

BIRMINGHAM DIOCESAN TRUST

ANNUAL FINANCIAL AND TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the year ended 31 December 2025

Charity Registration No. 234216

BIRMINGHAM DIOCESAN TRUST

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Front cover image: Mark Lear. North Staffordshire Eucharistic Congress, July 2025

LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

NAME

The name of the charity is **Birmingham Diocesan Trust**. The charity, in its day-to-day dealings, is also known as the Archdiocese of Birmingham or "the Diocese". The charity registration number is 234216.

PRINCIPAL OFFICE

Cathedral House, St Chad's Queensway, Birmingham, B4 6EU

Website: www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk

TRUSTEES

Birmingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered

COMPRISING:

Most Rev. B Longley MA STL
(Archbishop of Birmingham) #

Rt. Rev. D Evans
(Auxiliary Bishop) *(1) (2) (6) #

Rt. Rev. R Walker
(Auxiliary Bishop) *(1) (2) (6) #

Rt. Rev. T Menezes
(Auxiliary Bishop) * (1) (2) (4) #

Rev. J Veasey STL
(Vicar General) *(4) #

Ms. J Francis *(3) (6) (8)

Mrs K Gordon *(4) (6)

Mr. C Loughran DL FBCS CITP * (1) (2) (5)

Ms. S Pain BA ACMA * (1) (5) (7)

Mr. T Piotrowski * (7)

Mr. P Vella * (3) (5) (8)

Mr. P Vince MRICS *(2) (4) (7)
(deceased 10 September 2025)

* (1) Member of the Finance Sub-Committee
* (2) Member of the Property Sub-Committee
* (3) Member of the Workforce & Remuneration Sub-Committee
* (4) Member of the Education Sub-Committee
* (5) Member of the Investment Sub-Committee
* (6) Member of the Safeguarding Sub-Committee
* (7) Member of the Care of Creation Sub-Committee
* (8) Member of the Governance, Compliance, Health & Safety and Risk Sub-Committee

Member of the Board of Trustees with a clerical Diocesan role (e.g., Priest, Bishop etc.) receiving a stipend in connection with that role, and which is not connected to their voluntary work as a Trustee.

The Committee membership shown above reflects the position as at the date of the signing of the Report and Accounts.

KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

Mr Eric Kirwan	**Chief Operating Officer**
Most Rev Bernard Longley	**Archbishop**
Rt. Rev David Evans	**Auxiliary Bishop**
Rt. Rev Richard Walker	**Auxiliary Bishop**
Rt. Rev Timothy Menezes	**Auxiliary Bishop**
Very Rev Jonathan Veasey	**Vicar General**

CURIAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

Mr Eric Kirwan	**Chief Operating Officer**
Mr Richard Hawkins	**Director of Operations**
Mrs Claire Reay	**Head of Safeguarding**
Mrs Clare O'Brien	**Head of Legal & Compliance**
Mr Paul O'Connor	**Head of Planning & Communications**
Mrs Susan Simkiss	**Head of Finance**
Mrs Toni Guest	**Head of Property**
Mr Steve Bell	**Director of Education**

INTRODUCTION

Archbishop Bernard Longley – Chair of Trustees

Each year this report offers us an important moment to look with gratitude at all that has been entrusted to us, and to recognise the many ways in which the Lord is at work across our Archdiocese. I am thankful for the generosity, prayer and commitment that sustain the life of our parishes, schools and communities, and for the countless acts of service that build up the Body of Christ.

During 2025 we continued to walk together as missionary disciples, inspired by our Diocesan Vision *Unfolding God's Plan*. Across our parishes we have seen people coming to faith, young people growing in confidence and leadership, families strengthened, and communities renewed in prayer and worship. The steady increase in those seeking to enter the Church through the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) process is a particular sign of hope, reminding us that the Gospel continues to speak to hearts that are searching for truth and meaning.

We have continued to discern how best to strengthen our missionary presence across the Archdiocese. This includes moving towards parish missions: groups of parishes working together with shared responsibility, coordinated pastoral provision and a common commitment to evangelisation.

Across the Archdiocese, 52 missions are now in place, each shaped by local circumstances and progressing at a pace appropriate to their communities. In some areas this has already led to the creation of larger, single parishes, such as St Carlo Acutis in Wolverhampton, and plans for the Oxford South Deanery. to become one parish mission are well advanced. Throughout 2026 and 2027, the assistant bishops and I will be spending time in parishes and deaneries to listen to clergy and support the discernment of how and when these developments can most appropriately be achieved.

In 2025 we also rejoiced in the ordination of Fr Gerard Bowen to the priesthood, and of Paul Milton to the Permanent Diaconate. During the year, we were also pleased to see a number of priests appointed as Parish Priests, including Fr Marco Egawhary, Fr Ryan Service, Fr John Waters, Fr Benedict Skipper, Fr Sean Gough, Fr Alex Taylor and Fr Clive Dytor. Their willingness to offer their lives in service of Christ and his Church is a profound encouragement to us all. I am grateful to the communities that have supported them, and to those who continue to foster and accompany vocations across the Archdiocese.

I am grateful to our clergy, religious and lay faithful who work so faithfully in the service of evangelisation, formation, liturgy and social outreach. Their dedication ensures that our parishes remain places of welcome, encounter and compassion. I also thank those who support the essential diocesan services that enable this mission to flourish.

Good stewardship is part of our shared discipleship. The resources we hold are given to us for the service of God's people, and I am grateful for the careful and transparent way in which they are managed. This report reflects not only financial responsibility, but the living faith of our communities and the hope that guides our common mission.

As we look ahead, may we continue to support one another generously, confident that the Lord who has begun this good work in us will bring it to fulfilment.

With every blessing

+ Bernard



Eric Kirwan – Chief Operating Officer

I would like to begin by thanking our staff, those serving in the curia and those working across our parishes, for their continued enthusiasm, hard work and commitment. I also want to express our deep gratitude to the many thousands of volunteers who give their time so generously in support of parish and school communities. Their contribution remains essential to the mission of the Archdiocese.

2025 was an exceptionally busy and productive year, and this report highlights the positive impact of your work. Across our schools, parishes and partner organisations, including Father Hudson's Caritas (FHC) and the Kenelm Youth Trust (KYT), we have seen inspiring examples of service, formation and outreach.

For parishes, the continued implementation of the Diocesan Vision has been a major focus. In recent years we have moved from 18 deaneries to 11, and the development of parish missions is progressing well. 52 missions are now clearly identified, involving all 217 parishes. The intention of this collaborative approach is to strengthen the delivery of the Church's mission at local level, and we expect further partnership working and formal mergers to evolve over time.

In our schools, 2025 marked the launch of St Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Multi-Academy Trust, the first of four large regional trusts planned across the Archdiocese. Bringing together more than 60 Catholic schools, it represents a major step in strengthening collaboration, sharing expertise and ensuring the long-term sustainability of Catholic education while preserving each school's distinctive mission and identity. This achievement reflects the commitment and partnership of school leaders, staff, directors, governors and the Diocesan Education Service (DES).

Financially, 2025 showed continued year on year improvement. Following sustained work to reduce costs, we renewed our focus on increasing parish income through planned giving initiatives. Several parishes achieved increases of more than 30% in weekly giving, demonstrating what can be achieved when communities respond with generosity. Our aim is for every parish to have the resources and facilities needed to fulfil its mission.

Safeguarding remains a priority for His Grace and the Trustees. Thanks to the commitment of our safeguarding team, clergy and parish safeguarding representatives, we were delighted to receive an overall grading of Exceeding Expectations in the latest Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) audit. This reflects the strong safeguarding culture now embedded across the Archdiocese.

Eric Kirwan
Chief Operating Officer Archdiocese of Birmingham.



TRUSTEES' REPORT & GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The Trustees present their annual report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025. These have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

The objectives of the Trust are set out in the Diocesan Trust Deed, under which the Trust furthers its charitable purposes for the public benefit.

They can be summarised as:

- Evangelisation and Catechesis
- Outreach work
- Provision of support to the elderly
- Assisting with mental health and other health issues
- Working with those struggling financially to supply basic needs for their families
- Family and Marriage guidance, and family support
- The provision of religious services
- The provision of our property
- Maintenance and support of clergy
- The provision of education and youth services for children
- The provision of education and training for clergy and those wishing to be ordained
- The relief of the poor and those in need



Image Credit: Con McHugh. Harvington Pilgrimage September 2025

VISION & MISSION

OUR VISION

The Archdiocese of Birmingham continues to be guided by Unfolding God's Plan, our shared vision for the future of the Church.

We seek to be a Catholic community faithful to the mission entrusted to us by Jesus Christ, forming missionary disciples who work together in vibrant communities of faith, joyful in their service of God and neighbour.

Our work is centred on four priorities:



Evangelisation (E)

Helping more people encounter Christ through prayer, worship, parish life and missionary outreach.



Formation (F)

Supporting children, young people and adults to grow in faith, leadership and discipleship.



Liturgy and Worship (LW)

Celebrating the sacraments with reverence and joy, placing worship at the heart of community life.



Charity and Social Outreach (Caritas) (C)

Putting faith into action through service, compassion and support for those most in need.

OUR FOCUS

Alongside these priorities, three themes continue to shape our work across the Archdiocese:

Working Together (Co-responsibility)

Clergy, religious and lay people sharing responsibility for the Church's mission and building strong parish communities.

Young People and Families

Strengthening faith, belonging and participation among young people and families through our schools and parishes.

Care of Creation

Responding to the call of Creation and the goals of Laudato Si' by caring for our common home and reducing our environmental impact.

During 2025, these priorities guided the work of our parishes, schools, chaplaincies, charities and diocesan services. The stories and achievements in this report show how the Vision is being put into practice across the Archdiocese every day.

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

2025 AT A GLANCE

Across the Archdiocese, 2025 was a year of growth, service and renewed participation. More people attended Mass, more adults began exploring the Catholic faith, and thousands of volunteers continued to support parish, school and community life.

At the same time, the need to strengthen regular giving remains a key priority for the future.



12,719

Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations, of which:

616 Adults undertaking the RCIA

388 Marriages

2,663 Funerals

12 TRUSTEES

OVER 10,000 VOLUNTEERS

contributing approximately

670,000 hours

£8.7m Estimated value if paid at £13 per hour (not included in the accounts)

217 registered parishes in **11** deaneries

Over **1,000** diocesan properties

Over **£120k** funding received for **26** parish projects with guidance provided to **31** additional parishes

Clergy

217 Active priests (including senior clergy and Bishops)

71 Sick & retired priests

64 Permanent deacons

1 Priest ordained

1 Permanent deacon ordained

8 Seminarians

26 Deacons in formation

Schools

86,830 students

1,275 volunteer governors

78 foundation directors

97% of schools rated good or better under the CSI inspection framework.

47 schools undertook large capital projects

234 schools operate under the charity's trust deed. (Plus 7 schools working under separate trusts) Of which:

48,694 are children aged 4 – 11.

38,136 are aged 11 – 14/19.

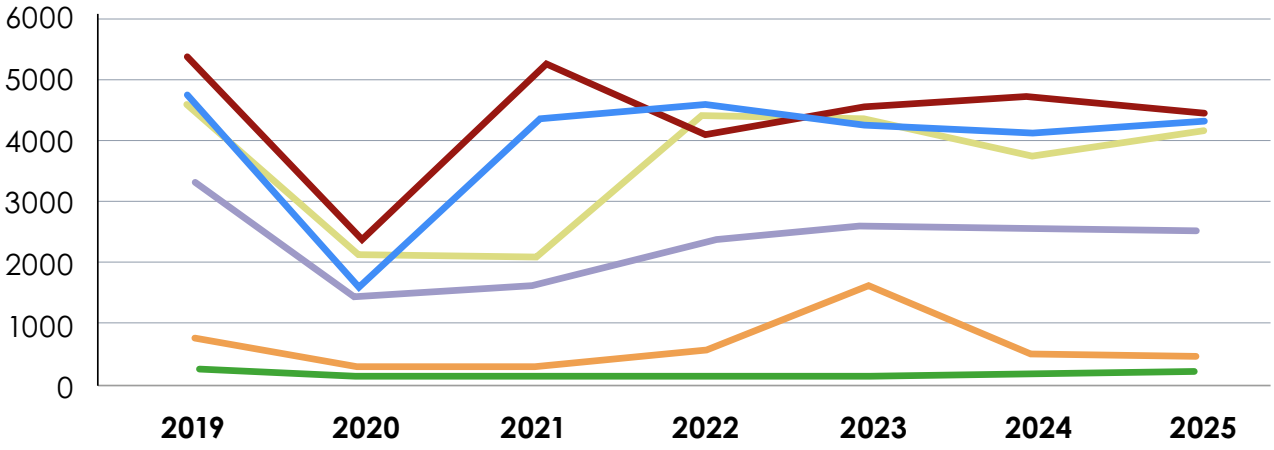
175 Academy schools, operating under:

11 Multi Academy Companies (MACs)

142 schools achieved CAFOD's LiveSimply award

TRENDS IN OUR ARCHDIOCESE

2019-2025



- Baptism / Reception
- 1st Holy Communion
- Confirmation
- Marriage
- Communion at home
- RCIA*

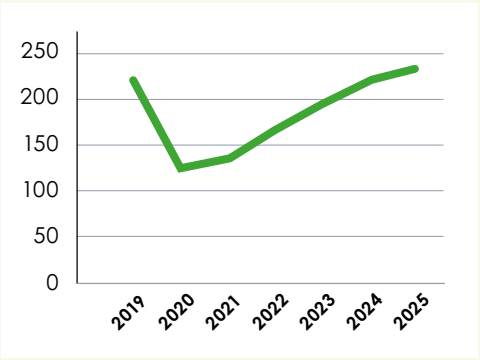


*RCIA

RCIA figures show those received into full communion with the church at Easter in 2025.

RCIA, or Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, is the process through which adults and sometimes older children prepare to become Catholic. This normally takes place once a year during Easter.

Received into full communion with the Church in our Archdiocese showed a small but positive trend between 2022 and 2025.



Indicators of success in delivering the mission are demonstrated in the outreach and pastoral work done in our parishes and schools on a daily basis, as measured by our annual pastoral statistics.

We measure this on the number of people receiving the various Holy Sacraments, of Marriage, Holy Orders (clergy and religious orders), Baptism, First Holy Communion, and others, and of regular Mass attendance. Whilst trends in sacramental participation among young people are relatively stable, we are delighted by the increasing number of adults seeking admission into the Church through our RCIA programmes.

GROWING PARTICIPATION

SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE 2018 - 2025

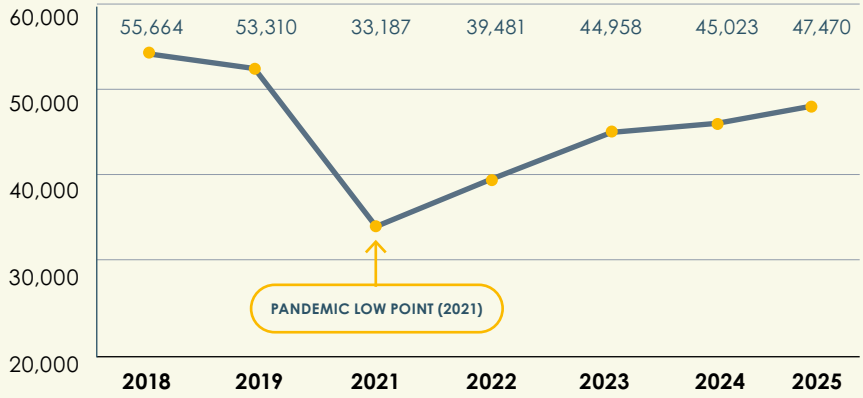
47,470
Mass attendance in 2025

RECOVERY SINCE 2021
▲ 43.0%
Increase since the pandemic low point

COMPARED WITH 2018
85.3%
of pre-pandemic attendance

INCREASE ON 2024
5.4%
growth in 2025

Mass attendance by year

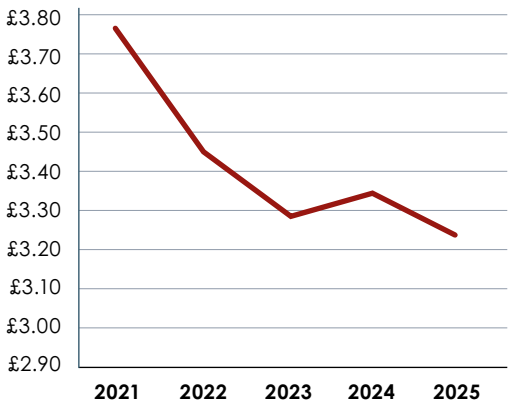


Mass attendance continues to recover following the pandemic, increasing by **43.0%** since the 2021 low point. Attendance in 2025 reached **47,470,** representing **85.3%** of pre-pandemic levels recorded in 2018.



Mass attendance 2014 to 2019 declined at an average of approx. 3% per year, from 64,433 in 2014 to 53,310 in 2019. Recovery in average Mass attendance post-Covid (since 2021) sits at 43% with Mass attendance in 2025 recorded as 47,470, continuing the steady recovery seen in recent years. Parish offertories and other collections (excluding tax returns) also rose to £7.89 million (from £7.73 million in 2024).

Average weekly offertory per person



While total offertory income increased, average weekly giving per person fell slightly to £3.19 (2024: £3.29). As participation continues to grow, increasing regular giving remains important in supporting parish ministry, maintaining safe and welcoming spaces for worship and mission, and funding essential diocesan services.

Trustees recognise the downward trend in per-person giving as a significant financial challenge, while also recognising the pressures facing families as a result of the current cost-of-living crisis, including food and fuel poverty.

In response, the Planned Giving Campaign was launched in 2025 and rolled out into 2026 to encourage sustainable regular giving. Early data is encouraging, and the 2026 parish financial returns will provide an indication of the campaign's impact.

Vocations and Formation

In 2025, the Archdiocese supported eight seminarians preparing for priesthood and 26 candidates for the permanent diaconate.

One priest and one permanent deacon were ordained during the year. We believe that this, like our successful RCIA programme, is a direct result of the vocations work done as part of the mission of evangelisation and formation in the Archdiocese.

Faith in Action

Parishes welcomed 616 adults on their RCIA journey and celebrated thousands of Baptisms, Confirmations and First Holy Communions.

These signs of growth reflect the continuing commitment of parish communities to evangelisation, formation and outreach.

The work of the Archdiocese depends upon the extraordinary commitment of volunteers across our parishes, schools, chaplaincies and charitable activities.

Volunteers serve in countless ways, from liturgical ministry, sacramental preparation and parish administration to safeguarding, finance, building maintenance, social outreach and youth work. In addition, almost 2,000 Foundation Governors and Directors provide leadership and oversight within our schools and Multi Academy Companies, helping to secure the future of Catholic education.

The Trustees place on record their sincere gratitude to all those who generously give their time, skills and experience. Their dedication strengthens communities, supports the Church's mission and remains one of the Archdiocese's greatest assets.

The Power of Volunteers

10,000+
Volunteers

670,000
Hours given

£8.7m
Estimated value if paid at £13 per hour
This figure is not included in the financial statements

1,353
School Governors & Directors



Sue Nightingale: A life of parish service

Sue Nightingale, a parishioner of St Thomas More, Sheldon, has dedicated many years to serving both her parish and wider communities.

Her volunteering has included youth ministry, liturgy, women's retreats and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Masses, alongside supporting Mary's Meals, Lourdes pilgrimages and overseas projects in Kenya and India. Describing volunteering as something she feels "called to do", Sue's story reflects the faith, generosity and commitment that sustain parish life across the Archdiocese.



A family's lifetime of service in Lourdes

For sisters Geraldine, Pauline and Elizabeth, volunteering in Lourdes has been part of their family story for more than six decades.

Since first travelling on pilgrimage in 1965, they have devoted many years to supporting assisted pilgrims as volunteer hospitaliers. Their service, spanning generations, reflects the compassion, friendship and sense of belonging that characterise the Lourdes pilgrimage and inspire others to serve.



Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, May 2025

MISSION IN ACTION

Throughout 2025, parishes, schools and diocesan communities put the Diocesan Vision, Unfolding God's Plan, into action through prayer, service and community. The following highlights demonstrate the breadth of this work across the Archdiocese. Helping more people encounter Christ through prayer, worship, parish life and missionary outreach.

Helping more people encounter Christ through prayer, worship, parish life and missionary outreach.

EVANGELISATION (E)

616 adults joined RCIA programmes in 2025, continuing the positive growth in adults seeking to enter the Church. The annual Rite of Election at St Chad's Cathedral brought together representatives from around 50 parishes, reflecting growing interest in the Catholic faith. Early figures for 2026 suggest this growth is continuing.

During the Jubilee Year, St Anne's Nuneaton used its celebrations as an opportunity for mission and evangelisation, welcoming the local community and creating opportunities for people to engage with parish life.

The Archdiocese also celebrated the 60th anniversary of Nostra Aetate, providing an opportunity for leaders from different faith traditions to meet, reflect on Nostra Aetate and strengthen relationships.


Rite of Election, St Chad's Cathedral, March 2025


Mazur/cbcew.org.uk.
60 Years of Nostra Aetate National celebration, St Chad's Cathedral, October 2025

Supporting children, young people and adults to grow in faith, leadership and discipleship.

FORMATION (F)

Formation remained central to diocesan life. We celebrated the ordination of Fr Gerard Bowen to the priesthood and Paul Milton to the Permanent Diaconate, while continuing to support eight seminarians and twenty-six permanent deacon candidates in formation.



Con McHugh .
Ordination of Fr Gerard Bowen, St Chad's Cathedral, July 2025

> *"An ordination, like a marriage or religious profession, is always a moment to rejoice. But more than that, it is a profound moment when we witness God powerfully at work among us."*
>
> *Fr Craig Szmidt, Vocation Director*

More than 320 altar servers gathered at St Chad's Cathedral for the annual Guild of St Stephen Mass of Thanksgiving, the highest attendance to date. Across our schools and parishes, children, young people and adults continued to deepen their faith through education, formation programmes and sacramental preparation.



Con McHugh .
Mass for the Guild of St Stephen, October 2025



Con McHugh .
Ordination of Deacon Paul Milton, St Chad's Cathedral, July 2025

A significant milestone for Catholic education was reached in 2025 with the establishment of St Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Multi Academy Trust, serving 64 schools across the north of the Archdiocese. Through greater collaboration between schools, the Trust has supported school improvement, leadership development, chaplaincy programmes, shared prayer and liturgy, and charitable outreach, including fundraising and social action in partnership with Father Hudson's Caritas.

St Raphael the Archangel Catholic Multi Academy Trust became fully operational, St Michael the Archangel Catholic Multi Academy Trust established its inaugural Board and appointed its Chief Executive Officer, and planning continued for Jesus the Good Shepherd Catholic Multi Academy Trust. Together, these developments are strengthening Catholic education, supporting the faith formation of children and young people, and deepening links between schools, parishes and local communities.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Brewood created a Pilgrims of Hope prayer garden, providing children, families and parishioners with a space for reflection and prayer during the Jubilee Year.

Students and staff from five Archdiocesan Catholic schools took part in a national climate lobby at Westminster, drawing on Catholic Social Teaching. The experience enabled pupils to put their faith into action, engaging with issues of climate justice, care for creation and solidarity with communities affected by climate change.

Celebrating the sacraments with reverence and joy, placing worship at the heart of community life.

LITURGY AND WORSHIP (LW)

During the Jubilee Year, hundreds of people took part in diocesan pilgrimages, prayer and worship. Parishioners joined diocesan pilgrimages to Walsingham, Lourdes, Hednesford and Harvington Hall. Lourdes alone welcomed 639 pilgrims, supported by volunteers, healthcare professionals and clergy from across the Archdiocese.

Harvington Hall welcomed around 16,500 visitors in 2025, including pilgrims, retreat groups and school parties. The annual diocesan pilgrimage brought together more than 700 people, while the Hall also provided opportunities for Catholic schools and parish groups to deepen their faith through retreats, formation and encounters with the Church's history. Ongoing conservation work supports the continued use of Harvington Hall as a place of pilgrimage and preserves its historic significance.

Parishes and communities across the Archdiocese marked Corpus Christi with Masses and Eucharistic processions, including public processions that brought the celebration into local communities.



Annual Mass for Marriage, St Chad's Cathedral, May 2025



Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, May 2025

Parishes and schools across North Staffordshire came together for the North Staffordshire Eucharistic Congress. The celebrations brought parishes and schools together for prayer, catechesis and shared worship, with the Jubilee Year providing an opportunity for renewed collaboration between parishes, schools and chaplains.



Mark Lear. North Staffordshire Eucharistic Congress, July 2025

Parishes also marked the year with devotional events, Marriage Masses and celebrations linked to the canonisation of St Carlo Acutis. Together, these events strengthened faith, community and prayer across the Archdiocese.



Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, May 2025



Celebrating 10 Years of Fatima House in Birmingham

Putting faith into action through service, compassion and support for those most in need.

CHARITY AND SOCIAL OUTREACH (C)

Faith in action continued to transform lives. The St Vincent de Paul (SVC) Society at Our Lady and All Saints, Stourbridge, celebrated 100 years of service to people experiencing poverty, isolation and hardship.

Fatima House* marked ten years of welcoming vulnerable migrant women. Since opening, it has provided safety, stability and support to 70 women, demonstrating the Archdiocese's continuing commitment to dignity, compassion and hospitality.

**Fatima House is a partnership between The Archdiocese of Birmingham, The Columban Missionaries, The Parish of St Anne's and Father Hudson's Caritas.*

During the Jubilee Year, schools across the Archdiocese were encouraged to put the theme of hope into action through social action and fundraising, particularly in support of Father Hudson's Caritas. Schools undertook a range of activities to support people experiencing disadvantage and need, involving pupils and wider school communities in practical expressions of Catholic Social Teaching and care for others.



Celebrating 10 Years of Fatima House in Birmingham

Across our parishes, schools and charities, thousands of people continued to serve their communities through practical support, fundraising and outreach to those most in need.

FOCUS ON: CARE FOR CREATION

Inspired by Laudato Si', parishes and schools continued to embed environmental stewardship into community life. Activities included local environmental projects, fundraising initiatives to reduce waste, and participation in national climate-focused advocacy programmes. These efforts reflect a growing commitment to caring for our common home. Around 21 parishes and 142 schools achieved CAFOD's LiveSimply Award.

A LIVING CHURCH

Together, these stories show a Church that is growing in faith, active in service and confident in its mission. They reflect the generosity of parishioners, volunteers, clergy and staff who continue to bring the Gospel to life across the Archdiocese every day.

OUR 2025 ACHIEVEMENTS

Objective	What we planned	What we achieved
Evangelisation	Grow faith participation and strengthen missionary communities	616 adults joined RCIA programmes in 2025, continuing the positive growth in adults seeking to enter the Church. The Rite of Election brought together representatives from around 50 parishes. Parishes created opportunities for wider community engagement and evangelisation during the Jubilee Year.
Formation	Support children, young people, clergy and laity to grow in faith, leadership and discipleship	Eight seminarians and 26 permanent deacon candidates were in formation, with one priest and one permanent deacon ordained. More than 320 altar servers attended the annual Guild of St Stephen Mass of Thanksgiving, the highest attendance to date. Catholic schools continued to support formation across 86,830 pupils, with 97% of schools rated good or better under the Catholic Schools Inspectorate (CSI) framework. A significant milestone was reached with the establishment of St Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Multi-Academy Trust, the first of four large regional trusts planned across the Archdiocese, strengthening collaboration between more than 60 Catholic schools and helping to secure the long-term future of Catholic education.
Liturgy and worship	Encourage participation in prayer, worship and the sacramental life of the Church	Average weekly Mass attendance increased to 47,470, continuing the post-Covid recovery. There were 12,719 Baptisms, First Communions and Confirmations, alongside 388 marriages and 2,663 funerals. 639 pilgrims travelled to Lourdes, while more than 700 people took part in the annual Harvington Hall pilgrimage. Harvington Hall welcomed around 16,500 visitors during 2025.
Charity and Social Outreach	Put faith into action by supporting people experiencing poverty, vulnerability and isolation	More than 10,000 volunteers contributed over 670,000 hours of service, supporting parish, school and community life, with an estimated value of more than £8.7 million. Since opening, Fatima House has provided safety, stability and support to 70 vulnerable migrant women. The SVP at Our Lady and All Saints, Stourbridge, marked 100 years of service to people experiencing poverty, isolation and hardship. Schools and parishes also supported Father Hudson's Caritas through fundraising and social action.

ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM MAP

Bishop Timothy Menezes

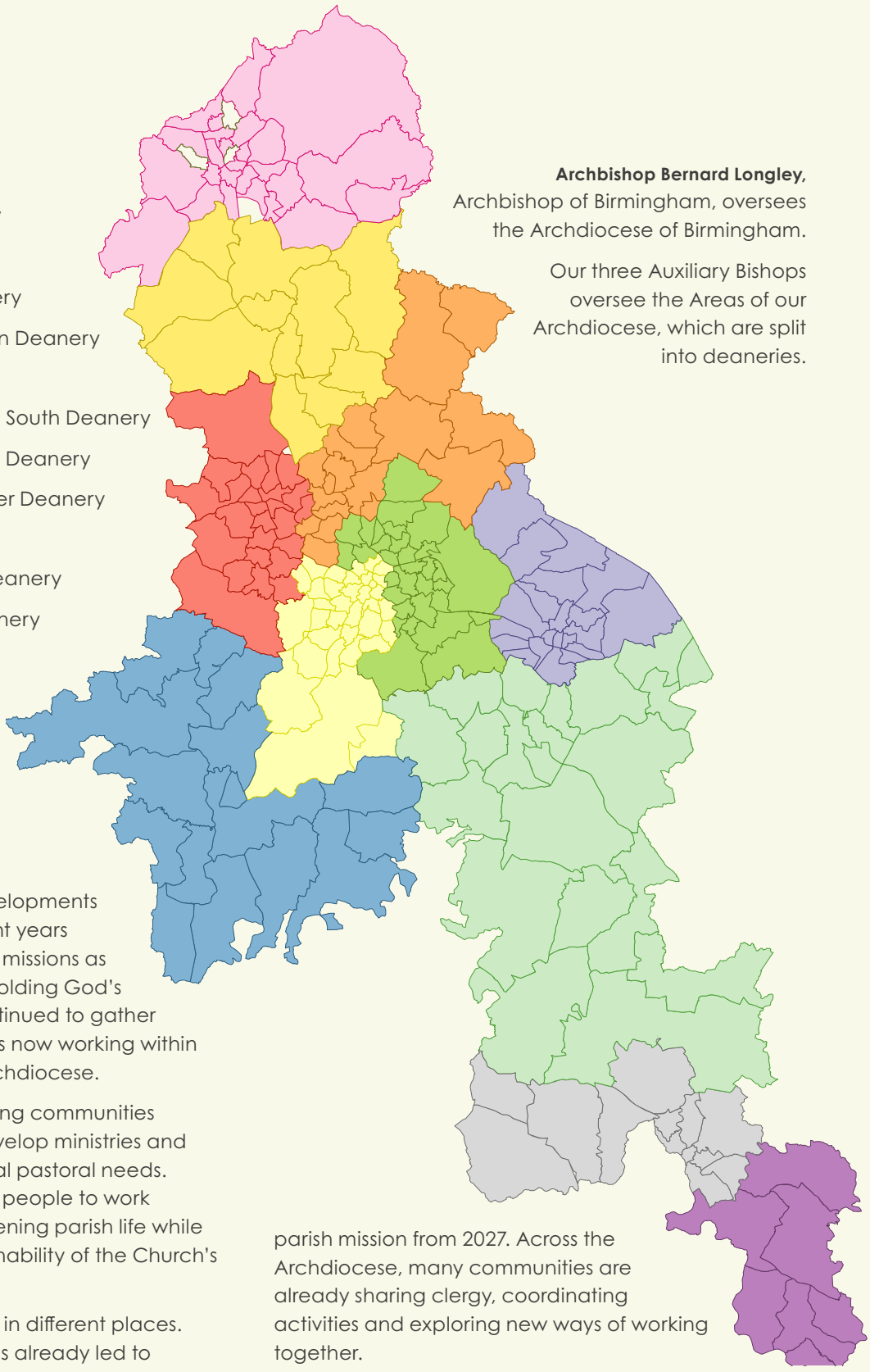
- North Staffordshire Deanery
- Stafford Deanery
- Lichfield and Walsall Deanery
- Dudley and Wolverhampton Deanery

Bishop David Evans

- Birmingham Cathedral and South Deanery
- Birmingham East and North Deanery
- Kidderminster and Worcester Deanery

Bishop Richard Walker

- Coventry and Nuneaton Deanery
- Banbury and Warwick Deanery
- Oxford North Deanery
- Oxford South Deanery



Archbishop Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham, oversees the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

Our three Auxiliary Bishops oversee the Areas of our Archdiocese, which are split into deaneries.

One of the most significant developments across the Archdiocese in recent years has been the creation of parish missions as part of our Diocesan Vision, Unfolding God's Plan. During 2025, this work continued to gather momentum, with all 217 parishes now working within 52 parish missions across the Archdiocese.

Parish missions bring neighbouring communities together to share resources, develop ministries and respond more effectively to local pastoral needs. They encourage clergy and lay people to work more closely together, strengthening parish life while supporting the long-term sustainability of the Church's mission.

Progress is taking different forms in different places. In some areas, collaboration has already led to formal parish mergers, including the creation of St John Henry Newman Parish and the Parish of St Carlo Acutis. Elsewhere, parishes are developing shared approaches to ministry, administration, formation and outreach while retaining their own local identity.

Plans for South Oxfordshire continue to advance, with seven parishes preparing to operate as a single parish mission from 2027. Across the Archdiocese, many communities are already sharing clergy, coordinating activities and exploring new ways of working together.

The development of parish missions is about more than organisational change. It is helping to create vibrant, collaborative communities that are better equipped to share the Gospel, support one another and serve future generations. As this work continues, parish missions will play a central role in shaping the future life and mission of the Archdiocese.

CENTRAL CURIAL SERVICES

SUPPORTING PARISH LIFE

Safeguarding

The Archdiocese received an overall "Exceeding Expectations" rating in the 2026 Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) inspection, with six of eight standards achieving this rating.

ICT

Evangelisation and Formation

More than £400,000 was invested directly in formation for clergy, seminarians and permanent deacons.

Property & Planning Advice

Youth Ministry

Approximately £200,000 was provided to the Kenelm Youth Trust (KYT) to support youth ministry, evangelisation and faith formation.

Clergy Support

Approximately £330,000 was spent supporting retired and infirm clergy through financial assistance, accommodation and care.

Marriage Tribunal

HR, Legal & Governance

Communications

Finance & Gift Aid

Parish Support

146 Gift Aid claims and 38 GASDS claims generated approximately £1.7 million of additional income for parishes.

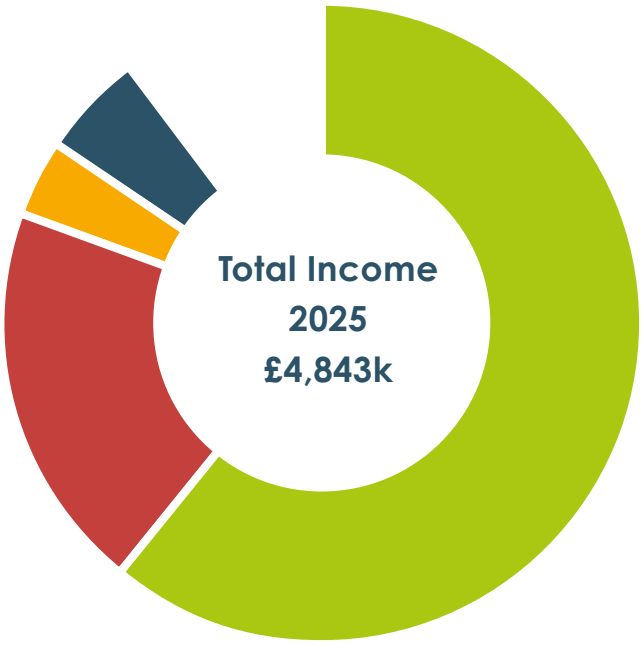
The parish levy of £3.29 million in 2025, together with investment income, donations and other funding, supported essential diocesan services that would be difficult or costly for individual parishes to provide independently.

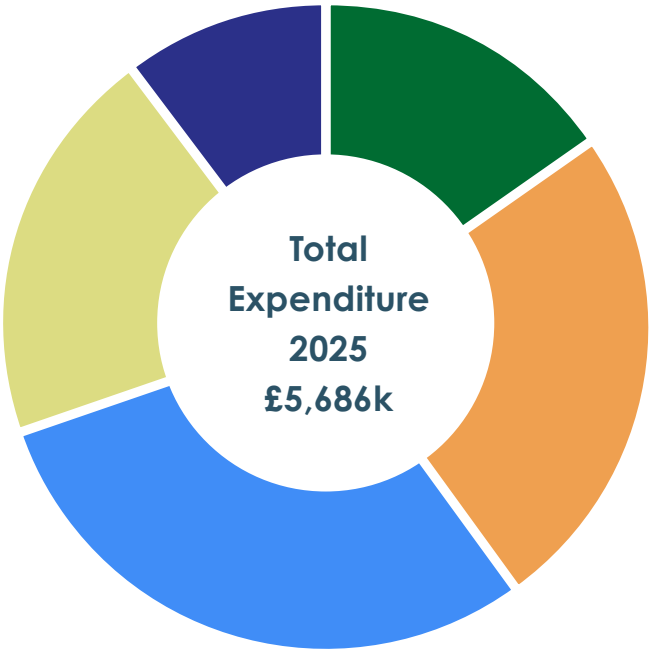


Mark Lear. North Staffordshire Eucharistic Congress, July 2025

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF THE CENTRAL CURIAL SERVICES:

CURIAL INCOME V EXPENDITURE FOR 2025 £'000





- **INCOME FROM PARISH LEVY** £3,290k
- **OTHER INCOME*** £1,049k
- **INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS** £221k
- **GAINS FROM INVESTMENTS** £282k

* Income is inflated by one-off receipts of £500k

- **CLERGY & CLERICAL COSTS**** £826k
- **ESSENTIAL STATUTORY COSTS** £1,340k
  (incl. levy payable to Bishops Conference, statutory compliance costs on H&S, Safeguarding and Finance)
- **CURIA STAFFING** £1,593k
  Salaries, welfare and training costs
- **INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL GRANTS** £1,086k
- **PROPERTY & BUILDINGS COSTS** £541k
  (incl. overheads)

** Clergy costs are £150k lower than 2024, due to a temporary reduction in the Curial grant to the Clergy Training Fund, which had benefitted from a significant legacy which it used to defray its costs.

The Trustees recognise the recurring operating deficit within central curial services. While the parish levy remains a significant source of funding, it does not cover the full cost of the professional, pastoral and statutory services provided by the central curial services.

In recent years, significant efforts have been made to reduce expenditure and improve efficiency. The Trustees consider that central curial services operate with a lean staffing structure, with limited scope for further material cost reductions without affecting service delivery, statutory compliance or support for parishes.

A significant proportion of expenditure relates to staffing and clergy-related costs, including support for retired and infirm clergy.

The recurring deficit is currently funded through a combination of investment income, asset realisations and other income. The Trustees continue to review the long-term sustainability of this position and are focused on increasing recurring income across the Archdiocese through stewardship, planned giving and other appropriate sources of funding, as reserves cannot bridge the deficit longer term.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND PLANNED GIVING

85+
Parishes engaged

100+
Priests & Volunteers supported

3
Deaneries Visited

31%
Highest reported increase in giving

Our Mission is made possible through the generosity of parishioners, volunteers and supporters across the Archdiocese.

During 2025, overall offertory income increased and Mass attendance continued to grow. These are encouraging signs of a vibrant and engaged diocesan community.

At the same time, average weekly giving per person remained below the level needed to meet rising costs and support long-term investment in mission, ministry and parish buildings.

To help parishes respond, the Archdiocese continued its Planned Giving Campaign, supporting parish communities in encouraging regular, sustainable giving. Presentations were delivered across three deaneries, with direct support provided to around 85 parishes and more than 100 clergy and volunteers.

Several parishes have already reported encouraging increases of between 20% and 28%, demonstrating the difference that active stewardship programmes can make.

Growing regular giving is not simply about income. It helps ensure that parishes can maintain their churches, support faith formation, care for vulnerable people, invest in young people and contribute to the wider mission of the Archdiocese. Stronger financial foundations enable communities to plan confidently for the future and respond generously to new opportunities for mission and service.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Archdiocese enters 2026 and beyond with clear priorities shaped by "Unfolding God's Plan". Growth in parish participation, increased interest in the Catholic faith and the commitment of clergy, staff and volunteers provide a strong foundation for the future.

Growing Faith

We will continue to invest in evangelisation, formation and youth ministry, supporting people at every stage of their faith journey. Particular focus will be given to vocations, lay leadership and opportunities for faith formation across parishes and schools.

Growing Communities

The development of parish missions will continue as parishes work more closely together to share resources, strengthen ministries and respond to local pastoral needs. We will also support the continued development of Catholic education through the expansion of Multi Academy Trusts while maintaining their distinct Catholic identity and mission.

Growing Sustainability

Financial sustainability remains a key priority. Through planned giving, stewardship and careful management of resources, we aim to strengthen parish finances, maintain our buildings and ensure that diocesan services remain sustainable for future generations. Care for Creation will continue to inform our decision-making as we seek to reduce environmental impact and act as responsible stewards of the resources entrusted to us.

Growing a Shared Mission

The future of the Archdiocese depends on clergy, religious and lay faithful working together in service of the Gospel. By strengthening co-responsibility and collaboration across our communities, we will continue to build a Church that is active in faith, confident in mission and responsive to the needs of the people we serve.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

HOW OUR TRUST IS GOVERNED

The Birmingham Diocesan Trust is responsible for overseeing the life and mission of the Archdiocese. It is governed by a Board of Trustees, made up of senior clergy and experienced lay people, who bring both faith and professional skills to the role.

When someone becomes a trustee, they are introduced to their responsibilities by the Chief Operating Officer (also known as the Diocesan Treasurer), training is offered, and trustees meet four times a year to oversee operations, review sub-committee minutes and implement policy.

To support its work, there are specialist sub-committees to focus on:

- Safeguarding
- Finance
- Property
- Education
- Investments
- Care of Clergy
- Workforce and Remuneration
- Governance, Risk, Health & Safety and Compliance
- Care of Creation

The Board of Trustees also fulfils the Church's canonical role as the Diocesan Finance Committee (Canon 492).

Trustee recruitment is undertaken through a formal recruitment process, advertised through the Archdiocesan website and supported by shortlisting and interview procedures. This helps ensure that the Board maintains an appropriate balance of skills, knowledge and experience.

All trustees are required to complete trustee induction and ongoing development training. This includes training based on the Charity Commission guidance *CC3: The Essential Trustee - What You Need to Do*, which underpins the Board's approach to trustee responsibilities and governance. Trustees receive regular training to support the effective discharge of their duties and to remain informed of developments in charity law, safeguarding and governance best practice.

Safeguarding training is mandatory for all trustees. Trustees are required to complete safeguarding refresher training every three years, ensuring that safeguarding remains embedded within the governance and oversight of the Trust.

Day-to-Day Oversight
The day-to-day operations of the Archdiocese are managed by the Curial Management Team, led by the Chief Operating Officer. This team oversees safeguarding, finance, property, HR, education, communications, fundraising, legal matters, and planning.
The Vicar General, based at the registered office, is responsible for clergy personnel matters. Clergy appointments are made by the Archbishop in consultation with the Vicar General and Archbishop's Council. Other important offices include:

- The Diocesan Tribunal (marriage annulments)
- The Chancellor (canonical matters)
- The Historic Churches Committee (heritage and conservation)

The Council of Priests, with representatives from across deaneries and diocesan offices, meets twice a year with the Archbishop to advise on diocesan matters. The Chapter of Canons, made up of senior priests, supports Cathedral governance and also serves as the College of Consulters (Canons 503ff and 495ff).

Parish Life and Finances

The parish priest is responsible for running the parish under canon and civil law. Every parish is required to have a Parish Finance Committee, which must meet at least twice a year. This group advises the parish priest on financial and property matters. The Archbishop keeps clergy updated on important matters: liturgical, pastoral, financial, and administrative, through regular "ad clerum" letters. Additional support is provided by deans and diocesan offices.

Catholic Education

The Diocesan Education Service (DES), based in Coleshill, oversees Catholic schools across the Archdiocese. The DES mission is to form Christ-centred pilgrims of hope, with kind hearts, questioning minds, a thirst for knowledge and a hunger for justice. DES responsibilities include:

- Safeguarding
- Catholic Education
- Leadership & Governance
- Buildings & Finance
- School Improvement

The Archbishop and Bishops are trustees by virtue of their ecclesiastical office. Lay trustees are appointed by the Archbishop following recommendation of the Trustees and Governance Committee, having regard to the skills and experience required by the Board.

The Trustees retain responsibility for strategy, risk management, safeguarding oversight, financial stewardship and major property decisions. Operational implementation is delegated to the Chief Operating Officer and senior management team.

The Board includes members with expertise in finance, property, education, safeguarding, investment management, governance, law and human resources.

FUNDRAISING AND GRANT SUPPORT

The Archdiocese operates in accordance with the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice and does not engage professional fundraisers, and has received no complaints in relation to fundraising (2024: Nil). The principal source of voluntary income remains the weekly offertory collection, supported by a range of parish-led fundraising activities such as raffles, jumble sales, parish totes and other community events. Guidance on responsible fundraising and stewardship is provided to clergy and parish volunteers through the Parish Handbook, ensuring that donations are sought appropriately and that no individual feels under undue pressure to contribute. Parishes are also required to comply with any relevant local authority registration requirements in relation to activities such as small lottery schemes.

Trusts, foundations and grant funding continue to provide valuable support for parish projects. During 2025, grants totalling £120,328 (excluding school grants) were secured in support of 26 parishes, while a further 31 parishes received advice and assistance in developing local fundraising initiatives. Funded projects included church repairs, hall refurbishments, heritage conservation works and parish evangelisation programmes. Looking ahead, the closure of the Listed Places of Worship VAT Scheme in March 2026 is expected to increase the cost of future repair projects for listed churches. A replacement heritage-focused scheme is anticipated, and guidance will be issued to parishes once further details are confirmed.

Although the Birmingham Diocesan Trust is not principally a grant-making charity, it provides financial support to organisations whose activities advance its charitable objectives and deliver public benefit. Grant funding is directed towards initiatives that support the Catholic faith, education, evangelisation, pastoral care and charitable outreach. During 2025, significant grants were awarded to Father Hudson's Caritas and the Kenelm Youth Trust, both of which play an important role in supporting vulnerable individuals and families, youth ministry, faith formation and social outreach across the Archdiocese. Schools also continued to support the work of Father Hudson's Caritas through fundraising initiatives benefiting people experiencing homelessness, refugees, vulnerable women and others facing hardship and social exclusion. All grants are subject to appropriate governance procedures and regular review to ensure they remain aligned with the Trust's charitable purposes and strategic priorities.

GOING CONCERN

The Trustees have assessed the ability of the Archdiocese to continue as a going concern and are satisfied that it has adequate resources to continue its operations for the foreseeable future.

The activities of the Archdiocese, together with the factors likely to affect its future development, performance and financial position, are set out throughout this Trustees' Report. Its financial position, including the results for the year, movement in funds, assets, liabilities and cash flows, is detailed in the accompanying financial statements.

The Archdiocese continues to hold significant financial resources in the form of property assets, investment portfolios and cash reserves. At 31 December 2025, total cash balances amounted to £4.67 million and investment assets totalled £33.4 million, providing a strong overall financial foundation and liquidity position. Whilst investment markets remain subject to periods of volatility and wider economic uncertainty, the Trustees consider the investment portfolio to be appropriately diversified and capable of supporting the long-term mission of the Archdiocese.

GOING CONCERN continued

Income from offertories, collections and donations continued to show encouraging growth during the year, while average weekly Mass attendance increased to 47,470, continuing the post-pandemic recovery seen across the Archdiocese. The Trustees are encouraged by these trends and by the early results of the Planned Giving Campaign, which was launched during 2025 to support sustainable parish income growth.

However, the Trustees remain mindful of a number of significant challenges. Around 50% of parishes continue to operate at an annual operational deficit, with expenditure exceeding recurring income and cash reserves being utilised to meet ongoing costs. This reflects a combination of rising property maintenance costs, increasing compliance and safeguarding requirements, demographic changes, and in some locations a level of offertory income that is insufficient to sustain the full costs of ministry and parish operations. The Trustees continue to address these challenges through stewardship initiatives, parish mission development, property reviews, financial support mechanisms and the sharing of resources across parish missions.

The Trustees also recognise the longer-term financial pressures associated with maintaining a substantial property portfolio and supporting an ageing clergy population. Strategic planning and financial forecasting continue to be undertaken to ensure that these commitments remain affordable and appropriately funded over the medium and long term.

Having reviewed detailed budgets, cash flow forecasts and the resources available to the Archdiocese, the Trustees are satisfied that the Archdiocese has sufficient financial resources to meet its obligations as they fall due and to continue its charitable activities for the foreseeable future. Whilst challenges exist at individual parish level, the Trustees are not aware of any material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt upon the ability of the Archdiocese as a whole to continue as a going concern.

Accordingly, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Trustees have a formal risk management process to assess risks and implement risk management strategies.

This involves the identification of the types of risk faced by the charity, assessing the likelihood and potential impact of occurrence and identifying means of mitigation. Risks have been categorised under five broad headings: Governance, Operational, Financial, External and Compliance (which also includes Safeguarding). The key assessed risks to the charity and their occurrence and severity if realised are evaluated regularly by management and the Trustees.

The current highest overall adverse impact risks identified relate to financial sustainability and the long-term funding of the Church's mission. Whilst Mass attendance and overall offertory income increased during the year, average offertory giving per person continued to decline. This trend presents a risk that income growth may not keep pace with increasing costs associated with ministry, safeguarding, property maintenance, compliance and support services.

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES continued

Around 50% of all parishes are making an operational deficit, highlighting that there is an urgent need for the measures to operationally merge a number of parishes and close church property where it is no longer needed. The Trustees continue to promote stewardship, planned giving, Gift Aid participation and other income-generating initiatives to strengthen the financial resources available to support parishes and diocesan activities.

The Trustees also recognise the continuing challenge presented by an ageing clergy population and a reducing number of priests available for active ministry. The Archdiocese continues to support priestly and diaconal vocations, encourage vocations from overseas where appropriate, restructure deaneries and develop parish missions that enable clergy, religious and lay faithful to work together more effectively in the delivery of the Church's mission.

To support long-term planning and ensure the Archdiocese can continue to meet its obligations, actuarial-style valuations will be undertaken to assess the future financial commitment associated with clergy retirement and care provision. These projections, together with funding received from the faithful through the parish levy, will help the Archdiocese to plan effectively and mitigate the financial risks associated with an ageing clergy population.

With regards to safeguarding, the Archdiocese maintains robust safeguarding arrangements, comprising professional safeguarding staff and local safeguarding representatives who work in accordance with national policies, procedures and standards. The Archdiocese continues to review and strengthen safeguarding practice in response to changes in legislation, national guidance and the requirements of the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA).

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Archdiocese provides significant public benefit through the advancement of religion, education, and charitable outreach. Through its parishes, schools, chaplaincies, and community programmes, it offers opportunities for worship, pastoral care, spiritual development, and support to people of all backgrounds, regardless of faith. The Archdiocese supports vulnerable individuals and families through charitable activities, promotes community cohesion, and encourages volunteering and social action. Its churches and associated facilities also provide spaces for community engagement, education, and cultural enrichment, contributing positively to the social, moral, and spiritual wellbeing of the wider public.

Liturgy and Worship

The Archdiocese promotes the advancement of the Roman Catholic faith through public worship, sacramental ministry, pastoral care and opportunities for spiritual growth. Through its network of parishes, chaplaincies and pilgrimage sites, the Archdiocese enables people of all ages to participate in Mass, prayer, sacramental preparation and faith formation. Churches remain open and welcoming places of prayer and reflection, providing spiritual support not only to practising Catholics but also to many members of the wider community seeking comfort, guidance or pastoral assistance. The Archdiocese also supports diocesan

PUBLIC BENEFIT continued

pilgrimages, retreats and devotional activities which foster spiritual wellbeing, community cohesion and personal development.

Education and Formation

The Archdiocese supports Catholic education through its schools, academies and formation programmes, enabling children, young people and adults to develop academically, spiritually and socially. Through parish catechesis, sacramental preparation, adult faith formation, vocational discernment and leadership development, individuals are encouraged to deepen their understanding of the Christian faith and contribute positively to society. The Archdiocese also invests in the formation of future priests, permanent deacons and lay leaders, ensuring that future generations will continue to benefit from faith-based education, pastoral care and community leadership.

Social Outreach

Charity and Community Support

Inspired by Catholic Social Teaching, the Archdiocese works with parishes, schools and charitable partners to support those experiencing poverty, isolation, homelessness, displacement and other forms of disadvantage. Through initiatives including support for refugees, vulnerable women, young people, foodbanks, community projects and charitable grants, assistance is provided to individuals and families regardless of faith background. The Archdiocese seeks to address both material and social need, promote human dignity, and encourage communities to respond compassionately to those facing hardship. These activities contribute to stronger, more resilient communities and provide tangible benefits to society as a whole.

Volunteering and Community Participation

The work of the Archdiocese is supported by thousands of volunteers who contribute their time, skills and experience in parish life, education, safeguarding, youth ministry, charitable outreach and governance. Volunteering creates opportunities for people to develop new skills, build relationships and contribute actively to their local communities. The contribution of volunteers significantly extends the reach of charitable activities, enhances community engagement and strengthens social connections across the Archdiocese. By encouraging participation and shared responsibility, the Archdiocese helps foster active citizenship and community wellbeing.

Heritage and Community Facilities

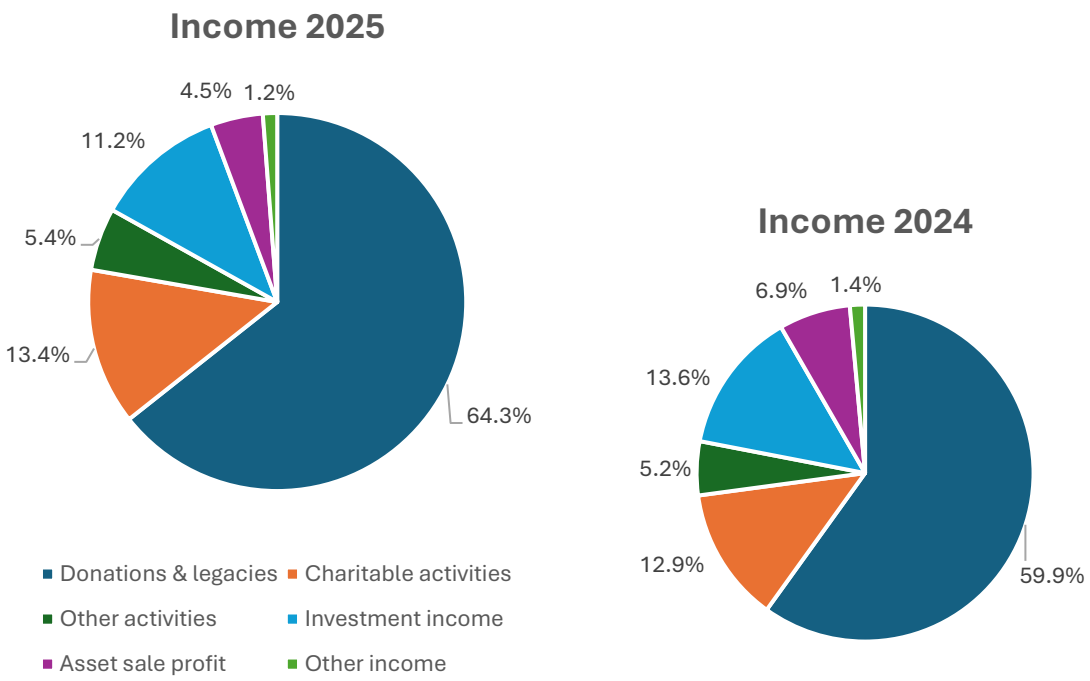
The Archdiocese is responsible for the stewardship of a substantial portfolio of churches, halls, schools and historic buildings that serve both religious and wider community purposes. These buildings provide spaces for worship, education, charitable activities, community events and social gatherings, helping to strengthen local communities and preserve important elements of the nation's cultural and architectural heritage. Historic sites such as Harvington Hall also support educational visits, pilgrimage and heritage tourism, enabling the wider public to engage with the history and traditions of the Catholic faith. Through ongoing investment and conservation, the Archdiocese seeks to preserve these assets for the benefit of present and future generations.

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when determining the activities undertaken by the Trust. The Trustees are satisfied that the activities described throughout this report provide clear and demonstrable public benefit through the advancement of religion, the promotion of education, the relief of need, the encouragement of volunteering and community participation, and the stewardship of important community and heritage assets.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income and Expenditure Summary of the Archdiocese

Income 2025 vs 2024 *(All income, including restricted funds and endowments)*	£m	£m
	2025	**2024**
Donations and legacies (offertories, donations, legacies, Gift Aid, etc.)	17.40	14.49
Income from charitable activities (votive candles, repository and fees etc.)	3.62	3.13
Income from other activities (bazaars, raffles etc.)	1.45	1.25
Investment income, including interest	3.03	3.30
Profit on sale of tangible fixed assets (functional assets incl churches, presbyteries etc)	1.21	1.66
Other income	0.33	0.35
Total	**27.04**	**24.18**



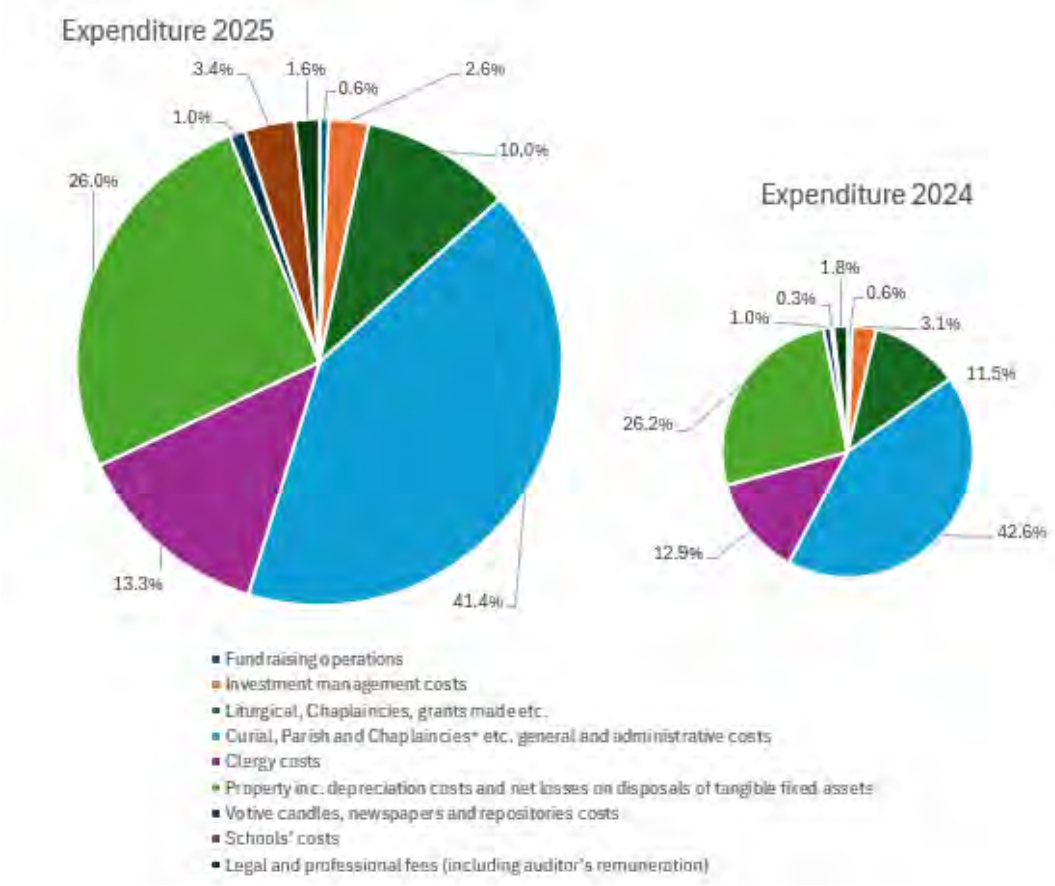
Significant variances between 2024 and 2025

Parishes received a significant increase in legacy gifts in 2025 compared to 2024 - £3,975k (2024: 1,373k). There is also a reduction in 2025 of property sales, seeing a reduction in profits on sale of such fixed assets reducing from £1.66m in 2024 to £1.21m in 2025 – almost all these results are generated by the sale of property.

FINANCIAL REVIEW continued

Income and Expenditure Summary of the Archdiocese

Expenditure 2025 vs 2024 *(All expenditure, including on restricted funds and endowments)*	£m	£m
	2025	**2024**
Fundraising operations	0.16	0.16
Investment management costs	0.69	0.79
Liturgical and pastoral costs, including grants made.	2.62	2.97
Curial, Parish and other Diocesan bodies general and administrative costs (including clergy costs)	10.81	11.03
Non-parish Clergy costs (including retired and sick clergy, senior clergy with Diocesan roles)	3.46	3.34
Property inc. depreciation costs and net losses on disposals of tangible fixed assets	6.77	6.78
Votive candles, newspapers and repositories costs	0.27	0.25
Schools' costs	0.88	0.08
Legal and professional fees (including auditor's remuneration)	0.42	0.47
Total	**26.08**	**25.87**

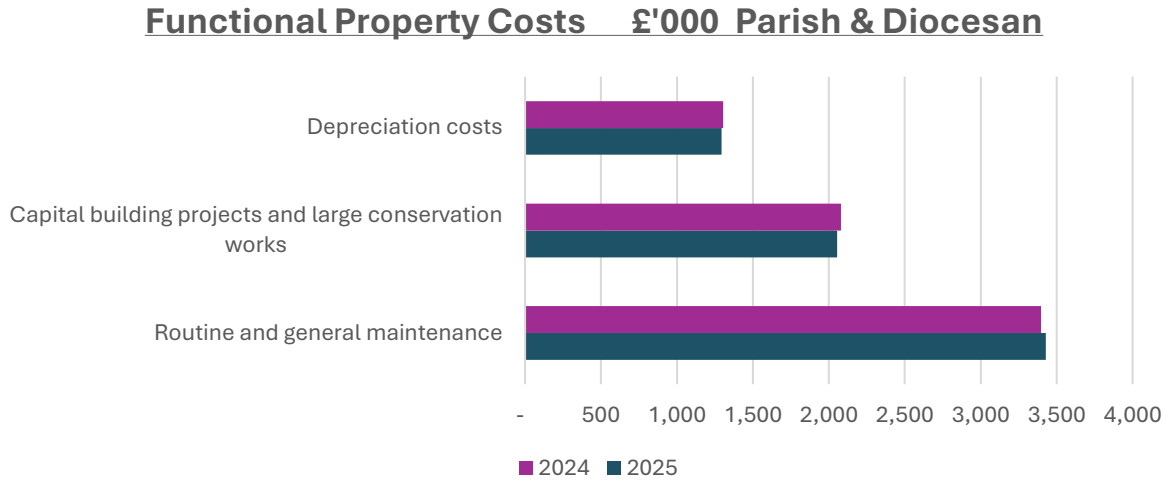


FINANCIAL REVIEW continued

Income and Expenditure Summary of the Archdiocese

Highlight on: Property costs

Included in the accounts, is a total of £7.5m (2024: £7.5m) spent on functional property costs, i.e. the church estate used in the Archdiocese for charitable purposes. This is in addition to the cost of maintenance of the investment property held by parishes and the Archdiocese for its investment value, and which brings income into the charity from rent. These costs amounted to £0.69m in 2025, (2024: £0.79m), bringing in rental income of £2.3m (2024: £2.3m), equivalent to a gross return rate of 3.33 times the associated costs.



Over £2m was spent on restoration and maintenance work on our beautiful churches, and essential maintenance on our presbyteries and parish halls. Almost half a million was spent on maintaining our investment properties, most of which are owned by parishes and provide them with valuable income.

Many of these are properties either generously gifted by parishioners or are former presbyteries that are no longer required as clergy residences, as parishes increasingly work together in mission. To let these properties safely and responsibly, ongoing maintenance and compliance work is essential.

Spotlight on parishes:

Offertory trends

- Overall offertory income in 2025 increased by approximately 2.1% from 2024 levels (against annual CPI of 3.4% for the equivalent period).
- Approximately two thirds of parishes increased the level of offertory from the prior year.
- Approximately half of parishes increased offertory by 3.4% or more.
- Average Mass attendance has increased by 5.4%

FINANCIAL REVIEW continued

Cash analysis

- Overall cash at bank has increased to £4.67m (2024: £4.25m). This is split:
  - Parishes £13.35m
  - Central Diocese (£8.68m)
- There continues to be large disparity between parishes:
  - Largest parish cash balance £654k
  - Lowest parish cash balance (excluding cathedral) (£791k)
  - Average parish cash balance £56k

Income and Expenditure Summary of the Archdiocese

Parish operational deficits – funding the mission

66% of our parishes functioned at an operational deficit in 2025, which means that for a large number of these parishes, they are either expending reserves by selling investments, or they are increasing their borrowing. Cash balances in parishes have decreased by some £795,000 in the year, and this situation is not sustainable long term. Parishes across the Archdiocese have a responsibility to one another, to ensure that the future sustainability of the parish model continues to fulfil the needs of the whole church, and therefore all parishes need to work on increasing income to aid other parishes both to fund the mission of today, and tomorrow. Parishes increasing income can give to within their own Parish Missions, or other parishes via the Poor Parish Fund.

Assets 2025 (excluding debtors/creditors)	2025		2024	
	Parish £'000	Diocese £'000	*Parish £'000*	*Diocese £'000*
Functional property and other mixed assets	38,499	11,734	*38,671*	*11,936*
Investment property	35,457	3,977	*33,897*	*3,988*
Investment on stock market	22,809	10,699	*22,034*	*10,345*
Cash/bank	13,352	(8,678)	*14,147*	*(9,897)*
Total	**110,117**	**17,732**	*108,749*	*16,372*
%	**86%**	**14%**	*87%*	*13%*
Total Assets	**127,849**		*125,121*	



The Poor Parish Fund contributed towards the new parish hall at St Elizabeth's Foleshill.

FINANCIAL REVIEW continued

		Analysis of unrestricted income and expenditure across the Archdiocese			
		Parishes	Central Curial Services	Other Diocese *	Archdiocese
Income	Offertories	7,872	-	8	7,880
	Donations, legacies and gifts	4,891	204	348	5,443
	Tax receipts from Gift Aid claims	1,546	113	(27)	1,632
	Other income	3,171	732	1,495	5,398
	Investment income	2,675	221	27	2,923
	Parish Levy	(3,290)	3,290	-	-
	Other internal grants	716	(913)	828	631
	Total income	17,581	3,647	2,679	23,907
Expenditure	Liturgical and pastoral costs	(1,535)	(114)	(300)	(1,949)
	Cost of piety goods	(268)	-	-	(268)
	Levy to CATEW	-	(214)	-	(214)
	Clergy costs	(2,155)	(790)	(180)	(3,125)
	Clergy accomodation repairs	(644)	-	-	(644)
	Fundraising costs	(156)	-	(1)	(157)
	Donations and grants to other external bodies	(111)	(262)	(6)	(379)
	Staffing costs, including pension and welfare	(2,026)	(1,952)	(1,351)	(5,329)
	Operational costs , fixed and variable, incl office costs and other costs of running the charity	(3,613)	(284)	(335)	(4,232)
	Professional costs	(29)	(327)	(51)	(407)
	Borrowing costs	(175)	(28)	(17)	(220)
	Functional Property costs	(5,538)	(499)	(117)	(6,154)
	Investment costs	(646)	(42)	-	(688)
	Total Expenditure	(16,896)	(4,512)	(2,358)	(23,766)
	Operational surplus	**685**	**(865)**	**321**	**141**
Gains on asset disposal	Profit on disposal of fixed assets	229	982	-	1,211
	Profit on disposal of investment property	1,725	(12)	-	1,713
	Profit on disposal of listed investments	740	294	10	1,044
	Total Surplus	3,379	399	331	4,109

**including chaplaincies, Clergy Training Fund and Diocesan Education Service*

Value for Money

Money raised within the parish is carefully stewarded to ensure it delivers the greatest possible value in support of the Church's mission. Expenditure is reviewed and approved through appropriate governance processes, with a focus on ensuring that funds are used efficiently, economically, and for the direct benefit of parishioners and the wider community. Wherever possible, services and supplies are sourced competitively, resources are shared, and spending is prioritised towards pastoral, charitable, and operational needs, ensuring that every donation is used responsibly and in accordance with the principles of good stewardship and value for money.

Parishes are challenged by the Archdiocese to demonstrate good stewardship and value for money through ongoing training, regular dialogue, the annual review of parish accounts, and the parish internal audit process. Funds raised by parishioners are managed responsibly and transparently, with expenditure subject to appropriate governance and scrutiny. This

FINANCIAL REVIEW continued

Value for Money

helps ensure that resources are used efficiently, costs are controlled, and spending is directed towards supporting the parish's pastoral mission, maintaining its facilities, and serving the wider community in the most effective way possible.

Parishes have now been formed into 52 Missions, with a minimum of 3 parishes working together for the benefit of their community.

Investments and Investment Policy

The Diocesan Unit Investment Scheme enables individual parishes to benefit from stock market investments, generating income to support their charitable work locally and across the wider community.

The Trustees maintain an investment policy aligned with the Charities Act 2011 and the principles of Christian stewardship, aimed at ensuring long-term financial sustainability. Investments are professionally managed and overseen by the Diocesan Investment Sub-Committee, with a total return approach adopted to balance income generation and capital growth.

The portfolio, valued at £33.4m as at 31 December 2025 (2024: £32.4m), includes equities, fixed interest securities, property, and cash, and is managed within a low to medium risk framework. Ethical considerations are embedded in decision-making (see Ethical Investment Policy, below).

Investment income for the year totalled £0.63m (2024: £0.9m) a reduction on the previous year which is disappointing, however assets are held with the intention to provide capital growth as a priority over income. The Trustees aim to preserve and grow the real value of assets to support the mission of the Church, in line with the four themes of the Diocesan Vision: Evangelisation, Formation, Liturgy and Worship, and Social Outreach.

Gains on listed investments in the year were as follows:

	2025	2024
Listed Investments	£m	£m
Realised and unrealised gains:		
Unrestricted funds	1.04	2.29
Restricted funds (including endowments)	0.15	0.3
Total	**1.19**	**2.59**

Gains on property investments (i.e. rental property owned by the Archdiocese) were as follows:

	2025	2024
Listed Investments	£m	£m
Realised and unrealised gains:	**1.71**	**3.54**

FINANCIAL REVIEW continued

Ethical Investment Policy
The Trustees of the Birmingham Diocesan Trust have adopted an ethical investment policy guided by Church teaching and the Charity Commission's guidance on responsible investment. This policy reflects the Trust's commitment to Christian stewardship and acknowledges that ethical constraints may limit income and total return. This can be found in full, on our website: https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/policies

Cash Reserves
The charity's total cash reserves increased by £0.42m to £4.67m (2024: £0.7m increase to £4.25m). Unrestricted cash reserves in parishes increased by £1.0m to £4.50m (2024: £1.1m decrease to £3.5m) whilst Diocesan unrestricted cash reserves remained stable, holding a deficit position of £18.6m (2024: £0.05m increase to £18.6m deficit).

Reserves Policy
Unencumbered reserves, for this purpose defined as unrestricted stock market investments and cash of £23.76m (2024: £21.1m), are approximately 98% of annual unrestricted expenditure (2024: 87%).
The trustees would not wish to see unencumbered reserves of less than 100% of annual unrestricted expenditure but they recognise that this figure may be exceeded or under-resourced on occasions, because of the nature of the charity's activities and short to medium term spending demand that can arise from parish properties (the timing of which is often based on individual parish reserve levels rather than diocesan led policy) and schools that can vary considerably from year to year The Trustees regularly review reserve levels and, where reserves fall below target, take corrective action through expenditure control, property rationalisation and income generation initiatives.

In assessing reserve levels, the Trustees distinguish between unrestricted funds available for general expenditure and funds that are not readily available for deployment. The latter comprise restricted and endowment funds, together with designated funds representing functional properties and other assets essential to the delivery of the charity's objectives. These amounts are therefore excluded from the calculation of unencumbered reserves.

Property and Fixed Assets
To fulfil its charitable objectives, the Archdiocese requires a substantial portfolio of properties, including churches, parish halls, presbyteries, and administrative buildings. These assets are essential to the delivery of pastoral, educational, and community services.

However, as patterns of Mass attendance continue to shift, the number of properties required to support active ministry is also changing. This evolving landscape forms part of a wider strategic review, which may result in a reduction of the property portfolio over time.

Properties deemed surplus to operational requirements will be sold, with proceeds reinvested to support the mission of the Church. However, the remaining properties, while technically unrestricted, are integral to the Archdiocese's charitable work and cannot be realised without significantly undermining its ability to function. These buildings and their fixtures and fittings are not merely operational assets; they form part of the patrimony of the Catholic Church, entrusted to the Archdiocese for the spiritual and communal benefit of current and future generations.

Fixtures, fittings, contents, and vehicles are similarly employed in the delivery of charitable activities and are considered essential to the day-to-day functioning of the Archdiocese.

FINANCIAL REVIEW continued

A small proportion of fixed assets are already represented by Restricted Funds (see Note 18). Trustees also consider it appropriate that the value of other functional buildings and their contents be held for ongoing charitable use. As these assets are unavailable for alternative purposes, they are reflected in a Designated Fund representing their value (see Note 19).

Plans for the Future

The Trustees recognise that the long-term sustainability of the Archdiocese will require significant changes to the way parish communities are organised and supported. Reflecting wider demographic trends, clergy numbers and the resources available to sustain parish life, the Archdiocese will continue its programme of pastoral reorganisation and collaboration between parishes, whilst further developing the principle of co-responsibility between clergy and laity.

Through greater lay involvement in the leadership, administration and mission of parish communities, clergy will be more fully enabled to focus on their pastoral, sacramental and evangelising responsibilities.

The objective is not simply to reduce the number of parishes, but to create larger, stronger and more sustainable parish communities capable of supporting sacramental ministry, evangelisation, charitable outreach and effective stewardship of resources.

The Trustees also recognise that long-term sustainability will depend upon fostering a culture of stewardship and generosity across the Archdiocese and will continue to support planned giving initiatives that encourage regular and sustainable financial support for parish and diocesan activities.

Trustees believe that this integrated approach will better position the Archdiocese to fulfil its mission and pastoral responsibilities for future generations.

STATEMENT OF 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 state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources for that period. In preparing financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then 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 business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper 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 2008 and provisions of the Trust Deed.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the financial information included on the charity's website.

Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

STATEMENT AS TO DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

The trustees who were in office on the date of approval of these financial statements have confirmed, as far as they are aware, that there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware.

Each of the trustees have confirmed that they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to the auditor.

Approved at the trustees' meeting held 23 October 2026 and signed on behalf of the trustees.

+ Bernard

Most Rev. B Longley, MA, STL

Archbishop of Birmingham

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BIRMINGHAM DIOCESAN TRUST

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Birmingham Diocesan Trust (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2025 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We have been appointed as auditors under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- The information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustees' Report; or
- Sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' responsibilities set out on page 36, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The objectives of our audit are to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding compliance with laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, to perform audit procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with other laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements, and to respond appropriately to identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations identified during the audit.

In relation to fraud, the objectives of our audit are to identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud, to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud through designing and implementing appropriate responses and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

However, it is the primary responsibility of management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations and for the prevention and detection of fraud.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, the audit engagement team:

- obtained an understanding of the nature of the sector, including the legal and regulatory framework, that the charity operates in and how the charity is complying with the legal and regulatory framework;
- inquired of management, and those charged with governance, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, including any known actual, suspected or alleged instances of fraud;
- discussed matters about non-compliance with laws and regulations and how fraud might occur including assessment of how and where the financial statements may be susceptible to fraud.

As a result of these procedures we consider the most significant laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements are FRS 102, Charities SORP (FRS 102), Charities Act 2011, the charity's governing document, tax legislation and Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016. We performed audit procedures to detect non-compliances which may have a material impact on the financial statements which included reviewing the financial statements including the Trustees' Report, remaining alert to new or unusual transactions which may not be in accordance with the governing documents, inspecting any correspondence with local tax authorities and evaluating advice received from internal/external advisors.

The most significant laws and regulations that have an indirect impact on the financial statements are those in relation to Safeguarding, the Data Protection Act 2018, and Canon Law. We performed audit procedures to inquire of management and those charged with governance whether the entity is in compliance with these laws and regulations and inspected correspondence with regulatory authorities.

The audit engagement team identified the risk of management override of controls as the area where the financial statements were most susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. Audit procedures performed included but were not limited to testing manual journal entries and other adjustments, evaluating the business rationale in relation to significant, unusual transactions and transactions entered into outside the normal course of business, and challenging judgments and estimates.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is provided on the Financial Reporting Council's website at http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

RSM UK Audit LLP

RSM UK Audit LLP

Statutory Auditor

Chartered Accountants

10th Floor

103 Colmore Row

Birmingham

B3 3AG

Date 30/10/26

RSM UK Audit LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Note	Parochial			Diocesan			Total Charity 2025				2024
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total (note 8)
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:												
Donations, legacies and grants	1	14,425	1,361	-	724	894	-	15,149	2,255	-	17,404	14,492
Charitable activities	2	1,328	140	-	2,093	58	-	3,421	198	-	3,619	3,125
Other trading activities	3	1,444	-	-	3	-	-	1,447	-	-	1,447	1,249
Investment income	4	2,675	8	34	252	44	14	2,927	52	48	3,027	3,301
Other income												
Profit on sale of tangible fixed assets		229	-	-	982	-	-	1,211	-	-	1,211	1,668
Other income	5	282	-	-	48	-	-	330	-	-	330	347
Total		20,383	1,509	34	4,102	996	14	24,485	2,505	48	27,038	24,182
EXPENDITURE ON												
Raising funds												
Fund raising operations		156	4	-	1	3	-	157	7	-	164	160
Investment management costs	6	646	-	-	42	-	-	688	-	-	688	786
Charitable activities	7	16,091	625	34	6,827	1,640	14	22,918	2,265	48	25,231	24,925
Total		16,893	629	34	6,870	1,643	14	23,763	2,272	48	26,083	25,871
Net income/(expenditure) before gains on investment assets		3,490	880	-	(2,768)	(647)	-	722	233	-	955	(1,689)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES continued

		Parochial			Diocesan			Total Charity 2025				2024
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total (note 8)
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) before gains on investment assets		3,490	880	-	(2,768)	(647)	-	722	233	-	955	(1,689)
Gains on investment assets												
Gains, losses and revaluations on investment properties	12	1,725	-	-	(12)	-	-	1,713	-	-	1,713	3,541
Gains, losses and revaluations on other investments	12	740	13	48	304	52	30	1,044	65	78	1,187	2,591
Total		2,465	13	48	292	52	30	2,757	65	78	2,900	6,132
Net income/(expenditure)		5,955	893	48	(2,476)	(595)	30	3,479	298	78	3,855	4,443
Transfers between funds	18	(2,574)	(722)	-	3,215	81	-	641	(641)	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		3,381	171	48	739	(514)	30	4,120	(343)	78	3,855	4,443
Reconciliation of funds												
Total funds brought forward		101,864	5,574	1,680	7,099	5,762	722	108,963	11,336	2,402	122,701	118,258
Total funds carried forward		105,245	5,745	1,728	7,838	5,248	752	113,083	10,993	2,480	126,556	122,701

All of the charity's activities are continuing. 2024 comparatives are analysed in note 8.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note	2025 £000	2025 £000	2024 £000	2024 £000
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	11		50,233		50,607
Investments	12		72,942		70,264
			123,175		120,871
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors due in under one year	13	3,555		3,788	
Total Debtors	13	3,555		3,788	
Cash at bank and in hand		4,674		4,250	
Total current assets		8,229		8,038	
CURRENT LIABILITIES:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(4,813)		(6,173)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			3,416		1,865
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			126,591		122,736
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	15		(35)		(35)
NET ASSETS			126,556		122,701
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY:					
Endowment funds	17		2,480		2,402
Restricted funds	18		10,993		11,336
Unrestricted funds					
Designated income funds	19	49,479		49,883	
General income funds	19	63,604		59,080	
			113,083		108,963
			126,556		122,701

These financial statements were approved and authorised for issue at the trustees' meeting held on 23 October 2026 and signed on behalf of the trustees by:

+ Bernard

Most Rev. B Longley, MA, STL

Archbishop of Birmingham

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note	2025 £000	2025 £000	2024 £000	2024 £000
Cash flows from operating activities:					
Net cash used in operating activities	21		(3,182)		(5,070)
Cash flows from investing activities					
Interest received		126		147	
Interest /dividends from investment in the stock market		629		857	
Rental income from investment property		2,272		2,297	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,469)		(705)	
Proceeds of disposal of fixed assets		1,758		1,712	
Purchase of investments		(13,836)		(30,865)	
Proceeds of sale of investments		13,961		31,654	
Proceeds of sale of investment properties		165		677	
Net cash provided by investing activities			3,606		5,774
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents			**424**		**704**
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year			**4,250**		**3,546**
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year			**4,674**		**4,250**

Analysis of changes in net debt	At start of year £000	Cash flows £000	At end of year £000
Cash	4,250	424	**4,674**
Loans	(35)	-	**(35)**
Total	4,215	424	**4,639**

BASIS OF PREPARATION AND ASSESSMENT OF GOING CONCERN

The Birmingham Diocesan Trust ("the Archdiocese", "the charity" or "the Trust") is a charity registered with the Charity Commission of England and Wales, charity number 234216. The address of the Trust's registered office and principal place of operations is Cathedral House, St Chad's Queensway, Birmingham, B4 6EU.

The Trust's principal activity is to provide spiritual and pastoral guidance and care to Catholics and the wider community within the geographical area it covers in central England, in the main the West Midlands, Staffordshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Oxfordshire.

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out below and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP (FRS102)). The Trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

The financial statements have been drawn up under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of investments and are presented in sterling, (£'000 except where otherwise noted) which is also the functional currency of the Trust.

The accounts have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following Charities SORP (FRS102), rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005, which has since been withdrawn.

The Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of preparation of the financial statements. Management has revisited the financial budget for 2026 and beyond, taking into account the impact of ongoing domestic and global economic factors on projected income and expenditure, including inflationary pressures, interest rate movements and wider economic uncertainty. They continue to monitor the cash position on a regular basis (£4.7m at year end).

The Diocese also has a significant investment portfolio (£33.5m at year end) which, whilst subject to periods of market volatility during 2025 arising from geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty and changes in international trade policy, continues to provide a strong financial foundation for the Diocese. Although investment values remain susceptible to fluctuations in UK and global markets, a proportion of the portfolio is unrestricted and provides an additional financial buffer should it be required. The Trustees continue to monitor the performance of the investments and maintain regular oversight and challenge of the charity's investment advisers.

During the year, the Diocese also commenced a planned giving campaign aimed at supporting the long-term financial sustainability of its parishes. Whilst it is too early to assess the

BASIS OF PREPARATION AND ASSESSMENT OF GOING CONCERN continued

full impact of the initiative, early indications are encouraging, with a number of participating parishes reporting increases in regular giving. The Trustees will continue to monitor the progress of the campaign and its contribution to future income levels.

Based on the forecasts prepared, the Trustees are satisfied that the Diocese has sufficient cash resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future and can confirm that there are no material uncertainties relating to the going concern basis of preparation of the financial statements

The financial statements incorporate the activities of the parishes within the Archdiocese, the central support activities, the Diocesan Schools Commission, youth services and other centres of religious activities. The financial statements also include the transactions, assets and liabilities of those charities and other trust funds detailed in Note 17 to the financial statements. The figures do not include the operation of parish clubs, nor do they include the activities of separately registered Roman Catholic charities within the Archdiocese other than those listed in Notes 17 and 18.

Special and other charitable collections on behalf of other charities have not been included in the Statement of Financial Activities as they are not regarded by the trustees as being funds of the Archdiocese. Where any balance has not been paid to the respective organisation concerned, it has been included in creditors.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

In the application of the Trust's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The Trust carries its investment properties at fair value, with changes in fair value being recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. The Trust obtains valuations to determine fair value on a cyclical basis; normally being every five years for investment properties. The trustees consider that this is sufficiently regular to ensure that their carrying amount does not differ materially from their fair value at the reporting date. Some of the key assumptions used to determine the fair value of the assets are based on the valuer's knowledge and experience of the market, values of similar properties that could be deemed subjective.
Revaluation gains on investment properties and the relevant assets are included in Note 12.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The trustees do not consider that there are any estimates and assumptions which have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities.

FUND ACCOUNTING

The charity maintains various types of funds as follows:

Restricted funds

These represent funds received which are allocated by the donor for specific purposes. They cannot be used for purposes other than those specified by the donor. The aim and use of the restricted funds is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds

These represent various trust funds which have been donated to the charity. The capital cannot be spent, and any income generated must be spent in line with the donor's instructions.

Unrestricted General and Designated funds

These represent unrestricted income which is expendable at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objects of the charity. Such funds may be held in order to finance both working capital and capital investment. However, whilst these funds are unrestricted, they include amounts which have been invested in fixed assets and cannot therefore be realised without undermining the ongoing work of the charity. Such funds have been classified as designated funds by the trustees (see Note 19).

INCOME

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the conditions for receipt have been met and there is reasonable assurance of receipt and there being reasonable certainty as to amount. Where a claim for repayment of income tax has been or will be made, such income is grossed up for the tax recoverable. The following accounting policies are applied to income:

Donations, legacies and grants

Offertories and donations are included in income when receivable. Legacies are included in income upon the receipt becoming probable. Probability of receipt occurs where there is a grant of probate, the executors have established there are sufficient assets to pay the legacy and any conditions attached to the legacy are either within the control of the charity or have been met. Gifts in kind, if material, are included at an estimate of fair value. Included here also are grants receivable. Grants are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the grant conditions have been complied with.

Charitable activities

Includes income from votive candles and newspapers etc., mainly in parishes, together with chaplaincy income, and whilst this is recognised on a cash received basis, this is not materially different from an accruals basis.

Other trading activities

Includes income from activities such as parish totes, bazaars and other events, which is described as social income and whilst this is recognised on a cash received basis, this is not materially different from an accruals basis.

Investment income

Income from investments is included on an accruals basis. Property rental income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Proceeds from the disposal of school properties

These proceeds are treated as restricted income as the charity is required to give an undertaking to make the disposal proceeds available for the provision of replacement schools elsewhere in accordance with Sch. 22 para. 3 of the Schools Standards and

Framework Act 1998. Where such proceeds are material they are shown separately on the face of the Statement of Financial Activities.

Income from Government and other grants
Income from Government and other grants, whether 'capital' or 'revenue' grants, is credited to the Statement of Financial Activities when the Trust has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. Income is deferred only if these criteria are not met or when the provider specifies that the grant must be used in future periods.

School Building Grants
The Diocesan Education Service (DES) assists voluntary aided schools with the administration of funding for school building projects and IT equipment. The Trustees have reviewed these arrangements and concluded that the DES acts as agent on behalf of the school governing body in certain circumstances in receiving funding from the Department for Education, Local Authority and other funding sources and settling and matching it with contractors' costs and associated professional fees.

As a result of this review, the income and expenditure from these activities are not reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities because the risk and reward of those transactions are those of the school governing bodies and not the DES. Expenditure on school building projects and IT where the DES acted as agent in the year amounted to £5.62m (2024: £5.94m), income from grants was £5.06m (2024: £5.97m) and the net position of £0.56m (2024: £0.03m) is included in the creditor for 2025, which is £1.96m as at the year end (2024: £2.5m). Further information on this is included in Note 7.

In addition, there were some activities in the year whereby the DES acted as principal, and those transactions are reflected in the accounts, further explanation is provided in Note 18.

EXPENDITURE
Expenditure is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of any value added tax which cannot be recovered.

Certain expenditure is directly attributable to specific activities and has been included in those cost categories.

- Fundraising operations are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income.
- Investment management costs, which includes the cost of managing the Trust's investments, including investment property costs.
- Charitable activities include expenditure associated with the mission of the church and include both the direct costs and support costs relating to these activities together with primary purpose trading activities that raise funds; and governance costs, which include those incurred in the governance of the charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements. These costs include central functions and have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, which were in the main staff costs, by the time spent.

GRANTS PAYABLE
Grants payable are payments made to third parties in the furtherance of the charitable objectives of the Trust. Grants are accounted for when either the charity has given the recipient a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and the trustees have agreed to pay the grant without condition, or the recipient has a reasonable expectation that

they will receive a grant and any condition attaching to the grant is outside of the control of the Trust.

OPERATING LEASES

Rentals are charged on a straight-line basis, having taken account of lease incentives.

PENSION COSTS

The charity operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. The scheme is funded by contributions from the charity and its employees. The payments made by the charity are included in expenditure. The charity operates a salary sacrifice arrangement for pension contributions.

GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS

Realised and unrealised gains and losses on investments and investment properties are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the movement in fair value during the year. Realised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between disposal proceeds and fair value brought forward – fair value is considered by reference to bid value.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Churches and other functional property

Prior to December 1996, capital expenditure on Churches and other functional property (i.e. buildings used for the primary purposes of the Archdiocese) and their contents were written off when incurred. The financial statements prepared for previous years, therefore, did not include amounts for these categories of fixed assets.

In December 1996, these assets were included in the financial statements at an estimate of their historic cost. This was derived by using the retail price index to index the present insurance value back to the date the building was constructed and applying rates of depreciation calculated to write off the estimated historic cost evenly over the whole of their useful life. Depreciation rates were calculated by using the age of the building and its expected useful life. A similar basis was used to estimate the contents of Churches and Presbyteries on the assumption that the contents of Churches and Presbyteries are renewed every 45 years.

The cost of new functional church property, improvements and contents is capitalised and is being depreciated over the expected useful lives at the following rates:

	% per annum	**Years**
Churches, Presbyteries, Halls and other functional property:		
- Land element	Nil	-
- Building element	1.0	100
Improvements to and contents of Churches and Presbyteries	2.2 - 6.6	15- 45

Individual items of less than £25,000 are not capitalised.

An assessment is made at each reporting date of whether there are indications that a fixed asset may be impaired or that an impairment loss previously recognised has fully or partially reversed. If such indications exist the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts, being the higher of net realisable value and value-in-use, are recognised as impairments. Impairments are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS continued

School property

The Archdiocese has 240 voluntary aided schools and academies which are constituted as separate charities. The school properties (land and buildings) are vested in the name of the trustees. The trustees cannot take a unilateral decision to dispose of these properties. Disposal can only occur if the school governors and the Secretary of State for Education decide that all or part of a school site is no longer required for education. In most circumstances, where a disposal occurs, the trustees will be required under S22 of the School's Standards and Framework Act 1998 to pay to the Local Authority so much of the proceeds as may be determined by the Secretary of State. Although no rights of ownership vest in the school governing body, most other rights and obligations, such as for the maintenance and repair of

the school and its facilities, are passed to the governors. The trustees therefore consider that, for the purposes of these financial statements, whilst being used as a school, the nature of their ownership is that of a custodianship and therefore these properties have not been recognised.

At 31 December 20252025 the building insurance valuation via the Diocesan insurers for the voluntary aided schools and academies in the charity's ownership was £206m (2024: £231m). In continuing the trend from previous years, there were further schools including academies that insured with other insurers/RPA in 20252025 compared to 20242024.

Fixed assets other than property

The cost of motor vehicles, Diocesan office equipment and fixtures and fittings is capitalised and depreciated over their expected useful lives, at the following rates:

	% per annum	Years
Motor vehicles	25	4
Office equipment, fixtures etc.	25	4

Individual items of less than £2,500 are not capitalised.

INVESTMENTS

Investment properties

Investment properties such as houses and non-functional properties have been included at the trustees' estimate of their fair value at 31 December 2025. All investment properties are professionally valued on a rolling 5-year programme. During 2025, approximately one-fifth in number of investment properties were professionally valued at open market value by the Diocesan in-house qualified chartered surveyors. In accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102, no depreciation is provided. The value of each property has been prepared having regard to RICS Valuation – Global Standards (Red Book) effective from 31 January 2021 where market value is defined as:

''the estimated amount for which an asset or liability should exchange on the valuation date between a willing buyer and a willing seller in an arm's length transaction, after proper marketing and where the parties had each acted knowledgeably, prudently and without compulsion''.

Other investments

Other investments consist mainly of stocks and shares quoted on the London Stock Exchange. They have been included at fair value at the year end.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Trust has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102, in full, to all of its financial instruments.

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Trust becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument and are offset only when the Trust currently has a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial Assets

Debtors

Debtors which are receivable within one year and which do not constitute a financing transaction are initially measured at the transaction price. Debtors are subsequently measured at amortised cost, being the transaction price less any amounts settled and any impairment losses.
A provision for impairment of debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the amounts due will not be collected according to the original terms of the contract. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities for the excess of the carrying value of the debtor over the present value of the future cash flows discounted using the original effective interest rate. Subsequent reversals of an impairment loss that objectively relate to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognised, are recognised immediately in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash and short term highly liquid assets with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar accounts held as part of the charity's treasury management activities.

Concessionary loans (assets)

Loans which are made (or committed and not taken up at the year-end) to priests, employees and other beneficiaries of the Trust are considered concessionary loans. Unsecured loans are generally for a term of up to 5 years, no interest is payable, and do not normally exceed £5,000 (although these limits may be exceeded at the discretion of the Diocesan Treasurer). In addition, secured, concessionary, interest free loans are made usually for the purposes of purchasing property being secured on the property, the loan term usually being for a period of up to 10 years.

All concessionary loans are initially measured at their transaction value, and subsequently are recognised at their carrying value, less impairment. They are repayable within the agreed payment term, or the cessation of employment in the case of an employee or cessation of office in the case of a priest, whichever is the soonest. A provision for impairment is established when there is objective evidence that the amounts due will not be collected according to the original terms of the loan agreement. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities for the excess of the carrying value of the loan over the present value of the future cash flows. Subsequent reversals of an impairment loss that objectively relate to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognised, are recognised immediately in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Concessionary loans are aggregated within the financial statements as this does not obscure significant information. Where applicable, concessionary loans committed but not yet taken

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS continued

up at the year-end are included in the financial statements, but are not aggregated in the total.

Financial liabilities and equity

Financial instruments are classified as liabilities and equity instruments according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the Trust after deducting all of its liabilities. The Trust considers it has no equity instruments.

Creditors

Creditors payable within one year that do not constitute a financing transaction are initially measured at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost, being the transaction price less any amounts settled.

Concessionary loans (liabilities)

Loans made (or committed and not taken up at the year-end) by parishioners to a parish of the Archdiocese are considered concessionary loans. These may be for a period of 1 year upwards, sometimes with no end date. No interest is payable. These are initially measured at their transaction value, and subsequently are recognised at their carrying value, less impairment. They are always unsecured.

Concessionary loans are aggregated within the financial statements as this does not obscure significant information. Where applicable, concessionary loans committed but not yet taken up at the year-end are included in the financial statements, but are not aggregated in the total.

De-recognition of financial assets and liabilities

A financial asset is derecognised only when the contractual rights to cash flows expire or are settled, or substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are transferred to another party, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party. A financial liability (or part thereof) is derecognised when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

RECOGNITION OF LIABILITIES

Liabilities are recognised when either a constructive or legal obligation exists.

JOINTLY CONTROLLED ENTITIES

Entities in which the charity has a long-term interest and shares control under a contractual arrangement are classified as jointly controlled entities. Jointly controlled entities are accounted for using the cost model.

1 DONATIONS, LEGACIES AND GRANTS

	Parochial			Diocesan			Total Charity 2025				2024
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total (note 8)
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Offertories, collections and donations	9,290	787	-	150	245	-	9,440	1,032	-	10,472	10,303
Tax reclaimed on offertories and donations	1,546	13	-	85	12	-	1,631	25	-	1,656	1,713
Legacies	3,472	71	-	410	22	-	3,882	93	-	3,975	1,373
Grants receivable *	117	490	-	79	615	-	196	1,105	-	1,301	1,103
	14,425	1,361	-	724	894	-	15,149	2,255	-	17,404	14,492

* Included in grants receivable were Government grants, amounting to £311k (2024: £236k). In addition, there was £565k of schools capital funding where the Diocese acts as the principal (2024: £272k). In 2024, school capital grant funding was netted off against expenditure, in 2025 we have stated the gross values and re-stated above. The comparative table note for 2024 has not been re-stated. Note 7 therefore included net costs of £16k for 2024, (see also Note 18, Restricted Funds.)

DONATIONS, LEGACIES AND GRANTS - 2024 COMPARATIVES

	Parochial			*Diocesan*			
	Unrestricted Funds	*Restricted Funds*	*Endowment Funds*	*Unrestricted Funds*	*Restricted Funds*	*Endowment Funds*	*Total Charity 2024*
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Offertories, collections and donations	*9,111*	*728*	-	*137*	*327*	-	*10,303*
Tax reclaimed on offertories and donations	*1,560*	*18*	-	*125*	*10*	-	*1,713*
Legacies	*1,165*	*22*	-	*142*	*44*	-	*1,373*
*Grants receivable * *	*147*	*938*	-	*16*	*2*	-	*1,103*
	11,983	*1,706*	-	*420*	*383*	-	*14,492*

2 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Parochial			Diocesan			Total Charity 2025				2024
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total (note 8)
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Votive candles, newspapers and repositories	631	-		6	-		637	-	-	637	605
Chaplaincy income	67	-		98	-		165	-	-	165	180
Fees and other charges	31	-		1,962	58		1,993	58	-	2,051	1,617
Fundraising income	599	140		27	-		626	140	-	766	723
	1,328	140	-	2,093	58	-	3,421	198	-	3,619	3,125

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - 2024 COMPARATIVES

	Parochial			Diocesan			
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	*Total Charity 2024*
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Votive candles, newspapers and repositories	601	-	-	4	-	-	605
Chaplaincy income	61	-	-	119	-	-	180
Fees and other charges	27	-	-	1,524	66	-	1,617
Fundraising income	562	135	-	26	-	-	723
	1,251	135	-	1,673	66	-	3,125

3 OTHER TRADE ACTIVITIES

	Parochial			Diocesan			Total Charity 2025				2024
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total (note 8)
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Social income	1,444	-	-	3	-	-	1,447	-	-	1,447	1,249
	1,444	-	-	3	-	-	1,447	-	-	1,447	1,249

Social income includes parish tote/200 etc. clubs, income from parish social events, parish occasional fundraising such as bazaars, fetes and bingo and occasional fundraising by youth centres and chaplaincies.

OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES - 2024 COMPARATIVES

	Parochial			Diocesan			
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	*Total Charity 2024*
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Social income	1,243	4	-	2	-	-	*1,249*
	1,243	4	-	2	-	-	*1,249*

4 INVESTMENT INCOME

	Parochial			Diocesan			Total Charity 2025				2024
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total (note 8)
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from UK investments	385	8	34	159	29	14	544	37	48	629	857
Rental income	2,192	-	-	80	-	-	2,272	-	-	2,272	2,297
Interest receivable	98	-	-	13	15	-	111	15	-	126	147
	2,675	8	34	252	44	14	2,927	52	48	3,027	3,301

INVESTMENT INCOME - 2024 COMPARATIVES

	Parochial			Diocesan			
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	*Total Charity 2024*
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from UK investments	508	23	33	240	37	16	*857*
Rental income	2,187	-	-	110	-	-	*2,297*
Interest receivable	114	-	-	30	3	-	*147*
							-
	2,809	23	33	380	40	16	*3,301*

5 OTHER INCOME

	Parochial			Diocesan			Total Charity 2025				2024
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total (note 8)
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance claims	149	-	-	-	-	-	149	-	-	149	154
Donations of assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sundry income	133	-	-	48	-	-	181	-	-	181	193
	282	-	-	48	-	-	330	-	-	330	347

OTHER INCOME - 2024 COMPARATIVES

	Parochial			Diocesan			
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	*Total Charity 2024*
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance claims	67	-	-	-	-	-	*67*
Donations of assets	12	-	-	-	-	-	*12*
Sundry income	133	-	-	1	-	-	*134*
							-
	212	-	-	1	-	-	*213*

6 INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT COSTS

	Parochial			Diocesan		Total Charity 2025					2024
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total (note 8)
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost of management of investment properties and other investments	646	-	-	42	-	-	688	-	-	688	786
	646	-	-	42	-	-	688	-	-	688	786

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT COSTS - 2024 COMPARATIVES

	Parochial			Diocesan			
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	*Total Charity 2024*
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Costs of management of investment properties and other investments	738	-	-	48	-	-	*786*
	738	-	-	48	-	-	*786*

7 ACTIVITIES **CHARITABLE**

	Parochial			Diocesan			Total Charity 2025				2024
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total (note 8)
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Liturgical and pastoral costs	1,535	14	34	486	-	14	2,021	14	48	2,083	2,148
Curial, Parish and Chaplaincy etc. general support costs *	6,284	83	-	3,985	236	-	10,269	319	-	10,588	10,864
Clergy costs	2,154	1	-	854	449	-	3,008	450	-	3,458	3,337
Property refurbishment, maintenance and major repairs**	4,453	520	-	322	186	-	4,775	706	-	5,481	5,478
Depreciation	1,084	-	-	201	7	-	1,285	7	-	1,292	1,303
Bank Charges	175	-	-	45	1	-	220	1	-	221	237
Votive candles, newspapers and repository costs etc.	266	-	-	-	-	-	266	-	-	266	248
Chaplaincy expenditure	-	-	-	133	27	-	133	27	-	160	351
Schools' costs	-	-	-	160	719	-	160	719	-	879	77
Grant funding	111	4	-	249	15	-	360	19	-	379	468
Professional fees, incl safeguarding & audit	29	3	-	392	-	-	421	3	-	424	466
	16,091	625	34	6,827	1,640	14	22,918	2,265	48	25,231	24,977

*General costs include buildings utilities and upkeep costs, housekeeping costs, parish and chaplaincy wages and office expenses.

** A significant number of parish property required repairs and building work in 2025, comparable to 2024.

*** Included in schools costs, is expenditure under restricted funds, where the Diocese acts as principal, of £562k (2024: £135k), and payments made under a PFI agreement of £157k. (2024: £153k), totalling £719k (2024: £288k)

The costs disclosed above relate directly to the associated activities and, accordingly, no estimation or apportionment has been required.

Comparative figures for 2024 have been restated. Previously, school condition funding income of £5,694k and related expenditure of £5,819k were included in these balances. As these transactions were undertaken by the Trust in its capacity as agent rather than principal, they have been excluded from the current disclosure and the comparative figures have been amended accordingly.

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - 2024 COMPARATIVES

	Parochial			Diocesan			
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	*Charity 2024*
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Liturgical and pastoral costs	1,508	99	9	482	34	16	*2,148*
Curial, Parish and Chaplaincy etc. general support costs *	6,783	72	-	3,859	150	-	*10,864*
Clergy costs	2,087	2	-	957	291	-	*3,337*
Property refurbishment, maintenance and major repairs**	4,616	646	24	184	9	-	*5,479*
Depreciation	1094	-	-	202	7	-	*1303*
Bank Charges	192	-	-	44	1	-	*237*
Votive candles, newspapers and repository costs etc.	248	-	-	-	-	-	*248*
Chaplaincy expenditure	0	-	-	291	60	-	*351*
Schools' costs	8	-	-	52	16	-	*76*
Grant funding	197	11	-	253	7	-	*468*
Professional fees, incl safeguarding & audit	32	-	-	434	-	-	*466*
	16,765	830	33	6,758	575	16	*24,977*

8 **COMPARATIVES (BY FUND) FOR 2024 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

		Parochial			Diocesan			Total Charity 2024				2023
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total (note 8)
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:	Note											
Donations, legacies and grants	1	11,983	1,706	-	420	383	-	12,403	2,089	-	14,492	13,554
Charitable activities	2	1,251	135		1,673	66		2,924	201	-	3,125	2,900
Other trading activities	3	1,243	4	-	2	-	-	1,245	4	-	1,249	1,103
Investment income	4	2,809	23	33	380	40	16	3,189	63	49	3,301	3,263
Other income												
Profit on sale of tangible fixed assets		1,668	-	-	-	-	-	1,668	-	-	1,668	2,676
Other income	5	250	-	-	97	-	-	347	-	-	347	213
Total		19,204	1,868	33	2,572	489	16	21,776	2,357	49	24,182	23,709
EXPENDITURE ON												
Raising funds												
Fund raising operations		149	3	-	2	6	-	151	9	-	160	160
Investment management costs	6	738	-	-	48	-	-	786	-	-	786	520
		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Charitable activities	7	16,765	830	33	6,706	575	16	23,471	1,405	49	24,925	24,371
Total		17,652	833	33	6,756	581	16	24,408	1,414	49	25,871	25,051
Net (expenditure)/income before gains on investment assets		1,552	1,035	-	(4,184)	(92)	-	(2,632)	943	-	(1,689)	(1,342)

8 COMPARATIVES (BY FUND) FOR 2024 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

		Parochial			Diocesan			Total Charity 2024				2023
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total (note 8)
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gains on investment assets												
Gains, losses and revaluations on investment properties	12	3,323	-	-	221	(3)	-	3,544	(3)	-	3,541	259
Gains, losses and revaluations on other investments	12	1,630	35	105	663	114	44	2,293	149	149	2,591	1,788
Total		4,953	35	105	884	111	44	5,837	146	149	6,132	2,047
Net income/(expenditure)		6,505	1,070	105	(3,300)	19	44	3,205	1,089	149	4,443	705
Transfers between funds*	18	(2,298)	(510)	-	2,821	(13)	-	523	(523)	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		4,207	560	105	(479)	6	44	3,728	566	149	4,443	705
Reconciliation of funds												
Total funds brought forward		97,657	5,014	1,575	7,578	5,756	678	105,235	10,770	2,253	118,258	117,553
Total funds carried forward		**101,864**	**5,574**	**1,680**	**7,099**	**5,762**	**722**	**108,963**	**11,336**	**2,402**	**122,701**	**118,258**

9 NET INCOME

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Net income for the year is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of tanglible fixed assets	1,292	1,303
PFI facilities management fees	151	149
Auditors remuneration		
- for audit services	80	70
- for non-audit services	1	1

10 INFORMATION REGARDING EMPLOYEES, TRUSTEES AND VOLUNTEERS

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Staff costs comprise the following:		
Salaries & wages	4,446	4,338
Social security costs	444	320
Pension costs	530	473
Death in service premium	26	25
	5,446	5,156

Staff costs relate to curial staff, staff at parishes and those employed in other Diocesan activities. The number of employees whose emoluments (excluding employer's pension contributions and national insurance) amounted to over £60,000 are as follows:

£60,000 - £70,000	3	2
£70,001 - £80,000	1	1
£80,001 - £90,000	1	-
£90,001 - £100,000	1	1
£160,001 - £170,000	1	-

Pension contributions in respect of these employees amounted to £108,898 (2024: £37,685). The Chief Operating Officer is included within the above disclosure. These amounts include contributions arising under salary sacrifice arrangements and employer contributions to the Teachers' Pension Scheme at 28% of pensionable salary. Employer contributions to the Diocesan defined contribution pension scheme are payable at 8% of salary, with employee contributions of 4%.

The increase in pension contributions compared with the prior year primarily reflects changes in the employees included within the remuneration band disclosures. The disclosures are based on remuneration actually paid during the financial year rather than contractual salaries. As a result, certain employees who joined part way through the prior year did not exceed the disclosure thresholds and were therefore not included in the comparative figures, whereas they are included for the full reporting period in the current year.

10 INFORMATION REGARDING EMPLOYEES, TRUSTEES AND VOLUNTEERS continued

The number of employees and full-time equivalent employees, analysed by function, during the year was as follows:

	Full Time		Part Time		Full Time Equivalent	
	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
Parishes	4	6	189	200	66	68
Other Diocesan services	15	20	8	16	21	28
Central/Curial Services	28	26	30	29	44	41
	47	52	227	245	131	137

It should be noted that (as in previous years) just over 200 diocesan priests actively working within the charity are self-employed office holders and not employees of the charity.

Five of the twelve trustees listed on page 3 also serve as clergy of the charity (2024: Six), and in addition to their responsibilities as trustees are actively involved in carrying out the objects of the charity. Five of those trustees benefited from accommodation costs and other associated expenditure included within charitable activities (2024: Six) (see Note 7). These trustees received in total £60,000 (2024: £59,500) of allowances as serving clergy but not in their office as trustee. The remaining trustees do not derive any income from the charity. Similarly, no trustee is paid expenses in relation to their activities as a Trustee, only in their canonical roles as serving clergy. Non-clerical trustees are not paid expenses.

The Trust considers its key management personnel comprise the Archbishop, Auxiliary Bishops, Vicar General and Chief Operating Officer. None of these individuals with the exception of the Chief Operating Officer are employees, they are office holders of the Trust. The remuneration, including Employers Pension contributions and National Insurance of the Chief Operating Officer for 2025 was £115,952 (2024: £112,649).

During the year charity funds were used to pay a premium of £9,838 (2024: £8,067) in respect of Trustees' Indemnity Insurance. This insurance protects the charity from loss arising from the neglect or defaults of its trustees, employees or agents or to indemnify the trustees or other officers against the consequences of any neglect or default on their part.

It is estimated that during the year, approximately 670k hours (2024: 660k) were provided by some 10,000 (2024: 10,000) volunteers in parishes. If this is valued at £13.00 per hour, the volunteer contribution amounts to some £8.7m (2024: £7.26m at £11 per hour). Volunteer roles fulfil liturgical, pastoral and administrative activities of the charity. In addition, there were approximately 1,953 volunteers working as volunteer governors or directors in our schools and multi academy trusts. (2024: 1,750) This contribution by volunteers is not included in the financial statements.

11 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE CHARITY

	Note	Church / Presbytery £000	Improvements and contents £000	Other £000	Total £000
Functional Property					
Cost					
At 1 January 2025		46,372	38,042	891	85,305
Additions		548	796	125	1,469
Transfers from investment property	12	-	-	-	-
Transfers to investment property	12	-	-	-	-
Disposals		(673)	(90)	(141)	(904)
At 31 December 2025		46,247	38,748	875	85,870
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 January 2025		13,720	20,356	626	34,702
Charge for the year		448	756	86	1,290
Eliminated on disposal		(130)	(85)	(140)	(355)
					-
At 31 December 2025		14,038	21,027	572	35,637
Net Book Value					
At 31 December 2025		32,209	17,721	303	50,233
At 31 December 2024		32,649	17,686	272	50,607

The net book value of functional property includes £2,655k long leasehold properties (2024: £3,061k).

The total insured value of the functional buildings and contents is £919m (2024: £894m).

School properties are not included above as they are treated as not recognised in accordance with the accounting policy on page 31.

During 2025, four properties were reclassified from functional property to investment property. As these properties formed part of the wider parish estate they had a nil carrying value at the date of transfer. On reclassification, the properties were recognised at fair value, giving rise to a revaluation gain of £780,000, which has been recognised within investment property gains for the year.

12 INVESTMENTS HELD AS FIXED ASSETS

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Investments comprise the following:		
Investment properties	39,433	37,885
Other investments	33,509	32,379
	72,942	70,264

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Investment properties at valuation		
Fair value at 1 January 2025	37,885	35,618
Transfers from functional property (Note 11)	-	949
Transfers to functional property (Note 11)	-	(1,545)
Disposals	(165)	(677)
Gains and losses on revaluations and disposals (incl transfers from functional property per Note 11)	1,713	3,540
Fair value at 31 December 2025	39,433	37,885

The investment properties are included based on a 5 year rolling programme of internal valuations completed by professionally qualified external agents.

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Other investments comprise the following:		
Equities	26,572	25,517
Fixed interest securities & Bonds	2,852	2,650
Alternatives & multi assets	4,017	4,212
Investments listed on a stock exchange	33,441	32,379

INVESTMENTS HELD AS FIXED ASSETS continued

Stock exchange investments at fair value	**Diocesan £000**	**Parishes £000**	**2025 Total £000**	**2024 Total £000**
Fair value at January 2025	10,560	21,819	32,379	30,577
Additions	4,499	9,337	13,836	30,865
Disposal proceeds	(4,540)	(9,421)	(13,961)	(31,654)
Realised and unrealised investment gains /(losses)	386	801	1,187	2,591
Fair value at 31 December 2025	10,905	22,536	33,441	32,379

The historic cost of investments held at 31 December 2025 was £32m (2024: £31m). There were no investment holdings which represented more than 5% by value of the portfolio excluding cash.
Additions and disposals are significantly higher in 2024 due to the appointment of new investment managers. These figures represent a re-ordering of the portfolio, and are representative of the trading activity on the account. This volume of trade is unlikely to continue at this level in 2025. This is the reason for the historic cost being similar to the fair value, as almost all the assets were traded in the year.

Stock exchange investments by location

	Fair value 2025 £m	Cost 2025 £m	Fair value 2024 £m	Cost 2024 £m
UK Listed investment	5.3	5.3	7.2	7.4
Overseas listed investment	28.1	25.5	25.2	24.1
	33.4	30.8	32.4	31.5

Jointly controlled entity

The charity owns 50% of the £2 ordinary share capital of Parish Accounting Services Limited, a company which was formed during 2015 in order to purchase the intellectual property rights, and ownership of computer software known as OPAS. This is a bespoke accounting and gift aid system used widely within the Archdiocese, and was purchased in order to ensure its continued availability for the Trust. The remaining 50% is owned by the Archdiocese of Westminster and is jointly managed by the two Trusts, with two directors serving from each Archdiocese.

Ownership of trading limited company

The charity owns 100% of the share capital of The Shop at Harvington Hall Limited, a private limited company. Total called up share capital and net asset value is £4. Turnover was £45k (2024: £53k). The company made no profit during the year. As this is not material to the financial statements of the charity, the trustees have not prepared consolidated accounts for 2025. All transactions between the charity and the company are noted in note 24, related party transactions. Two members of staff of the charity acted as directors during the year. No remuneration was paid to the directors. Hall staff manage the operation of the shop on a day to day basis. The Shop paid a management fee to the Hall for these services.

Ownership of dormant private limited company

The charity owns 100% of the share capital of The Sower Limited, a dormant private limited company. Total called up share capital is £3. There are no other assets or liabilities.

13 DEBTORS

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Debtors: amounts due in under one year		
Amounts due in respect of school building projects	521	1,115
Accrued investment income	222	332
Accrued Gift Aid Tax reclaimable	1,456	1,472
Other debtors including trade debtors, major bequests, and property sales	1,356	869
Total	3,555	3,788

14 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
* Amounts due in respect of school building projects	166	346
Due to other religious charities	607	970
** Other creditors	2,490	2,787
Accruals & deferred income	1,550	2,070
	4,813	6,173

Reconciliation of deferred income:

Deferred income 2024	112	193
Amounts released to income in the year	(112)	(193)
Amounts deferred to the following year	198	112
Deferred income 2025	198	112

* The amount noted above as "amounts due in respect of school building projects" is in respect of transactions for which the Diocesan Education Service acted as principal.

** Included here is an amount held in respect of grant income not yet spent on school building projects, which were managed by the DES in its role acting as agent. For 2025 this was £1,964k (2024: £2,526k). This

relates to grants received in advance of projects starting. The distinction between certain school building project transactions is explained on page 49.

15 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Concessionary loans	35	35
	35	35

16 FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Financial assets held at fair value are included in Note 12.

Note 13 includes financial instruments of £1,716k (2024: £1,544k) held at amortised cost. Notes 14 and 15 include financial instruments held at amortised cost of £1,236k (2024: £4,139k).

The 2025 financial liabilities figure excludes balances relating to school building project funds administered by the Trust as agent.

17 ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Balance at 1st January 2025 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfers £'000	Gains/(Losses) on investments £'000	Balance at 31st December 2025 £'000
Diocesan Funds						
Various Diocesan Funds	677	11	(11)	-	20	697
Maryvale	58	3	(3)	-	10	68
Various small trust funds (Parishes)						-
registered charities	232	4	(4)		7	239
others	1,435	30	(30)		41	1,476
	2,402	48	(48)	-	78	2,480

These funds are linked to specific parishes and funds held by the Diocese, and are endowment in nature, i.e., the capital donated cannot be spent and any income generated must be spent in line with the donor's instructions. In the main the purposes of these funds are to provide education, relieve poverty, support priests and to provide for church repairs within the parishes concerned. The assets of all the funds listed are represented by investment in the Diocesan Investment Scheme (see page 33). There are two separate registered charities (Leamington Trust, registered charity no. 248948; and Birmingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Educational Trust no. 528881) and thirteen other separate funds. A uniting direction given by the Charity Commissioners is in force in respect of these funds.

17 ENDOWMENT FUNDS (continued)

The 2024 analysis of endowment funds follows:

17 ENDOWMENT FUNDS - 2024 COMPARATIVES

	Balance at 1st January 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains/(Losses) on investments	Balance at 31st December 2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Diocesan Funds						
Various Diocesan Funds	634	13	(13)	-	43	677
Maryvale	57	3	(3)	-	1	58
Various small trust funds (Parishes)						-
registered charities	199	4	(4)	-	33	232
others	1,363	29	(29)	-	72	1,435
	2,253	49	(49)	-	149	2,402

18 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance at 1st January 2025 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfers £'000	Gains/(Losses) on investments £'000	Balance at 31st December 2025 £'000
Restricted funds comprise the following unexpended balances of donations etc. given for specific purposes:						
Poor Mission Fund	225	113	-	35	-	373
Memorial Mass Fund	456	5	(9)	-	9	461
Religious Workers Accomodation Fund	38	-	(6)	-	-	32
University Chaplaincy	775	12	(12)	-	22	797
Other Funds	689	64	(121)	-	12	644
						-
Canons Chapter Fund	352	6	(6)	(10)	9	351
Clergy Training Fund	353	167	(511)	48	-	57
Maryvale	192	-	(197)	7	-	2
Diocesan Education Service - schools projects *	2,622	579	(719)	1	-	2,483
Harvington Hall	38	50	(62)	-	-	26
Other Chaplaincies	9	-	-	-	-	9
Parish Buildings and other projects	5,587	1,509	(629)	(722)	13	5,758
	11,336	2,505	(2,272)	(641)	65	10,993

18 RESTRICTED FUNDS continued

* Schools projects, and other school restricted fund income relates to the Diocesan Education Service where the Diocese acts as principal.

The Poor Mission Fund exists to support parishes which struggle to meet their financial obligations. The Memorial Mass Fund provides for people's desire for annual Masses to be said for their intentions.

The Religious Workers Accommodation Fund was created during 2016 and after some specific grants to assist the work of agencies caring for the homeless and for disadvantaged youth made during that year, the balance is to be used for the provision of accommodation for religious workers in the Diocese.

The Canons Chapter Fund represents sums which were previously recognised as part of the affiliated bodies, and were therefore not in the past included within the funds of the Archdiocese. The Trustees now deem it more appropriate that these funds are included within the Archdiocese accounts as its aim is specifically to support repairs and maintenance of the Cathedral.

The Clergy Training Fund's primary purpose is to support students in training and formation for the priesthood and permanent diaconate as well as ordained priests and deacons undertaking further studies.

The "Diocesan Education Service – schools' projects" fund relates to historic schools' sales proceeds which can only be used to finance the building of new schools, or expansion of existing schools due to capacity needs, and includes grant funds received but not yet expended.

The transfers shown above of £(641)k (2024: £(523)k), principally represent amounts paid in accordance with the terms of the restriction, to certain parishes and other entities within the Archdiocese. In the case of "Parish building and other projects" the amount transferred relates to capitalised spending completed in accordance with the terms of the restriction. These parish assets are included within the unrestricted property assets of the charity; the associated restricted funding being regarded as having been effectively discharged. There is also a transfer into the Clergy Training Fund, which is a wholly restricted fund. This arises from an internal grant from Diocesan unrestricted funds to CTF restricted funds, necessitating a transfer between restricted and unrestricted funds.

RESTRICTED FUNDS - 2024 COMPARATIVES

Restricted funds comprise the following unexpended balances of donations etc. given for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1st January 2024 £'000	*Income £'000*	*Expenditure £'000*	*Transfers £'000*	*Gains/(Losses) on investments £'000*	*Balance at 31st December 2024 £'000*
Poor Mission Fund	*372*	*56*	*-*	*(203)*	*-*	*225*
Memorial Mass Fund	*440*	*6*	*(11)*	*-*	*21*	*456*
Religious Workers Accomodation Fund	*46*	*-*	*(8)*	*-*	*-*	*38*
University Chaplaincy	*742*	*16*	*(32)*	*-*	*49*	*775*
Other Funds	*648*	*118*	*(88)*	*(10)*	*21*	*689*
Canons Chapter Fund	*319*	*17*	*(4)*	*-*	*20*	*352*
Clergy Training Fund	*341*	*171*	*(362)*	*200*	*3*	*353*
Maryvale	*252*	*2*	*(59)*	*-*	*(3)*	*192*
*Diocesan Education Service - schools projects **	*2,539*	*99*	*(16)*	*-*	*-*	*2,622*
Harvington Hall	*37*	*2*	*(1)*	*-*	*-*	*38*
Other Chaplaincies	*7*	*2*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*9*
Parish Buildings and other projects	*5,027*	*1,868*	*(833)*	*(510)*	*35*	*5,587*
	10,770	*2,357*	*(1,414)*	*(523)*	*146*	*11,336*

19 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	General £'000	Designated £'000	Total £'000
At January 2025	59,080	49,883	108,963
Net income	3,479	-	3,479
Transfers: endowment funds	-	-	-
Transfers: restricted funds	641	-	641
Transfers: designated funds	404	(404)	-
At December 2025	63,604	49,479	113,083

The trustees have created a designated fund to the value of the unrestricted net book value of functional property assets and contents. The trustees are of the opinion that these assets cannot be readily realised without undermining the ongoing work of the charity. Transfers to designated funds relate to net fixed asset movements and depreciation.

The 2024 analysis of unrestricted funds follows:

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS 2024 COMPARATIVES

	General £'000	Designated £'000	Total £'000
At January 2024	55,275	49,960	105,235
Net income	3,205	-	3,205
Transfers: endowment funds	-	-	-
Transfers: restricted funds	523	-	523
Transfers: designated funds	77	(77)	-
At December 2024	59,080	49,883	108,963

20 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted (general) £'000	Unrestricted (designated) £'000	Restricted £'000	Endowment £'000	2025 Total £'000
Tangible fixed Assets	308	49,479	446	-	50,233
Investments	67,893	-	2,569	2,480	72,942
Other net assets/liabilities	(4,597)	-	7,978	-	3,381
At 31 December 2025	63,604	49,479	10,993	2,480	126,556

"Tangible fixed assets" represents the book value of the charity's tangible fixed assets, principally land and buildings, currently held for charity use and the funds are therefore unavailable for other uses.

Included in the figure for investments is a significant unrealised surplus and this figure will vary year on year as property and stock market values fluctuate.

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - 2024 COMPARATIVES

	Unrestricted (general) £'000	Unrestricted (designated) £'000	Restricted £'000	Endowment £'000	2024 Total £'000
Tangible fixed Assets	271	49,883	453	-	50,607
Investments	65,730	-	2,132	2,402	70,264
Other net assets/liabilities	(6,921)	-	8,751	-	1,830
At 31 December 2024	59,080	49,883	11,336	2,402	122,701

21 RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW USED IN OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period	3,855	4,443
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,292	1,303
Fair value (gains) on investment properties	(1,713)	(3,541)
Fair value (gains)/ losses on investments on the stock exchange	(1,187)	(2,591)
(Gain) on disposal of tangible assets	(1,211)	(1,688)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(3,027)	(3,301)
Broker liquidity account movement	(77)	
	(2,068)	(5,375)
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	242	(254)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	(1,356)	559
Net cash used in operating activities	(3,182)	(5,070)

22 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

At 31 December 2025, the charity was committed to future capital expenditure of approximately £501k (2024: £510k.)

23 OTHER COMMITMENTS

PFI Scheme

The Trust, through the Diocesan Education Service (DES) is party to a facilities management contract under a PFI scheme in respect of a school. Total commitments under the contract are £156k (2024: £153k) within one year, £322k (2024: £478k) between one and five years. These costs may change, dependent on changes to indexation. The costs are calculated using RPI. These costs are met from within the restricted funds held for the purposes of spending on new schools.

24 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The organisations mentioned below were served by one or more common trustees during the year:

St Mary's College, Oscott – Registered Charity 1172979

During the year £49,205 (2024: £48,694) of rent and other costs and £210,057 (2024: £133,886) of students' fees was paid to St Mary's College, Oscott. There was a £nil balance (2024: £nil) owing to St Mary's College, Oscott at the year-end in respect of miscellaneous costs or student fees. There was also £70,902 paid by Oscott in relation to recharges relating to priests' stipends and expenses (2024: £75,624). A further £20,544 was paid for the secondment of Oscott's archivist (2024: £20,544), £12,708 for secretarial services (2024: £12,708) and a further £14,464 for events and miscellaneous costs (2024: £16,667). Most Rev. B Longley is a Trustee in common

Father Hudson's Society - Registered Charity 512992
During the year, £39,864 (2024: £44,315) was collected on behalf of and paid over to Father Hudson's via a retiring collection following Masses said in parishes in September 2025. The Diocese also paid for residential care for sick and retired priests in Father Hudson's Residential Care Home, amounting to £93,522 (2024: £151,690). In addition to these, grants were also made to Father Hudson's totalling £37,000 (2024: £27,750) for them to administer on behalf of the Archdiocese to aid social outreach work through other Catholic agencies, and also with a special focus on Fatima House, a women's shelter for refugees.

There was a balance as at the year-end in respect of collections not paid over to Father Hudson's amounting to £nil (2024: £nil), and care costs of £nil (2024: £nil). Whilst not a Trustee of Father Hudson's, Most Rev. B Longley is President of the charity.

The Kenelm Youth Trust Ltd– Charitable company registration number 1144209
Grants totalling £200,000 were made to Kenelm Youth Trust in 2025 (2024: £200,000). KYT is a separate charity that was set up to provide all of the Trust's youth services from 1 January 2016. £15,500 outstanding at 31 December 2025 (2024: £nil). Right Rev T. Menezes is a trustee in common.

Parish Accounting Services Limited – Company registration number 09503675
During the year, £57,610 was paid to Parish Accounting Services Limited (2024: £52,330) in respect of software licencing fees of parish accounting software and SAFESYS (Diocesan safeguarding software) which PAS Limited purchased in 2024. In addition, the Diocese received £49,730 from the company (2024: £16,152) in respect of costs of providing management time. There were no balances outstanding at the year-end.

Cornerstone Regeneration – Limited Company 06901342
Rent was received from Cornerstone by one of the parishes of the Archdiocese in respect of property, of £22,770 (2024: £22,770). Mr C. Loughran is a director. The company was dissolved on 26 August 2025.

Birmingham Churches Together – Registered charity 243931
A grant was made to the charity in 2025 of £19,770 (2024: £14,800). There were no balances outstanding at the year-end. The Most Rev. B Longley is a trustee.

The Venerable English College Trust – Registered Charity 1142558
There was no reimbursement of expenses in 2025 from the Venerable English College Trust by the Archdiocese, (2024: £800). There were no balances outstanding at the year-end.

The Shop at Harvington Hall registered company 03047240
The shop serves as a trading subsidiary to collect income from visitors to Harvington Hall. During the year, £1,658 (2024: £5,371) was paid to the charity as a contribution towards the running costs/ overheads of the shop, and an additional management fee for Diocesan staff time of £12,000 (2024: £15,000). Re-imbursed costs amounting to £2,925 were paid by the Hall on behalf of the shop (2024: £35,717). There was a balance outstanding at the year end of £13,658 (2024: £18,196.)

These financial results for the year ended 31 December 2025 are the complete set of annual financial statements on which the auditors have expressed an unqualified audit opinion.

A copy is available on the Diocesan website, www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk, and on the Charity Commission website under our charity reference number 234216.

BIRMINGHAM
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