Thank you for coming today, and thank you also to those who have already voted by post.

The Walsingham Association exists to support the National Shrine, promote pilgrimage, and nurture the spiritual lives of our members. You are remembered in prayer every day at the Shrine.

Last year's theme was outreach, and this remains one of our principal priorities. We seek not only to recruit new members but also to retain and support those who already belong to the Association. This is not an easy task. I serve on the committees of two other charities and belong to several more, and all face similar challenges. Membership engagement requires constant effort and dedication.

We are fortunate to have that dedication. Richard McNulty works tirelessly to keep in touch with members and send regular reminders, supported ably by his assistant, Roseann Rogers. Together, they welcome pilgrims and members from the Pilgrim Reception Centre. We are also grateful to our IT provider, Nick Clovis, and his son Josh for their invaluable support.

Our thanks also go to our treasurers, Edward Gibbons and David Norbury, and to our former treasurers, Joel Selvadurai and Christopher Woodman, for their faithful service. We now hope for a period of stability. In the last four years, the Association has had three chairmen and five treasurers.

We warmly welcome our new trustees and thank them for their willingness to serve. They represent a range of ages and bring with them a wealth of experience. All know Walsingham exceptionally well. Some visit four or five times each year, while others began their pilgrimage journey at the Anglican Shrine.

Over the past year, we have published three editions of the WA Magazine, and we are grateful to Matthew Bland for taking on the role of editor.

We continue to enjoy excellent relations with the Catholic Shrine and remain committed to promoting pilgrimage and encouraging parishes to arrange visits and weekend stays at Elmham House. Like many organisations and visitor attractions, pilgrimage centres have experienced a decline in visitor numbers. Covid-19 and the cost-of-living crisis are often cited as contributing factors. Even major institutions such as the National Trust and Bletchley Park have reported reductions in visitor footfall.

Supporting our members and maintaining meaningful contact with them remains a key priority. One way we can achieve this is by developing and strengthening local groups. Such groups can provide an important link between the Association and parish life. Many already exist. For example, some organise regular rosary groups within their parishes; in Corby there is a weekly Mass; in South London there is a monthly Mass and organ

recital; and Westminster Cathedral hosts a rosary group. Our aim is not to take over these initiatives but to connect with them, share information, and offer mutual encouragement and support.

Social media can also play an important role in our outreach. Many Catholic charities and organisations use social media effectively to engage with their supporters. Our Facebook page continues to grow, and we are developing our presence on Instagram and X. These platforms will be promoted in the Eastertide edition of the magazine and will help direct people both to our website and to that of the Shrine. Our own website will also be refreshed and updated in the coming months.

Many of us first came to know and love Walsingham through pilgrimages undertaken during our student years. A friend and I, for example, helped organise the Durham University pilgrimage when we were students. Today, Catholic societies at universities often face significant pressures, yet they remain places where faith can flourish. I believe that the Walsingham Association can offer support to these societies and reach out more effectively to Catholic chaplaincies in universities and colleges.

Over the past year we have continued to strengthen our prayer partnerships with students. There are many young Catholic adults seeking spiritual nourishment and community, and the Walsingham Association should be a home for them. We can contribute to evangelisation and faith formation by encouraging people to seek the prayers and intercession of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Although we are an independent charity, we must continue to build relationships with other Catholic organisations. We should see the boundaries of our Association not as barriers but as porous and overlapping with the many good societies and apostolates that serve the Church.

You too can play your part. Why not encourage your parish priest to organise a pilgrimage to Walsingham?

Finally, let us pray for another successful year as we continue to support the Walsingham Association in its service to the Church. Let us entrust our work to the care of Our Lady of Walsingham, remembering the often-quoted words:

"When England returns to Walsingham, Our Lady will return to England."

May Our Lady of Walsingham pray for us all.

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The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025. The

trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice

applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK

and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The charity was registered 6 December 2021 as a CIO. The objectives are the furtherance and maintenance of Catholic faith

anywhere in the world but specifically supporting the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham (Walsingham Trust) by means of

fostering devotion to Our Lady of Walsingham; encouraging and promoting pilgrimage; and raising funds to that end.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

The Association published a magazine three times a year- Easter, summer and Christmas.

The Associations presence was promoted by our Membership Secretary from his office in the Shrine grounds.

Last year the charity put into place an outreach to university chaplaincies to encourage pilgrimage, knowledge of

Walsingham and prayer partnerships, this is still ongoing.

We continued to establish relationships with the Rector, Father Robert Billing, with administrative staff and the bookshop. A

new group was founded in 2024 and still active in South Leicestershire which has its own Facebook page. The South

Staffordshire Group made information available through our magazine. We maintained contact with seminarians and with a

Franciscan novice.

We raised money by means of our annual draw and 100 Club.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income for the year was £57,572 and expenditure was £44,429 giving a surplus of £13,143 (2024 - Deficit £2,745). Full

information can be seen in the annual accounts.

Total unrestricted and free reserves at 31 December 2025 were £39,860 (2024 - £26,717). The Trustees believe the reserves

held are necessary to fund its plans.

FUTURE PLANS

Our online presence will be extended and enhanced by working with Halo, our IT provider. We aim to reach out via

Facebook and other social media outlets as advised by our IT provider. We shall continue to work to increase our

membership and to promote pilgrimage more widely. We will seek to further create new Walsingham Association groups

around the country. We seek to further relations with other organisations such as Radio Maria.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity operates under a Constitution for a Charitable Incorporated Organisation dated 16 October 2022 which sets out

how trustees are elected.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on .....22 September 2026..... and signed on its behalf by R P Tickle Chairman