

Accounts for Year End 31st December 2024

Presentation of Trustees' Reports and Financial Statements.

The Financial Statements are summarised on page 20 of the Report, showing that, in unrestricted funds, we made a consolidated net loss (before investment gains and transfers between funds) of £1.2m. Net gains on investments and transfers between funds reached £293k, meaning we recorded an overall net loss of £931k. However, gains on restricted funds and the result of a revaluation of our property portfolio under endowment funds were positive £3.6m. This resulted in a net positive movement of consolidated funds overall totalling £2.7m. Overall, our total funds in December 2024 amounted to just over £103m versus £100m in December 2023.

Despite the deficit on unrestricted funds, the accounts are presented on the “going concern basis” which means that we are expected to continue our usual operations for a period of at least one year (this is a standard phrase used by the auditors). It also means that there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue to operate.

The Report also covers all the key areas Trustees and others need to know, where key responsibility can be summarised as ensuring sound financial management in finance, property and pensions. The first 14 pages of the Trustees' Report covers all the key areas you would expect, namely our Structure, Governance and Management, our Objectives and Activities, Achievements and Performance. It also covers a Financial Review as well as Plans for the Future. The Report concludes with a Trustees' Responsibilities Statement.

Having reviewed all these areas, I am satisfied that it accurately reflects our experiences in 2024, including comments on finances, sources of funding, main costs, our policies on investments and reserves (both of which were adhered to during the year), staffing and pensions, the key risks we face, measures on safeguarding and anti-fraud measures.

The Independent Auditors (Buzzacott's) report follows on pages 15 – 19, concluding that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the group and that the financials have correctly been prepared in accordance with GAAP and the Companies Act.

Buzzacott's Post Management Audit Report.

I can confirm that Buzzacott's Post audit management report, which they presented to CDBF on 14 May, evidences that their Team together with our Finance Team undertook a very detailed and competent review of all relevant areas and I would like to thank both Teams for their hard work. Buzzacott's concluded that their work highlighted no significant deficiencies in accounting and internal control systems and that their audit opinion on all Group entities is unqualified. They reported 2 priority A observations for management attention, firstly concerning the preparation of statutory financial statements and secondly the review of journals, both of which the

Finance Team are already addressing for next year's audit. There were 3 priority B observations concerning tracking of donation income in SJN, reconciliation of inter-company balances and completion of formal agreements between entities, all of which are also being addressed. According to Buzzacott's, all observations they made last year have been satisfactorily dealt with.

Letter of Representation

The Letter of Representation for CDBF to sign is completely standard and consistent with the findings of the external audit.

Recommendation

I recommended that Archbishop's Council approve the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for 2024 and the Letter of Representation ahead of Diocesan Synod on 2 July 2025 and make the same recommendation to Synod today.

Tony Richter
Chair CDBF
02 July 2025