Русская Православная Церковь Заграницей | Russian Orthodox Church outside of Russia
Diocese of Great Britain and Western Europe| Великобританская и Западно - Европейская Епархия

Diocesan Chancellery - 58 Shrewsbury Road, Prenton, CH43 2HY

Annual General Meeting

held (virtually) on 21st September 2026

Agenda

1. Open with prayer
2. Those present and apologies
3. Annual Report
4. Financial Statement
5. Addition of Trustees
6. AOB
7. Close with prayer

Annual Report

Submitted to the Annual General Meeting of the Trustees of the Diocese of Great Britain and Western Europe (ROCOR)

This report is presented to the Trustees by the Chancellor of the Diocese for its Annual Meeting on the 21st September 2026, held virtually. This meeting shall also receive the financial statement and report to be submitted to the Charity Commissioners of England and Wales no later than October 6th 2026.

Introduction

The Diocese has greatly strengthened since the granting of Charitable Status in 2020. This is heartening to report. The main development this year has been the purchase of a permanent Diocesan Chancellery within which is our Bishop's residence. This is the restoration of a situation which existed from 1928 until 1994 when it was situated in Barons Court. To achieve this, the Diocese has relied upon the great generosity of donors as can be seen in the financial documents attached. In addition, new missions and parishes have been opening and additional activities have taken place to fulfil the Aims of the Diocese as stated in our constitution.

Fulfilment of the Aims of the Diocese

- **Establishing places of worship and devotion of the Russian Orthodox Faith**
  The Diocese maintains over 40 places of worship across Great Britain, Ireland and Western Europe. Over the past two years the Diocese has opened new places of worship in Lichenstein, Gibralta and Rochester. Parishes have expanded in Cardiff and St Leonards and are moving towards the purchase of church buildings which will be a permanent places of worship for the future. During the period of this report, the Diocesan Chancellor is pleased to report that the Diocese has experience marked growth. New missions have been well received and quickly seem to attract the faithful and older, established cathedrals and parishes have benefited from a marked influx of faithful. At present, the

Diocese has undertaken the preparation and ordination of a significant number of new deacons, subdeacons and readers which has greatly contributed to the strengthening of its life right across its many countries. Clearly, there is much to be thankful for. There are still, unmet needs across the territories of the Diocese especially in London and its immediate area and much work to do: a pressing need remains to establish both male and female monastic life. 2024-5 did see progress in this area with the establishment of a small womens monastery near Didcot. The Diocesan Bishop has visited many of our parishes this year which continues to strengthen their resolve and fervour of faith.

- **Raising awareness of the Russian Orthodox Faith and encouraging missionary and outreach activities to enlighten others about the Russian Orthodox Faith**

  The chief venue for this is the care and expansion of parochial life, which is the centre of mission and witness to Orthodoxy in the UK and in Europe, and which continues to grow in significant ways. In addition, the Diocese runs an ever-expanding website of more than 840 articles and pages that convey both doctrinal and catechetical material, as well as current news and activities, which is an important means of reaching out to the wider population. The websites of the Diocesan parishes and missions are also well visited and used. New missions in new areas bring great blessings and soon attract new worshipers. Additionally, the Diocese and its parishes organise outreach through a wide variety of means including youth camps (including, this year, summer and camps for children of refugees) and collections for good causes. In 2024 to 2025 the Diocese raised considerable funds for our communities in the Holy Land; it has sent funds to our Synod in New York to be distributed for charitable purposes; and other such activities. In 2024 it raised funds for the Orthodox Seminary in Jordanville, as well as the international Fund For Assistance of the ROCOR, which provides emergency relief and aid worldwide. The Diocese had a long visit from the wonderworking Kursk Root Icon which was both spiritually beneficial for the parishes but also drew many new people to come to venerate the icon and learn about Orthodox life and faith. Additionally, the London Cathedral continues to operate a Food Bank in Chiswick, which has had a vastly greater uptake than anticipated; and through this charitable work to aid those suffering from the cost of living crisis, it shares the love of God and actively demonstrates to its recipients the Orthodox faith 'in action' through care for neighbour.

- **Carrying out Russian Orthodox religious practices, devotional acts and pilgrimages**

  Under the care of the Diocesan Bishop, the Diocese's large number of parishes carry out the full suite of Orthodox Divine Services, which is the heart of its mission and aim. Through its labours, Orthodox faithful in the UK and ten other European nations have ready access to all the Orthodox services on a weekly and even daily basis. Further, it has sponsored a European Church Musicians' conference, first held in 2021 and which has become an annual event drawing singers from Orthodox parishes from Eastern Europe, Western Europe, Great Britain and even as far afield the United States of America, in order to train Orthodox choir conductors and singers and enhance the skills of those leading the traditional worship for which Russian Orthodoxy is known. In terms of pilgrimages, a Diocesan pilgrimage to the Holy Land was unfortunately cancelled due to the political situation there. Many other pilgrimages to the holy places have attracted large and small groups of pilgrims across the Diocese to countries such as Serbia, Georgia and Greece; the annual pilgrimage to the shrine of the Holy Martyrs of Lyons in France took place and again gathered large numbers; and many others All these activities strengthen and enhance the spiritual lives of the faithful and lead to deeper devotion, not least to the saints of the God-preserved lands of Western Europe and the British Isles. In November the Diocesan Bishop was able to call together all his clergy to Geneva for a Clergy Convocation. This is mow a well established bi- annual event. The event brought together more than 50 clerics from across the Diocese, from different national backgrounds and

with different linguistic and cultural needs yet all united in their one faith in Christ and in the mission of the Diocese to the world.

- **Providing religious education, training and resources to the Russian Orthodox Faith community**
  Many of the Diocese's parishes have Saturday or Sunday Schools and organised youth groups and activities. The Cathedral in London sponsors an independent Orthodox school. Children's summer camps organised annually (two held in 2024 to 2025) all include essential educational elements in Orthodox belief and practice; and service-orientated retreats for older youths provide the experience of 'turning faith into action' by, for example, supporting parishes through building activities (in St Leonards on Sea, they have thus constructed a new church in London assisted with the building of a new kiosk). Clergy and Altar-server formation workshops were held throughout the year, in addition to the training of Readers and Subdeacons that regularly takes place within the parishes and the Diocesan Cathedrals. The Diocese publishes an updated edition of its *Liturgical Handbook*, which provides liturgical instruction and a host of related resources to Orthodoxy clergy and servers. It makes devotional materials available on its website, and through its parishes.

Conclusion

The Diocese is, at the conclusion of 2025, in a much stronger position both spiritually and materially. We should aim over the coming years to consolidate the achievements of the past year. We should strive to establish monastic life for men in the Diocese and further develop our womens monastery as spiritual resources and places of devotion and training. It is with deep gratitude to God that all these positive developments are reported to this meeting, and a real sense of hope enables us to embrace our future.

Archpriest Paul Elliott
Chancellor of the Diocese of Great Britain and Western Europe (ROCOR)

Narrative Notes on Annual Accounts

Diocese of Great Britain and Western Europe (ROCOR)

Charity no. 1192243

1. Our accounts remain similar to previous years, as apart from standing monthly charges for routine expenses and office-related expenditures, as well as the raising and distribution of funds for charitable causes, other account activity is minimal (most of the 'financial life' of the Diocese happens at the parish level and doesn't touch upon the accounts of the Diocese itself). The bulk of incoming funds are, as before, from the parishes, to support the Diocese's work and charitable causes; and the bulk of the outgoing funds are to those causes, as well as to reimburse expenses (against which receipts are recorded and preserved in the Accounts database).
2. The notable difference from previous years is the purchase by the Diocese of a Rectory, to serve as a residence as well as the archive and central offices of the Diocese. This was done, as is customary for churches, through the solicitation of donations and contributions; therefore more considerable donations are recorded in the Accounts, received for this cause, clearly indicated as such (relating to the property on Pelling Hill in Old Windsor). The purchase of the property was completed on 16th January 2026, so the dispersal of those donations for the cause for which they were donated will appear in the subsequent year's accounts.
3. Full accounting continues to be maintained in QuickBooks, where all incoming and outgoing line items for 2025 have been reconciled against the bank statements, and all expenses supported with attached documentation in the form of receipts, authorisation documents, etc.
4. The accounts, subject to routine oversight by the Trustees and annual internal accounting, continue to be submitted for annual external review by C Yew & Company of 54 Glenburnie Road, London SW17 7NF. Their Independent Examiner's Report of the present 2025 Accounts is attached, together with the chief announcing reports traditionally submitted in our annual Charity Commission submission.

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