u>	<u>96,139</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>225,297</u>	<u>15,188</u>	<u>240,485</u>	<u>236,174</u>
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Restricted Funds	13		15,188	15,188	20,836
Unrestricted Funds		225,297		225,297	215,338
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		<u>225,297</u>	<u>15,188</u>	<u>240,485</u>	<u>236,174</u>

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 18 January 2025 and signed on their behalf by

CNBanks
C BANKS
Chairman

THE PROTESTANT ALLIANCE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) 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 charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis although the Trustees are aware that present levels of voluntary income excluding legacies are inadequate to sustain the current levels of expenditure. The Trustees' judgement is that the charity remains a going concern.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

(b) Funds structure

The charity has both unrestricted and restricted income funds.

Unrestricted income funds comprise those funds which the Trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor. Further details of each fund are disclosed in note 13.

(c) Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably. Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date.

Legacy gifts are recognised on a case by case basis following the granting of probate when the administrator/executor for the estate has communicated in writing both the amount and settlement date.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

(d) Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenditure including support costs and governance costs is shown in note 6 under applicable headings.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

(e) Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs in relation to charitable activities have been allocated between governance costs and other support costs. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice including costs related to independent examination.

THE PROTESTANT ALLIANCE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(f) Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at an average rate of exchange for the year. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the net surplus or deficit.

(g) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and valued at historical cost.

Depreciation is charged on:

- plant and equipment (office studio) at 10% per annum on reducing balance
- plant and equipment (other) at 25% per annum on reducing balance
- motor vehicles at 25% on reducing balance.

(h) Fixed asset investments

Some funds of the charity have been invested in a COIF long-term investment fund. This investment is valued at fair value at the balance sheet date.

(i) Realised gains and losses

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their carrying value. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains and losses are combined in the Statement of Financial Activities.

(j) Stocks

Stocks, comprising books and literature, are valued at fair value, the lower of cost and net realisable value.

(k) Pensions

The charity has operated a defined contribution "money purchase" scheme during the year. The charity contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 7. The costs of the defined contribution scheme are included within support costs in note 6. All paid staff are enrolled in the National Employment Superannuation Trust (NEST).

THE PROTESTANT ALLIANCE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
2	SUBSCRIPTIONS, DONATIONS AND LEGACIES				
	Donations, gifts, and subscriptions (including Gift Aid tax recoverable)	13,779	1,523	15,302	21,641
	Income from meetings	10,448	-	10,448	8,905
	Legacies	45,653	-	45,653	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		£69,880	£1,523	£71,403	£30,546
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
3	INVESTMENT INCOME				
	Dividends receivable on investments	3,162	-	3,162	2,376
	Interest on cash deposits	414	820	1,234	349
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		£3,576	£820	£4,396	£2,725
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
4	BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS				
	The charity derived income of £25 (2023: £71) from sales of books and pamphlets with a corresponding cost of £35 (2023: £110).				
5	ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES				
	Grants made	-	7,991	7,991	-
	Governance costs	6 500	-	500	-
	Support costs	6 72,829	-	72,829	77,112
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		£73,329	£7,991	£81,320	£77,112
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

THE PROTESTANT ALLIANCE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)

6 SUPPORT COSTS

Support costs in relation to charitable activities are given below: -

	2024 £	2023 £
GENERAL SUPPORT		
Stationery, Printing and Postage, including "The Reformer"	2,580	6,624
IT costs.	1,741	1,694
Consumable equipment	279	1,076
Travel, motor and accommodation	7,469	7,858
Staff costs (Note 7)	52,226	50,050
Books and reports	22	149
Premises and office costs	3,912	3,494
Depreciation and losses on disposals	4,520	5,921
Loss/(gain) on exchange rate	80	246
GOVERNANCE		
Independent examination – contribution for laptop	500	-
TOTAL	<u>£73,329</u>	<u>£77,112</u>

7 STAFF COSTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Gross Salaries	48,910	46,806
Employer's National Insurance	859	904
Employer's Pension Contributions (Note 14)	2,457	2,340
	<u>£52,226</u>	<u>£68,759</u>

No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year. The average monthly head count was 2 staff (2023: 2) and the average number of full-time equivalent employees (including part-time staff) during the year was 1.5 (2023: 1.5).

Employee benefits in the form of a car are provided to the General Secretary for travel to preaching and lecture engagements and county shows. Private use is allowed but at the individual's own expense.

THE PROTESTANT ALLIANCE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)

8 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Total £	Plant and Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £
Cost or Valuation			
At 1 April 2023	60,760	50,751	10,009
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	(560)	(560)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2024	60,200	50,191	10,009
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	29,452	25,073	4,379
Charge for the year	4,618	3,210	1,408
Disposals	(383)	(383)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2024	33,687	27,900	5,787
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Book Value			
At 31 March 2024	£26,513	£22,291	£4,222
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
At 31 March 2023	£31,308	£25,678	£5,630
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

9 INVESTMENT ASSETS

	Long-Term Investment £
Fair value at 1 April 2023	108,727
Gain on revaluation	9,842
	<hr/>
Fair value at 31 March 2024	£118,569
	<hr/>

The long-term investment is with the COIF Charities Investment Fund. This investment is liable to fluctuations in value according to market conditions.

THE PROTESTANT ALLIANCE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)

				2024	2023	
10	STOCK					
	Books and Literature			£564	£599	
				£	£	
11	DEBTORS					
	Income Tax Recoverable			1,493	2,192	
	Other Debtors and Prepayments			572	2,650	
				£2,065	£4,842	
12	LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR					
	Social Security and other Taxes			2,343	2,606	
	Accruals			752	977	
				£3,095	£3,583	
13	RESTRICTED FUNDS					
		At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
	Lithuanian General Fund	18,071	2,231	(7,991)	-	12,311
	Protestant Memorial Fund	2,361	112	-	-	2,473
	Harding Memorial Fund	404	-	-	-	404
		£20,836	£2,343	£(7,991)	£ -	£15,188

The Lithuanian General Fund was established to provide resources for work within Lithuania in accordance with the objects of the charity.

The Protestant Memorial Fund was originally established as the Oxford Memorial Fund to renovate a Martyrs Memorial in Oxford.

The Thomas Harding memorial at Chesham needs to be renovated and the Harding Memorial Fund for this purpose is being deployed in support of a third-party initiative.

THE PROTESTANT ALLIANCE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)

14 PENSION SCHEME

The charity operated a defined contribution scheme during the year. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in independently administered funds. The employer's pension contributions paid during the year amounted to £2,457 (2023: £2,340). The charity had no material outstanding obligations at the year end.

15 TRANSACTIONS WITH TRUSTEES

No trustee received remuneration or reimbursement of expenses during the year (2023: nil).

16 CONTINGENT ASSETS

The charity has been notified that it is the beneficiary under wills of people who have died recently. However, at the present time it is not practicable to quantify all the amounts which might ultimately eventuate to the charity.