

Registered Charity No. 274327

THE ANSCOMBE BIOETHICS CENTRE

**TRUSTEES' REPORT
AND ACCOUNTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2021**

THE ANCOMBE BIOETHICS CENTRE

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2021 TO 31 DECEMBER 2021

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: 82-83 St Aldate's, Oxford, OX1 1RA

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 - Dr Thomas Finegan BTh MA PhD
- Vice-chair Very Rev Dr Robert Gay OP BSc PhD STB
- Hon. Treasurer - Dr Stephen Barrie BA (Hons) MA PhD
- The Rt Rev Kevin Doran
- The Rt Rev John Sherrington
- Prof James Arthur, OBE
- Mr Justin Bozzino
- Prof Patricia Casey MD FRCPI FRCPsych
- Prof John Haldane, KCHS, FRSE, FRSA
- 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
- Dr Berry Kiely

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.
- The pandemic continued to have an impact on patterns of work with a mix of face-to-face and remote working. Centre staff delivered or facilitated, either face-to-face or online, 77 lectures, seminars and talks including three sets of lectures or seminars in collaboration with St Mary's College Oscott, Blackfriars Oxford, and KCL Guy's Campus Chaplaincy in addition to 39 lectures,

seminar presentations and talks to university chaplaincies, schools, and other audiences. Staff also engaged as participants in a further 22 such events.

- While the Centre continued to address ethical issues raised by the pandemic, it also engaged with a wide range of other bioethical issues including conscientious objection and research involving human embryos. The Centre launched a series of briefing papers on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide beginning with three published on 21 October 2021: 'Defining the Terms of the Debate: Euthanasia and Euphemism'; 'Voluntary Euthanasia & Physician-assisted Suicide: The Two "Slippery Slope" Arguments'; and 'First, Do No Harm: How Canadian Law Allows for Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide for Patients with Psychiatric Disorders'.
- In September, Professor Nicanor Austriaco who is Professor of Biology and Professor of Theology at Providence College, USA and Professor of Biological Sciences and Professor of Sacred Theology at University of Santo Tomas, in the Philippines delivered the 2021 Anscombe Memorial lecture on 'Pandemic Bioethics and the Common Good'.
- In this period, in addition to 6 briefing papers on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide, Centre staff published 3 papers in peer review journals and 17 popular publications and internet articles. The Centre also engaged in policy debates commented publicly and submitting written or oral evidence in governmental and professional consultations on 19 occasions.
- Staff collaborated with other organisations to further the mission of the Centre. These engagements included academic research, teaching and dialogue with Oxford University, especially but not only through Blackfriars Hall, work with St Mary's University in Twickenham and with Notre Dame University, Australia as well as with other universities. Collaborations also encompassed Catholic, ecumenical and interfaith engagement with the Pontifical Academy of Life, COMECE (the organization for Catholic bishops' conferences within the European Union to engage with the EU), the Irish Catholic Doctors' Learning Network, the Christian Medical Fellowship, and the London University Jewish Chaplaincy. Centre staff also contributed to the work of the Ministry of Defence Research Ethics Committee, the Medical Ethical Advisory Group, the Scottish Council on Human Bioethics, the Society of Apothecaries and the Bios Centre.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

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

- As a result of this activity, approximately 2,000 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, 'really appreciated the guidance to further reading and sources for our own personal research.... the discussions and the Q&A sessions at the end of each talk were very helpful... helped me to gain insight on how I could integrate my faith in clinical practice/ clinical settings, without compromising the standard of professionalism required.'
- The Centre's website was viewed more than 66,000 times, an increase of 36,400 (120%) on 2020. Its Facebook and YouTube postings together over 12,789 (Facebook) and 2,503 (YouTube) times, also up 94% (Facebook) and 21% (YouTube) on 2020. The most popular web pages and videos have concerned euthanasia and assisted suicide 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*, *Church Life Journal* and *Catholic News Agency*. 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. Centre Staff also published a variety of bioethics platforms including *MercatorNet*, *BioNews*, and the *Practical Ethics* Blog.

- 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 2020 to September 2021, they stated that 'The quality and quantity of publications, both academic and public, have again been impressive. We were [also] pleased to see, in the light of some of our recommendations from our last report, that the Centre has made increasingly effective use of virtual technology to reach a widening audience. In short, thanks to its learned and dedicated staff, the Centre has continued to maintain its enviable reputation as one of the world's leading centres of Catholic bioethics.'

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 and this informed the decisions made about spending in 2021.

Details of any funds materially in deficit: N/A

Further financial review details:

The Anscombe Bioethics Centre received a contribution from the Bishops' Conferences of England and Wales of £20,000 but due to the pandemic this was reduced by 80% compared to previous years. The financial situation could have been far worse but the Irish Bishops Conference maintained its funding and there was an increase in income from other sources due to increased fundraising activity. Nevertheless, such a large reduction in the single largest source of funding led to a very significant year-end deficit of just over £70,000. This had been anticipated and the governors had taken a deliberate decision to use reserves and not to reduce capacity in 2021 but to expand activity at a time of greater need. The Centre received a large donation in 2020 with the result that reserves at the end of 2021 remain higher than they were before the pandemic. These decisions will be kept under review dependent on the how the situation develops as the country emerges from the pandemic.

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

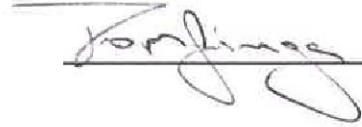
The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signatures



Prof. David Albert Jones, Director



Dr Thomas Finegan, Chair of Governors

Date

20 Oct 2022

20.10.22

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 2021, 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: 20/10/2022

27 Hatchlands Road
Redhill
Surrey
RH1 6RW

THE ANSCOMBE BIOETHICS CENTRE

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Income and expenditure					
Incoming resources					
Donations		40,599	-	40,599	187,579
Grants received		86,380	-	86,380	144,479
Investment income		691	-	691	917
Activities for generating funds:					
Sale of publications		-	-	-	-
Conferences		-	-	-	-
Total Incoming resources		127,670	-	127,670	332,975
Costs of generating funds:					
Cost of printing and purchasing publications for resale		-	-	-	-
Fundraising expenses		200	-	200	55
Conferences expenses		-	-	-	240
		200	-	200	295
Net incoming resources available for charitable application		127,470	-	127,470	332,680
Charitable expenditure:					
Costs of activities in furtherance of the charity's objects:					
Salaries		131,312	-	131,312	149,016
Staff pension costs		8,651	-	8,651	11,272
Staff expenses		4,010	-	4,010	4,767
Rent, insurance and light & heat		6,781	-	6,781	11,091
Telephone		324	-	324	583
Library books and equipment		106	-	106	824
Donations		-	-	-	252
Office supplies		2,878	-	2,878	1,926
Website costs		4,008	-	4,008	300
Depreciation on office equipment		-	-	-	-
Entertaining		12	-	12	-
		158,082	-	158,082	180,030
Management and administration:	2	39,691	-	39,691	39,939
Total charitable expenditure		197,774	-	197,774	219,969
Total resources expended		197,974	-	197,974	220,264
Net outgoing resources before transfers		(70,304)	-	(70,304)	112,711
Other recognised gains and losses					
Fixed assets revaluation	3	-	-	-	-
Change in market value of investments	4	(1,185)	-	(1,185)	586
Net movement in Funds		(71,489)	-	(71,489)	113,297
Fund balances brought forward at 1 January 2021		711,023	22,026	733,048	619,751
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Fund balances carried forward at 31 December 2021		639,534	22,026	661,559	733,048

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

THE ANSCOMBE BIOETHICS CENTRE

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	£	2021	£	£	2020	£
Fixed assets							
Tangible assets	3			300,000			300,000
Investments	4			33,322			34,507
Deposits				25,471			25,471
				<u>358,793</u>			<u>359,978</u>
Current assets							
Stocks				16,037			16,037
Debtors	5			18,159			18,226
Bank current accounts				278,112			345,918
Cash in hand				240			240
				<u>312,548</u>			<u>380,421</u>
Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year	6			<u>(9,781)</u>			<u>(7,351)</u>
Net current assets				302,767			373,070
Total assets less current liabilities				<u>661,560</u>			<u>733,048</u>
Funds							
Unrestricted funds:							
Designated funds	7			33,586			33,586
General fund				<u>605,948</u>			<u>677,436</u>
				639,534			711,022
Restricted funds:	8			22,026			22,026
				<u>661,560</u>			<u>733,048</u>

Approved by the Governors on 20.10.22 and signed on their behalf by:



Dr. Thomas Finegan BTh MA PhD
Chair of Governors

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 2021

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 2021

2	Administrative expenses	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
	Wages and salaries	19,238	-	19,238	19,452
	Staff pension costs	1,336	-	1,336	1,515
	Rent, insurance and light & heat	7,574	-	7,574	10,023
	Office supplies	1,528	-	1,528	825
	Appeal expenses	2,658	-	2,658	2,086
	Telephone	139	-	139	250
	Legal and professional	3,315	-	3,315	1,831
	Sundry	-	-	-	-
	Accountancy	3,144	-	3,144	2,999
	Governors' meetings	112	-	112	57
	Governors' expenses reimbursed	339	-	339	410
	Bank charges	308	-	308	491
	Depreciation on office equipment	0	-	0	0
		<u>39,691</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,691</u>	<u>39,939</u>

Total emoluments of employees (including both administration and research) during the year ended 31 December 2021 were £150,550 (2020 - £168,468). One employee's emoluments totalled between £60,000 and £80,000. The average number of employees during the year was 5.

3 Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment £	Library books £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 January 2021	43,444	300,000	343,444
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2021	<u>43,444</u>	<u>300,000</u>	<u>343,444</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2021	43,444	-	43,444
Charge for the year	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2021	<u>43,444</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>43,444</u>
Net book value			
At 31 December 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>300,000</u>	<u>300,000</u>
At 31 December 2020	<u>-</u>	<u>300,000</u>	<u>300,000</u>

Library books were valued as at 31st December 2021 by the Governors at market value.

THE ANSCOMBE BIOETHICS CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

4 Fixed asset investments

	2021 £	2020 £
Listed Investments		
Brought forward from previous year	34,507	33,921
Disposals	-	-
Change in market value	(1,185)	586
Market value at the end of the year	<u>33,322</u>	<u>34,507</u>
Historical cost	<u>30,058</u>	<u>30,058</u>

5 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Prepayments and accrued income	18,159	18,226
	<u>18,159</u>	<u>18,226</u>

6 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Accruals and other creditors	9,781	7,351
Deferred income	-	-
	<u>9,781</u>	<u>7,351</u>

7 Designated Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	New des- ignations £	Utilised/ released £	Balance at 31 December 2021 £
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 2021

8 Restricted Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	Income £	Expenses/ Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2021 £
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 (2020: £22,026).

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 £9,987.50 (2020: £12,787) including payments from restricted funds.