

Registered Charity No. 274327

THE ANSCOMBE BIOETHICS CENTRE

**TRUSTEES' REPORT
AND ACCOUNTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2023**

THE ANSCOMBE BIOETHICS CENTRE

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2023 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

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 (to March 2023)
- Vice-chair - Prof John Haldane KCHS FRSE FRSA (from April 2023)
- Hon Treasurer - Dr Gavin Jarvis MA MA PhD VetMB FHEA MRCVS
- The Rt Rev Kevin Doran BA STB MA
- The Rt Rev John Keenan LLB BTh STL (from October 2023)
- The Rt Rev John Sherrington MA STL
- Prof James Arthur BA MSc DPhil OBE
- Dr Stephen Barrie BA MA PhD
- Mr Justin Bozzino MA GradDip
- Prof Patricia Casey MD FRCPI FRCPsych
- Mr Anthony Horan BA LLB DipLP (from October 2023)
- Dr Bernadette Kiely MB BCH BAO DCH MRCPI
- Dr Pia Matthews BTh MA MA PhD FHEA
- Mr Chris Whitehouse MA KCSG (from February 2023)

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.
- Staff organised and helped deliver a day on Medical Ethics with Religious Dimensions at the Medical School of the University of Sunderland. The Centre delivered a lecture/seminar series on bioethics at St Mary's College, Oscott and co-hosted a series of seminars on Catholic medical ethics for healthcare students together with the KCL Guy's Campus Chaplaincy. The Education and Research Officer also delivered a series of lectures on bioethics at Blackfriars Hall. Staff gave a further 9 conference papers, delivered a further 14 lectures, seminar presentations and educational talks and participated in 7 other conferences, symposia or seminars.
- In this period, staff submitted 9 pieces in peer review journals or chapters in academic books of which three were published and three were accepted for publication. Centre staff also produced

a regular monthly digest in addition to 16 press statements and 16 popular publications including letters in the *Guardian*, *Herald Scotland* and *The Times*.

- The Centre provided 13 written or oral submissions to consultations by professional or parliamentary bodies. Among these was the appearance of the Director before the Irish Parliament, the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Assisted Dying. The Director also contributed to a Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology POSTbrief on 'Human embryo-like models', recorded a video for a public engagement on the '14-day rule' for embryo experimentation by UKRI Sciencewise, and responded to the HFEA consultation on 'Modernising the regulation of fertility treatment and research involving human embryos'.
- On 23 June 2023 Professor Roberto Andorno gave the Anscombe Memorial Lecture on 'Assisted Suicide, Autonomy and the Common Good' at Blackfriars Hall, Oxford. Professor Andorno is a Privatdozent of biomedical law and bioethics at the University of Zurich, and was previously the president of the European Society for Philosophy of Medicine and Healthcare from 2014 to 2016.
- 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 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. The links of the Anscombe Bioethics Centre with St Mary's College Oscott were strengthened in 2023 as the Education and Research Officer at the Centre was appointed Dean of Philosophy at Oscott.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

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

- As a result of this activity, approximately 1,200 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, 'the talk was wonderfully informative, and very well received', 'a fascinating session and opened our eyes to many questions', 'incredible feedback from the event this morning', 'students found the content really fascinating and quite challenging and are looking forward to doing some further reading... in light of all you discussed'.
- Staff being published 3 times in *The Times* within a year, as well as being interviewed on Radio 5 Live and in the *Mail on Sunday* raised the profile of the Centre. The combined potential reach of these publications and appearances is roughly 2,150,000 based on daily circulations / subscriptions / viewing figures. While some publications, such as *BMJ Rapid Response* and *JME Forum*, have smaller circulation, they have a good reach among doctors and academics.
- One accomplishment to highlight in the Centre's educational provision is the bioethics course at St Mary's College, Oscott which was enhanced in 2023 by a grant from ECLAS (Equipping Christian Leaders in an Age of Science) as part of its 'Science for Seminaries' initiative. This enabled seminarians to hear directly from scientists and clinicians on scientific aspects of stem cell therapies, abortion and maternal health in Africa, mechanism of action of contraception, management of gender dysphoria in minors, care of critically-ill children, and organ

Transplantation. It also enabled a half-day symposium on 'Pandemic Vaccination: Safety, Efficacy, and Scientific Literacy' with Dr Dominic Kelly (Oxford Vaccine Group), Dr Gavin Jarvis (Associate Professor of Analytical Pharmacology, Medical School of the University of Sunderland), Professor David Paton (Chair of Industrial Economics, Nottingham University Business School).

- Our website received 22,097 views in 2023, the Centre's Facebook page has 1,562 'likes' by the end of 2023, a total of 6,288 views on the Centre's YouTube channel, and 1,927 Mailchimp subscribers.
- 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 activities of 2023, they stated that, 'The range of collaborations is impressive and speaks to the opportunities that could arise or be made to increase outputs and the academic and public profile of the Centre. For example, the research on Voluntary Assisted Dying and palliative care with collaborators in Australia is important and impressive... Issues around euthanasia, in particular, are set to play centre stage in political and public debates. The high quality and important outputs of the Centre are an essential part of the discourse and deserve even greater prominence.'

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 June 2022, the Governors held an Extraordinary General Meeting to identify cost-savings, and to consider and implement both short and longer term fundraising strategies. 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. This resulted in an annual deficit in 2022 which was half of that in 2021, outperforming budget expectations set for that year.

In line with these plans, in 2023 the Centre contracted a consultancy to assist in fund raising. The focus was not on immediate fundraising for 2023 but was to improve financial security in the short-to-medium term through international partnerships with organisations and through growing a network of supportive individuals. The Centre thus spent £10,697 on fundraising in 2023 which was 6.8% of its total expenditure. Overall in 2023 the Centre was in deficit by £36,679 which was covered by its reserves.

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

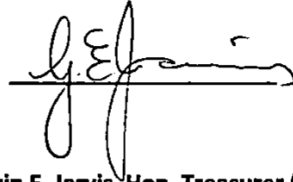
The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signatures



Prof. David Albert Jones, Director



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

Date

25/10/24

25/10/24

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 2023, 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

GBJ LLP

Chartered Accountants
Independent Examiners

Date ~~25~~ October 2024

27 Hatchlands Road
Redhill
Surrey
RH1 6RW

THE ANSCOMBE BIOETHICS CENTRE

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and expenditure					
Incoming resources					
Donations		49,342	-	49,342	59,577
Grants received		68,691	-	68,691	108,693
Investment income		2,485	-	2,485	946
Activities for generating funds:					
Sale of publications		-	-	-	40
Conferences		-	-	-	-
Total Incoming resources		120,518	-	120,518	169,256
Costs of generating funds:					
Cost of printing and purchasing publications for resale		-	-	-	-
Fundraising expenses		10,697	-	10,697	-
Conferences expenses		794	-	794	34
		11,491	-	11,491	34
Net Incoming resources available for charitable application		109,027	-	109,027	169,222
Charitable expenditure:					
Costs of activities in furtherance of the charity's objects:					
Salaries		84,993	-	84,993	112,269
Staff pension costs		6,760	-	6,760	9,745
Staff expenses		8,277	-	8,277	6,219
Rent, insurance and light & heat		7,803	-	7,803	18,508
Telephone		349	-	349	311
Library books and equipment		21	-	21	38
Office supplies		1,357	-	1,357	1,691
Website costs		900	-	900	11,676
Entertaining		478	-	478	132
		110,938	-	110,938	160,589
Management and administration:	2	35,739	-	35,739	39,742
Total charitable expenditure		146,677	-	146,677	200,331
Total resources expended		158,168	-	158,168	200,365
Net outgoing resources before transfers		(37,650)	-	(37,650)	(31,109)
Other recognised gains and losses					
Fixed assets revaluation	3	-	-	-	-
Change in market value of investments	4	971	-	971	(3,537)
Net movement in Funds		(36,679)	-	(36,679)	(34,646)
Fund balances brought forward at 1 January 2023		604,877	22,036	626,913	661,559
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Fund balances carried forward at 31 December 2023		568,198	22,036	590,234	626,913

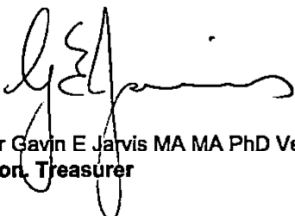
The notes on pages 10 -13 form part of these accounts

THE ANSCOMBE BIOETHICS CENTRE

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	£	2023	£	2022	£
Fixed assets						
Tangible assets	3		300,000		300,000	
Investments	4		30,756		29,785	
Deposits			<u>25,471</u>		<u>25,471</u>	
			356,227		355,256	
Current assets						
Stocks		16,037		16,037		
Debtors	5	45,423		20,155		
Bank current accounts		180,682		241,976		
Cash in hand		<u>5</u>		<u>5</u>		
		242,147		278,173		
Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year	6	<u>(8,140)</u>		<u>(6,515)</u>		
Net current assets			234,007		271,658	
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>590,234</u>		<u>626,914</u>	
Funds						
Unrestricted funds:						
Designated funds	7		33,586		33,586	
General fund			<u>534,612</u>		<u>571,292</u>	
			568,198		604,878	
Restricted funds:	8		22,036		22,036	
			<u>590,234</u>		<u>626,914</u>	

Approved by the Governors on 25/10/24 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 2023

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 2023

2	Administrative expenses	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
		2023	2023	2023	2022
		£	£	£	£
	Wages and salaries	17,890	-	17,890	19,202
	Staff pension costs	1,355	-	1,355	1,595
	Rent, insurance and light & heat	3,344	-	3,344	7,932
	Office supplies	689	-	689	725
	Appeal expenses	1,742	-	1,742	2,535
	Telephone	149	-	149	133
	Legal and professional	5,500	-	5,500	3,125
	Sundry expenses	-	-	-	-
	Accountancy	3,352	-	3,352	3,270
	Governors' meetings	223	-	223	113
	Governors' expenses reimbursed	1,231	-	1,231	645
	Bank charges	264	-	264	467
	Depreciation on office equipment	-	-	-	-
		<u>35,739</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,739</u>	<u>39,742</u>

Total emoluments of employees (including both administration and research) during the year ended 31 December 2023 were £113,684 (2022 - £135,035). One employee's emoluments totalled between £60,000 and £80,000. The average number of employees during the year was 4 (2022: 4).

3	Tangible fixed assets	Office equipment	Library books	Total
		£	£	£
	Cost			
	At 1 January 2023	43,444	300,000	343,444
	Additions	-	-	-
	Disposals	-	-	-
	At 31 December 2023	<u>43,444</u>	<u>300,000</u>	<u>343,444</u>
	Depreciation			
	At 1 January 2023	43,444	-	43,444
	Charge for the year	-	-	-
	Disposals	-	-	-
	At 31 December 2023	<u>43,444</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>43,444</u>
	Net book value			
	At 31 December 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>300,000</u>	<u>300,000</u>
	At 31 December 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>300,000</u>	<u>300,000</u>

Library books were valued as at 31st December 2023 by the Governors at market value.

THE ANSCOMBE BIOETHICS CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

4 Fixed asset investments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Listed Investments		
Brought forward from previous year	29,785	33,322
Disposals	-	-
Change in market value	971	(3,537)
Market value at the end of the year	30,756	29,785
Historical cost	30,058	30,058

5 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	45,423	20,155
	45,423	20,155

6 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accruals and other creditors	8,140	6,515
Deferred income	-	-
	8,140	6,515

7 Designated Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2023	New des- ignations	Utilised/ released	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£
Retained donated capital	33,586	-	-	33,586
	33,586	-	-	33,586

THE ANSCOMBE BIOETHICS CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

8 Restricted Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenses/ Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Education Officer Fund	36	-	-	36
Fundraising Fund	22,000	-	-	22,000
	<u>22,036</u>	<u>-</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 (2022: £22,036).

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 £8,115 (2022: £11,339) including payments from restricted funds.