The Order of Augustinian Recollects Charitable Trust

Report and Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 December 2024

Registered Charity Number: 237522

The Order of Augustinian Recollects Charitable Trust

Year Ended 31 December 2024

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The Order of Augustinian Recollects Charitable Trust

Report of the Trustees

31 December 2024

The Trustees are pleased to present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the terms of the Trust as described below and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Objectives and activities for the public benefit

Objects

The objects of the Charity are *to "advance the religious and other charitable work of the English Province of the Society as the Trustees with the approval of the Superior shall from time to time think fit"*. In the Trust Deed *"the Society"* means the English part of the religious order known as the Order of Augustinian Recollects and *"the Superior"* means the Delegate Provincial of the Order in England. The Order now regards its members resident in England (commonly called 'friars') as a Delegation of a wider Province rather than a Province in its own right, so they are known as the 'Delegation of England'.

The Trustees have reviewed their objectives and activities to ensure they continue to reflect the Charity's aims. In carrying out this review they have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The Order fulfils its principal aims through:

(a) formation, training and continuing education and the promotion of vocations to the Priesthood and religious life (Vocations Promotions); and

(b) prayer, chaplaincy and pastoral work in Parishes at Honiton and Ottery St Mary (Devon), Vauxhall (south London) at its house in Kensington (central London) and at St Rita's Centre Honiton (including St Rita's Promotions). This work includes the thriving and vibrant Latin American Chaplaincy.

The Order also provides priests elsewhere where possible. The work includes teaching, preaching, retreat-giving, chaplaincy in schools and hospitals and to religious sisters, and care of the elderly. More and more, England is seen as missionary territory in what has become an increasingly secular society.

The Charity's main objective for the year was to continue that work in the face of a gradually diminishing number of active Recollects. This has been achieved by careful allocation of human and financial resources according to greatest need.

The Provincial Chapter of the Order is convened every three years and is the legislative body which has executive authority over the ministries of the Order in England. A restructuring of the Order of Augustinian Recollects worldwide agreed at the General Chapter of 2016 in Spain was implemented in 2018.

The friars meet for their prayer in common, meditation and the Divine Office in the morning, at midday and in the evening, and for their monthly meetings. As well as Delegation meetings of all the friars, there are informal gatherings which contribute to the spirit of community in the Delegation and thus to our wider pastoral work.

In 2001 an interest-free loan was made to a connected charity, known as The Order of Augustinian Recollects, St. Rita's Centre, based at Honiton, Devon. Both charities have the common purpose of the maintenance and advancement of the Roman Catholic Church by preaching, teaching and other means and has, amongst its principal objects, the taking care of missions among the faithful. The Order also works closely with the Roman Catholic Dioceses of Westminster, Southwark and Plymouth in administering parishes on their behalf.

Personnel

At the end of the year under review, the Delegation consisted of ten ordained priests and one religious brother working in different ministries in England.

There are still signs of increasing interest in vocations, which is being actively encouraged by advertising in the Catholic media. We keep in touch with potential candidates by letter and by home visits. Would-be candidates are invited to spend a few weekends with us during the year which introduce them to the Order and to the religious life.

In addition, we have 31 professed members of the Secular Fraternity of the Order. They meet monthly and are very much members of the Recollect family. They attend celebrations on Augustinian feast days and retreats.

The Order is committed to supporting its members who have spent most of their working lives in the furtherance of its aims, either voluntarily or by covenanting earned income from outside employment.

The Charity does not, to any material extent, depend on volunteers for the provision of its pastoral work, other than in the context of the parishes and the Latin American Chaplaincy which it administers on behalf of the local Diocese.

The Apostolate

The Apostolate of the Delegation is the pastoral care of two parishes in Devon (Ottery St Mary and Honiton in Plymouth Diocese) and one in London, Vauxhall (Southwark Archdiocese), and running St Rita's Centre, St Rita's Promotions and Vocations Promotion. We are also responsible for the pastoral care of the increasing Latin American community (Spanish speaking) in London, known as the Latin American Chaplaincy. As we have said above, in an increasingly secular world this is now seen as a truly missionary ministry in England. The friars owe a debt of gratitude to the people in their care for sharing their faith with us and for their generous help and encouragement.

Achievements and Performance

The Delegation of England continues to serve the Lord to the best of its ability. Although small in number, it carries out great pastoral work on this Island. The care of its sick and elderly is an example of good practice.

In 2024, there was a great improvement in the return to normality after the disaster of the pandemic. Church attendance has slowly returned, but has not reached pre-pandemic numbers.

The friars' health deteriorated somewhat further. Father Sean Flannery passed away this year after a long struggle with ill health. He was buried in Ivybridge alongside his former companions. Father Hugh continues his battle with Parkinson's disease, while Father Julio has difficulty walking. Towards the end of the year, he visited doctors in Madrid but returned home much the same.

The parish church of Ottery St. Mary finally opened its doors for services. The work is not over, as the hall and upper rooms still need to be finished. Even with loans from the Order, there was not enough money to complete the work.

After the Assembly, Father Sergio gave us service training on the theme "Community." The Provincial, Father Carlos, visited us and kept his promise to send us help in the form of Father David.

The religious community of St. Anne 2024 has lived in St. Anne's Parish in Vauxhall with the Latin American Chaplaincy since 2003. This house is in the very centre of London. The purpose of this London religious community focuses on the ministerial apostolate in a community where three religions predominate. Our desire is to share our Augustinian Recollect spirituality and commitment with the laity we serve. Along with this, we are responsible for maintaining the St. John Stone Residence in Kensington (1970).

London

During the 2024 academic year we attended the parish of Santa Ana and the Latin American Chaplaincy together with the activities of the Spanish Chaplaincy.

The London communities in 2024 are as follows:

- Fr. Gerald Wilson is the provincial delegate, prior and pastor, treasurer of the parish and community.
- Fr. Carlos Abajos is First Counselor, in charge of the Latin American and Spanish Chaplaincy, pastoral ministry liaison and Director of CEAR London.
- Fr. John Docherty helps in the chaplaincy.
- Fr. Roberti Riezu helps in the chaplaincy and Prior of the house in Kensington.
- Fr. Julio Espinosa helps in the chaplaincy and takes care of the house in Kensington.
- Fr. Hugh Corrigan Second Counselor, helps in Vauxhall Parish and looks after Kensington house.

St Anne's Vauxhall

Building projects

- Santa Ana Community House
- Repairs and painting of the parsonage. The plumbing requires regular work.

The religious community of St. Anne 2024 has lived in St. Anne's Parish in Vauxhall with the Latin American Chaplaincy since 2003. This house is in the very centre of London. The purpose of this religious community in Vauxhall is to carry out the work of a large inner-city parish.

From the house, we work closely with the school and the settlement. The relationship with both is excellent. Slowly but surely, our numbers have increased again, and the collections are beginning to reflect this. There was a large increase in the fee payable to the bishop. Father Gerald appealed and eventually obtained a fifty percent reduction.

This year, once again, we made a parish pilgrimage to Devon to celebrate the feast of St. Rita. It was a wonderful trip that all the parishioners thoroughly enjoyed.

The pastor has to work hard to comply with the regulations set by the bishops, especially regarding building protection and maintenance. This year we installed new windows in the bathroom, as they had been broken and were dangerous. A leak in the kitchen caused a lot of damage, and the floor had to be renovated.

The parish is a happy parish with a mixed multicultural core of people from different nations, mostly older people and many young people. The new group was established last year to help strengthen the social and spiritual life of these young adults. Most parishioners come and go because accommodation here is very expensive, and they cannot afford to live here.

St John Stone House, London

Cheniston Gardens was the very first house that was purchased in London. In the past it was the students house. It is currently used by the Order to help the students who wish to learn English.

Of course, due to Covid very few have been able to come here to study English. Father Jesus Recio returned to Marcillia early in the year but was replaced by Father Javier Lizaraga who is on his way to America but has to wait for his visa.

Father Julio Espinosa makes up the community of three. All three help in the Chaplaincy and help with the newly acquired Spanish Chaplaincy.

Father Hugh Corrigan arrived there mid-year. He helps with the house maintenance and also says mass in Vauxhall on Sundays.

Latin American Chaplaincy

The L.A.C is run from the Parish in Vauxhall. It is coordinated by Father Carlos Abajos, as chaplain.

The work of the chaplains, including Father Roberto Reziu, Father Julio Espinosa and Father Javier Lizaraga with the Latin American chaplaincy has been a great success. They have established CEAR and a JAR groups.

Building on the work of previous friars, they have helped the Chaplaincy to grow into a well organised team. Bishop Lynch (Retired this year) who looks after the Chaplaincies in London admires their work greatly.

Honiton – St Rita's

We have been able to have this year at least the spiritual exercises in common with the brothers of the Delegation who were able to come. This year we were able to count on the presence of Father Enrique Eguiarte, who led the exercises even though there were no brothers from Spain, as was the custom before the pandemic.

We hope that this coming year brothers from other communities outside of England will be able to come here to do the exercises. The members of the secular Fraternity were able to join the closing Mass and the closing meal of the exercises, helping to strengthen the ties of belonging between the fraternities and the friars.

Activities that are carried out in the house and distribution of tasks among the religious

- Br. Jose Manuel Romero (Nov 16, 1972) Prior and Director of the Santa Rita Center, parish priest of Holy Family (Honiton).
- Br. Francisco Javier Umendía (8 Feb 1945) Vice-Prior and parish priest of St. Anthony (Ottery St. Mary).
- Bro. Terry Mulvey (6 June 1960) solicitor and secretary of community meetings.
- Fr. Sean Flannery (Oct 6, 1946) released from all responsibility.

Communication and compliance with the provisions of superiors

The documents sent by superiors have been regularly communicated for study at community meetings and have been put into practice according to its possibilities. The protocols for the deceased have been read and they have been prayed for in community.

Methods used for the promotion and cultivation of vocations

Vocations are prayed for daily, a weekly Eucharist is offered for this intention and the dissemination of our charism is promoted through the Centre's website.

In fact, after the novenas to S. Ezequiel Moreno and Santa Rita, and the information about the Centre, the most visited is that related to the Order of Augustinian Recollects and its charism.

In Honiton, the community continues to proclaim the Gospel through the witness of our religious life. They continue to spread the Gospel and Augustinian spirituality through the Promotions. They share the lives of the saints, and the celebrations of St. Rita's feast day are wonderful.

Keeping in mind the Vision of the Order and the Province reflected in the Life and Mission Plan, we have sought to live according to the mission defined in the document. We have sought to proclaim the Gospel by bearing witness to our religious life, spreading our Augustinian Recollect spirituality through knowledge and devotion to our saints.

From our mission, we have sought to serve this primary objective by promoting and creating communion in the various areas of our life, offering our centre for the service of the activities of the Diocese, parishes, and various church groups.

We have also promoted communion with the Order and the Province by welcoming and hosting students and trainees who have come to learn and practice English, as well as young people from our schools in Spain.

We also host meetings of the Honiton Secular Fraternity, maintaining a climate of fraternal coexistence and sincere friendship among them and the community.

Father Frank has worked hard to remodel and expand the parish church of Ottery St. Mary. It has taken almost five years, but it will open its doors after Easter 2024.

Other Delegation Matters

Serious car accident

At the end of the year, Father Gerald went to Honiton to pick up Father Hugh. On the way back, near London, a van rear-ended the car, causing serious injuries. Both Father Gerald and Father Hugh were seriously injured but did not require hospitalization. The car was completely destroyed. The insurance covered the damages, and a practically new car was purchased.

Charism and Spirituality

We hold a communal celebration of Mass and prayers in the chapel every day, and we have moments of communal relaxation, especially in the TV room, to watch football matches. Meetings have been held when an important matter required them, but they have not been as frequent as they should have been.

Prayers for vocations are said daily, a weekly Eucharist is offered for this intention, and the dissemination of our charism is promoted through the Center's website. In fact, after the novenas to St. Ezekiel Moreno and St. Rita, and information about the Center, the most visited pages are those related to the Order of Augustinian Recollects and its charism.

Honiton and London Secular Fraternity. FSAR.

The third order continues in Honiton. It has a regular membership and is attended by Father Hugh, who leads a retreat every month. Follow the contributions from Father Sergio's monthly retreats. The Latin American FSAR community continues to grow, and each year new candidates begin their formation. This ceremony is held formally and is attended by all friars.

Ivybridge

We still have land and a small school that pays rent of 600 pounds a month. While this income is fine, we have to spend more on maintenance, such as tree felling and grounds maintenance. This year we had a major water leak, which cost 10,000 pounds to repair. We decided we should sell the entire property at auction. We informed the Provincial and received permission. Then, the Diocese showed interest, which halted the sale plan. We offered them the land for 300,000 pounds. They eventually said they weren't interested, so we put the auction plan back on the table. It wasn't until December 2024 that the septic tank broke down and had to be renewed. The diocese held more than half of the contract due to a contract we had. The order had a maximum of 12,000 pounds.

Government and Economy

This year was difficult for the Diocese. We lent the parish of Ottery 45,000 pounds, and this left our current bank account very low. We know this could never happen unless we left a large legacy. We made sure that if we ever left the parish, the Diocese would pay off the debt. We tried to sell some of our investment bonds for 50,000 pounds; permission was sought but not needed. It took over six months before the money was released. The problem was that we hadn't touched the investment in 20 years, and all the names and addresses had changed. At the end of the year, 20,000 pounds was redeemed, but this time it only took a couple of days.

In 2024, we supported St. Rita's, Honiton with 30,000 pounds and Chenistion Gardens with approximately 40,000 pounds.

Visitors (Fraternal Visit from Father General).

We had a fraternal visit from Father General and his secretary. They visited all the houses and enjoyed their visit. He was pleased with the work we are doing here in England.

We live in the heart of London, and St. Anne's is a wonderful place to visit. We enjoy receiving visitors, although our house is not very well equipped. The stairs are a challenge even for the young and fittest. The bathrooms are antiquated.

During the year, we had several visitors of varying lengths of stay. These included: Father Sixtos, Father Abitia, Father Sergio, Father Enrique and his family, Father Douglas Beard, and Father Joseph Shonebarri.

Brother Bernal came from Las Rozas to study English for a couple of months.

It is always a joy to welcome to these shores Dr. Tony López, who is currently working in Labrea with those suffering from Hanson's disease (leprosy). He attended the school for tropical diseases and gave an introductory talk. He also visited the school and gave the children a delightful talk about the Amazon River.

We had a special celebration of the priesthood for Father Hugh Corrigan and Father Joseph, who is currently working in Cuba. They were joined by Bishop Acero and Father Tonatue (with his sister). There was a special celebration Mass in English and then another in Spanish.

Financial Review

The Order does to some extent depend on voluntary donations, some rents and the very occasional legacy to sustain its work. No material donations in kind or intangible income were received during the year. For the purposes of these accounts, no value has been placed on the administration and other services provided by members of the Order.

The Order does not currently engage in fund-raising as such. Historically the Order has been grateful for voluntary donations and legacies to sustain its work. This is in part promoted by a regular 'Letter to our Friends' which is sent to our many benefactors in England, Wales and Ireland. We are very grateful to them for their financial and prayerful support.

This year we are pleased to report that again we had some most welcome donations and legacies amounting to £81,966 (2023: £64,754). As a result total income has increased by £26,867 to £155,162. Charitable expenditure is £192,186 (2023: £140,635). The Order relies largely on parish income and donations to sustain its charitable expenditure and in due course to begin to repay its debt to its Mother House as below.

The Balance Sheet shows total net assets of £1,994,425 (2023: £2,023,412). Of this, £762,042 represents the net book value of the charity's tangible fixed assets, comprising freehold properties, motor vehicles and fixtures and equipment which are essential to the day-to-day work of the charity and to the care of members of the Order. As such their value is not regarded as realisable in order to meet the ongoing costs of the charity. No value is attributed to churches and similar religious buildings which are heritage assets.

Free reserves available to support the work of the Order in future (i.e. cash and investments minus creditors, but excluding debtors due after one year and any restricted funds) amounted to £799,182 at 31 December 2024 (2023: £909,479). In the longer term, the Trustees consider this level of free reserves to be barely adequate in the light of their commitment to look after the friars in future years. It includes funds that might reasonably be designated for retirements.

The Trustees are conscious of potential demands from those who may leave or have left the Order but who need continuing support, according to the Order's obligations and resources. No specific sum is allocated for this purpose, since it is not possible to quantify amounts due. No commitments or guarantees have been given in this or any other respect.

An interest-free £350,000 loan received from the Mother House in Spain in 2001 was to have been repaid within 2 years unless that proved impractical. The amount due to the Mother House remained unchanged at £100,000 at the end of the year. The Trustees' loan to the related St Rita's Centre charity stood at £461,843 at 31 December 2024, a increase of £31,125 on 2023.

The Order does not make grants but does make occasional donations to related charities. This year donations were £1,633 (2023: £7,867).

Investment policy and performance

The Trustees may invest in any manner in which the law allows trust money to be invested, or as directed by the donors of any donated trust funds, so the Trustee Act 2000 applies. The Trustees have regard to the provisions of the Act to enable a broad-based portfolio to be efficiently administered in the interests of the charity.

The Trustees' policy on investments is to invest in products that are ethically sound and appropriate to the Order's needs, particularly with a view to securing capital growth to meet rising income needs in future years. In planning investment for the future they have also adopted a reserves policy on the lines set out below. They have resolved to hold substantial liquid funds for the time being, partly because of continuing concerns over stock market performance and partly to meet other needs such as repairs to property.

Risk Management

The Trustees have identified any major risks facing the Order and taken such steps as they can to mitigate them. At present the greatest risks to the Order, in addition to the increasing age and, in some cases, infirmity of the current members, are the lack of candidates from the UK under training for the religious life and / or priesthood and the consequent lack of priests and brothers able to run St. Rita's Centre and the Order's other charitable works or to provide nursing or other care for those friars who have retired.

Policies and procedures have been revised to ensure that foreseeable risks inherent in the running of St Rita's Centre are controlled and, where appropriate, properly insured against.

Currently our safeguarding policies are aligned with those of Plymouth Diocese, where much of our ministry has been based, following the decisions taken some years ago by the Conferences of Bishops of England and Wales and the Conference of Major Religious Superiors as to the One Church approach to Safeguarding and Protection of children and vulnerable adults recommended by the Cumberlege Commission Report.

Reserves policy

The Order continues to review its finance, facilities and needs in order to match future income with expenditure having regard to the increasing number of retired priests and brothers, especially as to provision for those who need nursing care either now or in the future. In 2005, the Trustees sought advice on the size of retirement fund that might be needed. The calculations, based on actuarial principles, indicated that it was necessary to set aside in excess of £1,360,000 of funds in order to provide modest future resources to meet the needs of the Recollects in the years to come. However, the Trustees decided it was not possible to set funds aside at that time, and that in the event of a shortfall they would either consolidate and sell surplus property or look to their Mother House in Spain for support. That remains the case.

It is clear to the Trustees that such invested reserves as they have are essential to provide for the increasing numbers of retired religious and the cost of nursing care when fewer religious are able to earn an income. The balance of Reserves relates to property used entirely for charitable purposes and is not therefore to be regarded as free reserves within the definition in the SORP.

The Trustees have examined the requirement for free reserves i.e. those unrestricted funds not invested in tangible fixed assets, designated for specific purposes (such as retirement) or otherwise committed. The Trustees consider that, given the nature of the charity's work, the level of free reserves should be up to twelve months' ongoing expenditure, which based on the current year is £192,186.

Plans for the future

The English Delegation is always optimistic. Today all the friars in England are happily carrying on a heavy workload.

The Spanish-speaking Chaplaincy continues to do a splendid job that is highly appreciated by the Bishops in London. The parishes in London and Devon do a great job and are highly respected. Those who can work very hard. The elderly and the sick inspire the rest of the friars with their prayer, patience and strength. With hope for the future we put our lives in the hands of the Savior.

Structure, governance and management

Status of Charity

The Order of Augustinian Recollects charity is an unincorporated charitable association of friars established by a Trust Deed made on 21 August 1964 by the Very Reverend Mariano Ortiz, the Reverend Vincent Courtney and the Reverend Ernest Fry. This declared trusts in respect of properties held by or for the "voluntary association of men known as The Order of Recollects of St Augustine" (the Order). The Order is based in Spain but the charity governs its activities within, or conducted from, England and Wales. A Charity Commission Scheme in 2002 recorded a change of name of the charity to "The Order of Augustinian Recollects Charitable Trust" and removed a restriction of the Order's charitable activities to England and Wales, so that funds can be applied in furtherance of the charitable work of the English Province of the Order wherever the Trustees (with the approval of the "Superior" i.e. the Vicar – now Delegate - Provincial) decide.

The charity is part of an international religious Order, founded in 1588 called the Augustinian Recollects. They are Roman Catholic friars who have taken vows for the religious life, many of them as ordained priests. The Order's work in England, which began in the early 1930s, is carried out within what is now known to the Order, since the Chapter in May 2015, as the 'Delegation of England' under the direction of the Delegate Provincial. He is supported and advised by two elected Counsellors and a Delegation Procurator (Bursar) whom he appoints. As the Delegation is part of a wider Province he in turn submits annual reports to a Provincial of the Order based Madrid, Spain.

The Delegate Provincial, as a Major Superior of the Order of Augustinian Recollects, has significant powers as to the acceptance and dismissal of candidates to the Order and as to the disposition of Recollects within the Order's houses in England. He has delegated powers to spend up to £3,000, or £25,000 with the permission of his council, for the Order's charitable purposes, but he must refer to his superiors in Spain and/or to the friars in England before authorising the Trustees to dispose of property permanently.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The Delegate Provincial also has power of appointment of new trustees of the Charity. Given its nature, it is not considered appropriate to recruit trustees from outside the Order and no policy has been adopted in that regard. No specific training has been given to the Trustees but they are satisfied that they have sufficient access to professional and practical advice, especially as members of the Conference of Religious of England and Wales, to understand their responsibilities as charity trustees.

Financial Governance

The Delegation Procurator administers certain funds on behalf of the Order as a whole, again under the direction of the Provincial Delegate. Each year, he submits to the Provincial Delegate and his Council a formal account of his administration of those funds in accordance with the Order's own Rules and Constitutions, in addition to their regular meetings as Trustees. The Council meets regularly to advise the Delegate Provincial on matters concerning the Order and formal decisions affecting its charitable activities are taken at regular meetings of the Trustees, most of whom serve on the Council.

In addition to its central administration, the Order's work is carried out through small communities working in the Dioceses of Plymouth and Southwark. Each local Superior or Prior is answerable, as are the Trustees, to the Provincial Delegate and his Council under the Order's Rules and Constitutions. Each house holds an account administered by the Prior, who has delegated powers to spend up to £800 or £2,000 with the permission of his council. Little cash is held, and donations and other receipts are invariably by cheque, as is most expenditure. Internal controls over cash, donations and expenditure are therefore considered adequate.

Key management personnel remuneration

The trustees consider that the Board of Trustees comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling the charity and running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

Part of the charity's purposes is to provide for the essential needs of all members of the Order who, by taking vows of poverty, have renounced all personal rights to income and capital. The living costs of the Trustees are therefore borne by the charity in the same way as those of other priests and they receive no benefit by virtue of their position as trustees.

Connected Charities

Other than the Order of Augustinian Recollects - St. Rita's Centre (charity number 232501) there are no related parties or connected charities associated with the Charity, although it continues to work closely with the Roman Catholic Dioceses in which it operates in England. Father Gerald Wilson is the Vicar for the Religious for the Diocese of Plymouth and as such advises the Bishop of Plymouth on matters concerning religious communities in the Diocese.

The Order of Augustinian Recollects Charitable Trust

Report of the Trustees (Cont'd)

31 December 2024

Reference and Administrative Information

Principal Office
St Rita's Centre
Ottery Moor Lane
Honiton
EX14 1AP

Trustees
Father Carlos Abajos
Father Gerald Wilson
Father Hugh Corrigan
Father Jose Romero

Delegation Council
Father Carlos Abajos (1st Counsellor)
Father Gerald Wilson
Father Hugh Corrigan (2nd Counsellor)

Delegate Provincial for England
Father Gerald Wilson

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Insurance Broker
PIB Insurance Brokers
Low Poppleton Lane
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YO26 6G

Registered Charity Number
237522

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and 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 charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each 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 of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Trust will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

As always grateful to the Lord for his many blessings on our Delegation we confidently, with the help of His grace, journey in faith.

Laus Deo

Approved by the trustees on 20 October 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Fr. Gerald Wilson OAR
Trustee

The Order of Augustinian Recollects Charitable Trust

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Order of Augustinian Recollects Charitable Trust

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the The Order of Augustinian Recollects Charitable Trust (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or

3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Neil Hitchings FCA
Independent Examiner
Francis Clark LLP
Chartered Accountants
Centenary House
Rydon Lane
Exeter
EX2 7XE

Date: 21 October 2025

The Order of Augustinian Recollects Charitable Trust

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)

Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income					
Donations and legacies	3	-	81,966	**81,966**	64,754
Income from charitable activities:					
Parish, stipend and similar income	4	-	13,073	**13,073**	15,143
Rental income			8,000	**8,000**	8,000
Investment income	5	-	41,323	**41,323**	38,778
Other incoming resources			10,800	**10,800**	1,620
Total income		**-**	155,162	**155,162**	128,295
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities:	6	-	192,186	**192,186**	140,635
Total expenditure		-	192,186	**192,186**	140,635
Net income / (expenditure) for the year before investment gains/(losses)		**-**	(37,024)	**(37,024)**	(12,340)
Gain / (loss) on investments	9	-	8,037	**8,037**	(6,676)
Net income/ (expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year		-	(28,987)	**(28,987)**	(19,016)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds at 1 January 2024		-	2,023,412	**2,023,412**	2,042,428
Total funds at 31 December 2024		-	1,994,425	**1,994,425**	2,023,412

All comparative Income and Expenditure are attributable to unrestricted funds.

The Order of Augustinian Recollects Charitable Trust

Balance Sheet

31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible	8	**762,042**	783,215
Investments	9	**784,055**	885,167
		1,546,097	1,668,382
Current assets			
Debtors	10,11	**533,201**	430,718
Cash at bank and in hand	12	**18,442**	27,282
		551,643	458,000
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	**(3,315)**	(2,970)
Net current assets		**548,328**	455,030
Total assets less current liabilities		**2,094,425**	2,123,412
Creditors: falling due after more than one year	14	**(100,000)**	(100,000)
Net assets		**1,994,425**	2,023,412
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted funds			
General fund		**1,994,425**	2,023,412
Total charity funds		**1,994,425**	2,023,412

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 20 October 2025 and signed on its behalf by

Fr. Gerald Wilson OAR
(Trustee)

The Order of Augustinian Recollects Charitable Trust

Notes forming part of the financial statements

Year Ended 31 December 2024

1. Accounting Policies

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

a. Basis of preparation

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

The financial statements 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 Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has been withdrawn.

The Order of Augustinian Recollects Charitable Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Having considered all relevant factors the trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity’s ability to continue as a going concern.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the accounting policy note.

Separate accounts are maintained for the pastoral and other activities carried out at the following locations :-

18 Cheniston Gardens
St Austin’s Priory
St Anne, Vauxhall
St Nicholas Province

The financial statements include the transactions, assets and liabilities of these accounts.

b. Accumulated Funds

The accumulated funds, which are unrestricted, represent the following:-

- **General Fund**

  The aggregate of net incoming resources and recognised gains since the trust was founded.

c. Fixed Assets

The charity has opted to treat previous revaluations of property as deemed cost on transition to FRS102.

Tangible fixed assets are recorded at cost. Impairment reviews are performed where there is an indication that an impairment has occurred. Fixed assets costing less than £500 are not capitalised.

Investments are shown at market value. Unrealised gains and losses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Heritage assets are not capitalised because reliable cost information is not available and conventional valuation approaches lack sufficient reliability.

d. Depreciation

Assets are depreciated over their estimated useful lives as follows:-

Freehold property excluding land	2% straight line
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	15% reducing balance

e. Creditors (greater than one year)

The interest free loan from the Mother House in Spain is considered to be a public benefit entity concessionary loan and as such it is recognised as due greater than one year (in line with the substance of the arrangement) and no discounting is applied.

The loan will be repaid when funds become available to do so.

f. Income

Income is recognised on a receivable basis. Income from bequests and legacies is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received.

g. Expenditure

Expenditure is recorded on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category:

- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in order to meet its charitable activities.
- Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity.

h. Value Added Tax

The trust is not registered for Value Added Tax (VAT). Expenditure in these financial statements therefore includes VAT paid where appropriate.

i. Trustee Benefits

Part of the Charity's purposes is to provide for the essential needs of all members of the Order who, by taking vows of poverty, have renounced all personal rights to income and capital. The living costs of the Trustees are therefore borne by the charity in the same way as those of other priests and they receive no benefit by virtue of their position as Trustees.

j. Administration

For the purpose of these accounts, no value has been placed on the administration and other services provided by members of the Order.
The purpose of the trust is to perform charitable works connected with the advancement of the religious and other work carried out by the Order of Recollects of St. Augustine.

2. Status of Trust

The Order, which has existed since 1588, is generally known as The Order of Augustinian Recollects. In 2002 the Trustees obtained a Charity Commission Scheme recording a change of name of the charity from "Order of Augustinian Recollects" to "The Order of Augustinian Recollects Charitable Trust". The position of the trust was clarified by a Trust Deed dated 21 August 1964.

The Order is devoted to the maintenance and advancement of the Roman Catholic Church by preaching, teaching and other means and has amongst its principal objects the taking care of missions among the faithful.

The trust is a Registered Charity, registration number 237522.

The registered office details can be located in the reference and administrative section of the trustees' annual report.

3. Donations and legacies

	Restricted Fund £	General Fund £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Donations	-	81,966	**81,966**	64,754
Legacies	-	-	**-**	-
	-	81,966	**81,966**	64,754

4. Incoming resources from activities in furtherance of the charity's objects

	Restricted Fund £	General Fund £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Parish income	-	600	**600**	2,760
Stipends	-	6,548	**6,548**	7,408
Stole Fees	-	800	**800**	725
Chaplaincies	-	5,125	**5,125**	4,250
	-	13,073	**13,073**	15,143

5. Investment income

	Restricted Fund £	General Fund £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Bank interest	-	3,773	**3,773**	360
Dividends and interest on listed investments	-	37,550	**37,550**	38,418
	-	41,323	**41,323**	38,778

6. Costs of prayer, chaplaincy and pastoral work

	Restricted Fund	General Fund	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
Salaries	-	15,055	**15,055**	18,631
Fathers' allowances	-	2,019	**2,019**	6,100
Office Costs	-	2,685	**2,685**	3,895
Food	-	17,958	**17,958**	23,155
Chapel and books	-	1,959	**1,959**	2,662
Travel	-	7,903	**7,903**	7,057
Motor	-	4,211	**4,211**	5,963
Household	-	3,854	**3,854**	2,404
Rates	-	1,796	**1,796**	1,416
Energy	-	3,887	**3,887**	3,531
Repairs and maintenance	-	24,949	**24,949**	7,920
Insurance	-	17,375	**17,375**	-
Donations	-	1,633	**1,633**	7,867
Sundries	-	14,939	**14,939**	7,425
Depreciation	-	34,173	**34,173**	31,322
Bank charges	-	-	**-**	210
Other	-	31,941	**31,941**	9,467
Governance Costs (See Note 7)	-	5,849	**5,849**	1,610
Total expenditure	-	192,186	**192,186**	140,635

No trustee was paid expenses in the year (2023: £nil). The average number of administrative staff during the year was 3 (2023: 3). No employee earned more than £60,000 p.a.

The trustees consider that the Board of Trustees comprise the key management personnel.
Part of the charity's purposes is to provide for the essential needs of all members of the Order who, by taking vows of poverty, have renounced all personal rights to income and capital. The living costs of the Trustees are therefore borne by the charity in the same way as those of other priests and they receive no benefit by virtue of their position as trustees.

7. Governance costs

	Restricted Fund	General Fund	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
Accountancy services (incl. VAT)	-	3,120	**3,120**	1,610
Independent examiner's fee (incl.VAT)	-	-	**-**	-
Legal and professional fees	-	2,729	**2,729**	-
Total expenditure	-	5,849	**5,849**	1,610

8. Tangible Fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Motor vehicles £	Fixtures and equipment £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 January 2024	1,471,000	70,109	65,934	1,607,043
Additions	-	13,000	-	13,000
At 31 December 2024	**1,471,000**	**83,109**	**65,934**	**1,620,043**
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2024	695,480	66,666	61,682	823,828
Charge for year	29,420	4,112	641	34,173
At 31 December 2024	**724,900**	**70,778**	**62,323**	**858,001**
Net book amounts				
At 31 December 2024	**746,100**	**12,331**	**3,611**	**762,042**
At 31 December 2023	**775,520**	**3,443**	**4,252**	**783,215**

The deemed cost of freehold properties comprises:

	£
18 Cheniston Gardens	850,000
St. Anthony's Church & former Presbytery and Car park Mill Street, Ottery St Mary, Devon	225,000
St. Austin's Priory and Church, Cadleigh, Ivybridge, Devon	356,000
Improvements at 18 Cheniston Gardens -2008	40,000
	1,471,000

18 Cheniston Gardens was valued on 28 May 1998 by Alexander Reece Thompson, Chartered Surveyors, at open market value. The St Anthony's Church and St Austin's Priory properties were valued by Drew Pearce Chartered Surveyors on 31 December 1997 based on existing use purposes. The charity has opted to treat these revaluations of property as deemed cost on transition to FRS102.

The Charity holds additional freehold property comprising churches and similar religious buildings. It is the opinion of the Trustees that all such properties can accurately be described as heritage assets and as such no value is attached to them in the accounts, as described in note 1c.

9. Investments

	Market Value 1 Jan 2024	Additions	Disposals	Movement in year	Market Value 31 Dec 2024
Quoted Investments	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
M & G Charifund Income units	499,392	-	-	13,019	**512,411**
M & G Charibond Income shares	169,195	-	(70,000)	(4,982)	**94,213**
	668,587	-	(70,000)	8,037	**606,624**
Other Investments					
National Savings	145,387				**145,387**
Lloyds High Interest Account	71,193				**32,044**
	216,580				**177,431**
Total	885,167				**784,055**

Investments – prior year comparative

	Market Value 1 Jan 2023	Additions	Disposals	Movement in year	Market Value 31 Dec 2023
Quoted Investments	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
M & G Charifund Income units	511,408	-	-	(12,016)	**499,392**
M & G Charibond Income shares	163,855	-	-	5,340	**169,195**
	675,263	-	-	(6,676)	**668,587**
Other Investments					
National Savings	145,386				**145,387**
Lloyds High Interest Account	20,644				**71,193**
	166,030				**216,580**
Total	841,293				**885,167**

9. Investments (continued)

Investments are included in the Balance Sheet at their market value at the end of the financial period. Realised and unrealised gains and losses are credited or debited, to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they arise.

The above investments are all UK investments.

10. Debtors: Falling Due Within One Year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Prepayments	**21,353**	**-**
	21,353	-

11. Debtors: Falling Due After More Than One Year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Loan to Order of Augustinian Recollects - St Rita's Centre charity	**461,843**	430,718
Loan to Order of Augustinian Recollects – Ottery Parish	**50,005**	**-**
	511,848	430,718

During the year, the interest free loan to the Order of Augustinian Recollects St Rita's Centre (a connected charity) increased by £31,125 to £461,843. Additionally, during the year a new interest free loan to the Order of Augustinian Recollects Ottery Parish (a connected charity) was issued for £50,005. These will be repaid as soon as funds are available to do so.

12. Cash at Bank and in Hand

	2024	2023
	£	£
Current accounts	**18,442**	27,282

13. Creditors: Falling Due Within One Year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals	**3,315**	2,970
	3,315	2,970

14. Creditors: Falling Due After More Than One Year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Building loan	**100,000**	100,000

An original loan of £350,000 was accepted from the Mother House in Spain during 2001. £250,000 has been repaid. The balance of £100,000 is expected to be repaid as soon as funds are available. No interest is payable on this loan.

Under FRS 102 this is considered to be a public benefit concessionary loan and is therefore recognised as greater than one year without any discounting applied.

15. Related Party Transactions

The Order of Augustinian Recollects Charitable Trust, the Order of Augustinian Recollects St Rita's Centre and the Order of Augustinian Recollects Ottery Parish are subject to common control.

At 31 December 2024, loans outstanding to the Order of Augustinian Recollects were £461,843 for St Rita's Centre (2023: £430,718) and £50,005 for Ottery Parish (2023: £Nil). These will be repaid as soon as the sister charities have the funds to do so.