

Registered Charity No. 274327

THE ANSCOMBE BIOETHICS CENTRE

**TRUSTEES' REPORT
AND ACCOUNTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2020**

THE ANCOMBE BIOETHICS CENTRE

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2020 TO 31 DECEMBER 2020

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

Charity Name: The Anscombe Bioethics Centre

Other names the charity is known by:

The Linacre Centre Trust (old name)

The Linacre Centre for Healthcare Ethics (working name)

Registered charity number: 274327

Principal address: The Macmillan Building, Pembroke College, St Aldate's, Oxford, OX1 1DW
(until 2 September 2020)

82-83 St Aldate's, Oxford, OX1 1RA (from 3 September 2020)

Name of the charity trustee who manages the charity:

Catholic Trust for England and Wales

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees):
N/A

Names and addresses of advisors:

Independent Examiner

GBJ LLP

Sterling House

27 Hatchlands Road

Redhill RH1 6RW

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members:**List of Governors:-**

- Chair - Jim McManus OCDS CPsychol CSci FBPSS FFPH FRSB (until 25 June 2020)
- Chair - Dr Thomas Finegan BTh MA PhD (from 26 June 2020)
- Vice-chair Very Rev Dr Robert Gay OP BSc PhD STB (from 29 October 2020)
- Hon. Treasurer - Dr Stephen Barrie BA (Hons) MA PhD
- The Rt Rev Kevin Doran
- The Rt Rev John Sherrington
- Prof Patricia Casey MD FRCPI FRCPsych
- Dr Gavin Jarvis MA MA PhD VetMB MRCVS
- Dr Bernadette Kiely MB BCh BAO DCH MRCPI
- Dr Pia Matthews BTh MA MA PhD FHEA
- Prof David Paton BSc MA PhD
- Rev Dr Gregory Umunna BA BA MA STL PhD (Leuven) PGDip

Chief Executive Officer: The Director of the Centre-

- Prof David Albert Jones MA MA MSt DPhil FHEA

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Type of governing document: Trust Deed

How the charity is constituted:

The Centre is constituted by a Trust Deed date 4 April 1977, amended 27 February 2006, 23 June 2010 and 19 October 2018. The Catholic Trust for England and Wales is sole corporate trustee of the Centre. The Centre is governed by a Board of not more than 15 Governors appointed by the Trustees, including two representatives each from the Episcopal Conferences of England and Wales, of Scotland, and of Ireland.

Trustee selection methods: N/A

Additional governance issues:

Trustees' Responsibilities:

Trust law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Centre and of the surplus or deficit for the year. In preparing the financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Make judgments 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 the Centre will continue in existence

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Centre and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Centre and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Governors undertake the above responsibilities on behalf of the Trustees.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Anscombe Bioethics Centre is a Roman Catholic academic institute that engages with the moral questions arising in clinical practice and biomedical research. It brings to bear on those questions principles of natural law, virtue ethics, and the teaching of the Catholic Church, and seeks to develop the implications of that teaching for emerging fields of practice. The Centre engages in scholarly dialogue with academics and practitioners of other traditions. It contributes to public policy debates as well as to debates and consultations within the Church. It runs educational programmes for, and gives advice to, Catholics and other interested healthcare professionals and biomedical scientists.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects:

- The Board of the Centre held four meetings over this period during which consideration was given to the work, challenges and opportunities for the Centre.
- From 19 March 2020 all staff were working remotely due to the pandemic. In September 2020 the Centre moved address within Oxford for the second time within 12 months. The new accommodation offers greater opportunities for expansion once access is possible again.
- As a result of the pandemic, some events had to be cancelled while others were rescheduled or resumed online. Despite the pandemic, Centre staff delivered or facilitated, either face-to-face or online, 60 lectures, seminars and talks including a lecture series at St Mary's Seminary, Oscott, and 36 lectures, seminar presentations and talks to university chaplaincies, schools, and other audiences. Staff also engaged as participants in a further 25 such events.

- The Centre addressed ethical issues raised by the pandemic both through online discussion events and through a series of briefing papers beginning with 'Resource allocation and ventilators: A statement of Catholic principles' on 8 April 2020.
- In November, Aidan O'Neill QC (Scot.) QC (E&W) gave a presentation on 'Conscience and the respect for difference'. This was the 2020 Anscombe Memorial Lecture and was the first not to be held face-to-face.
- In this period, in addition to the 9 COVID-19 briefing papers, the Centre produced 10 book chapters or articles for peer review journals and 20 popular publications and internet articles. Staff also provided 17 peer reviews for journals or academic publishers.
- Staff also engaged with other organisations to promote reflection on ethical questions in clinical practice and biomedical research. Both the director and education and research officer are members of the Pontifical Academy of Life which has considered issues related to COVID-19 and has cited Anscombe Bioethics Centre briefing papers on its website. The director continues his work on the Ministry of Defence Research Ethics Committee. From April 2020, the director also began to attend meetings of the Medical Ethical Advisory Group (MEAG) which advises the Chief Medical Officer of England and the Department of Health and Social Care. The main focus of these meetings has been on ethical issues raised by COVID-19. Despite Brexit, the director also continues to participate in meetings of the Working Group on Ethics of COMECE (the organization for Catholic bishops' conferences within the European Union to engage with the EU).

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year:

- As a result of this activity, approximately 1,000 people were able to attend talks or presentations given by or facilitated by the Centre during this period, with an additional 500 attending events at which staff were participants. The Centre seeks feedback on events to improve future quality and so has some evidence of impact as well as reach. For example, 'feedback from students was incredibly positive and students got a lot out of it. It has helped them better understand ethics as an academic discipline too.'
- The Centre's website was viewed almost 30,000 times (an increase of more than 40% on 2019) and its Facebook and YouTube postings together over 3,000 times (also up more than 40% on 2019). The most popular web pages and videos have concerned ethical issues related to COVID-19 and the Centre has received much positive feedback expressing gratitude for these.
- In addition to academic articles, staff also published articles and interviews in the Catholic media including the *Tablet*, *Catholic Herald*, *Catholic World Report*, *Catholic News Agency*, *Crux* and *Aleteia*. These are among the English-speaking Catholic media outlets with the widest online reach; the Catholic News Agency has more than 2,230,000 Facebook followers.
- The Centre has an Academic Review Panel, consisting of Professor John Keown of Georgetown University, Professor Alasdair MacLulich of the University of Edinburgh and Professor Ilina Singh of the University of Oxford, whose remit is to provide the Governors with an independent assessment/review of the Centre's academic performance over the previous year. Commenting on the academic year October 2019 to September 2020, they stated that, 'the Centre has continued to make a valuable contribution to the advancement of Catholic bioethics. The quality and quantity of output, both scholarly and public, have again been impressive. The briefing papers on COVID-19 were particularly welcomed, in that

they engaged in a thoughtful and critical yet constructive way with statements from major bodies such as NICE and the Irish Government.'

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves:

The Governors have designated part of the reserves of the Centre as retained donated capital to provide a permanent source of investment income. From 1 June 2004, the educational development fund was released to funds for general purposes. The Governors consider that the remaining unrestricted reserves are sufficient to provide adequate working capital. In response to the financial challenges posed by the pandemic, in July 2020 a subcommittee of the Governors was tasked with considering options for cost cutting and reserve spending. This reported to the October 2020 Governors' meeting.

Details of any funds materially in deficit: N/A

Further financial review details:

The Anscombe Bioethics Centre received contributions from the Bishops' Conferences of England and Wales and of Ireland. Contributions from other sources, including individual benefactors, were also gratefully received. The Centre received one donation from an individual benefactor of £135,000. This gift, unprecedented in size in the history of the Centre, was given in recognition of the unprecedented challenges that the Centre was facing and would likely continue to face in the coming months, and in recognition of the contribution of staff to bioethical debates in Britain and Ireland. The Centre is anticipating a large drop in income in 2021 due to the restrictions in attendance at Church services, in addition to other factors common to many charities, such as the strain on household income. The significant surplus in 2020, due in large part to this individual donation, has enabled the Centre to plan not only to maintain but also to expand its activities in 2021 and beyond, and in particular to increase the hours of two new members of staff. The Governors considered this was an appropriate use of reserves notwithstanding ongoing challenges in relation to income generation.

The Governors have considered the most appropriate policy for investing funds and have found that a combination of common investment funds for charities and deposit accounts meet their requirements for security and for generating income and capital growth.

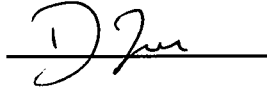
The Charity does not make grants to other charitable bodies, or to individuals.

DECLARATION

The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signatures



Prof. David Albert Jones, Director

Very Rev. Dr Robert Gay OP, Governor

Date

14 Dec 2021

20 December 2021

THE ANSCOMBE BIOETHICS CENTRE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ANSCOMBE BIOETHICS CENTRE

We report on the accounts of the Centre for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 8 to 13.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of Independent Examiners' Report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiners' Statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention:

- 1) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- 2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



GBJ LLP

Chartered Accountants
Independent Examiners

Date: 20 December 2021

27 Hatchlands Road
Redhill
Surrey
RH1 6RW

THE ANSCOMBE BIOETHICS CENTRE

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Income and expenditure					
Incoming resources					
Donations		187,579	-	187,579	79,996
Grants received		144,479	-	144,479	151,846
Investment income		917	-	917	697
Activities for generating funds:					
Sale of publications		-	-	-	218
Conferences		-	-	-	0
Total incoming resources		332,975	0	332,975	232,757
Costs of generating funds:					
Cost of printing and purchasing publications for resale		-	-	-	797
Fundraising expenses		55	-	55	-
Conferences expenses		240	-	240	3,113
		295	-	295	3,910
Net incoming resources available for charitable application		332,680	0	332,680	228,847
Charitable expenditure:					
Costs of activities in furtherance of the charity's objects:					
Salaries		149,016	-	149,016	144,640
Staff pension costs		11,272	-	11,272	10,063
Staff expenses		4,767	-	4,767	9,260
Rent, insurance and light & heat		11,091	-	11,091	15,740
Telephone		583	-	583	406
Library books and equipment		824	-	824	324
Donations		252	-	252	2
Office supplies		1,925	-	1,925	1,519
Website costs		300	-	300	65
Library periodicals		0	-	0	607
Depreciation on office equipment		0	-	0	127
Entertaining		0	-	0	307
		180,030	0	180,030	183,059
Management and administration:	2	39,939	-	39,939	43,144
Total charitable expenditure		219,969	0	219,969	226,203
Total resources expended		220,264	0	220,264	230,113
Net outgoing resources before transfers		112,711	0	112,711	2,644
Other recognised gains and losses					
Fixed assets revaluation	3	-	-	-	-
Change in market value of investments	4	586	-	586	528
Net movement in Funds		113,297	0	113,297	3,172
Fund balances brought forward at 1 January 2020		597,725	22,026	619,751	616,579
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Fund balances carried forward at 31 December 2020		711,022	22,026	733,048	619,751

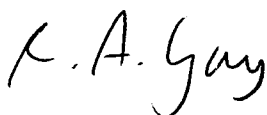
The notes on pages 10 -13 form part of these accounts

THE ANSCOMBE BIOETHICS CENTRE

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

		2020		2019	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	3		300,000		300,000
Investments	4		34,507		33,921
Deposits			<u>25,471</u>		<u>25,446</u>
			359,978		359,367
Current assets					
Stocks		16,037		16,037	
Debtors	5	18,226		13,708	
Bank current accounts		345,918		240,676	
Cash in hand		<u>240</u>		<u>240</u>	
		380,421		270,661	
Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year	6	<u>(7,351)</u>		<u>(10,277)</u>	
Net current assets			373,070		260,384
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>733,048</u>		<u>619,751</u>
Funds					
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated funds	7		33,586		33,586
General fund			<u>677,436</u>		<u>564,139</u>
			711,022		597,725
Restricted funds:	8		22,026		22,026
			<u>733,048</u>		<u>619,751</u>

Approved by the Governors on 20 December 2020 and signed on their behalf by:



Very Rev. Dr. Robert Gay OP BSc. PhD. STB
Governor

The notes on pages 10 -13 form part of these accounts

THE ANSCOMBE BIOETHICS CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities - Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102) as applied to smaller charities.

1.2 Income and Expenditure

No account is taken of income accrued or promised but not received with the exception of amounts receivable for the sale of publications and bank interest. Expenditure incurred but not paid is included in the financial statements.

Grants received comprise major donations from private trusts and other funds.

1.3 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Office equipment	25% on cost
Library books	Revalued at each year end

1.4 Investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at their market value on the accounting date.

1.5 Stock

Stocks of publications intended for resale or complimentary distribution are valued at cost after providing for damaged or unsaleable items.

1.6 Pensions

The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contributions payable by the charity during the year in accordance with SSAP 24.

THE ANSCOMBE BIOETHICS CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

2	Administrative expenses	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
		2020	2020	2020	2019
		£	£	£	£
	Wages and salaries	19,452	-	19,452	18,561
	Staff pension costs	1,515	-	1,515	1,279
	Rent, insurance and light & heat	10,023	-	10,023	12,828
	Office supplies	825	-	825	658
	Appeal expenses	2,086	-	2,086	1,070
	Telephone	250	-	250	174
	Legal and professional	1,831	-	1,831	3,144
	Sundry	-	-	-	-
	Accountancy	2,999	-	2,999	2,950
	Governors' meetings	57	-	57	369
	Governors' expenses reimbursed	410	-	410	1,712
	Bank charges	491	-	491	314
	Depreciation on office equipment	0	-	0	85
		<u>39,939</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,939</u>	<u>43,144</u>

Total emoluments of employees (including both administration and research) during the year ended 31 December 2020 were £150,737 (2019 - £150,209). One employee's emoluments totalled between £60,000 and £80,000. The average number of employees during the year was 4.

3 Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment	Library books	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 January 2020	43,444	300,000	343,444
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2020	<u>43,444</u>	<u>300,000</u>	<u>343,444</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2020	43,443	-	43,443
Charge for the year	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2020	<u>43,443</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>43,443</u>
Net book value			
At 31 December 2020	<u>0</u>	<u>300,000</u>	<u>300,000</u>
At 31 December 2019	<u>0</u>	<u>300,000</u>	<u>300,000</u>

Library books were valued as at 31st December 2020 by the Governors at market value.

THE ANSCOMBE BIOETHICS CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

4 Fixed asset investments

	2020 £	2019 £
Listed Investments		
Brought forward from previous year	33,921	33,393
Disposals	-	-
Change in market value	586	528
Market value at the end of the year	<u>34,507</u>	<u>33,921</u>
Historical cost	<u>30,058</u>	<u>30,058</u>

5 Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Prepayments and accrued income	18,226	13,708
	<u>18,226</u>	<u>13,708</u>

6 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Accruals and other creditors	7,351	10,277
Deferred income	-	-
	<u>7,351</u>	<u>10,277</u>

7 Designated Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2020 £	New des- ignations £	Utilised/ released £	Balance at 31 December 2020 £
Retained donated capital	33,586	-	-	33,586
	<u>33,586</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,586</u>

THE ANSCOMBE BIOETHICS CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

8 Restricted Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2020 £	Income £	Expenses/ Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2020 £
Education Officer Fund	26	-	-	26
Fundraising Fund	22,000	-	-	22,000
	<u>22,026</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,026</u>

The assets making up the restricted funds at the end of the financial year comprised cash at bank of £22,026 (2019: £22,000).

9 Pension costs

The charity pays contributions for staff pensions to pooled defined contribution pension schemes operated by insurance companies. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the funds and amounted to £12,752 (2019: £11,342) including payments from restricted funds.