



THE DOMINICAN FRIARS

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



The English Province of the Order of Preachers.
Registered charity 231192 (England and Wales) and SC039062 (Scotland)



THE DOMINICAN FRIARS

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

FOR THE PERIOD 1ST OCT 2024 – 30TH SEPT 2025

THE DOMINICAN FRIARS IN BRITAIN



THE DOMINICAN FRIARS (est. 1216) are an international Catholic religious order with a specialisation in preaching, teaching and pastoral work. Officially titled the 'Order of Preachers', they are known as 'Dominicans' after their founder, St Dominic.

THE 'PROVINCE OF ENGLAND'

The friars first established themselves in Britain in 1221, as the 'Province of England'. The Province (one of around 40) endures to this day. It is legally constituted as a single charity 'The English Province of the Order of Preachers', with responsibility for the friars' work in England, Wales and Scotland.

PRIORIES

The Province is made up of a number of priories, which are local communities of friars with a large degree of self-government. Currently these are in Oxford, London, Cambridge, Leicester, and Edinburgh. The Dominican houses in Grenada and Jamaica in the West Indies are also canonically dependent on this Province, and supported by grants, though not part of this charity.

OBJECT OF THE CHARITY

The Province Trust Deed lists ten charitable purposes, which for the purpose of registration as a Charity are summarised as 'the promotion of education and the Roman Catholic religion and the establishment and maintenance of schools, churches and priories for these purposes and the upkeep of members of the Order of Preachers'.

OUR MISSION: THE AIMS OF THE CHARITY

The ultimate aim and purpose of the Catholic Church and therefore of the Order of Preachers is 'the salvation of souls' (cf. *CIC* 1752; *LCO* 1 §2). In furtherance of this goal, the Order of Preachers and the English Province aim to provide effective preaching, teaching and pastoral care flowing from fraternal religious communities of prayer and study. Through the work of the friars we seek to awaken and deepen faith, hope and charity, to the benefit of those to whom we minister, to their families and to the wider community.

More detailed information can be found on pp. 37ff.

KEY FACTS at 30/09/2025

Houses: 4 in England,
1 in Scotland
(+ 2 canonically associated in Caribbean)

Total English-Province Friars: 82

- 61 in UK
- 8 in Caribbean
- 5 assign. outside the Province
- 3 working overseas
- 5 on leave

Bishops: 1

Cardinals: 1

Priests: 66

(of which 8 in Caribbean)

Cooperator Brothers: 2

Novices / Student Brothers: 13
(+5 assigned from other provs.)

www.english.op.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIOR PROVINCIAL

The past year has given many reasons for gratitude and encouragement.

In London, collaboration with Radio Maria has deepened and expanded, strengthening the Rosary Shrine's role as a centre of prayer, evangelisation, and outreach. In Leicester, Holy Cross has welcomed record congregations, especially young adults and Catholics from overseas, making the parish vibrant and diverse. Our Edinburgh community's annual conference on hope was a particular success and reflected the community's growing contribution to the Church in Scotland.

The intellectual apostolate continues to flourish, with the work of Blackfriars Hall and Studium in Oxford remaining central to our mission of preaching through teaching and scholarship. The Province benefited from securing major grants for their work.



The Formation Fund Appeal exceeded expectations, reflecting the generosity and confidence of supporters in response to the hope-filled growth in vocations, a heartening sign of the continuing attraction of the Dominican vocation for young men.

This year also brought special joy in the creation of Timothy Radcliffe OP as Cardinal and his participation in the conclave that elected Pope Leo XIV.

The achievements described in this report reflect the dedication of the friars, the generosity of benefactors and volunteers, and above all the faithfulness of God. I commend this report to you with gratitude for your continued support and prayers.

In Christ and St Dominic,

Very Rev Nicholas Paul Crowe OP, Prior Provincial.

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OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIES FOR THE YEAR 2024–25

(A) RECRUITMENT & TRAINING

To train priests and religious for pastoral and educational ministry, and to maintain the success of the full-time Director and Promoter of Vocations in drawing larger numbers of young men to enter the Province.

- Through pastoral engagement and work with young people, promote the Dominican vocation as a worthy and fulfilling life in the service of God and his people;
- Through prudent investment and fundraising, ensure sufficient funds are raised for initial and ongoing formation;
- Plan for the future needs of the Province's centre of studies ('Studium') by identifying and training future teachers;
- Strengthen the newly-established Commission for Permanent Formation, providing ongoing opportunities for apostolic effectiveness and mission-driven formation;
- Continue to support the flourishing of the Pre-Noviciate in Jamaica and build upon the recent successes in vocations.

(B) MINISTRY

To sustain and develop effective, responsive ministry in the priories and parishes of the Province.

- Secure celebration of the liturgy and the sacraments in a way that responds to the pastoral needs of each place;
- Encourage all communities to actively engage in student and youth outreach, fostering vocations and missionary zeal;
- Explore new opportunities arising from online ministry, responding creatively to the needs of the faithful.

(C) BLACKFRIARS HALL

To maintain and strengthen Blackfriars Hall's academic and research activities, ensuring its continued contribution to the intellectual apostolate.

- Further develop the research projects of the Las Casas and Aquinas Institutes, and explore the possibility of establishing a centre for Theology and the Arts;
- Foster stronger links with the wider University and other private halls, positioning Blackfriars as a key centre for Catholic scholarship in Oxford;
- Sustain the number of students, especially in theology and philosophy, as permitted by the University; continue to encourage visiting research scholars;
- Develop the ground floor of the Blackfriars Annexe to create a dining and events space combined with an income-generating public cafeteria;
- Secure funding for an academic post in Theology joint with Oxford University's Faculty of Theology and Religion.

OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIES FOR THE YEAR 2024–25

(D) BLACKFRIARS STUDIUM

To continue to strengthen the Province's centre of studies in Oxford.

- Expand collaborations with other religious congregations to widen the pool of prospective students and lecturers;
- Identify and train future Dominican lectors;
- Continue fundraising to provide sustainable support for lecturers, ensuring highest quality of theological education;
- Explore the possibility of wider public engagement and additional revenue streams via paid short courses.

(E) BUILDINGS

To maintain the buildings of the Province so that they are fitting places for the religious life, including for older and sick members of the Order, and for the pastoral and educational apostolate.

- Ensure that regular surveys of the buildings are conducted;
- Perform the maintenance works identified by surveys, as prioritised;
- Identify, where possible, external sources of funding for maintaining buildings;
- Carry out plans for renovation of insulation and heating for the churches, chapels and priories of the Province.

(F) COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

To enhance the public profile of the Province by improving communication strategies.

- Develop digital and print materials that effectively convey the Dominican mission and its relevance to contemporary society;
 - Strengthen relationships with benefactors, alumni, and the wider Catholic community through regular updates, events, and publications.
-

Of these objectives (a), (b), (e), and (f) applied to Scotland as well as to England and Wales; (c) and (d) were specific to England and Wales, although not to the exclusion of participation by friars assigned to Scottish priories.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW: KEY FACTS

NEW MEDIEVAL THEOLOGY POST AT BLACKFRIARS [p.13]



CAMBRIDGE INCREASES BED CAPACITY FOR NOVICES [p.21]



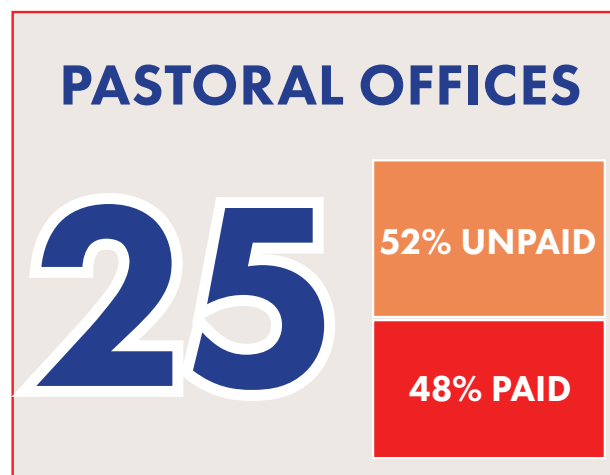
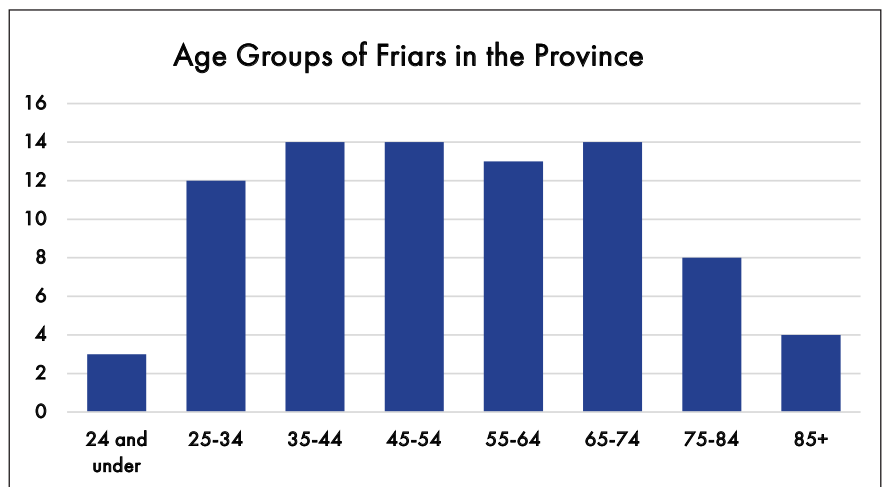
CONTINUING PARISH GROWTH IN LEICESTER [p.22]



YOUTH WORK & VOCATIONS IN THE CARIBBEAN [p.24]



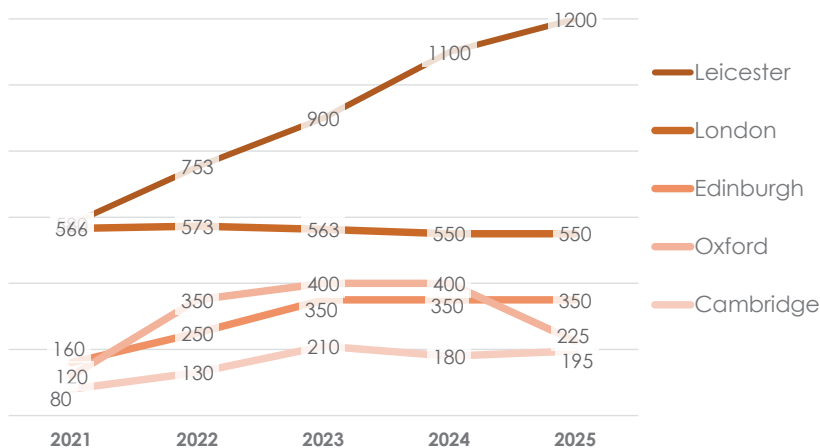
Snapshot at 30 Sept 2025, adapted from the Province's *Catalogus*. Excludes: those serving as bishops (1); those of other provinces resident in the UK (4).



Note: this excludes those currently on leave. Pastoral offices include parish priests, assistant priests, chaplains etc. (30 in previous year). Some are part-time: the count is 11.5 (15) if considered as 'full-time equivalents'. Some individuals hold more than one office. Paid work means the Charity receives income as a result of this work (45% paid in previous year).

THE YEAR IN REVIEW: PASTORAL FIGURES

ESTIMATED TYPICAL SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE AT DOMINICAN PRIORIES IN THE UK*



*Sunday Mass attendance figures are included merely to provide a rough idea of the scale of pastoral work in each priory. These exclude the many other forms of pastoral ministry undertaken (*see below*) and the many and varied other ministries that happen within this Province (*see the reports in pp.9–33*). They are of course susceptible to the vagaries of local populations and of methods of measurement.

The growth following 2020 is largely a return to pre-Covid Mass attendance levels, with the exception of Leicester where substantial increases have been driven by overseas immigration into the local area.

SACRAMENTAL STATISTICS

Baptisms	Infants: 63 (2024: 62) Adults/older children: 15 (9) TOTAL: 78 (71)
Receptions of Baptised Christians into the Catholic Church	23 (17)
Confirmations	77 (39)
First Communions	Children: 39 (32) Adults: 17 (7) TOTAL: 56 (39)
Public Masses each week	Sundays: 22 (22) Weekdays: 51 (51) TOTAL: 73 (73)
Average Mass attendance	Sundays: 2,520 (2,580) Weekdays: 298 (331)
Sacrament of Penance (Confession)	15 hours scheduled per week (16) Average of 104 other individual confessions per week (72)
Marriages	28 (24)
Funerals	61 (52)
Hours of Pastoral Contact	154 (155)

The age-profile of the Province is such that at present there are fewer friars available to engage in full-time pastoral work, but more engaged in study and other forms of preparation for such work. Moreover, it is impossible to reduce the effectiveness of pastoral ministry to statistics; but the Charity Trustees consider that these figures indicate that the Province is continuing to provide in its parishes, priories and other apostolates the sacramental and pastoral resources that are a necessary prerequisite for effective and responsive ministry. A very considerable number of people benefit from this activity of the Charity.

Note: Statistics presented on this page exclude figures provided by those currently on leave or who minister outside the UK.

It is to be noted that 5 friars (5) who are not resident in priories carry out pastoral work in various other parishes and chaplaincies in England and Scotland.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The Charity Trustees view the following as particular objectives for the year to September 2026:

(A) RECRUITMENT & TRAINING

To continue training priests and religious for pastoral and educational ministry, ensuring the highest standard of formation.

Maintain the success of the full-time Director and Promoter of Vocations in attracting young men of strong calibre to enter the Province. Strengthen the newly-established Commission for Permanent Formation, providing ongoing opportunities for apostolic effectiveness and mission-driven formation. Continue to support the flourishing of the Pre-Noviciate in Jamaica and build upon the recent successes in vocations. Ensure sufficient funds are raised for initial and ongoing formation.

(B) MINISTRY

To sustain and develop effective, responsive ministry in the priories and parishes of the Province. Relaunch student and young-adult ministry Province-wide as 'Dominican Young Adults', encouraging all communities to actively engage in student and youth outreach, fostering vocations and missionary zeal. Undertake a thorough safeguarding audit, to establish our Province as an exemplar of best practice.

(C) BLACKFRIARS HALL

To maintain and strengthen Blackfriars Hall's academic and research activities, ensuring its continued contribution to the intellectual apostolate. Further develop the research centres and projects associated with Blackfriars, including establishing a new centre for Theology and the Arts, and developing a project on Scripture and Historical Theology. Foster stronger links with the wider University and

other private halls, positioning Blackfriars as a key centre for Catholic scholarship in Oxford. Establish an academic post in Theology joint with Oxford University Theology Faculty.

(D) BLACKFRIARS STUDIUM

To continue to strengthen the Province's centre of studies in Oxford. Expand collaborations with other religious congregations to widen the pool of prospective students and lecturers, and to broaden the Studium's offering for lay formation. Establish paid short courses to deliver wider public engagement and additional revenue streams. Identify and train future Dominican lecturers. Continue fundraising to provide sustainable financial support for lecturers, ensuring the highest quality of theological education.

(E) BUILDINGS

To maintain and improve the Province's buildings so that they remain suitable for the religious life, including accommodations for older and sick members. Ensure that properties serve both the pastoral and educational apostolate effectively. Develop long-term maintenance and sustainability plans. Complete the Café / Student Dining project for Blackfriars, Oxford.

(F) COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

To enhance the public profile of the Province by improving external communications. Appoint consultants to further expand and enhance the Province's video output and social media engagement.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES



INTRODUCTION

The friars have continued their pastoral work in the parishes and chaplaincies both attached to the priories of the Province and elsewhere; and their educational apostolate which is undertaken alongside the pastoral work, and in a special way within Blackfriars, Oxford. As far as can be determined, in the course of the present reporting period, friars and communities of the Province were involved in the concrete activities listed on the following pages. These reports are grouped by geographical location and followed by a Province-wide round-up of the wide range of educational activities undertaken.

Above: The friars gathered in Holy Cross Priory, Leicester, for a Province Day.

BLACKFRIARS: PRIORY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, OXFORD



Aerial Photo of Blackfriars by Con McHugh.

Oxford priory (known as 'Blackfriars') has as its principal work the formation of student Dominicans and other religious in our Studium (*see p.11*). Several friars are also engaged in teaching, research and administration in Blackfriars Hall (*p.12*).

In addition, the friars also undertake pastoral work, through the liturgy and preaching in their own church; with a flourishing young adult group; and in co-operation with local parishes, the Defence Academy at Shrivenham and the Catholic Chaplaincy to Oxford University. The student friars speak at, and organise, Catholic youth events around the country.

Blackfriars offers the most central open Catholic church in Oxford, with sung Divine Office and daily Mass. The priory continues to offer its popular livestream of Masses, with grateful followers including the housebound and those from all around the world who appreciate our liturgy and preaching.

Fr John Bernard Church was ordained to the priesthood in July 2024.

Prior: Dominic White OP

22 resident friars, including

- 12 full-time students, of which
- 5 friars of other Provinces assigned for reasons of studies.

www.blackfriars.org.uk

THE STUDIUM GENERALE AT BLACKFRIARS

Blackfriars Studium is a unique centre for ministerial training, being the only specialist centre in Britain providing intellectual formation for the next generation of members of religious orders.

The Studium offers a first cycle of studies leading to an STB (Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology) accredited by the **Angelicum** (Pontifical University of St Thomas, Rome).

The Studium shares premises, resources, and some staff with Blackfriars Hall (see p.12) but is institutionally separate.

For the academic year 2024/25 22 students were registered for the Studium. The Studium had 11 Dominican students enrolled in the Studium, including friars from the Northern Italian Province, Southern Dominican Province, and the East Coast American Province. The Studium also had in the student body: Benedictines, Carmelites (Calced and Discalced), and Oratorians. The teaching is largely provided by Dominican friars and sisters as well as other religious and lay people.

14 Dominican friars taught on the Studium's STB programme. Thanks to the generous support of benefactors, the Studium also employs four lay teachers: three Studium lecturers (one in Philosophy and two in Theology) and a senior postholder joint with Campion Hall, the Jesuit permanent private hall



of the University of Oxford. The title of this latter post is: 'Frederick Copleston Lecturer and Senior Research Fellow in the Catholic Tradition' – the senior research fellowship status is with Campion Hall and the lectureship status with the Studium. These lay teachers are:

Dr Jan Bentz (Philosophy),
Dr Victoria De Haan (Theology),
Dr Joshua Madden (Theology), and
Dr Daniel De Haan (Copleston post).

Regent: John O'Connor OP
Vice-Regent: Bruno Clifton OP

www.blackfriars.org.uk



BLACKFRIARS HALL, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Blackfriars Hall is one of the Catholic Permanent Private Halls (PPHs) in **Oxford University**. It welcomes postgraduate students in a range of humanities subjects, and hosts a small number of visiting students and academics. It shares facilities, staff and resources with **Blackfriars Studium** (*see p.11*) but is institutionally separate.

The Hall specialises in Catholic theology and philosophy in the Thomistic tradition. Central to the mission of Blackfriars Hall, and making for a great enrichment of the Studium also, are its research centres: the **Aquinas Institute** and the **Las Casas Institute for Social Justice** (*see following pages*) were joined this year by a new **Centre for Theology and the Arts**, under the direction of Fr Dominic White OP (*pictured below with the Fra Angelico recently purchased by our neighbour, the Ashmolean Museum*).

Blackfriars Hall allows friars a place in one of the great universities of the world. As part of the collegiate University of Oxford, Blackfriars follows university regulations and standards.

In the academic year 2024/25, the Hall had 48.5 FTE matriculated University of Oxford students and visiting students. The matriculated students are predominantly Doctoral or Masters students (Theology, Philosophy, Social Sciences, Literature, History), or students studying for secondary-school teacher qualifications.



Scholarship provision plays a significant role in the University of Oxford in attracting students of the highest calibre. Blackfriars Hall was delighted to have in place for the academic year 2025/26 the award The Fr John Whooley Scholarship for Eastern Catholic Studies to support an MPhil candidate in Eastern Christian Studies at Blackfriars.



Several Blackfriars Hall students won academic prizes: Zachary Oliver won the Orthodox Christian Studies NEH Dissertation Completion Fellowship, which was awarded by the Orthodox Christian Studies Centre at Fordham University, New York; and University of Oxford prizes: Alexander Christensen won the Gaisford Graduate Dissertation Prize 2024 for his thesis in Classics; and Eva Kristinova won the Best Dissertation Prize 2024 for the MSc in Global Governance and Diplomacy.

Blackfriars continued to fundraise for the project to create a new public café / student dining venue for Blackfriars. Plans were finalised, and contractors will be working on-site in 2026.

Regent: John O'Connor OP
Vice-Regent: Bruno Clifton OP

www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk

BLACKFRIARS HALL: THE AQUINAS INSTITUTE

The Aquinas Institute promotes research into the philosophy and theology of St Thomas Aquinas and its contemporary value. It organises an annual programme of research seminars, colloquia, and public lectures. As well as fostering a community of scholarship in Oxford, the Institute welcomes visiting scholars from across the world.

In November 2024 the Aquinas Institute co-hosted with the Angelicum Thomistic Institute, the Thomistic Evolution Conference, which included an *Author Meets Critics* session organised around Fr Mariusz Tabaczek OP's recent monograph *Theistic Evolution* (Cambridge University Press, 2023) including Fr Thomas Davenport, Timothy Pawl, Travis Dumsday, Daniel De Haan, Christopher Austin, Daniel Kuebler, and Andrew Davison. On 28 January (St Thomas Aquinas) 2025, Fr Thomas Joseph

White OP, Rector Magnificus of the Angelicum, delivered the Annual Aquinas Lecture, 'Aquinas on the Atonement'.

In May 2025, the Institute hosted at Blackfriars and Champion Hall, Oxford, the Aquinas and the 'Arabs' International Working Group's Annual Conference. Among the speakers were: Richard Taylor, David Twetten, Therese-Anne Druart, R.E. Houser, Yehuda Halper, Steven Harvey, Katja Krause, Luis López-Farjeat, Marta Borgo, Daniel De Haan, John Peck SJ, Patrick Zoll SJ, Randall B. Smith, and Nader El Bizri.

In June 2025 the Institute co-sponsored with the Thomistic Institute a conference on 'The Metaphysics of the Real Distinction' hosted by Blackfriars and Champion Hall. Among the speakers were: Joshua Hochschild, Daniel De Haan, Turner Nevitt, Fr Philip-Neri Reese OP,

Michael Gorman, Dominic LaMantia, Brian Carl, Gaven Kerr, Thomas Osborne, Domenic D'Ettore, and Francesco Banfi.

There were numerous other events such as: a discussion with the author of the book *Ethics, Politics, and Natural Law: Principles for Human Flourishing* by Prof. Melissa Moschella (University of Notre Dame) with responses from Dr Daniel De Haan and Clemente Recabarren; and a lecture at Blackfriars given by Dr Philip John Paul Gonzales (St Mary's Seminary & University, Baltimore) on 'Rivaling Kingdoms of Desire in Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*'.

Acting Director: Dr Daniel de Haan.

www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk/aquinas

NEW JOINT OXFORD UNIVERSITY-BLACKFRIARS HALL ACADEMIC POST

A major development for Blackfriars Hall is a new 5-year post joint with the Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford: Senior Research Fellow and Departmental Lecturer in Medieval and Scholastic Theology. The postholder will serve as Senior Research Fellow and Director of the Aquinas Institute, at Blackfriars, and a Departmental Lecturer at the Faculty. The

postholder will deliver undergraduate and graduate teaching, supervise postgraduate research, exercise academic leadership, and pursue an active programme of original scholarship. Through their work at Blackfriars, they will play a significant role in promoting Medieval and Scholastic Theology, including the thought of Aquinas and the theological tradition associated with

him, within Oxford and internationally, supporting promising young scholars, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and contributing to the wider public and ecclesial engagement of theological scholarship. We are deeply grateful to the **McDonald Agape Foundation** for generously funding the post and an additional annual grant to support Aquinas Institute events.

BLACKFRIARS HALL: LAS CASAS INSTITUTE



The Las Casas Institute for Social Justice has continued to grow as a vibrant centre of research, teaching and discussion around the application of Catholic Social Teaching to questions of justice in the world today.

This year also saw a change in leadership at Las Casas as Rev Dr Richard Finn stepped down in June 2025 after 8 successful years and handed over to Dr Hugo Slim as Director, with Dr Maria Power as Deputy Director.

PUBLICATIONS

The year saw several important publications and significant communications work flowing from research projects developed over the last two years.

Maria Power's study on religious communities and social justice produced a pioneering account of

Catholic activism in *Lay Catholic Societies in Twentieth-Century Britain* co-edited with Jonathan Bush (see facing page). Dr Power's new focus on right-wing Christianity was launched with the publication of *The Church, The Far Right and the Claim to Christianity* co-edited with Helen Paynter, which received significant media attention.

Hugo Slim's research funded by Caritas and Red Cross on humanitarianism in the climate crisis saw the publication of an innovative new book *Humanitarianism 2.0 – New Ethics for the Climate Emergency* which he promoted internationally in Europe, the US, China and East Africa in lectures and roundtables attended by over 3,000 humanitarian workers and diplomats, and extensively on social media. Dr Slim was also invited to support the climate and nature diplomacy of the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and

Development Office in senior meetings in Ethiopia and Djibouti. The Economics as a Moral Science project held a one-day conference to launch and discuss a new book from the project *Homo Curator – Towards the Ethics of Consumption* edited by Prof. Peter Róna and by Dr Agnieszka Wincewicz-Price.

EDUCATION

Teaching work has continued at Las Casas. **The Oxford Consortium for Human Rights**, with its Oxford base at Las Casas, led two one-week conferences for 100 US students on human rights in War and Climate Emergency, and Human Rights and New Technology. Work on digital pedagogy came to fruition in the publication of a series of six online videos aimed at young Catholics at university and in Sixth Forms: *Catholic Social Teaching, Key Ideas and Examples through*

BLACKFRIARS HALL: LAS CASAS INSTITUTE

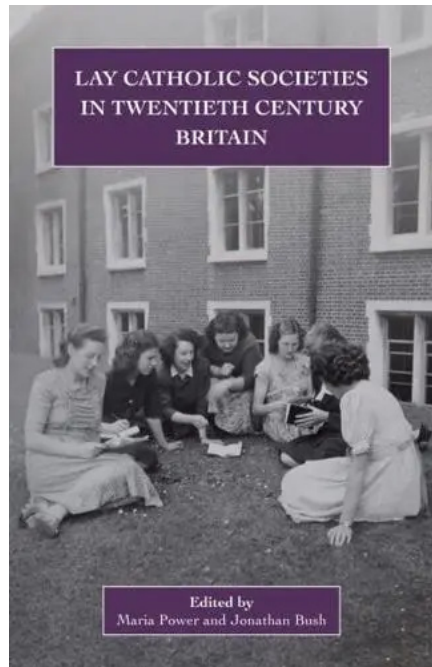
a Dominican Lens produced by Dr Roderick Howlett with Fr Richard Finn and Dr Maria Power.

A new project is underway on Humanitarian Diplomacy with the British Red Cross, led by Hugo Slim. This is supporting national youth training forums on diplomacy and humanitarian values with the British Red Cross, the Ukrainian Red Cross, and the International Academy of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in China in London, Kyiv and Suzhou.

FUTURE PLANS

In 2025–26, Las Casas will focus on creating three new research streams and building a team of new-generation researchers. Four new post-doctoral researchers, Dr Rebekah Wallace, Dr Jack Norman, Dr John Angus Macaulay and Dr Asli Salihoglu, are already working part-time with Las Casas on two new streams.

New research on Nature as Neighbour led by Hugo Slim, Rebekah Wallace and John Angus Macaulay is one area flowing from further reflection on Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'*. This includes research and policymaking on Nature as Diplomat which is exploring the better representation of nature in twenty-first century diplomacy with the Graduate Institute in Geneva and Dominicans at the United Nations (UNOP). Hugo Slim and Asli Salihoglu are also leading a research sprint on the Weaponisation of



Nature in a university-wide research programme with ecologists at the Oxford Martin School on Environment and National Security.

Another new research stream, reflecting on the Encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, is Christianity and Democratic Resilience led by Maria Power and Jack Norman. This will combine existing Las Casas research (on parish-led peacebuilding, women religious and divisive ideologies of the twentieth century) with new research on hard-right politics and Christianity to explore the role of Christian communities in peacebuilding and polarisation in today's era of radical conservatism and rising authoritarianism.

New research will also be launched into War and Peace in a new partnership with the new **Institute for Theology and Peace** in

Hamburg. Sadly, what Pope Leo has described as 'a new zeal for war' around the world requires Blackfriars to prioritise this area again.

These research streams will be accompanied by two new regular seminar series at Las Casas on Nature as Neighbour and Thinking Social Justice.

Finally, the Las Casas teaching programme on human rights is also planning to expand into conferences for secondary-school students after a four-day pilot conference combining three schools of British, US and Afghan students in March 2026.

Director: Richard Finn OP / Hugo Slim

www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk/lascasas

YouTube: 'Las Casas Institute'

ST ALBERT'S PARISH & CHAPLAINCY, EDINBURGH



The House of St Albert the Great serves a thriving Parish and vibrant Catholic Chaplaincy to the **University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh Napier University, and Queen Margaret University.**

CHAPLAINCY LIFE

The Catholic Chaplaincy serves the pastoral and spiritual needs of many of Edinburgh's university students and staff. Staff bring their families and still attend after retirement, so the congregation includes people of every age. Baptisms, weddings and funerals feature regularly, as well as instruction in the faith for both adults and children.

EVENTS, TALKS AND GROUPS

The Master of the Order came to visit in early October (*see photo on facing page*) and attended a showing of the Film 'Becoming Dominic'. The Holy Ground talks on Art and Religion continued as a regular feature

of weekday evenings, but this year they were held in collaboration with a local Episcopalian Parish. There were also talks on Justice and Peace. In Lent there were classes in NT Greek, and after Easter there was a series of four evenings exploring the topic of evangelisation. A prayer group and also a book group continued to meet on a monthly basis. In February, members of our congregation attended a Shabbat dinner at the nearby Hebrew Congregation. In June, we invited them back for a simple lunch. **The Albertus Institute** is not part of the Parish but is closely linked to it. It held a series of talks on Scottish energy and justice, and a day conference on the philosophy of love, as well as several 'coffee houses' on issues of public interest.

PUBLIC WORSHIP

Sunday morning prayer is followed by three Sunday Masses, with

attendance at more than 300.

The children's liturgy is thriving and the friars continue to be proactive in making our Sunday-morning Masses child-friendly. One of the joys of St Albert's is that we often have three and even sometimes four generations of the same family in attendance together at Sunday Mass.

During term there is a student Mass in the evening (over 100 students). Afterwards the Catholic Students' Union organises a social event.

ONLINE MINISTRY

On most weekdays more than 150 people attend evening Mass and Vespers online. Many tell us that they watch it because of the quality of the preaching, and the simplicity of the liturgy. The livestream scotland.op.org/live is also used for special events such as funerals and weddings. A weekly email newsletter is an important channel

ST ALBERT'S PARISH & CHAPLAINCY, EDINBURGH

of communication and goes to over 200 parishioners and supporters.

CATHOLIC STUDENTS' UNION

The **Catholic Students' Union**, an official University of Edinburgh student society, continues to flourish. Its membership is about 150 students; but other students attend Mass and participate in the life of the Chaplaincy in other ways. This year the committee organised a fortnightly Midweek Meal. Each Friday they had a Baked Potato Lunch, with a short input from a Chaplain on a theological topic. There was weekly *Lectio Divina* and a praise and worship prayer group. Weekly theology talks for students focused on discipleship. There was also a weekend away on retreat in February. Fr Thomas Mannion served as a Dominican liaison to the **Thomistic Institute** at the University of Edinburgh. The chapter organises public lectures and other activities which open the minds of young Catholics to Catholic thought in the tradition of St Thomas.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

In order that the Dominican charism might be better understood within Scotland, in 2023 the Dominican Community began an annual conference with contributions from friars, sisters and lay Dominicans. This year's conference was entitled 'Therefore I have Hope', and it sought to explore where we find hope in our tradition as well as where we can build hope in our lives



together and in our mission. Speakers covered hope in the writings of St Catherine of Siena and St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein) as well building hope in a range of contexts which included: climate change, prison ministry, a local community inclusion project, dementia, and in unfinished musical compositions. 100 people attended the conference from Edinburgh and all over the UK.

THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

Fr Dermot Morrin continued as Superior and Parish Priest. Fr Thomas Mannion and Fr Andrew Brookes worked alongside Fr Dermot Morrin as chaplains. Fr Fergus Kerr was resident until his death in November 2025. Fr Aelred Connelly was a prison chaplain for many years at HMP and Young Offenders' Institution at Polmont. He has retired but Fr Dermot Morrin continued this

significant work, combining his role as Chaplain and Superior with also being part of the chaplaincy team at Polmont. This means that we serve some of the most fortunate as well as some of the most unfortunate and vulnerable people currently in Scotland.

BENEFACTORS

The Lady Marian Gibson Trust continued to provide significant financial support to the parish. We are grateful to all our benefactors.

Superior: Fr Dermot Morrin

5 resident friars

www.scotland.op.org

ST DOMINIC'S PRIORY & ROSARY SHRINE, LONDON

St Dominic's Priory (the Rosary Shrine) is a dynamic centre of Catholic faith and culture. Ten resident friars care for a diverse parish in north-west London and run many events that attract people from across London, nationally and even internationally.

We are extremely proud of our beautiful church, an historic Grade II* listed building that is thought to be the largest Catholic parish church in London and is honoured as the diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary. It was the first church in the world to have separate side chapels dedicated to each of the Mysteries of the Rosary. As the only Rosary Shrine in the country, it joins an international network of Dominican

shrines dedicated to promoting Dominican prayer and the Rosary.

The brethren in London are engaged in a wide range of ministries serving the parish and Shrine and wider community. We work with charities and institutions to support the social and pastoral needs of the local community, as well as giving talks, retreat work and conferences nationally and some internationally, both in person and online. The Prior Provincial resides in the Priory.



CHAPLAINCIES & PASTORAL CARE

- 1 friar served the local Catholic primary school as Foundation Governor and taught classes and extra-curricular clubs;
- 1 friar was Lead Chaplain, UCL NHS Trust, also advising the Cardinal on healthcare chaplaincy, and two friars provided Catholic chaplaincy services at the Royal Free Hospital;
- 2 friars served as chaplains to two nearby care homes;
- 1 friar was chaplain to a community of Dominican Sisters;
- Friars also served as religious assistants to the London Lay Dominican fraternity, Teams of Our Lady, and other lay groups.

LITURGY AND DEVOTIONS

As a Shrine, the church offers regular access to the Sacraments, with scheduled daily Confession, Adoration and Masses morning and evening (the only church in the Camden deanery to offer evening Mass).

- Daily recitation of the Rosary on weekday evenings from 5pm and weekly Stational Rosary (Saturdays);
- Monthly 'First Saturday' devotions;
- Sunday Dominican Rite *Missa Cantata*, the only in the diocese, drawing a young and diverse crowd from across London;
- Mothers' Prayers group weekly;
- The Forty Hours devotion was held in November;

- The 'Day with Mary' was hosted;
- Fr Chris Alar MIC, an international speaker, gave a Divine Mercy talk to a packed church;
- The Radio Maria Worldwide Rosary was hosted, broadcast in 84 different countries;
- We participated in the international 'World Priest' Annual Rosary Relay in June;
- The friars regularly gave spiritual direction and counselling to a wide range of people;
- School visits, parish pilgrimages, family retreat days, and visits by Catholic tour groups and groups of religious happen in the course of the year;
- Occasional pilgrimages by national lay organisations and university chaplaincies.

A HOME FOR COMMUNITIES

- A popular new initiative from June 2025 was the monthly par-

ST DOMINIC'S PRIORY & ROSARY SHRINE, LONDON

- ish lunch, cooked by volunteers, drawing some 60–70 people;
- Other large parish events included the Christmas Fayre and the Summer Fayre;
- A Filipino choir sang at a monthly Mass, on feast days and during the *Simbang Gabi* novena of Masses before Christmas. Each month the Filipino community hosted a hot meal for the whole community in the parish hall;
- A thriving AA group met weekly in the parish hall;
- The **Latin Mass Society** had a training day for servers and a gathering of the Guild of St Clare;
- The Deo Gratias young adults' group met every fortnight, discussing faith and culture;
- With **Highgate Newtown Community Partners** (HNCP), we hosted a weekly hot lunch for older locals in the parish hall.

INTELLECTUAL APOSTOLATE

- Three friars taught regularly to seminarians and others (online and in person);
- Bible study group met weekly on Fridays;
- Several friars gave talks to University chaplaincies in the UK and abroad, and preached retreats in the USA;
- Talks were given to the parish community during Lent, including the Holy Week retreat;

- One friar supported the Thomistic Institute reading group meeting fortnightly;
- One friar was researching for a part-time doctorate through Blackfriars Hall, Oxford.

ART AND CULTURE

- The beauty of our church attracted visits by tourists and groups;
- BBC Radio 4's 'Sunday Worship' was broadcast from our church (7 Sept. 2025), with music by the Southwell Consort, focusing on Palestrina's 500th anniversary and the canonisations of St Pier Giorgio Frassati and St Carlo Acutis (estimated audience 1.8 million; *see photo, facing*);
- Our historic 1883 Willis organ was heard every Sunday and on major feast days, as well as in a series of organ recitals;
- The church was a venue for concerts and recitals of sacred music by choirs such as the Lyra Singers, Canticum Chamber Choir, The Purcell School Sixth Form Choir;
- A music workshop was led by a Polish Dominican, including a Rosary Vigil;



- The annual Open Garden Day (under the National Gardens Scheme) was popular with visitors who came from a distance.

ONLINE APOSTOLATE

Mass is broadcast daily on our YouTube channel. We also livestream organ recitals, processions and vigils. The friars continue to engage in faith formation and talks online.

RADIO MARIA

The principal studio of **Radio Maria**, England's only dedicated Catholic radio station, is located above our hall. The subprior, Fr Toby Lees OP, is Priest Director, speaking regularly on air and exercising overall editorial responsibility. Other friars frequently contribute to programmes, and Radio Maria hosts many events at St Dominic's.

DEVELOPING PARISH & SHRINE

We continue to develop the parish and shrine for longer-term growth. In 2024–25, improvements were made to the underfloor heating system, and a new AV entertainment system was installed in the parish hall. Future plans include new toilets for the church to accommodate large events and ambitious new features to improve accessibility to the church.

Prior: Matthew Jarvis OP

10 resident friars

www.rosaryshrine.co.uk

BLACKFRIARS: PRIORY OF ST MICHAEL, CAMBRIDGE



The Priory of St Michael

Archangel is the location of the Province's noviciate, where new friars spend their first year in the Order.

Members of the priory are also involved in writing, preaching, theological research and teaching. They normally provide pastoral care for a congregation of c.200 people, as well as assisting with the sacramental needs of the adjacent parishes.

The priory also promotes projects supporting educational provision in Ethiopia in co-operation with the **Jean Grove Trust** (reg. charity 1109593). Recently, a school in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia, completed the construction of a new playground thanks to the Jean Grove Trust.

In September 2025, two novices took simple vows for the English Province, and six new novices for the English Province and one for the

Irish Province were clothed. One member of the Cambridge priory, Fr Daniel Rowlands was ordained to the priesthood in July 2025.

The 2024 novice intake joined novices of other provinces in a pilgrimage to Caleruega from late May into June (*pictured, facing page*).

APOSTOLATES

The Priory offers a programme of theological education in the form of regular talks, advertised in the city of Cambridge and environs, as well as at the Cambridge University Catholic Chaplaincy, and there is also a *communio* circle.

We continue to broadcast daily Mass and Morning Prayer on **Radio Maria** which is based in Cambridge. Our Facebook group has over 590 members.

The 2025 Aquinas Lecture, 'How to Survive your own Death: a Thomistic Approach,' was given by

Dr Gaven Kerr on 28 January.

Fr Euan Marley continued his weekly broadcasts on Radio Maria, and regularly produced podcasts on <https://word.op.org/>.

Fr Bob Eccles continued his ministry of accompaniment both of local people and former students.

Fr Colin Carr continued his work of spiritual direction and accompaniment. Fr Colin also continued to serve as the religious assistant to the Cambridge fraternity of Lay Dominicans, and he is regularly involved with Radio Maria.

Fr Robert Verrill has continued to write a monthly article for the *Catholic Herald* on science and religion. He also taught philosophy at Blackfriars Studium, Oxford, and taught modules on science and faith at the Faraday Institute, Cambridge. Fr Robert also runs a Catholic scientists discussion group which meets monthly.

BLACKFRIARS: PRIORY OF ST MICHAEL, CAMBRIDGE



Fr Gregory Pearson continued to serve as Novice Master for the community, and as a canon lawyer for several religious orders and dioceses. He taught canon law at Blackfriars Studium, Oxford, and he is also the Vocations Director for the English Province.

Fr Albert Robertson continued to work as an Assistant Chaplain at the Cambridge University Chaplaincy, **Fisher House**. Fr Albert also commenced work on a doctorate.

A reunion was held in the summer for lay people who were members of the lay community that existed here at the priory for two decades at the end of the 20th century (*pictured, facing page*).

Prior: Robert Verrill OP

10 resident friars including 2 novices.

www.blackfriarscambridge.org.uk



NEW BEDROOM CREATED FOR NOVICES

Owing to the large intake of novices in September 2025, an additional bedroom was made out of an attic space within the priory. These works were supported by donations to the Province's Formation Fund and by a generous benefaction.

HOLY CROSS PRIORY & PARISH, LEICESTER



Holy Cross Priory has a ministry centred on the imposing parish church that stands on New Walk, very close to the centre of Leicester and on the route to the University. Within the parish boundary also lie De Montfort University and the Leicester Royal Infirmary, as well as HMP Leicester.

The church has a capacity of around 550, a number regularly exceeded at the two largest Sunday Masses. Mass attendance has continued to rise, reaching 1,200 by the end of the reporting period. The 10.30 Mass is a sung Mass with a large number of enthusiastic young altar servers and a dedicated choir offering a traditional-style liturgy that proves especially popular with the substantial south Indian and Nigerian populations. The 7pm Mass is now the only Sunday-evening Mass in Leicester, and draws a large and varied crowd of students and other young people as well as families.

The last twelve months have seen a noticeable growth in the number of young adults from across the demographic spectrum attending Masses and becoming involved in the life of the parish, with a significant number bring prepared for Baptism or Reception into the Church.

Weekday Masses are also popular, and the church is now open throughout the week in daylight hours. Holy Cross church was the designated Jubilee shrine for the city in 2025, and the west doors of the church were kept open throughout the year. Meanwhile the daytime opening allows local people as well as those who work or shop in the city centre to visit for private prayer and to light candles and make other devotions. The combination of popular devotion and doctrinally informed, interesting and intelligent preaching provides a distinctively Dominican character to the church.

Confessions on Saturdays mornings and Sunday evenings regularly run on long past the scheduled time, with two priests ministering to penitents for up to 3 hours a week. Confessions are also heard on call at the door or by request before and after most Masses. During the Saturday-morning confessions, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed, with Benediction preceding the 12.30 Mass, and the church is often quite full throughout the morning. The sacrament is now also exposed on Sunday evenings during and after the singing of Vespers, culminating in Benediction before evening Mass.

The church is a popular venue for weddings, and there has been a noticeable increase in the number of couples being prepared for this sacrament, including a number of couples who return to their family home in India to celebrate marriages, but are fully prepared for the sacrament at Holy Cross.

HOLY CROSS PRIORY & PARISH, LEICESTER



Parish social life flourishes, with tea and coffee after the two Sunday-morning Masses being very well attended, and the return of the Advent and Summer Fairs, making good use of the recently renovated parish centre.

The centre is also used by several regular parish-based groups, including weekly meetings of the Parish Scripture Group, Jesus Youth and children participating in the Good Shepherd catechetical course. There are also regular meetings of the Frassati Group of young adults and the young adults' theology reading group, and the centre also hosts meetings of the Leicester Lay Dominicans and the Leicester Theological Society.

Since May, the Prior has been chaplain to the Lord Mayor of Leicester, regularly attending City Council meetings and other civic events, and this has further improved the visi-

bility of the Priory within the city.

The addition to the resident community of a newly-ordained young priest, dedicated primarily to work with young adults and in social media, has enhanced the community's life and mission. During the reporting period the community developed plans to invite students and young adults to join the brethren for Morning Prayer and then a cooked breakfast one day a week.

OTHER APOSTOLATES

Our Chaplaincy to **Leicester and De Montfort Universities** has grown under the care of the newly appointed chaplain, Fr Benedict Jonak, and students appreciate the weekly student Mass on Wednesdays and the Monday supper, as well as being deeply involved in the activities of the wider parish.

The Chaplaincy to **Leicester Royal Infirmary** continues as before with

one brother on call for 24 hours each day to attend to sick and dying patients, especially to offer the sacrament of Anointing. Typically we receive 3–4 calls a week, though the numbers can fluctuate greatly.

EXTERNAL APOSTOLATES

As well as serving the ever-growing parish community, the brothers have continued to be involved in external evangelical work, including teaching and retreat giving in the UK and abroad. The Prior taught each week during term time in the Oxford Studium, and has a regular show on Radio Maria England as well as a column in the *Catholic Herald*; one brother hears the Confessions of the monks of Mount St Bernard Abbey each month, and the brothers regularly celebrate Masses at the local Catholic schools.

With the assignation of a brother dedicated to national-level work with Young Adults and with Social Media, the community has begun making plans to transform a small and under-used room in the Frassati Centre into a social media studio.

Prior: Richard Ounsworth OP

6 / 7 friars

www.holycrossleicester.org



THE CARIBBEAN: JAMAICA & GRENADA



The English Province has two houses in the Caribbean that are canonically dependent on it. While not legally part of this charity, they are supported by grants from this Province, made out of funds raised in the UK under the banner of ‘St Martin’s Missions’. This fundraising takes place not just from the supporters of our charity, but also from second collections held in assigned diocesan deaneries.

JAMAICA

The brothers’ major works consist of pastoring and teaching. The house also acts as a pre-noviciate for receiving and accompanying local men who are interested in pursuing a Dominican vocation.

PASTORAL MINISTRY

The brothers are entrusted with two parishes, St Thomas Aquinas in Papine and Christ the King in August Town.

The parishes present different challenges. August Town is slowly recovering from a period of very serious gang violence; the people there are afflicted with long-term patterns of family breakdown and poverty. Fr Clifton Harris coordinates provision of basic food and other necessities to parishioners and other local people.

While the St Thomas Aquinas congregation is, on the whole, more middle class, here too important spiritual and material support is provided to some parishioners, including several who live on a nearby squatter settlement.

Much effort goes into accompanying young people, some of whom the brothers have sponsored as they aspire to educational and professional opportunities. Fr Bede Mullens coordinates a youth group out of the parish and is regularly involved in youth initiatives across the Archdiocese of Kingston. He

additionally provides chaplaincy to the **University of the West Indies** in Mona, Kingston.

Through St Thomas Aquinas parish, the friars retain a strong connection with **Mary’s Child**, a shelter for teenage mothers run by the Catholic Mustard Seed community; the girls benefit from Fr Clifton’s pastoral care and the warmth of the parish community.

The brothers are officially entrusted with providing chaplaincy to the **University Hospital of the West Indies**. Besides these standing appointments, the brothers are regularly called upon to provide sacramental ministry, retreat preaching, counselling, and spiritual direction.

EDUCATION

Fr Peter Hunter teaches courses in philosophy at **St Michael’s Theological College**, the seminary of the Archdiocese of Kingston; in

THE CARIBBEAN: JAMAICA & GRENADA

addition to Catholic seminarians, his students include Catholic laity and members of the University of the West Indies and of the United Theological College of the West Indies. Fr Clifton provides evangelisation training to laypeople in the Archdiocese and teaches a course on liturgy as part of a theological training programme for laypeople.

Fr Bede teaches Christian Living (Religious Education) to students of several ages at **Campion College**, a prestigious local Catholic secondary school, as well as providing chaplaincy in the school.

PRE-NOVICIATE

Two young men began the pre-noviciate in August 2024; one of these proceeded to begin the noviciate in Cambridge, England, in September 2025. In the same month, another young Jamaican was welcomed to begin the pre-noviciate. Fr Bede is Director of Vocations for the Caribbean and Master of Pre-Novices. In this capacity, he accompanies the pre-novices as they discern and provides for a spiritual and cultural formation that is intended to ease their adjustment to religious life and living in a different country. To show them the Province's wider mission in the Caribbean, the pre-novices were taken to visit Grenada in August 2025.

GRENADA

The brothers in Roxborough serve a variety of apostolates, besides ministering at three parishes: Our

Lady of the Rosary, Roxborough, St Michael the Archangel, Woburn, and St Joseph, Morne Jaloux.

Fr Patrick Alexander hosts a weekly educational (catechetical) television programme. Fr Leroy Hopkin acts as chaplain to members of the Neo-catechumenal Way.



BONDS OF CONNECTION

Brothers from the UK regularly visit the Caribbean to provide support and share the expertise of the Province. Fr Euan Marley spent 6 weeks in August and September in Grenada, where he assisted in parish ministry and gave talks on Biblical themes for the local Church. Fr John Farrell gave an online workshop to train lectors at St Thomas Aquinas parish. The brothers in Jamaica have agreed with St Michael's Theological College to establish an annual lecture by a visiting Dominican on Scripture studies in memory of Fr David Sanders OP, in the Christ-

mas semester; the first of these is due to be given in October 2025 by Fr Richard Ounsworth.

Master of Students, Fr Dominic Ryan, spent July and August in Jamaica and Grenada. He investigated new ways in which the Caribbean mission can continue to be used as a training ground for the formation of student brothers.

The Caribbean mission continues to be supported by the fundraising efforts of St Martin's Missions. Under the direction of Fr Nicholas Crowe, and in collaboration with the Province's Development Office, a highly successful appeal was held among the Province's UK parishes and congregations in November 2024, in addition to revived diocesan parish appeals. Over £59k was raised over the financial year.

Besides supporting the Basic School attached to Christ the King parish, these funds have enabled the Province to cover new costs created by the pre-noviciate. Some funds have been set aside to facilitate the move of the brothers into a larger building, which would be able to house the six brothers required to make a full Dominican priory, and up to two pre-novices in any given year. The building requires some work, so the brothers expect to move in at the beginning of 2026.

Superior: Clifton Harris OP

4 friars (Grenada); 4 friars (Jamaica)

EDUCATIONAL APOSTOLATE

Education and the intellectual apostolate are a key part of the Dominican charism.

The intellectual apostolate of the Province continues to be strong with some exciting developments in 2024/25. The friars are engaged in a great number and variety of activities. There is a firm policy on the part of the Province, its Provincial and Provincial Council, to pay attention especially to the intellectual formation of our younger friars in order to lay strong foundations for the future of our intellectual mission. Many of the brethren are highly stretched in terms of workloads, including administration. The intellectual apostolate can suffer because of this, which underlines our need for support.

1. TALKS AND PUBLIC LECTURES

Many of the talks and lectures by the brethren were also organised by the brethren, but many were organised by other bodies. Most of the talks and lectures were open to the general public, but some were for specific groups (e.g. Lay Dominicans or young adults). Some of the talks and public lectures were one-off and some formed parts of series.

RANGE OF THEMES

- 'Why Still go to Church?'
- 'Education as a Sign of Hope'
- 'The Prophets and the Psalms'
- 'An Introduction to St Thomas and to Sacra Doctrina'
- 'Original Justice and the Fall'



- 'How do we make sense of suffering?'
- 'Evolution and Genesis'
- 'Dominican Spirituality'
- 'Franciscan Spirituality and Catherine of Siena'
- 'Zaehner and Hinduism'
- 'The Bhagavad Gita'
- 'The Trinitarian Dynamic of the Eucharistic Sacrifice'
- 'Jane Dowling, selected art, theological commentary'
- 'The Fruitfulness of Christ's Marriage to His Bride the Church'
- 'Science and Faith'
- 'Picturing the Cross: Christ Crucified by the Virtues'
- 'Aquinas on Friendship'
- 'Cooperator brothers: some canonical considerations'
- 'Biblical Translation'
- 'The Mosaic Covenant'
- 'Theology of the Body'
- 'St Thomas Aquinas and the Shape of the Christian Life'

- 'Catholic Principles for Interpreting Scripture'
- 'Are We Truly Free?'
- 'Aquinas on Friendship'.

Fr Timothy Radcliffe gave the pre-synodal meditations for the Second Assembly of the Synod on Synodality in Rome, with about 400 people present including Pope Leo.

Fr Leon Pereira gave many talks on the spirituality of Medjugorje to pilgrims at the shrine.

Fr Lawrence Lew gave many talks in numerous countries on the theology of the Rosary and related topics in his role as the Order's Promoter General of the Rosary.

Fr Toby Lees, Director of Radio Maria (England), a 24-hour Catholic radio station (<https://radiomariaengland.uk/>), gave five 10-minute reflections per week on Radio Maria and presented three 45-minute programmes per week

EDUCATIONAL APOSTOLATE (CONT.)

going through a text and giving reflections on it.

SERIES OF TALKS

There were also series of talks, some of which were part of retreats and study days.

- Fr Bruno Clifton gave a series of six talks to the Dominican Young Adults Study Week at Worth Abbey;
- Fr John Church gave talks for retreats for Southwark Diocese Youth Service (100 teenagers approx.), St Joseph's Parish, Brighton, and at the Youth 2000 Festival (attendances up to 80 people approx.).

CONFERENCE

A third major annual conference, 'Therefore I have hope', was organised by the Edinburgh Dominican Community – *report on p.17*.

2. LAY FORMATION

A significant feature of our outreach through talks is that much of it is for young people and to support active Christian communities.

LAY DOMINICANS

There were, for example, thirteen Lay Dominican fraternities and fraternal groups in the Province, twelve in Britain and one in Grenada. There is also a Lay Dominican Provincial Council composed of Lay Dominicans from across Britain. The fraternities and fraternal groups, among other things, promote study in the



Dominican tradition; and organise, for their members and others, events engaging with Catholic thought. Many of the fraternities and fraternal groups have in recent years experienced significant growth. Most of the fraternities have friars as nominated 'religious assistants', who often give talks and other input to the fraternities and fraternal groups.

STUDENT CHAPLAINCY

Much of the outreach to young people is carried out in the chaplaincies to which we provide chaplains, in Edinburgh (University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh Napier University and Queen Margaret University) and Leicester (University of Leicester and De Montfort University), and other chaplaincies in which friars work, such as Cambridge, Dundee and Kingston (Jamaica).

Fr Andrew Brookes and Fr Thomas Mannion gave regular talks to the Catholic Students' Union in Edinburgh.

Fr Benedict Jonak gave regular talks to students at the Chaplaincy in Leicester on topics such as 'Angels – what are they?', 'Looking at the Communion of Saints', and 'The importance of Mary'.

OXFORD AQUINAS GROUP

The Oxford Community, which is a formation community for Dominican students, runs a lively weekly (during term) Aquinas Young Adults Group and supports a Chapter of the **Thomistic Institute**. The Aquinas Group has a weekly attendance of about 20–25. The meetings include soup and bread, and there is some social life too. In 2024/25 it was run by Brs Jerome Johnson, Reginald Herbert, and Giovanni Castellano (Province of Southern Italy). Each term they look at a different area in the work of St Thomas Aquinas, and read and discuss different texts together on Fundamental Theology, One God & Creation, and Trinitarian Theology.

THOMISTIC INSTITUTE

The Oxford Chapter of the Thomistic Institute hosted talks by Fr Flahed Anatolios, Dr Robert McNamara, Fr Dominic Legge, Fr Thomas Joseph White, Fr Isaac Morales, Prof. Michael Hurley, Dr Nuno Castel-Branco, and Sir Gabriele Finaldi (Director, National Gallery, London).

EDUCATIONAL APOSTOLATE (CONT.)



The Edinburgh Chapter of the Thomistic Institute also continues to flourish. It had a reading group that met during both semesters to discuss the theology and philosophy of Aquinas on 'The Soul, the Body. The Human' and 'Divine Simplicity'. It also organised eight lectures, four per semester. These were given by: Fr Dominic Legge OP, Dr Daniel De Haan, Dr Medi Volpe, Prof. John Haldane, Dr Rebekah Lamb, Prof. Fran O'Rourke, Dr George Corbett, and Dr Giuseppe Pezzini.

ALBERTUS INSTITUTE

The **Albertus Institute** (<http://albertusinstitute.org/>), based at St Albert's Parish and Chaplaincy in Edinburgh, organised numerous events. In October 2024 they had a public seminar at Martin Hall, New College, University of Edinburgh on 'The Nuclear Debate', with speakers expert in nuclear engineering, the ethics

of nuclear energy, and geology. A spring conference organised for 26 April 2025 was postponed due to the funeral of Pope Francis, but will be rescheduled for autumn 2025. The Albertus Institute also completed a success renewing of internal structure, moving from being a Company Limited by Guarantee and a Registered Charity, both registered in Scotland, to being simply a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, entirely registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

3. EXPERTISE

The brothers also serve the wider Church through giving expert advice as consultants and members of various bodies.

- Fr Simon Gaine is a member of the Church's International Theological Commission and a Council member of

the Pontifical Academy of St Thomas Aquinas.

- Fr Martin Ganeri is Chief Editor of the journal *Angelicum*.
- Fr Robert Ombres is on the editorial boards of the following journals: *Ecclesiastical Law Journal*, *Law & Justice*, and *Campania Sacra*.
- Fr Brian Davies is on the Editorial Board of the *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*.
- Fr Benjamin Earl is President of the commission for the review of the *Liber Constitutionum Mondialium Ordinis Praedicatorum*, and member of the Juridical Commission of the Union of Superiors General, as well as a canonical consultant for a number of different religious institutes.
- Fr Matthew Jarvis is a member of the Order's International Commission on the Liturgy.
- Fr John O'Connor is a member of the Arts and Humanities Subcommittee of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

4. PUBLICATIONS

A wide audience can also be reached through publications, both electronically and in more traditional formats.

NEW BLACKFRIARS JOURNAL

A key part of our academic publish-

EDUCATIONAL APOSTOLATE (CONT.)

ing mission is our bimonthly journal, *New Blackfriars*. It is published by Cambridge University Press and its Editor is Fr Brian Davies. Seventeen friars of the English Province are on the Editorial Board.

New Blackfriars has impressive metrics: over 200,000 article downloads per annum, with over 4,000 institutions having access to *New Blackfriars* (mainly wholly online, with a small minority receiving printed copies). The journal also has considerable international outreach. The main countries for downloading *New Blackfriars* articles are: USA, China, United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Canada, Australia, Germany, Ireland, India and the Philippines.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

- Fr Bruno Clifton, ‘“Have You Called Us Here to Dispossess Us?” (Judg 14:15): Settlement Rivalry and Samson’s Riddle Challenge’, in *Vetus Testamentum*;
- Fr Albert Robertson, ‘God Works for Good with Those Who Love Him: The Church as a Sacrament of Providence, Predestination, and Divine Goodness’ and ‘Cornelius Ernst and Anthropology as a Preface to Theology’, both in *New Blackfriars*;
- Fr Richard Conrad, ‘The Holy Spirit Is Love. Is He the Love Between Father and Son? Receiving the Trinity’s Self-



- Revelation with Mediæval Sensitivity’, in *The Dove Descending: Knowing and Loving in Spirit and Truth* (James Clarke & Co., 2025) and ‘What if ‘Adam’ Had Not Sinned? ...’ in *Creation through Evolution* (CUA Press, 2025);
- Fr Robert Ombres, ‘Office Holders and their Duties and Rights in Catholic Canon Law’, in *Law & Justice* and ‘Synodal Structures in the Roman Catholic Parish’, *Ecclesiastical Law Journal*;
- Fr Simon Gaine, ‘The Teaching of the Catholic Church and the Evolution of Humanity’, in *Creation through Evolution: New Perspectives in Thomistic Philosophy and Theology* (CUA Press, 2025) and ‘Dyothelite Christology and the Psychology of Jesus’, in *T&T Clark Companion to Christology* (2025);
- Fr Benjamin Earl, ‘Catholic synodality: episcopacy, clergy, laity’, *Ecclesiastical Law Journal*;
- Fr Thomas Crean published four articles in *Mass of Ages*;
- Brothers also published book reviews in journals such as *New Blackfriars*, *The Thomist*, and the *Ecclesiastical Law Journal*;
- Fr Rudolf Loewenstein reviewed children’s books for *The School Librarian* and *Catholic Library World*;
- Fr Timothy Radcliffe wrote: ‘Ho trovato la Speranza nei luoghi piu disperati’, *Avvenire*, 3 Dec 2024;
- Fr Robert Verrill published ten articles in *The Catholic Herald*.

ONLINE PUBLISHING

Nearly every priest brother in the English Province contributed to Torch (<https://torch.op.org/>),

EDUCATIONAL APOSTOLATE (CONT.)

the preaching website of the English Dominicans. The student friars' blog, Godzdogz (<https://godzdogz.op.org/>) remains popular with hits from across the world. Among the topics of the blog articles of the academic year 2024/25 were: 'Uncompromisingly Free', 'Who do you say that I am?', and 'The Word that grows with us'.

5. PARTICIPATION IN THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

- Fr Richard Finn is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (FRHistS);
- Fr Fergus Kerr was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.
- Eight of the brethren are members of the Catholic Theological Association.
- The brethren attended conferences in Oxford, Rome, Berlin, London, Steubenville (Ohio), Manila, Fribourg, Leuven, Malta, Salamanca, and Taipei.

In many cases the friars presented papers at these conferences:

- Fr Simon Gaine spoke on 'Christ *coassumptio* of perfection and defect according Aquinas and Thomist tradition' at the Pontifical University of Salamanca;
- At the *Law, Nature, and the Bible* conference at Blackfriars and joint with the Angelicum University, Rome, Fr Bruno Clifton spoke on 'Doing Right in One's Eyes: Natural Virtue at Biblical Dan'; Fr John O'Connor

spoke on 'Natural Law and Ethics: Definitions and the Role of Narratives & Perspectives';

- Fr Peter Hunter presented a paper on identity at a conference at the University of the West Indies.

6. EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

BLACKFRIARS HALL & STUDIUM

The largest single apostolates of the Province of England are our Studium Generale ('Blackfriars Studium') and Permanent Private Hall of the University of Oxford ('Blackfriars Hall'). *Reports from Blackfriars can be found on p.11 ff.*

For both Studium and Hall: Fr John O'Connor is Regent; Fr Bruno Clifton is Vice-Regent; and Fr Richard Finn is Secretary of Studies. These friars are in charge of the governance of Studium and Hall. The Studium and Hall also have several lay members of staff: Dr Clare Broome Saunders (Senior Tutor and Tutor for Admissions, Blackfriars Hall only), Jayne Chivers is Academic Registrar, Anneli Chambliss-Howes (Bursar), Pauline Lloyd (Assistant Bursar). As Regent, Fr John O'Connor has a place and a vote at the Heads of House meeting of heads of Oxford colleges.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OUTSIDE BLACKFRIARS

Dominican friars have also been active in educational institutions outside the Studium and Hall:

FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

- Fr Richard Conrad and Fr John O'Connor supervised a dissertation and an essay, respectively, of a MSt student in Theological Ethics.
- Fr John O'Connor OP also carried out marking for the programme.
- Fr David Goodill was an internal examiner for a DPhil viva.
- Five friar Fellows of Blackfriars Hall are associate members of the Faculty of Theology and Religion, one of whom, Fr Richard Finn, is also an associate member of the Faculty of Classics.

OUTSIDE OXFORD

- Fr Brian Davies is Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Fordham University.
- At the Angelicum University, Rome:
 - Fr Simon Gaine is the Pinckaers Professor of Theological Anthropology and Ethics;
 - Fr Martin Ganeri is Director of the Institute for Interreligious Relations at the Angelicum and a *Professore Invitato* of the Theology Faculty. The Institute for Interreligious Relations has a 'Thomist Circles Project', to promote a Thomist approach to inter-religious relations through a series of conferences and publications; the institute

EDUCATIONAL APOSTOLATE (CONT.)

also has a conference series for 2025/26 on *Reason and Reasoning in Christian and Muslim Relations*.

- Fr Richard Ounsworth is External Examiner for the Maryvale MA in Catholic Pastoral Theology.
- Fr Thomas Crean is an Adjunct Professor at Holy Apostles College and Seminary (Connecticut), for whom he gives online asynchronous courses on subjects such as: *The One and Triune God*, *Luke–Acts*, and *The Seven Sacraments*.
- Fr David Goodill taught Carthusian novices at Parkminster;
- Fr Robert Verrill teaches for the Faraday Institute, Cambridge, on subjects such as *Time and God*, *Cosmology and Creation*, and *Philosophical Anthropology*;
- Fr Bede Mullens taught at St Michael's School in Jamaica;
- Fr Peter Hunter is a Lecturer at St Michael's Theological College, Kingston, and Fr Clifton Harris is a member of the Board of the Theological College.
- Fr John O'Connor is an Honorary Lecturer at the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, the University of Glasgow, which enables him to continue to externally co-supervise a doctoral student;
- Fr Rudolf Loewenstein teaches

at St Christina's Primary School (3 days per week) and Rosary Primary School (as part of the school chaplaincy) in London.

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

Friars have also had significant interaction with university staff and students through University Chaplaincy:

- Fr Benedict Jonak and John Patrick Kenrick (University of Leicester and De Montfort University);
- Fr Dermot Morrin, Fr Andrew Brookes, and Fr Thomas Mannion (University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh Napier University and Queen Margaret University);
- Fr Albert Robertson (University of Cambridge);
- Fr Gregory Murphy (University of Dundee and University of Abertay);
- Fr Bede Mullens (University of the West Indies (Mona campus) and the University of Technology, Kingston).

7. FURTHER STUDIES

Among those who undertook complementary studies in the academic year 2024/25 for the sake of the intellectual apostolate were:

- Fr David Rocks completed his part-time Masters in Philosophy at The Open University (for which he was awarded a Distinction);

- Fr Matthew Jarvis is studying for a part-time DPhil at the Faculty of Music at the University of Oxford;

- Br Jordan Scott is a student of Mandarin at Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages in Taiwan.

- In order to satisfy ecclesiastical requirements, Fr Simon Gaine completed a Doctorate in Sacred Theology and Fr Martin Ganeri has undertaken a Licence in Sacred Theology, both at the Angelicum University in Rome. Fr Martin will also pursue a Doctorate in Sacred Theology.
- Fr Albert Robertson has commenced a doctorate in Divinity at the University of Cambridge
- Fr Thomas Mannion has started a Licence in Sacred Theology at the Angelicum.

Our planning of higher studies of the friars takes account that the Dicastery for Culture and Education requires our Studium to have a significant number of teachers with ecclesiastically-recognised higher qualifications.

8. PERMANENT FORMATION

Following the 2022 Dominican General Chapter, the Province established a Commission for Permanent Formation of the friars in the Province. In addition to providing study days and events to support the wellbeing and

EDUCATIONAL APOSTOLATE (CONT.)

good functioning of the friars, the Commission and the Province can support the brethren in ensuring ongoing permanent formation in order to be effective in their ministries.

9. LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES

Our libraries are an important resource for the intellectual apostolate. In Oxford (c. 40,000 books), there were approximately 300 books acquired by the library during the year. The library at Oxford, which serves the Studium and Hall as well as the priory, has typically between 100 and 150 visitors per annum from the wider University and beyond, to consult books that cannot easily be found elsewhere. The Edinburgh, Cambridge, and London priories also have significant and well-functioning libraries. A signif-

icant factor for the brethren in the large university centres is that they can access well-resourced university libraries. The Edinburgh brethren involved with the University of Edinburgh can automatically have access to the university's libraries and online materials.

The Provincial Archivist continued to catalogue the friars' papers, and to sort through and access new papers from brethren who have died. Priority in cataloguing is given to papers most likely to be of interest to those researching the theological history of the Province. He normally spends one morning a week at Douai Abbey, where he was greatly assisted by a volunteer and oblate of the abbey, Dr Paul Sheppy, who has been cataloguing papers relating to the Province's mission in the Caribbean. The Librarian, Abbot Geoffrey Scott,

dealt with any enquiries not made directly to the Provincial Archivist, and supervised visiting scholars' consultation of papers.

10. LAYING FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

The Province has made some major strides recently in terms of, for example, major investment in the formation of the brethren for the futureproofing of our intellectual mission (including the Studium and Blackfriars Hall) and has advanced in its cooperation with the University of Oxford through its new joint academic post. Many objectives remain, not least providing the administrative and other support to free up time in order to enable the brethren to better advance the work of the Order.

CARDINAL RADCLIFFE: FROM CONSISTORY TO CONCLAVE

In an eventful year, our brother Timothy Radcliffe OP was made Cardinal by Pope Francis in the Consistory of 7 December 2024, and then participated in the Pope's funeral and the subsequent conclave in May 2025 which elected Pope Leo XIV. Timothy continues to serve as a popular international speaker and preacher while living with the brethren at our Oxford priory.



Meeting Pope Francis



At the Consistory



The funeral of Pope Francis

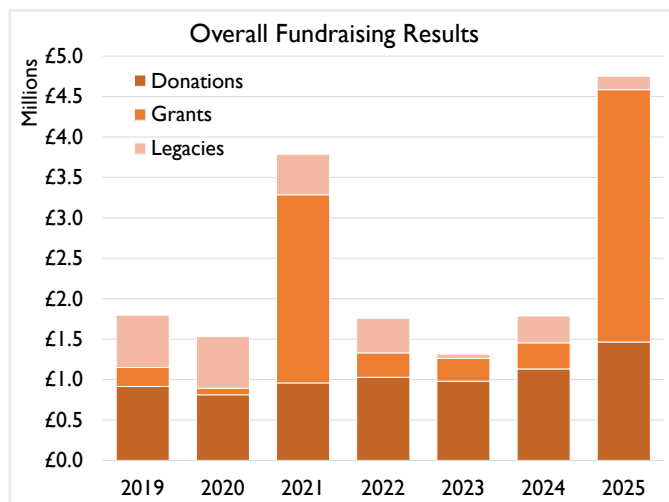


The 'presa di possesso' of his titular church



On the balcony of St Peter's after the Conclave

FUNDRAISING PERFORMANCE⁽¹⁾ – TRENDS



This year saw generous support offered to the charity via a variety of modes of giving.

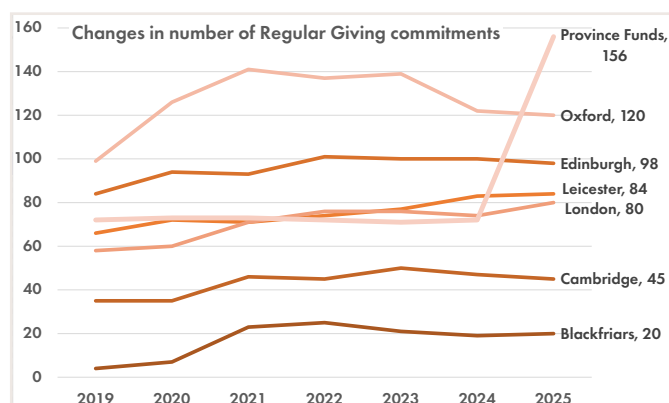
Overall Fundraising Results (see p.60, note 1) saw a total of £4.75m (2024: £1.79m) in new funds raised. The reason for this high result was the winning of two significant multi-year grants:

- A second five-year grant for Studium teaching.
- A new academic post in Medieval Theology, joint between Blackfriars Hall and Oxford University.

In other results:

- Donations from individuals, including Gift Aid reclaimed, rose to £1.47m (£1.10m);
- Legacy income achieved £165k (£318k).

Voluntary income cash received (see facing page) during the year was £2.20m (£1.92m), including instalments of previously won multi-year grants.



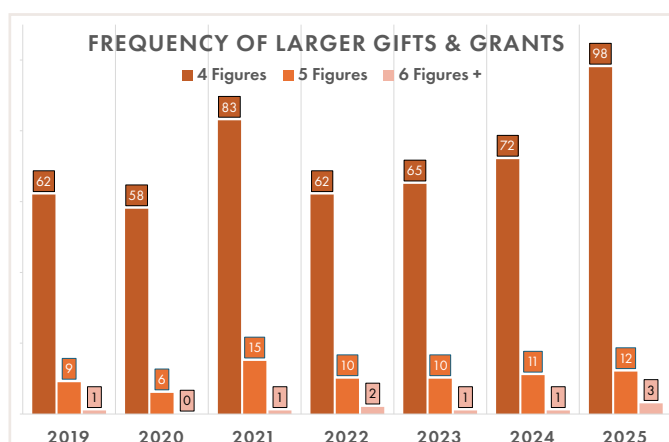
Appeals. There were generous responses⁽¹⁾ to various appeals, especially to that for the Formation Fund, which raised over £150k during the year, and more than doubled the number of **Regular Giving Commitments** (see left: *Province Funds*) in support of this need. A benefaction of £75k also helped cover the building works for the noviciate in Cambridge (see p.21) and other renovations in Cambridge and Leicester.

St Dominic's in London (the Rosary Shrine) successfully raised £39k to support music for the liturgy.

The Caribbean Missions appeal raised £59k (£63k).

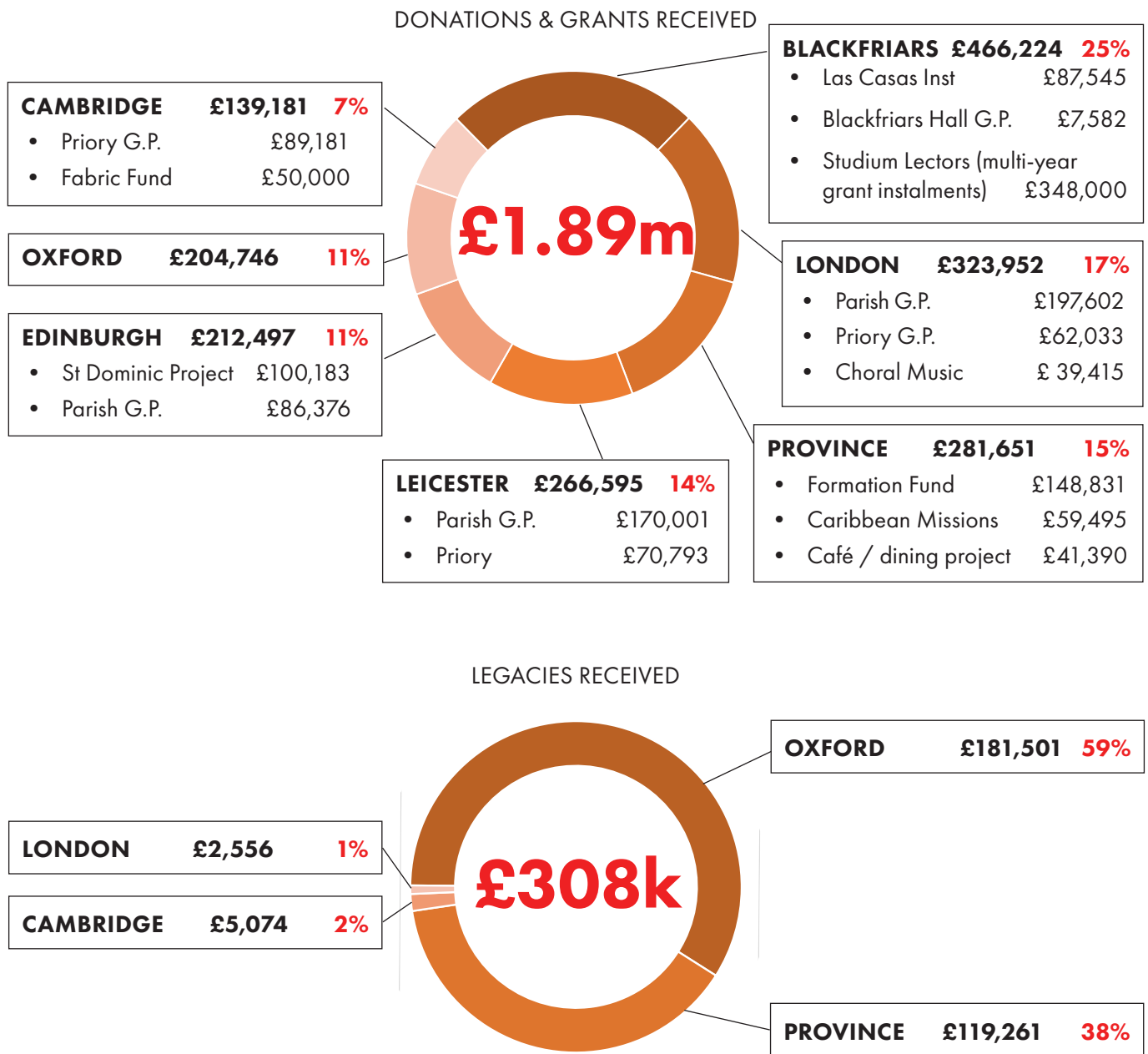
A further £41k (£54k) was raised for the creation of the dining space / public café at Blackfriars Annexe, Oxford, with building works planned for 2026.

Larger Gifts & Grants. A review was undertaken (see left), as part of a renewed effort to secure strategic benefactions. The high level of 4-figure donations was appreciated, as well as the transformative potential of 5-figure and 6-figure donations, of which more are needed.



(1) Figures listed here do not always match exactly with those in the audited accounts, owing to different ways of recording legacies, grant commitments, and the income from Gift Aid. Figures and trends on this page are given as indicative measures of fundraising performance only.

FUNDRAISING PERFORMANCE⁽¹⁾ – FUNDS RECEIVED



The friars express their gratitude to all who have helped sustain our mission this year through their generous giving. We would especially like to mark the contributions of:

Grants: The British Red Cross Society; Catholic Charitable Trust; The Lady Marian Gibson Trust; McDonald Agape Foundation; Oxford Consortium for Human Rights; Pontifical University of St Thomas; Porticus UK; RCB Foundation; Scala Foundation; Simon and Hania Cox Charitable Trust; Sir Harold

Hood's Charitable Trust; The Society of Jesus; Sisters of the Holy Cross Charitable Trust; SLG Charitable Trust; The Thomistic Institute; The Tolkien Trust.

Legacies: Elizabeth Barry, John Drumm, Michael Egan, Anthony Kirwan, Gerald Vann. *R.I.P.*

DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, TRUSTEES, ADVISORS

NAME OF CHARITY	The English Province of the Order of Preachers
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	231192 (England and Wales) SC039062 (Scotland)
ALSO KNOWN AS	The Dominicans
PRINCIPAL OFFICE	Blackfriars, St Giles, OXFORD. OX1 3LY
TRUSTEE	The Dominican Council (a company limited by guarantee, no. 387818) Blackfriars, St Giles, OXFORD. OX1 3LY
DIRECTORS OF TRUSTEE CORPORATION	Rev. Fr David Goodill OP Very Rev. Fr Nicholas Crowe OP Rev. Fr John O'Connor OP Rev. Fr Toby Lees OP
PRINCIPAL OFFICER	Very Rev. Fr Nicholas Crowe OP, Prior Provincial
BANKERS	The Royal Bank of Scotland RBS Bishopsgate Branch, 49 Bishopsgate, LONDON. EC2N 3AS
SOLICITORS	Farrer & Co. 66 Lincoln's Inn Fields, LONDON. WC2A 3LH
AUDITOR	Gravita Audit Oxford LLP First Floor, Park Central, 40–41 Park End Street, Oxford, OX1 1JD
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT AND ADVICE	BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited 12 Throgmorton Avenue, LONDON. EC2N 2DL <i>and</i> Evelyn Partners LLP 45 Gresham Street, LONDON. EC2V 7BG
WEBSITE	https://english.op.org/

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30th September 2025. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 57ff. and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 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) (January 2019) and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The English Province of the Order of Preachers is one of forty or so provinces of the Friars of the Order of Preachers, a religious order in the Catholic Church. The Order of Preachers was founded by St Dominic in the thirteenth century for the purpose of preaching, teaching and pastoral work in collaboration with the bishops. Members of the Order are often known as 'Dominicans', after their founder. The life of the friars is founded on the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience to which they bind themselves by vow, and is characterised by prayer, study and community life. Most of the friars are also ordained priests.

As part of the Catholic Church, the Order of Preachers is bound to the Church's Canon Law, especially as contained in the 1983 *Codex Iuris Canonici* (Code of Canon Law, hereafter *CIC*), and to the legitimate precepts of the Holy See and the Roman Pontiff. It is also bound by the laws of the dioceses in which it works, and of the Bishops' Conferences of England and Wales and of Scotland.

The Order has its own internal law contained in the *Liber Constitutionum et Ordinationum Fratrum Ordinis Praedicatorum* (Book of Constitutions and Ordinations of the Friars of the Order of Preachers, hereafter *LCO*). The General Chapter of the Order and the Master of the Order have authority, in accordance with canonical norms, over all the provinces, priories

and friars of the Order.

The English Province, in addition to the above-mentioned norms, has its own canonical governing document, the 'Statute of the Province'. The Province is governed by the Provincial Chapter and by the Prior Provincial. The Provincial Chapter is a meeting of friars representing the Province which takes place every four years; its object is to 'discuss and make decisions about all that pertains to the fraternal and apostolic life and the good administration of the province' (*LCO* 351 §I). The Provincial Chapter can make changes to the Statute of the Province as well as make other ordinations concerning the governance of the Province and its priories. The Provincial Chapter elects the Prior Provincial (major superior), who governs the Province until the following Provincial Chapter.

The Prior Provincial is assisted by the Provincial Council, composed of senior officers of the Province and other members elected by the Provincial Chapter. On major financial matters the Prior Provincial and Provincial Council are advised by the Economic Council of the Province, whose members are appointed by the Provincial Chapter and which is chaired by the Provincial Bursar.

The Province is made up of a number of priories, which are local communities of friars with a large degree of self-government according to the norms of Canon Law and the internal law of the Order and the Province. The priory is 'the fundamental unit of the Order' (*LCO* 1 §VII), and the principal place where the educational and pastoral mission of the Order is pursued. Priors (local superiors) are normally elected by the members of their priory for three-year terms. Each priory is engaged in a variety of ministerial work, often centred on parish churches or university chaplaincies. Two priories are especially but not exclusively dedicated to the formation and training of priests and friars. The Prior Provincial and his Council have responsibility for the collaboration of the various priories, for the support of provincial projects and for the establishment, maintenance and en-

forcement of common policy, including those involving major financial issues.

The Charity consider that the members of the Provincial Council comprise the key management personnel, in charge of directing and controlling the charity and running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. The Prior Provincial and three other members of the Provincial Council are Directors of the Trustee Corporation, as listed on p. 36. Other members of the Provincial Council are members of the Trustee Corporation. All trustees, and all other members of the Provincial Council, give of their time freely and no remuneration was paid to any of them in the year. Details of trustee expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in notes 9 and 10 to the accounts.

The individual friars make profession of a vow of obedience, encompassing also the other 'evangelical counsels' of poverty and chastity. As a result of the profession of poverty, all that is acquired in virtue of the work or activity of a friar belongs to the friar's priory (*CIC* 668 §3; *LCO* 546). Once a friar has made definitive or 'solemn' profession, any income whatsoever that comes to the friar belongs to his priory or the Province (*LCO* 546, 548). This arrangement is given civil effect by means of a 'Deed of Disposer' in favour of the Charity made by each friar at the time of his solemn profession. Alongside the profession of poverty by the friars, there is a corresponding obligation on the Order to provide its members 'with everything that is necessary to fulfil the purpose of their vocation' (*CIC* 670).

The Dominican friars share a spirituality and mission with other branches of the 'Dominican family': nuns, sisters, members of secular institutes and fraternities of priests and laity (cf. *LCO* 1 §IX).

NATURE AND CONSTITUTION OF THE CHARITY

In order to allow for the general administration and financial maintenance of the members, priories and works of the Province, **the Province Trust** was established by Trust Deed in 1930, modified by a deed of partial revocation in 1945. Its registered objects are 'the promotion of education and the Roman Catholic religion and the establishment and maintenance of schools, churches and priories for these purposes and

the upkeep of members of the Order of Preachers.' Under the name 'The English Province of the Order of Preachers', the Province Trust is registered as a charity in England and Wales, no. 231192, and in Scotland, no. SC039062.

The sole trustee of the Charity is the Dominican Council, a company limited by guarantee and governed in accordance with its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The Dominican Council was incorporated on 25 May 1944, no. 387818. Its registered office is Blackfriars, St Giles, OXFORD OX1 3LY.

The chairman *ex officio* of the Corporation and its Committee is the Prior Provincial, at present the Very Rev. Fr Nicholas Crowe OP. According to its Articles of Association, 'any Roman Catholic Priest of the English Province of the Order of Preachers' (art. 6) is qualified to be a member of the Corporation. Three members of the Corporation are elected by the Corporation to serve on its Committee alongside the Prior Provincial. The members of the Committee function as the directors of the Corporation and as 'Charity Trustees' in the sense of s177 of the Charities Act 2011.

RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF CHARITY TRUSTEES

The Province has a wealth of experience among its friars, who have spent years pursuing the Province's mission and the Charity's objects by means of educational and pastoral work. Many of the friars have also served as administrators at a local level, holding offices such as prior, parish priest or bursar. The Provincial Chapter therefore has a rich pool of competent and proficient friars to draw upon when it elects the Prior Provincial and the Provincial Council.

The normal practice of the Dominican Council is to elect new members of the Corporation from the Provincial Council, and so in turn it is from among these experienced friars that the Committee is elected. As a result, the Charity Trustees, i.e. the members of the Committee of the Dominican Council, are friars of proven prudence and experience with detailed knowledge of the Charity's work and structure.

The solemnly professed friars have no personal income or property; anything that comes to them is acquired

for the Order, which in turn is obliged to support all its members, providing them with ‘everything that is necessary to fulfil the purpose of their vocation’ (*CIC* 670). Hence the object of the Charity includes ‘the upkeep of members of the Order of Preachers’. The members of the Committee of the Dominican Council therefore benefit from the activity of the Charity, but they do so in their capacity as members of the Order of Preachers, not as a result of being Charity Trustees.

TRAINING OF CHARITY TRUSTEES

New members of the Committee of the Dominican Council are very experienced in the work of the Province and its administration. As superiors and administrators they are already well-acquainted with the governing documents of the Order. New members of the Committee are provided with latest version the Charity Commission’s publication ‘The Essential Trustee: What you need to know, what you need to do’ and the OSCR publication ‘Guidance for Charity Trustees’. Trustees are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the other resources for Charity Trustees provided by the Charity Commission, OSCR and other sources. All Charity Trustees are provided with appropriate briefings from the Charity’s professional advisors concerning their responsibilities and when this is pertinent to any decisions that have to be made by the Charity Trustees. Members of the Committee of the Dominican Council attend meetings of the Association of Provincial Bursars and seminars for Charity Trustees organised by professional advisors.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND DECISION-MAKING

The Charity is structured internally as local priories in accordance with the laws of the Order of the Preachers contained in *LCO*. These norms, together with those of the Province itself, set out requirements for financial administration and reporting, investment, property acquisition and maintenance for the Province and for each priory, and also the limits to the powers of priors and of the Prior Provincial.

In particular:

- A Prior has a limit above which he cannot authorise expenditure without the consent of the

Priory Council. The Priory Council can authorise expenditure to a higher limit, which varies depending on the size of the Priory, and above this authorisation is required by the Prior Provincial or, beyond an upper limit, the Provincial Council. These limits also apply to the authorisation of alienations or the incurring of liabilities. When authorisation is given by the Provincial Council, the Economic Council of the Province is consulted in advance, and a determination is made whether the matter requires an act of the Trustee Corporation.

- The annual accounts and budget of each priory are sent to the Prior Provincial (*LCO* 563) and submitted for examination by the Provincial Council (*LCO* 564), the Economic Council of the Province and the Trustee Corporation.

The limits mentioned here are reviewed every four years by the Provincial Chapter.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF SCOTTISH ACTIVITIES

The priories in Scotland are managed locally in the same way as priories in England, under the supervision of the Prior Provincial and the Provincial Council assisted by the Economic Council. The Trustees take the view that local governance structures are adequate and appropriate without an additional layer of governance specifically for Scotland.

RELATIONSHIP WITH A WIDER NETWORK

The Province is part of the Order of Preachers and of the Catholic Church. It operates in accordance with the teaching and laws of the Catholic Church, and the manner in which it realises its object, ‘the promotion of education and the Roman Catholic religion’, is influenced by the priorities identified by the Church and by the Order of Preachers internationally.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER CHARITIES AND ORGANISATIONS

The Charity is closely related to the **Hoper Dixon Trust** (registered charity no. 231160). Under the terms of a Scheme of 20 July 2006, that Trust exists ‘for the benefit of the poor connected with or in the neighbourhood of any house or pastoral centre under

the direction of the Dominicans of the English Province of the Order of Preachers’.

The Province also co-operates in the mission of the **Catholic Dioceses** in whose territory members of the Province work. Six parishes and chaplaincies to eight universities are entrusted to the Province.

The Charity co-operates fraternally in a number of projects with **other branches of the Dominican family** (Congregations of Dominican Sisters, Dominican Secular Institute and Lay Dominican fraternities) active in Great Britain. The Province recently co-operated in the establishment of a Priestly Confraternity of St Dominic, and remains closely involved in its development and expansion.

The Province operates Blackfriars Hall, Oxford, a Permanent Private Hall of the **University of Oxford**. The Hall co-operates with the University, Colleges and other Halls in furthering its educational objective. There is also co-operation with **other religious institutes** in training candidates for the priesthood and in providing theological formation for other religious. The Hall is developing a research collaboration with the **Anscombe Bioethics Centre**, registered charity no. 274327. Members of the congregations at two of the Province’s priories run overseas aid charities: the **Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust** (registered charity no. 288585) based in Oxford and the **Jean Grove Trust** (registered charity 1109593) based in Cambridge. The Province is happy to promote and support these works.

The Order’s presence in Grenada and Jamaica is canonically dependent on the Province. Though the presence there is not part of the Province Charity, from time to time the Charity is able to make grants for the work of the Order in the Caribbean.

FUNDRAISING DISCLOSURES

The Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016 requires charities which are subject to an audit to make disclosure in their Financial Statements about their fundraising activities.

The Dominican Friars have been mendicants since the very beginning of the Order of Preachers in the early 13th century, and benefactors have played a crucial role

at every stage of our history up to and including the present day.

In 2013, impelled by an urgent need to improve the financial situation of the charity, the Province began to employ a full-time fundraiser (Development Director) to direct and manage fundraising and related communications activities on the charity’s behalf. The Development Director is now assisted by a part-time Development Support Officer, with oversight provided by the Prior Provincial and the Provincial Bursar.

Most funds are raised from those with whom we have close relationships, typically through their attendance as worshippers at one of our churches. Wider circles of relationships are maintained through our opt-in magazine, opt-in email newsletters, websites, and social media pages, all of which may include invitations to donate. Contact relationship data and donations data are managed centrally through a highly secure database with access restricted to a small number of employees.

We fundraise in accordance with the requirements of the Fundraising Regulator, and with our moral obligations as a Catholic charity. We fundraise responsibly at all times and with a sensitivity to the pastoral relationship that most donors have with the friars. We avoid approaches to vulnerable people and do not hold information on children. We do not exert pressure on people to donate, nor is access to the services we provide as a charity dependent on donations. We do not at this time employ third-party fundraisers, though some people do voluntarily and of their own initiative fundraise on our behalf. Subscriptions to communications can be cancelled at any time. Complaints are responded to as soon as possible; none were received in the current year (2024: none).

RISK

The trustees review annually the principal risks to which the charity is exposed, and the strategies and procedures in place to mitigate those risks. The trustees consider that the major risks can be categorised under four headings: operational, financial, reputational and regulatory. Listed below are the main risks in each category, along with the principal ways in which they are mitigated.

OPERATIONAL

The activities of the charity are highly dependent upon those friars who are responsible for their management, often with little or no professional lay assistance. For this reason there is a risk that our ministries may suffer from lack of direction, poor management and inefficiencies. It can happen that a particular friar is overburdened with responsibilities leading to stress and reduced effectiveness. To mitigate this, the trustees and especially the Prior Provincial regularly review the work of each entity of the Province, ensuring that those responsible for our works are provided with the practical and moral support required. The Province has also instituted regular meetings between the Provincial and local superiors, to offer support and share best practice. The Province maintains its commitment to ensuring that friars who are experiencing emotional or psychological difficulties are provided with appropriate professional help.

The charity is responsible for the care of a number of elderly friars. As at 30 September 2025 there were 14 friars over 70, of whom 5 were over 80. Like all of the friars, these men have no resources of their own as all earnings, pensions and other income have been donated to the charity. As far as possible older brothers continue to live in community, though where appropriate residential nursing care places are found. The Province remains committed to designating all pensions income to the Designated Sick Fund (*see page 44*), which covers the cost of residential care but also funds home nursing care where appropriate, as well as works in priories designed to make them more suitable for elderly and infirm brothers.

The on-going work of the charity requires that young men continue to present themselves to join the Order, and that these men be properly formed and educated for our ministries. Many religious orders in the UK have seen very low or even non-existent levels of recruitment for a number of years leading to a severely ageing demographic profile and the abandonment of numbers of ministries. The Province has committed one of its ablest young priests to work full-time as Promoter and Director of Vocations, and over the last two years ten men entered the noviciate, an unusually high number. The Province is also committed to ensuring that its

friars receive the best possible intellectual, spiritual and pastoral formation.

FINANCIAL

The charity's principal assets comprise listed investments, the value of and income from which are dependent on movements in UK and world markets. A substantial long-term loss of value of these investments would threaten the long-term financial viability of the Province, and any significant reduction in investment income would cause financial difficulties even in the short term. To mitigate this, the investments are managed by reputable investment managers who adhere to a policy agreed by the trustees. The performance of investments and our investment strategy are assessed regularly by the Economic Council of the Province, aided by a lay expert, to ensure that our investments remain appropriate to the charity's needs (*see further page 45*).

The Development Office, under the leadership of a lay professional Development Director, with the co-operation of all friars, ensures that the Province and individual priories maintain excellent relationships with existing donors and takes the lead in seeking out and cultivating potential new sources of support. The work of the Development Office is supervised by the Provincial in consultation with the Provincial Council.

Our operations involve very large numbers of financial transactions including significant amounts of cash, bringing with it the obvious risk of fraud, theft or loss. The Province has a well-established set of 'Norms for Economic and Administrative Practice' which impose appropriate procedures for cash-handling and for the management of bank payments etc., and the Provincial Bursar visits priories regularly to support local bursars and other friars in adhering to these procedures and other good practices. The Province decided at its recent Chapter to substantially reduce the levels of expenditure that can be made without a second authorised signature.

The operation of Blackfriars Hall and Studium is at particular financial risk, depending as heavily as it does upon numbers of students. The Regent and other moderators of the Hall engage in visits to the USA to seek additional students, and the Hall is developing

with the Development Director a fundraising strategy emphasising student scholarships and support for Studium teaching with a view to providing Blackfriars with a more solid financial base in the years to come.

In the light of rapidly rising inflation, the Province faces increasing risks both to its income, as donors find their finances stretched, and in general expenditure. The value of returns on investments may also be eroded with higher inflation and loss of capital value in the markets.

REPUTATIONAL

Friars and some other volunteers working with the friars, by the nature of our activities, inevitably often operate with little immediate supervision and often in positions of considerable pastoral responsibility and trust. Mistakes and misjudgements especially by friars in such positions can lead to harm to the reputation of the whole Province. The trustees consider that the greatest risk to the reputation of the charity in terms of severity of outcome, though not of likelihood, comes from allegations of abuse by friars of children or vulnerable adults: even where these allegations are historical in nature and relate to long-deceased friars, and even where they are unfounded, they can be deeply harmful to the reputation, local and national, of the Province, its ministries and its friars. The Province works closely with the Catholic Church Insurance Association, the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service and the Safeguarding Co-ordinator of the Roman

Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham to deal with any such allegations in accordance with the safeguarding policy of the Catholic Church in England & Wales. A member of the Provincial Council is the Province's Safeguarding Co-ordinator, and he is responsible for ensuring that all friars are familiar with, and practise, this safeguarding policy, again in association with the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Lay people volunteer as local safeguarding representatives at each location.

The trustees also recognise the potential for reputational damage that may result from operational failures mentioned in the first paragraph of this section, and this risk is mitigated as detailed there.

REGULATORY

The trustees are keenly aware of the need to comply with relevant laws, including but not limited to those governing employment, health & safety at work, immigration and data protection, and the potential consequences of failures in this regard. The Provincial Bursar, assisted by the Economic Council of the Province, the Development Director and professional experts, takes the lead in compliance, and is aided in this regard by training sessions provided by the Association of Provincial Bursars. Each site within the Province is visited at least once a year by a professional Health & Safety advisor, to ensure that our sites are not only compliant with the Health & Safety at Work, etc. Act (1974) and related regulations, but also provide good working and living environments for the friars.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Charity Trustees have read the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and the specific guidance for charities whose objects include Education and the advancement of Religion. The Charity Trustees have taken note of the Charity Commission's advice of October 2015 concerning public benefit and fee-charging in relation to educational charities. The Charity Trustees have paid due regard to the Commission's guidance, and all who make decisions about the activities the Charity undertakes are concerned to ensure that a real religious or educational benefit is provided to a broad range of people.

The priories of the Province all celebrate liturgy which is open to the public, and the friars are available to any members of the public who wish to consult them about matters of faith and the spiritual life. The priory churches are open to the public for most of the day, and many people avail themselves of the opportunity for quiet prayer or reflection. No charge is made for admission to the churches or to religious services (cf. *CIC*, c. 1221). Offerings are customarily made on the occasion of celebration of certain rites (e.g. baptisms, marriages and funerals), but Canon Law requires that those who are not able to make an offering are not thereby excluded (*CIC*, c. 848 and c. 1181). Some charges may be made for other activities (e.g. participation

in pilgrimages); the Hoper Dixon Trust, a connected charity, is in some cases able to assist with these costs.

The main educational centre of the Province, located at Blackfriars in Oxford, welcomes applications to study from any suitably qualified student. Blackfriars Hall charges fees at the level prevalent among Oxford colleges, and students are eligible for public funding in the same way as other students in higher education. The Hall is aware that public funding is not available to assist all who would benefit from studying in Oxford, especially those wishing to study for a second undergraduate degree or a postgraduate qualification. The Hall continues actively seeking funds to broaden access. Members of the public who are not students at Oxford may attend lectures and classes at Blackfriars on application; a small fee is normally charged, but is waived in cases of financial hardship. Blackfriars Hall and many of the priories and parishes arrange for public lectures and talks which are free of charge.

The Charity Trustees consider that the achievements and performance of the Charity demonstrate success in providing benefit to a broad public.

PROVISION FOR SICK AND ELDERLY FRIARS

As of 30 September 2025, 16 friars of the Province (26%) in Great Britain were aged 70 or over, of whom 7 (11%) were 80 or over. Although most of these brothers continue to be active and enjoy reasonable health, the Charity Trustees are concerned to ensure that adequate provision is made for the care of older brothers and of any other sick brothers. The Charity maintains a Sick Fund for this purpose, of which details are given in the Financial Review and Statement of Financial Activities. At the end of the reporting period, no brother was in a nursing home (2024: none); but it is not unlikely that this will be necessary in the future, so the Trustees continue to ensure that such provision is affordable whenever necessary. While the provision and level of

funds is adequate for current needs, the Charity Trustees are aware that demands could increase substantially in future years.

Most pension income is designated for the Sick Fund, which at the end of the period stood at £5,109k (2024: £4,577k). While the income from this fund currently suffices, the Charity Trustees are concerned that the Sick Fund should continue to be increased to ensure that likely future demands can be met.

Priorities are also concerned to keep constantly under review their provision for disabled and infirm brothers and as necessary to make various adaptations and improvements.

INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

The Charity's investments had a market value of £26,264k (2024: £23,139k) at the end of the reporting period. The market value of investments with Evelyn Partners was £10,528k (2024: £9,781k). The value of the Province's holdings in the BlackRock Catholic Charities Growth & Income Fund at the end of the year was £12,736k (2024: £11,758k).

INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The charity's investments are invested in actively managed funds with medium-risk profiles. The investment funds provide an important stream of income for the charity's activities as well as capital growth. The investment strategy seeks to balance the need for income now with the need for a sound capital base for the future. The trustees aim to ensure friars can be maintained throughout their old age, once they are unable to support themselves through works, to maintain their priories and chapels, many of which are listed buildings, and to support the training and ongoing development of all brothers. A review of the investment strategy and investment managers is taking place in 2026.

ETHICAL CRITERIA

The investments are managed in accordance with the charity's ethical investment criteria, including but not limited to those relating to sanctity of life, care for the environment, and justice and peace.

PERFORMANCE OF FUNDS

2025 was marked by significant market volatility for much of the financial year. Q1, to 31 December 2024, saw the US general election and was followed by two quarters of tension over US tariffs and fiscal policy. Precious metals performed well all year. The final quarter, to 30 September 2025, was marked by cautious optimism in markets as trade-related uncertainty eased and the US Federal Reserve delivered a rate cut.

BlackRock Catholic Charities Growth and Income Fund is a unitised fund with a risk rating of Medium/High 7

on the 1–10 risk scale. In the year ended 30 September 2025, it made a total return of 11.9% net and a distribution yield of 3.8%. Distributions of 1.4p per unit were made on a quarterly basis. The charity received distributions of £415,899 in the year. The market value increased over the year by £978,264 (2024: gain £927,054).

The charity's portfolio with Evelyn has a risk rating of Medium, or 6 on the 1–10 risk scale. In the year ended 30 September 2025, it made a total return of 9.8% net and a gross yield of 2%. Income from dividends and interest of £197,121 were paid over during the year. The portfolio made an unrealised gain over the year of £746,639 (2024: gain £878,914). Although both Blackrock and Evelyn exceeded the charity's absolute return targets for them in terms of generating an adequate real return over the long term, both of them underperformed their respective benchmark in the year under review – Blackrock +11.9% versus +12.3%; Evelyn +9.8% versus +14%. The specific line items vary in each case but the fundamental problem has been the same for both. Equity market performance has been very strong but it has been driven largely by a small group of very large US technology stocks. Managers with a more 'value' orientation, underweighting these growth stocks relative to their benchmark weighting, have struggled. Furthermore alternative strategies such as some of the environmentally-oriented strategies included in the charity's funds, and government bonds, have also been a headwind. The charity judges managers against the mandates that they have been given so accepts some underperformance in the circumstances described. However, it is the view of the charity that the underperformance over a period of years merits a comprehensive manager review in 2026, whilst acknowledging the challenge of identifying managers that can accommodate an authentic Catholic mandate.

In 2023, £1.5m was deposited with the BlackRock Institutional Cash Series. At 30 September 2025, £3m (2024: £1,600) was directly held in cash funds, comprising 11% of total investment assets (2024: 7%).

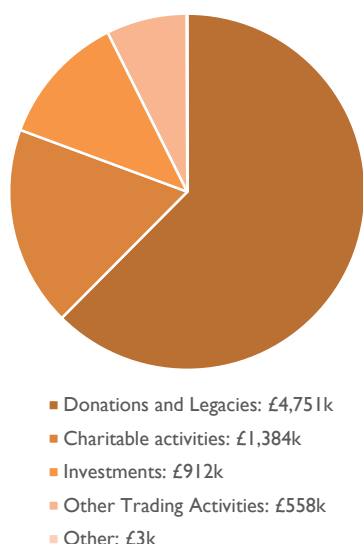
INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE (CONT.)

Income from the cash funds over the year was £89,227 (2024: £80,648), giving a gross yield of 4%.

Further details of these investments may be found in note 6 to the Financial Statements.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

FIGURE 1:
INCOME



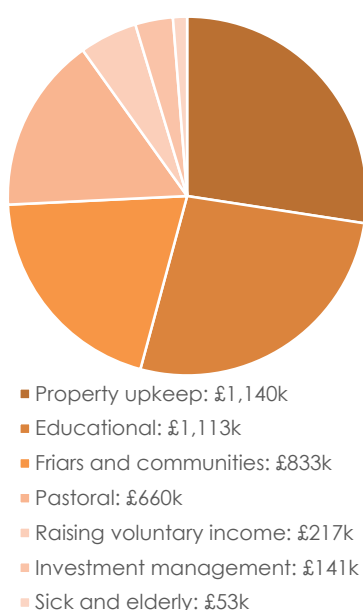
FUNDING SOURCES AND INCOME

Total income for the year ended 30 September 2025 was £7,607k (2024: £4,302k). The significant increase in income between 2024 and 2025, of £3.3m, is largely attributable to two major multi-year grants secured during 2025 for activities of the Studium to take place between 2026 and 2032. In accordance with charity accounting requirements these grants have been recognised in full in the year in which they were secured, and are in the restricted reserves at 30 September 2025. The Society of Jesus Osterley fund renewed its funding of the Studium's lectorships, to support the training and formation of priests for religious orders. The MacDonald Agape Foundation committed £448,100 to fund a Senior Research Fellow & Departmental Lecturer in Medieval/Scholastic Theology. In addition to these major grants, donations income increased by £150k in respect of a new campaign to raise funds for the upkeep and formation of the Province's growing number of novices and student brothers together with on-going learning and formal training post-ordination.

Investment income increased by £280k in respect of an increased rate of draw down from the BlackRock fund and income from newly invested capital: £500k was added to the investment funds in 2024 and £1.5m added to the BlackRock Cash Series in 2025. Income from property increased by £117k in respect of rental income from letting of a primary school formerly owned by the London priory.

More details are given in note 1 to the financial statements; cf Figure 1.

FIGURE 2:
EXPENDITURE



EXPENDITURE

Expenditure totalled £4,156k for the year (2024: £4,497k), a reduction of £341k, 8%. Upkeep of buildings remains a major item of expenditure, but was lower in 2025 than 2024 as a number of major projects were completed in 2024 and the depreciation cost reduced by £112k as the fixtures and fittings cost of the 2019 refurbishment of 32/33 St Giles building was fully depreciated at 30 September 2024. Utility bills were lower than 2024, particularly electricity, as UK power costs fell following their peak in 2022. The number of friars was stable and other costs of their upkeep remained stable, overall.

More details on expenditure are given in note 2 to the financial statements; cf Figure 2.

FUNDS & INVESTMENTS

INVESTMENT POLICY AND OBJECTIVES

The Charity's investment policy is set by the Trustees, after regular consultation with the Province's Economic Council and professional investment managers. The principal objective is the maximisation of returns, seeking capital growth but also a steady and, where possible, growing level of income. The Charity Trustees are concerned to manage risk and therefore maintain and review periodically, with the assistance of the Province's Economic Council and professional advisors, a high degree of diversification in the Charity's investment assets, whether held directly or through a common investment fund.

In keeping with the objects of the Charity and the teachings of the Catholic Church, the following policy is stated in the Statute of the Province: 'Investments shall be avoided in companies a significant proportion of whose activities are contrary to the moral teachings of the Catholic Church, including but not limited to those relating to sanctity of life, care for the environment, and justice and peace.' This applies both to direct investments and to those through a common investment fund.

POLICY ON RESERVES

The laws of the Order oblige the Province to ensure that funds are available to support central administration, common projects (e.g. publishing, archives, libraries), the care of sick and elderly friars, and the formation of student friars. The Charity continues to maintain a high level of reserves in order to meet these obligations. The Charity Trustees also ensure that the level of reserves held is adequate to respond to unexpected financial needs, and to be able to commit to new apostolic projects when possible. Such a level of reserves is required because of the very large potential demands made by the ownership of the priories and churches necessary to meet the requirements of the Charity's objects, many of which are listed buildings. It might not always be possible to meet urgent needs out of branch funds. The high level of reserves also produce an income for central activities, allowing contributions from branch funds to central province funds to be kept down.

The Charity Trustees' view is that an amount equal to a minimum of four months' total expenditure (i.e. £1,499k over the reporting period) should be held as free reserves.

The Charity Trustees continue to aim for an increasing level of reserves designated for the purpose of providing for the needs of older or infirm friars and the formation of novices and student friars. The Charity Trustees continue to maintain designated funds as capital funds which generate sufficient income necessary for the Province to be able to satisfy its obligations under the laws of the Order and to meet annual expenditure requirements in these priority areas.

RESERVES AND DESIGNATED FUNDS

The balance sheet shows total unrestricted funds of £13,984k (2024: £12,714k). The Province General Purpose fund accounts for £7,550k (2024: £6,913k), of which £6,830k (2024: £6,367k) are free reserves (i.e. excluding fixed assets held for charity use). This level of free reserves represents sixteen months' total expenditure by the Charity.

Designated funds make up the remaining £6,434k (2024: £5,801k) of unrestricted funds, the principal of which is the:

Sick Fund: This holds a balance of £5,109k (2024: £4,577k) to provide care for sick and elderly friars. Income from the pensions of the friars is allocated to this fund. Despite a number of friars in residential care over the past few years and works to provide accommodation in priories suitable for elderly and infirm friars, it has been possible to continue to build up the sick fund. While it is impossible to predict with accuracy the burden on this fund, the large number of older friars makes significant demands in the near future likely.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with 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) regulations.

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales and Scotland 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 of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- a. select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- b. observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- c. make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- d. state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- e. 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 maintaining proper accounting records that 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, the provisions of the trust deed, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the provisions of the Book of Constitutions and Ordinations of the Friars of the Order of Preachers. 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.

DECLARATION

DECLARATION

The officers of the Trustee Corporation, The Dominican Council, declare that to the best of their knowledge the annual accounts of the English Province of the Order of Preachers have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the regulations and requirements of the province Trust Deed, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the provisions of the Book of Constitutions and Ordinations of the Friars of the Order of Preachers.

The officers of the Trustee Corporation who were in office on the date of approval of these financial statements have confirmed that, as far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the auditor is unaware. Each of the officers of the Trustee Corporation has confirmed that they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as an officer of the Trustee Corporation in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to the auditor.

BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEE



Fr David Goodill OP
Secretary to the Dominican Council

25 May 2026

AUDITOR'S REPORT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE ORDER OF PREACHERS

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of the English Province of the Order of Preachers ('the charity') for the year ended 30 September 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, 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 30 September 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 and The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

BASIS FOR OPINION

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 12 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, including the trustees' 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, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, 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

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, 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

We have been appointed as auditor under Section 144 Charities Act 2011 and Section 44(1)(c) Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in

accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with trustees and other management, and from our knowledge and experience;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charity.
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence where applicable; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations; and

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims;
- reviewing relevant correspondence.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

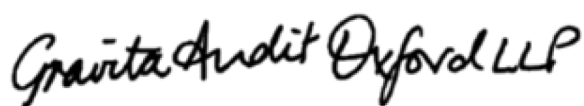
A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities.

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Gravita Audit Oxford LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the 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's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



17 June 2026

Gravita Audit Oxford LLP, Statutory Auditor
First Floor, Park Central
40–41 Park End Street
Oxford OX1 1JD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 30 September 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £
INCOME FROM:							
Donations and Legacies		165,682	4,585,068	4,750,750	26,321	1,759,809	1,786,130
Other Trading Activities		122,108	435,833	557,941	99,328	331,526	430,854
Investment Income		516,782	395,442	912,224	385,809	296,069	681,878
Charitable Activities		280,521	1,103,040	1,383,561	207,027	1,187,014	1,394,041
Other		-	2,880	2,880	-	9,556	9,556
TOTAL INCOME	1	1,085,093	6,522,263	7,607,356	718,485	3,583,974	4,302,459
EXPENDITURE ON:							
Raising funds							
Costs of raising voluntary income		211,239	6,204	217,443	209,465	7,306	216,772
Investment management costs		140,572	-	140,572	129,882	-	129,882
Charitable Activities		563,106	3,235,187	3,798,293	583,416	3,566,993	4,150,409
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2	914,917	3,241,391	4,156,308	922,763	3,574,299	4,497,063
GAINS /(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS	6	770,761	854,140	1,624,901	969,097	917,469	1,886,566
Net income/(expenditure)		940,937	4,135,012	5,075,949	764,819	927,143	1,691,962
TRANSFERS							
Transfers between funds	11	329,339	(329,339)	-	273,982	(273,982)	-
Net movement in funds		1,270,276	3,805,673	5,075,949	1,038,801	653,161	1,691,962
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS							
Total funds brought forward 1 October 2024		12,714,116	19,568,087	32,282,203	11,675,315	18,914,926	30,590,241
Total funds carried forward 30 September 2025	12	13,984,392	23,373,760	37,358,152	12,714,116	19,568,087	32,282,203

BALANCE SHEET

at 30 September 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	5	6,429,133	6,739,826
Investments	6	26,263,992	23,139,111
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS		32,693,125	29,878,937
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	7	3,890,559	1,460,636
Cash at bank and in hand		1,429,437	1,647,948
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		5,319,996	3,108,584
LIABILITIES			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(654,969)	(700,657)
Net Current Assets		4,665,027	2,407,927
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		37,358,152	32,286,864
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	14	-	(4,661)
NET ASSETS		37,358,152	32,282,203
FUNDS			
Restricted funds			
Branch funds		17,608,220	14,162,586
Province restricted funds		5,765,540	5,405,501
Total restricted funds		23,373,760	19,568,087
Unrestricted funds			
Province general purpose		7,550,102	6,913,449
Province designated		6,434,290	5,800,667
Total unrestricted funds		13,984,392	12,714,116
TOTAL FUNDS	12	37,358,152	32,282,203

The financial statements on pages 54 to 72 were approved by the Trustee, authorised for issue on 25 May 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

D.M. Crane

David Goodill



Directors of Trustee Corporation

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

for the year ended 30 September 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net movement in funds	5,075,949	1,691,962
Depreciation charges	543,538	655,446
(Gains) on investments	(1,624,901)	(1,886,616)
Loss/(Profit) on disposal of fixed assets	9,418	(6,500)
Interest received	(912,224)	(681,878)
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	(2,429,923)	132,100
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	(39,835)	160,471
NET CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	622,022	64,985
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Interest received	912,224	681,878
Purchase of property and equipment	(242,362)	(397,260)
Proceeds from disposal of property and equipment	99	6,500
Additional cash invested	(1,500,000)	(500,000)
Purchase of investments	(1,785,871)	(1,153,035)
Proceeds from sale of investments	1,460,191	1,430,422
Change in cash in investment portfolios	325,699	(277,386)
NET CASH FROM/(USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(830,020)	(208,881)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Payment of finance lease liabilities	(10,513)	(10,513)
NET CASH USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES	(10,513)	(10,513)
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE YEAR	(218,511)	(154,409)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	1,647,948	1,802,357
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	1,429,437	1,647,948
Cash and cash equivalents are comprised of:		
Cash at bank and in hand	1,429,437	1,647,948
	1,429,437	1,647,948

ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At start of year £	Cash flows £	At end of year £
Cash	1,647,948	(218,511)	1,429,437
Finance lease obligations	(15,174)	10,513	(4,661)
	1,632,774	(207,998)	1,424,776

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF PREPARATION

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) effective 1 January 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

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 these accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (the Charities SORP (FRS 102) effective 1 January 2019) rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005, which has since been withdrawn. The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

ASSESSMENT OF GOING CONCERN

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future, being a period of at least 12 months from the date that these financial statements have been signed. In arriving at this conclusion, the charity has prepared a detailed budget and cash flow

forecast to end of September 2025. The Trustees consider that the charity has sufficient unrestricted reserves, in the form of cash and a liquid investment portfolio, that could be drawn upon, should the charity be required to do so in order to meet its costs for the foreseeable future, being a period of at least 12 months from the date that these financial statements have been signed. On this basis, the Trustees consider that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going-concern basis.

FIXED ASSETS

Functional property is capitalised at cost except in the case of historic property for which no cost information is available. Such property has been capitalised using the derived cost method based on insurance replacement value and retail price index. The year the property was built is used for this purpose and as such enhanced expenditure is also incorporated into cost.

Tangible fixed assets are being depreciated over their useful economic lives. The following rates are used:

Historic Property: over expected useful lives between 10 and 371 years

Other Freehold Property: over expected useful lives between 10 and 50 years

Motor Vehicles: over 4 years on a straight-line basis

Fixtures and Fittings: over 4 years on a straight-line basis. **Leases:** over 7 years

Assets in course of construction: not depreciated.

Assets are reviewed for impairment when evidence of such impairment arises. Expenditure on tangible items is not capitalised where it is less than £2,500 or where the view is taken that it is incapable of providing any future economic benefit to the Charity.

WORKS OF ART AND HISTORIC TREASURES

Individual works of art, historic treasures and plate are not capitalised as a valuation is not considered practical. Such items as are in the possession of the Charity were created for use in religious worship or devotion and

continue to be used for these purposes. The Charity maintains stewardship by keeping a full inventory and has no intention of disposing of any of the works of art, historic treasures and plate so long as this use continues.

INVESTMENTS

All investments are valued at their market value at the balance sheet date. It is considered that market value best represents a true and fair view of the value of these assets to the Charity. Gains and losses on disposal of the investments are treated as realised. Gains and losses on the revaluation of investments are treated as unrealised. Both are recorded in the Statement of Financial Activities. Investment management fees are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when incurred.

FOREIGN CURRENCIES

Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate of ruling at the date of transaction. All differences are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

LIABILITIES

Liabilities are recorded in the financial statements when the Trustees have made a commitment to acquire goods or services.

DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

Donations and legacies are accounted for in accordance with the requirements of the SORP (being entitlement, probability and measurement). Legacies are considered receivable once the value of the legacy has been determined and probate has been granted. Legacies received by friars of the Province, who have signed Deeds of Disponsor in favour of The Dominican Council, are classified as legacy income. Donated assets and services are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when a reliable estimate of the value to the charity can be readily obtained.

GRANTS RECEIVABLE

Grants receivable are accounted for in accordance with the terms of the grant, and are recognised when the conditions for receipt have been complied with.

PENSIONS RECEIVABLE

Pension income for professed members of the Order is accounted for when it is receivable.

ACTIVITIES FOR RAISING FUNDS

Fundraising, publications and other similar income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the relevant amount of income becomes receivable or the item has been sold. Property rental income is accounted for when it is receivable in accordance with the terms of the relevant agreements.

INVESTMENT INCOME

Investment income is accounted for when notified by the Charity's investment portfolio manager. Deposit interest is accounted for on a receivable basis. Interest received on cash held with investment managers is accounted for as investment income.

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

The costs of charitable activities are accounted for when they become payable. They include apportioned support costs.

SUPPORT AND GOVERNANCE COSTS

Within this heading are incorporated management and administration costs, and any other costs not directly constitutive of charitable activity, generation of funds or governance. Where support costs are attributable to a particular charitable activity, they are allocated to that activity. General support costs are apportioned on the basis of the direct costs of each activity.

NATIONAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FRIARS

The Province pays voluntary (class 3) national insurance contributions for friars when these will count towards the provision of State Pension. These costs are recognised at the end of the tax year in which HM Revenue and Customs issues notice of a gap in National Insurance Contributions.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees. The amount charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in respect of pension

costs is the contributions payable in the year.

TAXATION

The English Province of the Order of Preachers is a registered charity and as such its income and gains falling within Sections 518 to 564 of the Income Taxes Act 2007 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 are exempt from income tax and capital gains tax to the extent that they are applied to charitable objectives.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Restricted funds can only be applied for a particular purpose. Most restricted funds of the charity are 'branch funds', restricted to use for the particular purposes of a branch of the charity (a priory, a parish or Blackfriars Hall) while that branch continues in existence. Some branch funds have more specific designations; others have further restrictions that would have to be respected even in the event of a branch ceasing to operate.

There are also central restricted funds, the principal of which are:

- Training Funds – to support training of student friars of the Order;
- Historic Property Fund – comprising the Historic Property Fixed Assets (see 'Fixed Assets' above);
- Mission Funds – to support various missions of the Order.

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

The unrestricted funds of the Charity comprise general purpose funds and designated funds. General purpose funds are retained to cover future direct charitable costs, general support costs, and investment management costs.

Designated funds are those parts of the Charity's unrestricted funds designated by the Trustees to be used for particular purposes in the future. The Trustees have the power to reallocate such funds. The principal designated funds are:

- Study Funds – representing amounts designated for expenditure on students' study costs.
- Sick Funds – representing amounts designated for

expenditure on the care of sick and elderly friars.

CONNECTED CHARITY

The Hoper Dixon Trust is considered to be a connected charity because the Dominican Council is one of the Trustees. The Trust's accounts are not consolidated with those of the English Province of the Order of Preachers because in the opinion of the officers of the Dominican Council the Order does not have control of the Trust. The Trust's Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet are given in notes 16 and 17 respectively.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Charity only has financial instruments and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

LEASES

Leases are classified as finance leases where the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the equipment from the lessor to the lessee.

As a lessee: equipment held under finance leases are recognised on the Balance Sheet at the commencement of the lease at its fair value measured at the lease's inception. The asset recognised is matched by a liability for the obligation to pay the lessor.

Finance charges are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

The charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. There are no estimates and assumptions that have a risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. ANALYSIS OF INCOME

ANALYSIS OF INCOME									
	Unrestricted Funds 2025	Restricted Funds 2025	Total Funds 2025	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total Funds 2024	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total Funds 2024
INCOME									
Donations and legacies									
Donations and gifts	28,041	1,437,574	1,465,615	20,321	1,110,345	1,130,666			
Legacies	132,508	32,496	165,004	6,000	318,141	324,141			
Grants received	5,133	3,114,998	3,120,131	-	331,323	331,323			
Total Donations and Legacies Income	165,682	4,585,068	4,750,750	26,321	1,759,809	1,786,130			
Other Trading Activities									
Fundraising, publications etc.	1,000	23,297	24,297	3,000	10,992	13,992			
Property	121,108	412,536	533,644	96,328	320,534	416,862			
Total Other Trading Activities	122,108	435,833	557,941	99,328	331,526	430,854			
Income from listed investments	516,782	395,442	912,224	385,809	296,069	681,878			
Charitable Activities									
Ministerial services	75,044	604,269	679,313	22,072	654,563	676,635			
Educational services	-	482,587	482,587	-	501,649	501,649			
Pensions received	205,477	16,184	221,661	184,955	30,802	215,757			
Total Charitable Activities	280,521	1,103,040	1,383,561	207,027	1,187,014	1,394,041			
Other Income	-	2,880	2,880	-	9,556	9,556			
TOTAL INCOME	1,085,093	6,522,263	7,607,356	718,485	3,583,974	4,302,459			

2. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE							
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £
COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS							
Costs of raising voluntary income		211,239	6,204	217,443	209,465	7,306	216,772
Investment management costs		140,572	-	140,572	129,882	-	129,882
Total costs of raising funds		351,811	6,204	358,015	339,347	7,306	346,654
EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES							
Educational	3	38,969	1,073,900	1,112,869	42,126	1,088,674	1,130,800
Pastoral works and projects		233,305	426,528	659,833	209,896	468,652	678,548
Care for sick and elderly friars		29,249	23,405	52,654	69,661	24,374	94,035
Property upkeep		215,063	925,218	1,140,281	230,486	1,199,988	1,430,474
Support of the friars and communities		46,520	786,136	832,656	31,247	785,305	816,552
Total charitable activities		563,106	3,235,187	3,798,293	583,416	3,566,993	4,150,409
TOTAL EXPENDITURE							
		914,917	3,241,391	4,156,308	922,763	3,574,299	4,497,063

3. APPORTIONMENT OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Fund-raising £	Educational £	Pastoral £	Sick & Elderly £	Property £	Friars & Communities £	Total £
CENTRAL SUPPORT COSTS							
Friars	8,907	2,431	12,106	1,250	9,743	577	35,015
Staff	31,594	8,623	42,942	4,433	34,560	2,048	124,200
General administration	22,951	6,264	31,194	3,221	25,105	1,488	90,223
Governance costs							
Audit & accountancy fees	6,627	1,809	9,007	930	7,249	430	26,052
Legal fees	5,171	1,411	7,028	726	5,657	335	20,328
Other professional Fees	6,652	1,816	9,041	933	7,276	431	26,149
Total central support costs	81,902	22,354	111,318	11,493	89,590	5,309	321,966
BRANCH SUPPORT COSTS	1,270	225,418	21,281	-	-	70,756	318,725
TOTAL SUPPORT COSTS 2025	83,172	247,772	132,599	11,493	89,590	76,065	640,691
TOTAL SUPPORT COSTS 2024	86,930	239,398	125,120	28,901	108,984	76,590	665,923

Central support costs are apportioned to activities in proportion to directly incurred expenditure. Branch support costs are allocated to the principal activity of the branch incurring the cost. Included in Audit and accountancy fees are audit fees of £18,750 (2024: £18,750).

4. STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

	2025	2024
STAFF NUMBERS		
Average number of Employees	23	24
Average number of FTE Employees	14	14

The number of employees who earned £60,000 per annum or more (including taxable benefits but excluding employer's pension contributions) during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
£60,001 - £70,000	1	1
STAFF COSTS		
	£	£
Salaries/Wages	645,901	636,332
Employer's national insurance costs	55,233	52,964
Pension costs	82,018	83,786
Total Staff Costs	783,152	773,082

No remuneration is paid to the trustee corporation or its directors.

VOLUNTEER NUMBERS

Total Lay Volunteers	75	70
Total Full Time Equivalent Lay Volunteers	5	5

Note: for the sake of clarity, friars are no longer included here as volunteers.

4. STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS (CONT.)

For the purposes of this report, employees are those who have contracts of employment. The figures do not include persons paid through payroll from time to time who have no contracted hours; typically, such persons provide teaching or other ad hoc services to Blackfriars Hall, and are either employees of other institutions or students doing small amounts of part-time work.

The charity considers its key management personnel is comprised of its Trustees and other members of the Provincial Council, all of whom are Friars. The total

employment benefits, including employer pension cost of key management personnel, were £nil (2024: £nil). The total of expenses reimbursed to key management personnel was £nil (2024: £nil).

The principal roles of non-friar volunteers are answering the door and telephone at the priories in Oxford and Cambridge, and church cleaning, flower arranging and similar tasks in Leicester and London, along with singing in the church choirs. The average number of hours worked by these volunteers each week is 2.3.

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS USED FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES

	Inalienable Property £	Other Property £	Motor Vehicles £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Total £
ASSET COST					
Balance brought forward 1 October 2024	1,000,613	9,707,608	90,669	3,230,345	14,029,235
Additions	-	-	10,695	231,667	242,362
Disposals	-	-	(18,568)	-	(18,568)
Balance carried forward 30 September 2025	1,000,613	9,707,608	82,796	3,462,012	14,253,029
ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION					
Balance brought forward 1 October 2024	492,286	3,950,506	57,230	2,789,387	7,289,409
Disposals	-	-	(9,051)	-	(9,051)
Charge for year	4,539	288,020	11,124	239,855	543,538
Balance carried forward 30 September 2025	496,825	4,238,526	59,303	3,029,242	7,823,896
NET BOOK VALUE					
Brought forward 1 October 2024	508,327	5,757,102	33,439	440,958	6,739,826
Carried forward 30 September 2025	503,788	5,469,082	23,493	432,770	6,429,133

Historic property includes churches, places of worship and priories owned and occupied by the Order.

INVESTMENTS

	30 September 2025		30 September 2024	
	Cost £	Market Value £	Cost £	Market Value £
Catholic Charities Growth & Income Fund*	8,330,247	12,735,886	8,330,247	11,757,622
Funds managed by Evelyn Partners**	7,033,325	10,528,117	7,033,325	9,781,478
BlackRock Institutional Cash Series	2,999,990	2,999,990	1,500,010	1,600,011
	18,363,562	26,263,993	16,863,582	23,139,111

	2025 £	2024 £
Market Value at 1 October	22,815,040	20,705,810
Capital added	1,500,000	500,000
Additions at Cost	1,785,871	1,153,086
Disposals Proceeds	(1,460,191)	(1,430,422)
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation	1,624,901	1,886,566
Market Value at 30 September	26,265,621	22,815,040
	(1,628)	324,071
Cash held in investment fund	26,263,993	23,139,111

* As of 30 September 2025, the composition of the Catholic Charities Growth & Income Fund was as follows:

UK Equities	1.2%
Global Equities	58.6%
Fixed Income	20.6%
Property	0.0%
Alternatives	13.4%
Cash	6.2%
Total	100.0%

** As of 30 September 2025, the composition of the Funds managed by Evelyn Partners was as follows:

UK Equities	16.5%
Global Equities	54.6%
Fixed Income	11.0%
Property	4.9%
Alternatives and Multi-Asset	12.4%
Cash	0.6%
Total	100.0%

6. INVESTMENTS

7. DEBTORS

	2025 £	2024 £
DEBTORS		
Trade debtors	47,815	92,973
Prepayments and accrued income	3,829,681	1,367,546
Other	13,063	117
Total Debtors	<u>3,890,559</u>	<u>1,460,636</u>

Included in accrued income is £2,870,416 in respect of grants receivable which is expected to be received after one year (2024: £348,000).

8. CREDITORS

	2025 £	2024 £
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	472,968	413,679
Taxation and social security	17,771	13,492
Accruals and deferred income	94,679	147,232
Other	69,551	126,254
Total Creditors	<u>654,969</u>	<u>700,657</u>
Deferred income (analysis)		
At 1 October	41,364	13,676
Amount released to income	(41,364)	(13,676)
Amount deferred in the year	22,270	41,364
At 30 September	<u>22,270</u>	<u>41,364</u>

Deferred income represents tuition fees invoiced in advance, unsaid Masses, and advance rent received.

9. TRANSACTIONS WITH TRUSTEES

The Trustees of the Charity are also members of the Order and as such have taken vows of poverty under which they renounce all personal right to income and

capital. The Charity provides for the essential needs of all members of the Order within the Province.

10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Members of the Order arranged for grants totalling £21,011 (2024: £13,684) to be made from the Hoper Dixon Trust, a trust of which the Dominican Council is a Trustee. The beneficiaries of the Hoper Dixon Trust are the poor connected with or in the neighbourhood of any house or pastoral centre under the direction of Dominicans of the English Province of the Order of Preachers. The Hoper Dixon Trust's Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet are reproduced in notes 17 and 18 respectively.

As of 30 September 2025, the Hoper Dixon Trust owed the English Province of the Order of Preachers £nil (2024: £2,362) in respect of grants approved and payable and the Province owed the Trust £800 (2024: £nil).

Fr Simon Gainé OP is Director of the Thomistic Institute at the Angelicum, Rome. The Institute made a payment to the Charity of £336 (2024: £779) in respect of teaching provided by brothers of the Province. Payments to the Institute totalled £nil (2024: £1,533).

11. FUNDS 2025

	Balance at 1 October 2024	Income	Expenditure	Gains/ (losses)	Transfers	Balance at 30 September 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
RESTRICTED						
Branch Funds						
Priory & Parish operating funds	2,080,850	2,120,049	(1,373,648)	121,627	(311,093)	2,637,785
Priory & Parish Fabric & special project funds	9,427,555	270,878	(472,350)	387,946	106,348	9,720,377
Studium	999,856	2,633,478	(519,872)	2,135	(25,187)	3,090,410
Blackfriars Hall	1,361,126	517,749	(540,853)	50,746	39,098	1,427,866
Las Casas Institute	289,777	101,601	(106,630)	-	(6,343)	278,405
Aquinas Institute	3,422	473,909	(22,365)	-	(1,589)	453,377
	14,162,586	6,117,664	(3,035,718)	562,454	(198,766)	17,608,220
Province Funds						
Caribbean Mission	312,366	68,818	(82,441)	18,795	(6,627)	310,911
Novice & Student training funds	4,361,001	290,100	(95,621)	271,306	(117,721)	4,709,065
Indileneable property	508,326	-	(4,539)	-	-	503,787
Other funds	223,808	45,681	(23,072)	1,585	(6,225)	241,777
	5,405,501	404,599	(205,673)	291,686	(130,573)	5,765,540
Total Restricted Funds	19,568,087	6,522,263	(3,241,391)	854,140	(329,339)	23,373,760
DESIGNATED						
Sick & Elderly funds	4,577,144	339,419	(86,096)	285,208	(6,500)	5,109,175
Development	136,758	3,724	(129,379)	8,188	137,453	156,744
Glasgow	379,334	11,000	(10,500)	24,277	-	404,111
Other	707,431	11,310	(29,521)	25,040	50,000	764,260
Total Designated Funds	5,800,667	365,453	(255,496)	342,713	180,953	6,434,290
GENERAL						
Province Capital	6,700,698	140,572	(140,572)	428,048	-	7,128,746
Province Revenue	212,751	579,068	(518,849)	-	148,386	421,356
Total General Funds	6,913,449	719,640	(659,421)	428,048	148,386	7,550,102
Total Unrestricted Funds	12,714,116	1,085,093	(914,917)	770,761	329,339	13,984,392
Total Funds	32,282,203	7,607,356	(4,156,308)	1,624,901	-	37,358,152

The transfers represent the obligations of the Province to support the friars and activities of Blackfriars Hall and the individual priories, and also the obligations of the Hall and priories to support the central costs of the Province. Definitions of the Funds named here can be found on p.68.

FUNDS 2024

	Balance at 1 October 2023	Income	Expenditure	Gains/ (Losses)	Transfers	Balance at 30 September 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
RESTRICTED						
Branch Funds						
Priory & Parish operating funds	1,836,698	2,309,890	(1,557,534)	110,219	(618,423)	2,080,850
Priory & Parish Fabric & special project funds	8,887,917	225,611	(657,526)	525,332	446,221	9,427,555
Blackfriars Hall	1,319,978	169,052	(480,076)	12,117	(21,215)	999,856
Studium	1,485,114	550,843	(570,914)	(135,200)	31,283	1,361,126
Las Casas Institute	332,621	88,242	(127,809)	-	(3,277)	289,777
Aquinas Institute	9,720	6,929	(12,947)	-	(280)	3,422
	13,872,048	3,350,567	(3,406,806)	512,468	(165,691)	14,162,586
Province Funds						
Caribbean Mission	253,276	71,593	(31,571)	26,024	(6,956)	312,366
Novice & Student training funds	4,069,899	106,175	(87,954)	376,668	(103,787)	4,361,001
Inalienable property	512,865	-	(4,539)	-	-	508,326
Other funds	206,838	55,639	(43,430)	2,309	2,452	223,808
	5,042,878	233,407	(167,494)	405,001	(108,291)	5,405,501
Total Restricted Funds	18,914,926	3,583,974	(3,574,300)	917,469	(273,982)	19,568,087
DESIGNATED						
Training & Study funds	3,244,640	46,822	589	266,998	(3,559,049)	-
Sick & Elderly funds	4,096,661	249,630	(98,515)	329,368	-	4,577,144
Development	167,960	8,742	(123,696)	15,073	68,679	136,758
Sutcliffe	186,442	-	-	(45,249)	(141,193)	-
Glasgow	345,012	10,000	(9,500)	33,822	-	379,334
Other	438,957	2,279	(11,054)	(18,056)	295,305	707,431
Total Designated Funds	8,479,672	317,473	(242,176)	581,956	(3,336,258)	5,800,667
GENERAL						
Province Capital	2,753,861	129,882	(129,882)	387,141	3,559,696	6,700,698
Province Revenue	441,782	271,130	(550,705)	-	50,544	212,751
Total General Funds	3,195,643	401,012	(680,587)	387,141	3,610,240	6,913,449
Total Unrestricted Funds	11,675,315	718,485	(922,763)	969,097	273,982	12,714,116
Total Funds	30,590,241	4,302,459	(4,497,063)	1,886,566	-	32,282,203

Definitions of the Funds named here can be found on p.68.

11. (CONT.) FUNDS DEFINITIONS

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Priory & Parish operating funds: each priory and parish has a General fund from which the costs of day-to-day operations are met, generated from donations and income earned by the friars which they assign to their house.

Priory & Parish Fabric & special project funds: priory & parish fixed assets, fabric maintenance and renewal.

Blackfriars Hall: funds generated by the Hall for its operations.

Studium: funds held by the Studium for its operations, including the unspent element of a grant of £2m by the Society of Jesus made in 2021 to support the training of candidates for the priesthood.

Las Casas Institute: for the projects of the Las Casas Institute.

Aquinas Institute: for the projects of the Aquinas Institute.

Caribbean Mission: the Province actively fundraises for its brethren in Jamaica and Grenada.

Novice & Student training funds: The English Dominican Noviciate Guild (EDNG) monies for the formation and training of novices and student brothers.

Inalienable Property: the Province's priory and church buildings.

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Sick & Elderly funds: for the care of sick and elderly brothers.

Development: to support the development of fundraising capacity across the Province.

Sutcliffe: for the purposes of absorbing unexpected, unbudgeted expenditure.

Glasgow: Funds transferred from Glasgow priory on its closure, used for the upkeep of a brother who remained in Glasgow.

12. ALLOCATION OF ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

ALLOCATION OF ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS 2025

	Province General Purpose £	Province Designated £	Total Unrestricted Funds £	Total Branch Funds £	Total Province Restricted £	Total Restricted Funds £	2025 £
Investments	6,656,198	5,787,908	12,444,106	9,104,680	4,715,206	13,819,886	26,263,992
Property	718,794	625,029	1,343,823	3,616,070	1,012,977	4,629,047	5,972,870
Other fixed assets	1,033	11,164	12,197	444,066	-	444,066	456,263
Current assets	699,825	7,688	707,513	4,575,126	37,357	4,612,483	5,319,996
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	(525,748)	2,501	(523,247)	(131,722)	-	(131,722)	(654,969)
Net Assets	7,550,102	6,434,290	13,984,392	17,608,220	5,765,540	23,373,760	37,358,152

Balances of the principal Province funds are given in note 11.

ALLOCATION OF ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS 2024

	Province General Purpose £	Province Designated £	Total Unrestricted Funds £	Total Branch Funds £	Total Province Restricted £	Total Restricted Funds £	2024 £
Investments	5,592,868	5,034,982	10,627,850	8,161,048	4,350,213	12,511,261	23,139,111
Property	544,407	758,274	1,302,681	3,921,206	1,041,542	4,962,748	6,265,429
Other fixed assets	1,722	7,411	9,133	465,264	-	465,264	474,397
Current assets	1,272,440	-	1,272,440	1,822,398	13,746	1,836,144	3,108,584
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	(497,988)	-	(497,988)	(202,669)	-	(202,669)	(700,657)
Creditors: amounts falling due in more than one year	-	-	-	(4,661)	-	(4,661)	(4,661)
Net Assets	6,913,449	5,800,667	12,714,116	14,162,586	5,405,501	19,568,087	32,282,203

13. ACTIVITIES IN SCOTLAND

	2025	2024
	£	£
Income from activities in Scotland	461,249	400,469
Expenditure on activities in Scotland	(392,265)	(527,797)
Net Income/(Expenditure) relating to activities in Scotland	68,984	(127,328)

14. OPERATING & FINANCE LEASE COMMITMENTS

OPERATING LEASES

The charity's future minimum amounts receivable under non-cancellable operating leases at the reporting date are as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Within one year	34,000	34,000
In 2–5 years	128,500	136,000
After more than 5 years	1,432,000	1,458,500
	1,594,500	1,628,500

Lease receipts recognised as 'other operating income' in the period were £28,958 (2024: £28,958).

The charity leases a flat to students in Edinburgh on leases of no more than 12 months. These arrangements do not result in the recognition of investment properties and are treated as operating leases.

At the reporting date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payment under noncancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Within one year	8,213	6,840
In 2 - 5 years	2,784	8,170
	10,997	15,010

FINANCE LEASES

At the reporting date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payment under noncancellable finance leases, which fall due as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Equipment:		
Within one year	4,860	12,312
In 2–5 years	-	4,860
	4,860	17,172
Future finance charges	(199)	(1,998)
Net carrying amount of obligations under finance leases	4,661	15,174

The charity had no commitments under non-cancellable finance leases at year end (2024: £Nil).

15. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

At 30 September there were capital commitments of £125,550 in respect of roof repairs to the priory in Edinburgh (2024: £nil).

16. HOPER DIXON TRUST STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds			
	Income Fund £	Designated Capital Fund £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
INCOME				
Investment income:				
Income from investments	17,495	-	17,495	16,597
Income from bank deposits	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME	17,495	-	17,495	16,597
EXPENDITURE				
Expenditure on charitable activities:				
Grants payable	21,011	-	21,011	13,684
Support costs for grants payable	7	-	7	22
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	21,018	-	21,018	13,706
NET GAINS/LOSSES ON INVESTMENT ASSETS	-	(23,167)	(23,167)	51,855
Net income/expenditure and movement in funds	(3,523)	(23,167)	(26,690)	54,746
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Fund balances brought forward at 1 October	36,782	614,066	650,848	596,102
Fund balances carried forward at 30 September	33,259	590,899	624,158	650,848

17. HOPER DIXON TRUST BALANCE SHEET

	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS		
Investments	590,899	614,066
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	800	-
Bank balances	32,459	39,144
LIABILITIES		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	-	(2,362)
Net current assets	33,259	36,782
NET ASSETS	33,259	36,782
FUNDS		
Unrestricted Funds		
Income Fund	33,259	36,782
Capital Fund	590,899	614,066
TOTAL FUNDS	624,158	650,848



THE DOMINICAN FRIARS

www.english.op.org



CONTACT DETAILS

Dominican Friars' Development Office, Blackfriars, St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LY
development@english.op.org 01865 610208