

Registered Charity No. 274327

**THE ANSCOMBE BIOETHICS CENTRE**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT  
AND ACCOUNTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2022**

---

# THE ANSCOMBE BIOETHICS CENTRE

---

## TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2022 TO 31 DECEMBER 2022

---

---

### 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 MA PhD
- The Rt Rev Kevin Doran BA STB MA
- The Rt Rev John Sherrington MA STL
- Prof James Arthur BA MSc DPhil OBE
- Mr Justin Bozzino MA GradDip
- Prof Patricia Casey MD FRCPI FRCPsych
- Prof John Haldane KCHS FRSE FRSA
- Dr Gavin Jarvis MA MA PhD VetMB FHEA MRCVS
- Dr Bernadette Kiely MB BCh BAO DCH MRCPI
- Dr Pia Matthews BTh MA MA PhD FHEA
- Prof David Paton BSc MA PhD (to April 2022)
- Rev Dr Gregory Umunna BA BA MA STL PhD PGDip (to April 2022)

**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 regular meetings over this period during which consideration was given to the work, challenges and opportunities for the Centre.
- Centre staff delivered or facilitated, either face-to-face or online, 65 lectures, seminars and talks including sets of lectures or seminars in collaboration with St Mary's College Oscott, and with KCL Guy's Campus Chaplaincy in addition to lectures, seminar presentations and talks to university chaplaincies, schools, and other audiences. Staff also engaged as participants in a further 6 such events.
- The Centre also co-hosted a series of half-day conferences on 'Catholics in Health and Social Care: ethics and practice', together with St Mary's University Twickenham and the Bios Centre. This was offered three times, in London, in Edinburgh and online and attracted over 200 people across the three events.

- The Centre continued to publish briefing papers on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide, with papers on 'The Principle of Autonomy: Does it Support the legalisation of euthanasia and assisted suicide?' (8 April 2022); 'Disability and Assisted Suicide: Elucidating some key concerns' (30 August 2022) and 'Suicide Prevention: Does legalising assisted suicide make things better or worse?' (8 November 2022). In 2022, Centre Staff had academic work published in five peer-reviewed journals: *BJPsych Open*; *European Journal of Health Law*; *Journal of Ethics in Mental Health*; *Stimmen der Zeit*; and *The Thomist* and had chapters in edited volumes published by Routledge and by Oxford University Press. Five out of seven of these publications concerned euthanasia or assisted suicide.
- On 10 September 2022, which was World Suicide Prevention Day, the Centre hosted a conference on 'Suicide Prevention and Assisted Suicide: legal, clinical and ethical perspectives' at Blackfriars in Oxford. Speakers included Professor Brian Mishara, Professor Jonathan Herring, Professor David Paton and Dr Anne Doherty. The Director of the Centre spoke on 'Assisted Suicide and Suicide Prevention: the arguments'.
- The Centre also engaged in policy debates, commented publicly, and submitted written or oral evidence in governmental and professional consultations on 6 occasions. The Director acted both as an expert contributor and as an external reviewer for the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology *POST Brief* on 'Assisted Dying'. The *POST Brief* cites six different works authored or co-authored by the Director, a peer-reviewed journal article written by the Education and Research Officer of the Centre, three Anscombe briefing papers, and papers by four of the six speakers who spoke at the Anscombe Bioethics Centre Conference on 10 September 2022. This was a greater contribution by far than that of any other individual or body.
- 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 Georgetown University, the University of Sunderland and 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), and the Christian Medical Fellowship. Centre staff also contributed to the work of the Ministry of Defence Research Ethics Committee, 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 1,100 people were able to attend talks or presentations given by or facilitated by the Centre during this period. The Centre seeks feedback on events to improve future quality and so has some evidence of impact as well as reach. For example, 'both the content and tone were enlivening', 'a really successful presentation', 'the students are very positive about your input and eager to see the pdf and PowerPoint', 'you really connected with them'.
- In 2022, the Centre's website was subject to a major refresh for the first time in more than ten years. This has made the site more attractive and interactive and enhanced its accessibility. Unfortunately a glitch led to data on website activity not being collected from April 2022 through to the end of the year, though this problem has now been rectified. In relation to Facebook likes and YouTube viewings, in 2022 these increased from 12,789 to 42,796 and from 2,503 to 15,440 respectively. The most popular videos were a discussion of COVID Vaccines and an interview first broadcast on BBC Radio on the Archie Battersbee Case.

- In addition to academic writing, staff also published more popular articles and gave interviews or were cited in a variety of Catholic print and online media including *The Tablet*, *Catholic Herald*, *Crux*, *Aleteia*, *Catholic World Report*, *National Catholic Register* and the *Catholic News Service*. These are among the English-speaking Catholic media outlets with the widest online reach. Centre Staff also published on a variety of bioethics platforms including *MercatorNet* and *Bioedge*, as well as in secular publications such as the *Telegraph*. Of particular note was an article written by the Director on why 'The End of Roe Doesn't Need to Bring an Increase in Maternal Mortality'. This was published in *The New York Times* in the wake of the historic overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. *The New York Times* has 9.3 million paying subscribers and in 2022 the digital version had an average of 145 million unique visitors each month.
- On 10 August 2022, the Director drafted and circulated an Open Letter to the World Medical Association in relation to the revision of its International Code of Medical Ethics. The letter was received by the Secretariat of the WMA and AMA ahead of a meeting in Washington on 11-12 August 2022. It was signed by 144 academics and clinicians at this point and by over 350 by the time of the WMA AGM on 5 October 2022. This letter contributed to the decision of the WMA not to require doctors with a conscientious objection to refer patients for procedures that the doctor considers unethical. The WMA is a membership organization with 116 members including the BMA.
- The Centre has an Academic Review Panel, consisting of Professor Jonathan Herring of the University of Oxford, Professor Alasdair MacLulich of the University of Edinburgh and Professor Margaret Somerville of the University of Notre Dame, Australia, 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 period October 2021 to December 2022, they stated that 'The academic publications during the relevant time period have been highly impressive, both in terms of the quantity and in terms of their quality. They have covered a wide range of subjects. These include euthanasia and related ethical issues at the end-of-life, in parenthood and treatment of persons with disabilities. Other subjects covered in the many other forms of outputs include abortion, gender ideology, policy around vaccinations, and freedom of conscience in healthcare practitioners. Thanks to its learned and dedicated staff, the Centre has continued to maintain its reputation as one of the world's leading centres for teaching and learning about Bioethics in a Catholic context.'

## 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.

### **Details of any funds materially in deficit: N/A**

### **Further financial review details:**

In 2021 the Anscombe Bioethics Centre had a year-end deficit of £71,489. This was largely caused by the loss of the *Day for Life* Collection in England & Wales in 2020 as a result of the COVID pandemic. The pandemic subsequently led to structural changes in the way the Bishops' Conferences supported Catholic charities. A phased withdrawal of funding from CATEW was communicated to the Board in

May 2022. In response, the Governors held an Extraordinary General Meeting in June 2022 to identify cost-savings, and to consider and implement both short and longer term fundraising strategies.

As a result of these combined efforts on income and expenditure, the annual deficit in 2022 was halved to £34,646, outperforming budget expectations set for that year.

In October 2022 the Governors agreed a three-year strategic plan (2023 to 2025) to provide greater emphasis on, and to direct resources towards, ensuring the medium-to-long term financial security of the Centre.

With regarding to existing funds, the Governors have considered the most appropriate policy for investing resources and have found that a combination of common investment funds for charities and cash deposit accounts meet their requirements for security and for generating income and capital growth.

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

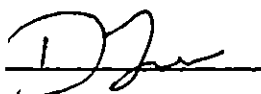
#### DECLARATION

---

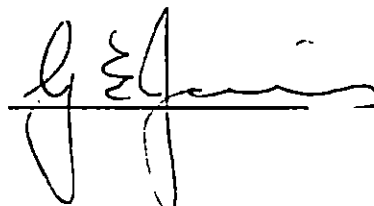
**The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.**

**Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees**

**Signatures**



**Prof. David Albert Jones, Director**



**Dr Gavin E. Jarvis, Hon. Treasurer (from Jan 2023)**

**Date**

27/10/23

27/10/23

# 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 2022, 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: 27 October 2023

27 Hatchlands Road  
Redhill  
Surrey  
RH1 6RW

**THE ANSCOMBE BIOETHICS CENTRE**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
<b>Income and expenditure</b>					
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Donations		59,567	10	59,577	40,599
Grants received		108,693	-	108,693	86,380
Investment income		946	-	946	691
Activities for generating funds:					
Sale of publications		40	-	40	-
Conferences		-	-	-	-
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<u>169,246</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>169,256</u>	<u>127,670</u>
<b>Costs of generating funds:</b>					
Cost of printing and purchasing publications for resale		-	-	-	-
Fundraising expenses		-	-	-	200
Conferences expenses		34	-	34	-
		<u>34</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>200</u>
<b>Net incoming resources available for charitable application</b>		<u>169,212</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>169,222</u>	<u>127,470</u>
<b>Charitable expenditure:</b>					
Costs of activities in furtherance of the charity's objects:					
Salaries		112,269	-	112,269	131,312
Staff pension costs		9,745	-	9,745	8,651
Staff expenses		6,219	-	6,219	4,010
Rent, insurance and light & heat		18,508	-	18,508	6,781
Telephone		311	-	311	324
Library books and equipment		38	-	38	106
Donations		-	-	-	0
Office supplies		1,691	-	1,691	2,879
Website costs		11,676	-	11,676	4,008
Depreciation on office equipment		-	-	-	-
Entertaining		132	-	132	12
		<u>160,589</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>160,589</u>	<u>158,083</u>
Management and administration:	2	39,742	-	39,742	39,691
<b>Total charitable expenditure</b>		<u>200,331</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>200,331</u>	<u>197,774</u>
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<u>200,365</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>200,365</u>	<u>197,974</u>
<b>Net outgoing resources before transfers</b>		(31,119)	10	(31,109)	(70,304)
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>					
Fixed assets revaluation	3	-	-	-	-
Change in market value of investments	4	(3,537)	-	(3,537)	(1,185)
<b>Net movement in Funds</b>		(34,656)	10	(34,646)	(71,489)
Fund balances brought forward at 1 January 2022		639,534	22,026	661,559	733,048
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
<b>Fund balances carried forward at 31 December 2022</b>		<u>604,878</u>	<u>22,036</u>	<u>626,913</u>	<u>661,559</u>

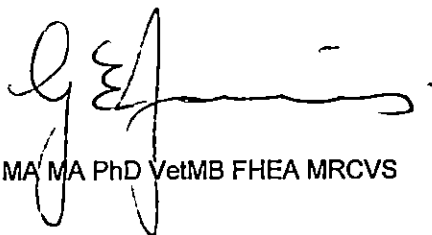
The notes on pages 10 -13 form part of these accounts

# THE ANSCOMBE BIOETHICS CENTRE

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	3	300,000	300,000
Investments	4	29,785	33,322
Deposits		<u>25,471</u>	<u>25,471</u>
		355,256	358,793
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks		16,037	16,037
Debtors	5	20,155	18,159
Bank current accounts		241,976	278,111
Cash in hand		<u>5</u>	<u>240</u>
		278,173	312,547
<b>Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year</b>	6	<u>(6,515)</u>	<u>(9,781)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		271,658	302,766
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>626,914</u>	<u>661,559</u>
<b>Funds</b>			
Unrestricted funds:			
Designated funds	7	33,586	33,586
General fund		<u>571,292</u>	<u>605,947</u>
		604,878	639,533
Restricted funds:	8	22,036	22,026
		<u>626,914</u>	<u>661,559</u>

Approved by the Governors on 27/10/23 and signed on their behalf by:



Dr Gavin E Jarvis MA MA PhD VetMB FHEA MRCVS  
Hon. Treasurer

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 2022

---

#### **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 2022

2	Administrative expenses	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
		2022	2022	2022	2021
		£	£	£	£
	Wages and salaries	19,202	-	19,202	19,238
	Staff pension costs	1,595	-	1,595	1,336
	Rent, insurance and light & heat	7,932	-	7,932	7,574
	Office supplies	725	-	725	1,528
	Appeal expenses	2,535	-	2,535	2,658
	Telephone	133	-	133	139
	Legal and professional	3,125	-	3,125	3,315
	Sundry	-	-	-	-
	Accountancy	3,270	-	3,270	3,144
	Governors' meetings	113	-	113	112
	Governors' expenses reimbursed	645	-	645	339
	Bank charges	467	-	467	308
	Depreciation on office equipment	-	-	-	-
		<u>39,742</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,742</u>	<u>39,691</u>

Total emoluments of employees (including both administration and research) during the year ended 31 December 2022 were £135,035 (2021 - £147,111). One employee's emoluments totalled between £60,000 and £80,000. The average number of employees during the year was 4 (2021: 5).

### 3 Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment	Library books	Total
	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 January 2022	43,444	300,000	343,444
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2022	<u>43,444</u>	<u>300,000</u>	<u>343,444</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 January 2022	43,444	-	43,444
Charge for the year	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2022	<u>43,444</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>43,444</u>
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 December 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>300,000</u>	<u>300,000</u>
At 31 December 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>300,000</u>	<u>300,000</u>

Library books were valued as at 31st December 2022 by the Governors at market value.

# THE ANSCOMBE BIOETHICS CENTRE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

### 4 Fixed asset investments

	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Listed Investments</b>		
Brought forward from previous year	33,322	34,507
Disposals	-	-
Change in market value	(3,537)	(1,185)
<b>Market value at the end of the year</b>	<u>29,785</u>	<u>33,322</u>
<b>Historical cost</b>	<u>30,058</u>	<u>30,058</u>

### 5 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Prepayments and accrued income	20,155	18,159
	<u>20,155</u>	<u>18,159</u>

### 6 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Accruals and other creditors	6,515	9,781
Deferred income	-	-
	<u>6,515</u>	<u>9,781</u>

### 7 Designated Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	New des- ignations £	Utilised/ released £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
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 2022

---

#### 8 Restricted Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Income £	Expenses/ Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
Education Officer Fund	26	10	-	36
Fundraising Fund	22,000	-	-	22,000
	<u>22,026</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,036</u>

The assets making up the restricted funds at the end of the financial year comprised cash at bank of £22,036 (2021: £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 £11,339 (2021: £9,987) including payments from restricted funds.