

**ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOPRIC OF THE FORCES (GB)**

**A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**Charity Number 801243**

**ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOPRIC OF THE FORCES (GB)**

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS**

The Board of Trustees	Colonel M A Cadman Father D A Conroy - retired 1 September 2024 Father I J Stevenson - retired 1 September 2024 Father R Matau - appointed 1 September 2024 Father S Sharkey - appointed 1 September 2024 Commander I M Crabtree Rt Rev Bishop P Mason Rev D Skillen Wing Commander C P Thorpe
Principal Address	St. Omer Barracks Thornhill Road Aldershot Hampshire GU11 2BG
Independent Examiner	Mark Dickinson FCA Shaw Gibbs (Audit) Limited Wey Court West Union Road Farnham Surrey GU9 7PT
Bankers	Royal Bank of Scotland Holt's Camberley Branch 11 High Street Camberley Surrey GU15 3AL
Investment Managers	BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited PO Box 9036 Chelmsford Essex CM99 2XD

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

The trustees have the pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

**Legal Status**

The charity is constituted as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), registered with the Charity Commission under number 801243. The charity converted from a trust to a CIO on 13 December 2018.

**Objects of the charity**

The charity's object and principal activity continues to be to advance and promote the Roman Catholic Religion and in particular to promote and provide such charitable works as to advance the Roman Catholic religion among or in connection with members of His Majesty's Forces and their families including the maintenance and support of the person for the time being holding the Office or Appointment of Roman Catholic Bishop of the Forces and to provide for and maintain a house for such person and offices for his use and any staff responsible to him. The Bishop's residence is owned by the Vicariate Headquarters Trust, a registered charity, to which rent is paid by this charity.

**Trustees Appointments and New Trustee Proceedings**

The ex-officio trustees are appointed by virtue of their respective offices. Nominated trustees are appointed by a resolution of the trustees passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

The Chair of trustees contacts new ex-officio trustees and potential new nominated trustees prior to attendance at their first trustees meeting, to tell them about the background and activities of the charity. New trustees are provided with a copy of the constitution and the latest financial statements of the charity.

**Connected Charities**

The following Charities are connected to the Roman Catholic Bishopric of the Forces (GB).

Vicariate Headquarters Trust  
26 The Crescent  
Farnborough  
Hampshire GU14 7AS

Royal Air Force Roman Catholic  
Church Purposes Fund  
The Chaplaincy Centre  
RAF Cosford  
Albrighton  
Wolverhampton  
WV7 3EX

Royal Navy (Roman Catholic) Trust  
Royal Navy Catholic Chaplaincy  
The Chaplaincy  
HMS Collingwood  
Newgate Lane  
Fareham  
Hampshire PO14 1AS

The Army Roman Catholic Trust  
St Michael and St George Parish Office  
Queens Avenue  
Aldershot  
Hampshire GU11 2BY

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**Reserves**

The number of Service Personnel continues to diminish with a consequent reduction in income from offerings, necessitating a continuous and prudent management of resources. A close relationship is maintained with the charity's Investment Advisors who pursue a policy of choice of appropriate funds to maximise the return on investments over time.

**Review of activities**

The CIO continues to support the work of the Bishopric of the Forces in delivering pastoral care and sacramental provision to the Military community.

Bishop Paul attended the Hosanna House and Children's Pilgrimage Trust (HCPT) and the International Military Pilgrimage (IMP) to Lourdes in France. He also joined the D-Day 80th Anniversary Commemorations of the Normandy Landings. Rev (Sqn Ldr) Neil Galloway MBE RAF has been appointed the General Secretary of the Apostolat Militaire International (AMI) a role the Bishopric of the Forces fully supports and a delegation from the Bishopric attended the annual conference in Kenya. Bishop Paul joined the Bishopric's walking pilgrimage from Norwich to Walsingham and the Bishopric also supported the book launch of *Defend Us in Battle* - Catholic Chaplains in The British Military by James Hagerty and Barry Hudd. A delegation from the Bishopric also attended the Military Jubilee in Rome. The annual events i.e. Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph and Mass at St Clement Danes continue.

Bishop Paul continues with his directives from the Bishops' Conference for Apostleship of the Sea (Stella Maris), the National Catholic Safeguarding Commission and Healthcare within the Social Justice department.

**Financial Review**

The results of the charity for the year are as detailed in the statement of Financial Activities on page 6.

The charity's investments are managed by BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited and have been invested in the Armed Forces Charities Growth and Income Fund. Investment income has increased over the previous period and the market value of investments has decreased.

**General**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

**Funds**

The funds held are unrestricted and are held to further the objects of the charity. These funds are available and are adequate to fulfil the obligations of the charity.

Designated funds include a legacy previously received from the estate of Bishop Frank Walmsley. Further designated funds relate to donations received from the Roman Catholic community at DA Shrivenham, and Charities Trust donations received.

A restricted fund has been set up in the year for the Apostolat Militaire International (AMI) transactions.

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**Going Concern Statement**

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

**Public Benefit**

The Bishopric CIO charity aims to provide the very best operation, spiritual and pastoral support, primarily for Catholic Service men and women and their families and Chaplains, wherever, whenever and in whatever form it is needed. Additionally to respond to the needs of anyone, any creed or none, who turns to a Catholic Chaplain for support.

**The Trustees**

The trustees who served the charity during the period are as listed on page 1.

**Trustees' Responsibilities**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the charity's constitution. The trustees are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Rt Rev Bishop Paul Mason  
Trustee

Approved by the trustees on: 3 July 2025

## REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities : Statement of Recommended Practice on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn.

### Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent 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 my responsibility to

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

### Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 you as 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 Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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

Mark Dickinson FCA  
Shaw Gibbs (Audit) Limited

Dated : 3 July 2025

Wey Court West  
Union Road  
Farnham  
Surrey GU9 7PT

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Notes	2025 Restricted Funds £	2025 Unrestricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>					
Donations received	2	64,994	194,934	259,927	193,463
Other	2	-	273	273	-
Investment income and bank interest	3	-	29,924	29,924	28,329
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>64,994</b>	<b>225,131</b>	<b>290,125</b>	<b>221,792</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
<b>Charitable Activities</b>					
Salaries	4	-	91,514	91,514	122,537
Office	4	11,064	48,347	59,411	49,929
Residence	4	-	22,748	22,748	35,704
Donations and grants payable	5	-	12,797	12,797	16,284
		<b>11,064</b>	<b>175,406</b>	<b>186,470</b>	<b>224,454</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>11,064</b>	<b>175,406</b>	<b>186,470</b>	<b>224,454</b>
<b>NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE AND NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS BEFORE GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS</b>		<b>53,929</b>	<b>49,726</b>	<b>103,655</b>	<b>(2,661)</b>
Unrealised Gain/(Loss) on Investments	8	-	(29,404)	(29,404)	11,953
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>53,929</b>	<b>20,322</b>	<b>74,251</b>	<b>9,291</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
FUNDS AT 1 APRIL 2024		-	<b>728,003</b>	<b>728,003</b>	<b>718,712</b>
FUNDS AT 31 MARCH 2025		<b>53,929</b>	<b>748,324</b>	<b>802,254</b>	<b>728,003</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.



**BALANCE SHEET**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Notes	2025	2024
		£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible assets	7	438	486
Investments	8	634,731	664,134
		<u>635,168</u>	<u>664,620</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash at bank	9	183,279	71,194
		<u>183,279</u>	<u>71,194</u>
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	10	(16,194)	(7,812)
		<u>(16,194)</u>	<u>(7,812)</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		167,085	63,383
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>802,254</u>	<u>728,003</u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>			
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Unrestricted:			
Designated		55,261	51,610
General		693,064	676,393
Restricted		53,929	
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	11 / 12	<u>802,254</u>	<u>728,003</u>

These financial statements were approved by the trustees on 3 July 2025 and are signed on their behalf by :

Rt Rev Bishop Paul Mason  
Trustee

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025****1. Accounting Policies****Basis of accounting**

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The accounts have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

**Incoming Resources**

Donations, collections and bank interest are accounted for on a receivable basis.

**Investments**

Investments are managed under discretionary agreements by Blackrock Investment Management (UK) Limited.

Investments are accounted for by reference to the bargain date shown by the contract note issued in respect of their purchase or disposal.

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recorded at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the bid price. The statement of financial activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

The charity does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments.

**Fixed Assets**

Depreciation is provided on fixed assets at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life:

Office equipment and household effects	- 10% on reducing balance
Computer equipment	- 25% on reducing balance

**Funds**

Unrestricted revenue reserves represent those resources which may be used towards meeting the objects of the charity. Unrestricted capital reserves represent investment gains and losses.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**1. Accounting Policies****Investment income**

Income arising from investments is included by reference to the normal date of payment of dividends or interest on that investment. Provision is not made in the accounts for dividends to be received in the next accounting period on investments declared ex-dividend prior to 31st March 2025.

**Taxation**

As a qualifying charity, the charity is not liable to UK taxation.

**Resources Expended**

Charitable activities costs include grants made and governance costs as shown in notes 4 and 5.

**Creditors**

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction date.

**2. Income : Charitable activities**

	2025 £	2024 £
<u>Donations - Unrestricted Funds</u>		
Royal Navy	18,550	16,968
Army	83,475	76,356
Royal Air Force	83,475	76,356
	<b>185,500</b>	<b>169,680</b>
<u>Unrestricted</u>		
Royalties Received	273	-
	<b>273</b>	<b>-</b>
<u>Designated:</u>		
St Albans Plate Income (Shrivenham Fund)	6,018	19,966
Cathedral Fund	3,416	3,818
	<b>9,434</b>	<b>23,783</b>
<u>Restricted:</u>		
AMI Income	64,994	-
	<b>64,994</b>	<b>-</b>
Total	<b>260,201</b>	<b>193,463</b>

**3. Investment Income**

	2025 £	2024 £
UK investment dividends	27,044	25,692
Bank interest receivable	2,880	2,637
	<b>29,924</b>	<b>28,329</b>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**4. Expenditure : Salaries**

	2025 £	2024 £
Bishop's remuneration & pension	41,955	42,323
Staff remuneration & pension	59,253	59,637
Vicar General accommodation	(9,694)	20,577
	<b>91,514</b>	<b>122,537</b>

**4. Expenditure : Office**Unrestricted:

Bishop's Year Book (net of donations)	1,150	1,111
Website + media	1,028	2,349
Bishopric Shields	-	164
Meetings	7,698	5,361
Apostolat Militaire International (AMI)	6,313	8,384
Printing & Stationery	670	631
Postage	449	316
Repairs & Renewals	191	178
Travel	10,158	11,428
World Youth Day	-	2,250
IMP Costs	9,599	6,158
Removal and Storage - Bishopric Archive	-	1,003
Chrism Mass Lunch	1,011	1,966
Sundries including subscriptions	484	419
Insurances	1,293	1,232
Accountancy and Independent Examination Fees	5,112	3,863
Bookkeeping and Payroll	3,120	2,917
Loss on Disposal of Computer Equipment	-	200
Bank Charges	70	-

<u>Total</u>	<b>48,347</b>	<b>49,929</b>
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Designated:

No designated expenditure	-	-
	-	-

<u>Total</u>	<b>48,347</b>	<b>49,929</b>
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**4. Expenditure : Residence**

Rent	12,000	25,425
Council Tax & Water	2,866	2,695
Insurance	1,192	1,039
Heat, Light & Power	3,116	4,141
Repairs & Renewals	459	1,756
Telephone	499	434
Sundries	170	159
Depreciation Fixtures & Fittings	49	54
Cleaning	978	-
Grounds Maintenance	1,420	-
	<b>22,748</b>	<b>35,704</b>

**4. Expenditure : Office**Restricted

AMI Travel	6,364	-
AMI Training	4,351	-
AMI Website	43	-
AMI Computer Repairs & Accessories	51	-
AMI Insurance	191	-
AMI Postage	64	-
	<b>11,064</b>	<b>-</b>

**5. Expenditure : Donations and grants payable**Unrestricted:

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
CBCEW	5,000	5,000
CNET (S) & other	2,014	1,545
	<b>7,014</b>	<b>6,545</b>

Designated:

Blackfriars - Mass and Pastoral Support at St Albans (Shrivenham fund)	5,783	9,739
	<b>5,783</b>	<b>9,739</b>

Total

<b>12,797</b>	<b>16,284</b>
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**6. Staff Costs & Trustees' Remuneration and Emoluments**

Apart from the Bishop who receives remuneration and expenses in his role as an employee of the Bishopric, Trustees do not receive remuneration or expenses.

No employee earned £60,000 per annum or more (2024 - none).

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**7. Tangible Fixed Assets**

	Office & House	Total
<u>Cost or Valuation</u>		
at 1 April 2024	10,800	10,800
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
At 31 March 2025	<u>10,800</u>	<u>10,800</u>
 <u>Depreciation</u>		
at 1 April 2024	10,314	10,314
Disposals	-	-
Charge for the year	49	49
At 31 March 2025	<u>10,362</u>	<u>10,362</u>
 <u>Net Book Value</u>		
At 31 March 2025	<u>438</u>	<u>438</u>
 at 1 April 2024	<u>486</u>	<u>486</u>

**8. Investments**

	2025 £	2024 £
<u>Listed investments</u>		
Armed Forces Charities Growth and Income Fund	<u>634,731</u>	<u>664,134</u>
 <u>Movement in Market Value</u>		
Market value at 1 April 2024	664,134	652,182
Acquisitions at cost	-	-
Disposals at open book value	-	-
Net gains (losses) on revaluations in the year	(29,404)	11,953
Market value at 31 March 2025	<u>634,731</u>	<u>664,134</u>

**9. Analysis of current assets**

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash at bank & in hand	124,999	71,194
AMI cash at bank (Restricted)	58,281	-
	<u>183,279</u>	<u>71,194</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

10. Analysis of creditors

	2025 £	2024 £
Bishopric Charities	1,978	1,224
Accruals	7,096	3,520
Accruals - AMI Restricted	4,351	-
Pension Liability	152	146
P.A.Y.E. and N.I.	2,514	2,099
Other creditors	103	823
	<u>16,194</u>	<u>7,812</u>

11. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted 2025	Unrestricted 2025	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
Fund balances at 31 March are represented by:				
Fixed assets	-	438	438	486
Investments	-	634,731	634,731	664,134
Net Current Assets	53,929	113,156	167,085	63,383
	<u>53,929</u>	<u>748,324</u>	<u>802,254</u>	<u>728,003</u>
Split of unrestricted funds				
Designated			55,261	51,610
General			<u>693,064</u>	<u>676,393</u>
			<u>748,325</u>	<u>728,003</u>

12. Movements in Funds - Current Year

	Opening Balance	Income / Investment Gains	Expenditure / Investment Losses	Closing Balance
Unrestricted Funds				
Revenue Reserves	178,984	215,698	169,623	225,059
Capital Reserves	497,409	(29,404)	-	468,005
Designated Funds				
Bishop Frank Walmsley Legacy	34,379	-	-	34,379
Shrivenham Fund	13,413	6,018	5,783	13,648
Cathedral Fund	3,818	3,416	-	7,234
Restricted Funds				
AMI	-	64,994	11,064	53,929
	<u>728,003</u>	<u>260,722</u>	<u>186,470</u>	<u>802,254</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**12. Continued****Movements in Funds - Previous Year**

	<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>Income / Investment Gains</b>	<b>Expenditure / Investment Losses</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>
Unrestricted Funds				
Revenue Reserves	195,689	198,009	214,715	178,984
Capital Reserves	485,457	11,953	-	497,409
Designated Funds				
Bishop Frank Walmsley Legacy	34,379	-	-	34,379
Shrivenham Fund	3,187	19,966	9,739	13,413
Cathedral Fund	-	3,818	-	3,818
	<u>718,712</u>	<u>233,745</u>	<u>224,454</u>	<u>728,003</u>

The Bishop Frank Walmsley represents a legacy received but not yet fully expended.

The Shrivenham Fund represents church collections received from Shrivenham not yet fully expended.

The Cathedral Fund represents Charities Trust payroll donations, to be spent on the Cathedral.

Trustees have designated these funds to show separately how they are being used by the charity.

A restricted fund was set up for the Apostolat Militaire International (AMI) transactions. The Secretariat of the AMI is being supported by the Bishopric of the Forces in the UK for 3 years. The balance of funds held by the previous Secretariat in Italy were transferred to the Bishopric of the Forces during the year. The funds are maintained in a separate bank account.