

# CBCEW REPORT

An update on the work and activities of the  
Catholic Bishops' Conference  
of England and Wales



2023-24





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# Overview

What is the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and what does it do?



***The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales is the permanent assembly of Catholic Bishops and Personal Ordinaries in the two member countries.***

The membership of the Conference comprises the Archbishops, Bishops and Auxiliary Bishops of the 22 Catholic Dioceses of England and Wales. The other members are: The Bishop of the Forces (Military Ordinariate), the Apostolic Eparchy of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Great Britain, the Apostolic Eparchy for Syro-Malabar Catholics in Great Britain, and the Ordinary of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham.

The emeritus bishops of England and Wales are members of the Conference without deliberative vote. The Bishop of Gibraltar and the Apostolic Prefect of the Falkland Islands are invited observers to the Conference meetings.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has six departments: Catholic Education and Formation, Christian Life and Worship, Evangelisation and Discipleship, Dialogue and Unity, International Affairs and Social Justice.

It also has six Directorates: Mission, Communications, Policy and Research, Partnerships and Public Affairs, Finance and General Administration.

The bishops meet in Plenary Assembly twice a year (Spring and Autumn) and the General Council (Standing Committee) of the Conference meets quarterly.

# Dioceses

The Catholic Church in England and Wales is made up of 22 dioceses.

- BRENTWOOD
- EAST ANGLIA
- NORTHAMPTON
- NOTTINGHAM
- WESTMINSTER
- ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON
- PLYMOUTH
- PORTSMOUTH
- SOUTHWARK
- BIRMINGHAM
- CLIFTON
- SHREWSBURY
- HALLAM
- HEXHAM & NEWCASTLE
- LANCASTER
- LEEDS
- LIVERPOOL
- MIDDLESBROUGH
- SALFORD
- CARDIFF
- MENEVIA
- WREXHAM



Our 22 dioceses are divided into five provinces: Westminster, Southwark, Birmingham and Liverpool for England, and Cardiff for the three dioceses in Wales.

The Bishopric of the Forces is a diocese without geographical boundaries; rather its presence is wherever in the world the British military serves.

The Diocese of Portsmouth includes the Isle of Wight and the Channel Islands. The Archdiocese of Liverpool includes the Isle of Man. The diocese of Wrexham includes Ynys Môn (the Isle of Anglesey).





“

**We continue to make  
our pilgrimage of  
faith, trusting in the  
overwhelming power  
that comes, not from us,  
but from God.**

Archbishop John Wilson



# Agencies

The Agencies of the Bishops' Conference were established by the Bishops of England and Wales to serve the Catholic community and wider society.



## CAFOD

***CAFOD, Catholic Agency For Overseas Development, is the official Catholic overseas aid agency for England and Wales. It works through the local Churches to reach people and places that others can't.***

CAFOD is part of Caritas International, one of the largest aid networks in the world with a presence in 165 countries. It has a global reach with a local presence supporting local communities often in the greatest need.

Local experts help some of the most difficult-to-reach people in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. Across the world CAFOD brings hope and compassion to poor communities, standing side by side with them to end poverty and injustice. The charity works on long-term development as well as responding to emergencies.

**Bishop Stephen Wright**, Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, joined CAFOD's Board of Trustees in February 2021 and was appointed its Chair in 2023.

CAFOD's CEO is Christine Allen.



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## Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN)

***Centred on Christ and inspired by Catholic Social Teaching, CSAN works to further domestic social action in England and Wales.***

It is an alliance of diverse Catholic charities which are engaged in social justice and action across England and Wales.

Its vision is of a civilisation of love, solidarity and justice, where the dignity of every human being is respected and upheld; where every person can flourish and live in peace and freedom as part of one human family; where there is no exclusion, discrimination, or dehumanising poverty; where the voices of the women, men and children in the most vulnerable situations are listened to, discerned, and inform action; where everyone is encouraged to contribute to the common good.

It is committed to tackling the causes of poverty, promoting justice and restoring dignity, specifically by convening and animating alliances of member charities involved in the social mission of the Church, leading on the formation of those involved in social action, and raising a prophetic Catholic voice in the public arena.

**Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP**, Archbishop of Liverpool, is CSAN's Chair of Trustees.

Raymond Friel OBE is the CEO of CSAN.





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## Catholic Education Service (CES)

***The Catholic Education Service acts on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to support quality Catholic education in our countries.***

The CES has a strong and positive working relationship with the UK and Welsh Government, sharing the aims of high academic standards for all and increased parental choice.

Catholic schools make up 10% of the national total of maintained schools. There are more than 2,200 Catholic schools, academies and colleges in England and Wales educating over 850,000 pupils. The Catholic Church and the Church of England together provide one-third of all of the schools in the country and account for 98% of all schools with a religious character..

**Bishop Marcus Stock**, Bishop of Leeds, is the Chair of the Catholic Education Service.

The Director of the CES is Paul Barber.



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## Missio

***Missio is the Pope's charity for world mission. In every country where the Catholic Church is present, there is a Missio.***

Missio ignites God's love by helping local missionaries to work alongside global communities that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief.

Sometimes this need might be very specific: a motorbike for a priest to celebrate Mass in remote villages; a simple community hall so people can gather together; vaccinations to protect vulnerable children. Whatever the missionaries need to help them share the joy of the Gospel, Missio strives to provide it.

**Bishop Paul Swarbrick**, Bishop of Lancaster, is the Chair of Missio's Board of Trustees.

Father Tony Chantry MHM is the Director of Missio.





# Agencies

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## Stella Maris

***Stella Maris is the largest ship-visiting network in the world and the official maritime charity of the Catholic Church.***

Seafarers often have to work away from their families and local communities for nine to 12 months at a time. Across the world, Stella Maris aims to provide a 'friend in every port' standing alongside seafarers and fishers to ensure their rights are upheld.

For 100 years it has been extending the hand of friendship and welcoming seafarers and fishers to our shores.

Through its network of chaplains and volunteers, over 70,000 ship visits are made each year and the charity supports hundreds of thousands of seafarers and fishermen in times of need.

**Bishop Paul Mason**, the Catholic Bishop of the Forces, was appointed Stella Maris' Bishop Promoter for England and Wales in 2017.

Tim Hill is the CEO of Stella Maris.



# Management Team

General Secretary, Executive Director and Directors serving the Secretariat of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.



**Canon Christopher Thomas**  
General Secretary



**Greg Pope**  
Executive Director



**Rev Dr Jan Nowotnik**  
Director of Mission  
National Ecumenical Officer



**Philip Booth**  
Director of Policy and Research



**Paul Barber**  
Director of  
Catholic Education Service



**Marie Southall**  
Director of Partnerships  
and Public Affairs



**James Abbott**  
Director of Communications



**Allyn Zulver**  
Director of Finance



**Lorraine Welch**  
Director of Administrative Support  
PA to the General Secretary



**Sr Elaine Penrice**  
Director of NOV



# Mission Directorate

The Mission Directorate works across three Bishops' Conference departments: Evangelisation and Discipleship, Dialogue and Unity, and Christian Life and Worship.



## Department for Evangelisation and Discipleship

The purpose of the department is to promote the mission of the Church in England and Wales proclaiming the Gospel in the dioceses in line with themes presented in the universal teaching of the Church:

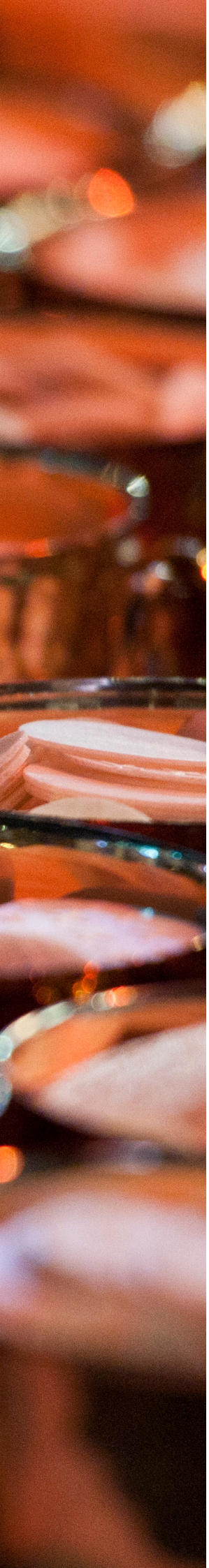
- *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis, Apostolic Exhortation, 24 November 2013
- *The Directory for Catechesis*, July 2020
- *The Pastoral Conversion of the Parish Community in the Service of the Mission of the Church*, July 2020

During the past year, as directed by the Holy See, with the bishops' input, the department has been working on developing the vision and protocols for the Ministry of Catechist which each Conference is to tailor to its specific needs.

Discerning the views offered in the Synodal syntheses the department has focused on the importance of Christian formation. This was explored at the evangelisation conference 'The Art of Accompaniment' held in Liverpool in June 2023.

After consultation with dioceses, a new set of guidelines is being produced for preparation of parents for their child's baptism. The guidelines for marriage preparation are also





being updated as a result of the publication of the October 2022 Catechumenate Pathways for marriage and life of the family.

A Jubilee Working Group co-ordinated by the department, is planning resources and materials for dioceses and parishes for the Jubilee preparation years and for the Jubilee Year in 2025 under the title of *Pilgrims of Hope*.

The department acts as a conduit for information from the Holy See to the local Episcopal Conferences around the world and to the dioceses via the Evangelisation and Catechesis Co-ordinators and Marriage and Family Life Co-ordinators. It organises online meetings for the co-ordinators for formation and sharing of best practice.

### **National Office for Vocation**

The National Office for Vocation (NOV) helps to build a culture of vocation in the Church of England and Wales. This year NOV has been present with young people at Youth 2000 and Flame events. They also accompanied young people in Lisbon at World Youth Day. A Vocation Module aimed at 6th formers to help them discern where God is calling them was launched in time for the new academic year in September 2023.

The National Office for Vocation prepared a programme of events for Vocations Sunday which included the 'Conversation' where people spoke about their different vocations. 'Living Joyfully' will be run in schools from June 2024 allowing space for religious to connect with schools to speak about their lives and answer questions.

NOV supports Vocation Directors, Vocations Promoters and religious congregations.

### **Department for Dialogue and Unity**

The department promotes the work of Christian Unity through the ecumenical instruments, Churches Together in England, and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and has specific bilateral dialogues with various Christian Churches.

The department is now in the process of planning a joint conference of Anglican and Catholic Bishops which will take place in Norwich in January 2024. Over the past year the department has also worked extensively in developing links with the Anglican Church in Wales.

The department has been supporting the Apostolic Eparchy of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy during this difficult year of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It has also been in dialogue with the Eastern Orthodox Churches, Oriental Orthodox Churches, Methodists, and United Reformed Churches. The Department works to build the relationship between the Catholic Church and Jewish people, It has just started working on a



document to educate Catholics in good practice for Catholic Jewish dialogue. This dialogue aims to promote an understanding of the living faith of Judaism and the Jewish roots of Christianity and works to eradicate antisemitism.

The department has been in dialogue with Muslims, Buddhists, Humanists and Baathists and is an active member of the Interfaith Forum.

It acts as a conduit for information from the Holy See to the Episcopal Conferences and ecumenical and interreligious organisations to the dioceses via the Ecumenical Co-ordinators and Interreligious Co-ordinators. The department also organises online meetings for the co-ordinators for formation and sharing of best practice.

## Department for Christian Life and Worship

The Department of Christian Life and Worship works across three strands.

### Liturgy

The Department advises the Bishops on subjects relating to the material and spiritual life of the Church. The Department has devoted the majority of its time developing the biblical texts for the ESV (Catholic Edition) for the new Lectionary, which will be ready for use in Advent 2024. The department is also working on the Prayer and Liturgy Directory; and has put together text and prayers around the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham, and other new feasts of saints in the calendar.

### Spirituality

The different forms of prayer or spirituality are “like the colours of the spectrum which all point to the pure light of God. They all start with a fundamental element of faith, to lead – in each case by a different gate—to the centre of the faith and devotion to God.” The department works with spirituality co-ordinators and has organised meetings, consultation days, training days and pilgrimages.

### Patrimony

The word ‘Patrimony’ describes the Church’s cultural inheritance in terms of architecture, art and artefacts. The Department advises and helps the Bishops to preserve the beauty and fabric of the Church building as well as everything within that sacred space – the paintings, the statues, the stained glass as these all exists for a spiritual purpose. This embodies what Pope Francis calls the *via pulchritudinis* in *Evangelii Gaudium* – the “the way of beauty”.



**Rev Dr Jan Nowotnik**

Director of Mission





# Policy and Research Directorate

The Directorate supports the policy and research work of the bishops across a wide range of subjects domestically and internationally.

“Each person matters;  
no human life is redundant.”

BASIL HUME 1923 - 1999

***The Policy and Research Directorate has a strong focus on life issues. The Church supports the right to life from conception to natural death because of her concern for the good and dignity of every person in society.***

We provide the research and resources to the bishops to support the protection of this right in law and to engage politically and pastorally with this key issue. Over the last year this work has focused on combatting assisted suicide, so-called rights to abortion, embryology, disability-based abortion and ‘buffer zones’ around clinics where our work has sought to defend the right of individuals to speak freely about abortion and offer pregnant women support to keep their babies.

The Directorate also works with the Scottish and Irish Bishops’ Conferences to develop the resources for the annual *Day for Life*. Parishioners around the country generously contribute to a collection that allows us to support, financially, organisations that provide spiritual and pastoral care for the sick, dying, unborn children and expectant mothers as well as those who make a compelling case for the proclamation Gospel of Life in the public square.

We work with the Catholic Church in other parts of the world and with Catholic charities such as CAFOD, Missio, Stella Maris and Aid to the Church in Need to support our brothers and sisters where they face poverty, oppression or conflict. Our work includes leading the





inter-denominational and international *Holy Land Co-ordination* which supports Christian communities in Israel, Jordan and Palestine.

Many people facing conflict or poverty seek a better life in other countries, including the UK. The Department for International Affairs recently published *Love the Stranger* which has been widely covered in the media and studied within parishes and by members of organisations supporting refugees. The principles outlined in this document help to inform the work of welcoming migrants to our lands and supporting other charities in this important work.

Care for creation has been a recurrent theme of Pope Francis' pontificate. The Department for Social Justice published a new edition of *The Call of Creation* which calls for a real conversion of heart and an appreciation of God's creation and change at every level in society to combat the source of climate change. The Conference has promoted the *Guardians of Creation* project which provides resources for schools and parishes to decarbonise as well as CAFOD's *LiveSimply* award which encourages people to live lives in harmony with creation.

The Catholic Church in England and Wales has wonderful buildings that must be cherished as they help us give glory to God and understand the faith. The Directorate has assisted the Catholic Church in England and Wales by managing a £6.6m programme of government grants, provided through the Culture Recovery Fund, to repair and improve many of our listed buildings. The programme culminated in a publication, *Living Stones*, and an event in parliament to celebrate the achievements of the programme.

In recent years, the cost-of-living has been an acute concern for many in the country. The Directorate has provided research for the Bishops and to Caritas Social Action Network



to assist their public affairs work in this area. Representations have been made to government and parliamentarians about issues such as the two-child cap on welfare benefits.

Jesus called upon us to be merciful and compassionate to those in prison. The Directorate supports the Church's work to make the criminal justice system more humane. This includes work in the public square to create greater awareness of the need for criminal justice policy to correctly balance concern for the victim, the need for punishment of offenders and the upholding of the human dignity of those being punished. The importance of redemption and rehabilitation is at the core of our work.

Questions to do with sex and gender have an impact on a wide range of debates as well as practices in the workplace, schools and elsewhere. The Directorate is working with the Bishops to develop a deeper theological and pastoral understanding of this issue which will help inform pastoral practice.

The Directorate assists the work of the Church in combatting modern slavery and human trafficking. People are often trapped in modern slavery within our communities without our realising it and so, working with agencies and charities, including the Santa Marta Group, we promote a greater understanding of the scourge of slavery and trafficking in parish communities.



### **Philip Booth**

Director of Policy  
and Research





# Partnerships and Public Affairs Directorate

Carrying out the Church's engagement with Government in Whitehall and Wales and in the Parliaments in Westminster and Cardiff.



***The Partnerships and Public Affairs directorate carries out the Church's engagement with Government in Whitehall and Wales and in the Parliaments in Westminster and Cardiff.***

The team also supports the Conference's relationship with its agencies, national Catholic organisations, and inter-faith and ecumenical leaders.

The work of the team feeds into each of the six Bishops' Conference departments with roughly 50% of staff time dedicated to education and supporting the public affairs and communications work of the Catholic Education Service.

## **Engagement with Government**

With an objective of positioning the Bishops' Conference as a 'Government partner' the focus of our work has been to develop and improve relationships with civil servants, special advisers and Ministers in both Whitehall and Wales.

This is achieved through the coordination of meetings, bishop correspondence and consultation responses resulting in a developed network of engaged and informed officials across a range of Government departments.





Engagement has included:

- support of the Catholic civil servants' group,
- the building and strengthening of relationships between regional units of the Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office in order to share the challenges of Catholics around the world, and
- working with the Head of Tackling Poverty and Cost of Living Strategy at the Department for Work and Pensions to showcase the ways in which Catholic communities support those struggling with the cost-of-living crisis.
- In Wales there has been a focus on building relationships with Welsh Government officials using the *Love the Stranger* document on migrants and refugees noting its crossover with the Welsh Government's Nation of Sanctuary initiative.
- Regular contact has also been established with the Religions and Belief team in the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities, who has facilitated our increased engagement with other Government departments.

Meetings have been held with:

- the Faith Minister on the Independent Faith Engagement Review and on the support for the Catholic Ukrainian Community in the UK,
- the Prisons Minister on prison sentencing and prison chaplaincy,
- the Children's Commissioner on support for families,
- the Faith and Equalities Special Adviser to the Prime Minister on the importance of prioritising Government engagement with the Catholic community.



## Engagement with Parliament

Our parliamentary work focuses on building relationships with MPs, Peers in Westminster and MSs in Cardiff in order to influence debates and legislation. This includes providing briefings and organising events in the Westminster Parliament or the Senedd in Cardiff.

Examples include:

- Raising the profile of Catholic heritage through tailored constituency briefings so that every MP with a listed Catholic Church in their constituency received a personalised briefing, and through an inaugural Parliamentary celebration of our heritage work hosted by the Deputy Speaker of the Commons with speeches and participation from the Heritage Minister and CEO of Historic England.
- Engagement on the Public Order Act on the issue of buffer zones around abortion clinics to ensure that a Catholic perspective on life and religious freedom is shared with parliamentarians.
- Briefing MPs, Peers & MSs on topics such as the war in Ukraine, human rights, the environment and issues relating to the cost of living crisis are part of our regular work to showcase the breadth of Catholic teaching in the parliaments.
- Providing non-political support for Parliamentarians through the coordination of the Cardinal's annual pastoral visit to Parliament and a Lenten event on Scripture so that Catholics are supported in their vocation in public life.
- Delivering informative briefing sessions drawing on Catholic teaching on criminal justice, education and assisted suicide to support policy knowledge and formation amongst Parliamentarians.





## Partnerships with agencies

*Providing support and promoting the work of the agencies of the Conference (CAFOD, CES, CSAN, Missio and Stella Maris). This includes:*

- running a Parliamentary event to launch a publication celebrating 175th anniversary of the Catholic Education Service (CES) and its partnership with Government,
- joint working with CAFOD on the promotion the LiveSimply Award which resulted in hundreds of schools and parishes getting involved.
- Support for CSAN and diocesan Caritas as they promote social action across the country respond to the challenges faced by people following the Covid pandemic and
- promoting of the work of Stella Maris in Wales and the pivotal role they place in combating human trafficking.

## Partnerships with national organisations

*Working with Catholic, ecumenical, and inter-faith colleagues on shared policy concerns and to promote dialogue between the respective communities.*

- Our aim is to increase Catholic engagement with Welsh politics over the past year has including working with Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT), CSAN and the National Board of Catholic women. This has resulted in both PACT's work and CSAN being mentioned in the Senedd.
- Joint meetings have been held with the Faith Minister and representatives of the Chief Rabbi and Archbishop of Canterbury to present to Government a united partnership between the faith communities.
- A papal audience for the President and Chief Executive of the Board of Deputies of British Jews was facilitated to strengthen national and international Catholic-Jewish relations and ecumenical relationships were strengthened through the participation of the ChurchWorks Commission for Covid Recovery.

## Partnerships projects

*Managing specific projects which create opportunities for new and sustained partnerships that reflect the synodal church.*

In preparation for the Jubilee Year, the national *Hearts in Search of God* pilgrimage project has been showcased at the Senedd's Cross Party Group on Faith.



**Marie Southall**

Director of Partnerships and Public Affairs



# Communications Directorate

Communicating in a visually compelling and persuasive way to make the Bishops' Gospel work and mission better known.



***The Communications Directorate was founded in November 2022. Our strategy is to communicate in a visually compelling and persuasive way, to make the Bishops' Gospel work and mission better known.***

This involves sharing Catholic spirituality and prayer, raising up the beauty of the Church and her Sacraments, demonstrating Catholic Social Teaching in action for the common good, highlighting Catholic witness and engagement in our society, and promoting the work of our Catholic dioceses, charities, agencies, and organisations. This strategy applies inside and outside the walls of the Church – to the faithful, lukewarm, unchurched and those on the margins. We also share news from the Vatican and focus on the Holy Father's ministry as Supreme Pontiff.

There are five strands to the directorate's work ensuring high quality, informed content for in-house channels and external media outlets:

## **Digital**

Website/s, social media, photography, media production (resources and documents), apps, tools and services, other content platforms, analytics.



## Media Liaison and Networking

Media enquiries, contacts, spokespeople, training, proactive story placement.

## Local Communications

Grassroots stories, supporting Diocesan Communications Officers (DCOs).

## Affiliates

Holy See, dioceses, agencies, societies, charities and other Catholic organisations.

## Digital update

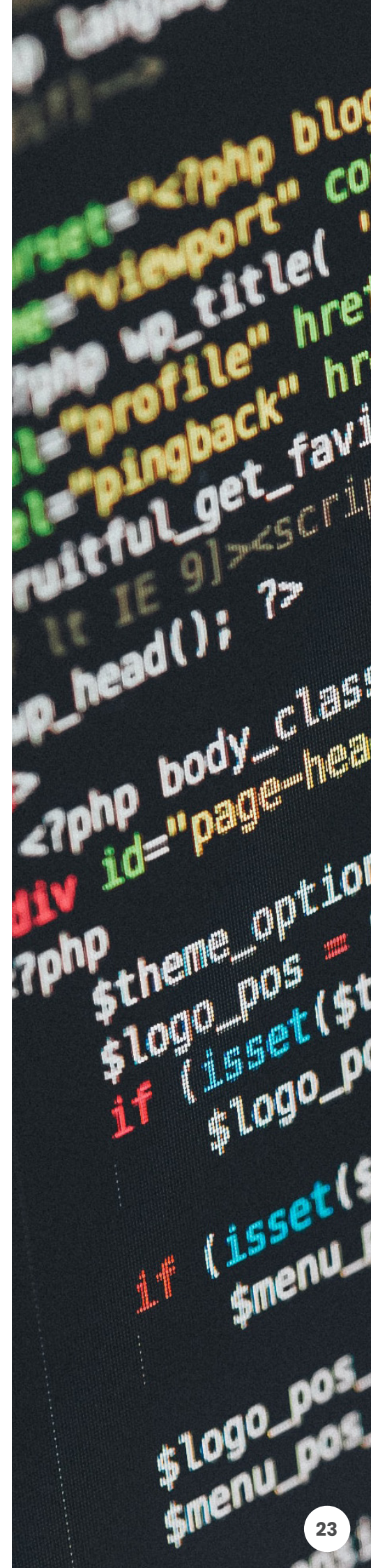
In terms of **digital communications**, 15% more users have accessed the Bishops' Conference website (cbcew.org.uk), year-on-year since the directorate's inception. The site is regularly used by local and national journalists who produce stories based on our content.

**Social media** followers have grown steadily. Meta (Facebook) stands at 52,000. We have in excess of 48,000 on X (Twitter). Instagram has now passed 10,400 followers. Threads, a Meta rival to X, was launched in July 2023. Our account @catholicchurch already has over 1,700 followers.

The digital team has produced a number of **databases and tools** to improve our communications work. We have a new database of Engaged Media Contacts as well as a digital Call Log for monitoring media enquiries, allowing us to gain insight into media demands and sentiment so we can respond positively and proactively. This data also allows us to pitch news and features to those who have shown an interest in specific subjects.

The team set a new standard for **in-house document production**. *The Call of Creation* and *Love The Stranger* were the first CBCEW documents to be produced to visually dominant, consistent digital templates.

**Photography** remains an important pillar of our image-led strategy. Images on Flickr now number over 270,000 and have been viewed almost 80m times. These images are regularly requested, used and credited by both Catholic and secular media outlets.





## Media Liaison and Networking update

Post-pandemic, secular media interest in the Catholic Church has dipped significantly. Anecdotally, we can see this in declining requests for comment and information. Our first aim was to **regain lost space** in national and local media coverage. Work was undertaken to shore up the foundations – building a **network of spokespeople**, a database of **engaged media contacts**, and matching our work to journalists’ specialisms. For example, we placed a piece on independent.co.uk on Racial Justice Sunday, pitching to its new ‘Race Correspondent’. Equally, in August 2023, as the news agenda slowed, we promoted a walking pilgrimages story that featured in our monthly podcast. As a result, 19 local BBC radio stations covered the feature.

As well as **network building and media monitoring**, we have issued press releases, statements and comment on subjects ranging from life issues and environmental concerns to migrant welfare and Catholic patrimony. We have also dealt with a high volume of queries on news topics like the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and the final report of IICSA.

**Media training** is a key objective. Over the next two years, the Bishops of England and Wales will be offered the opportunity to receive professional media training, focusing on their areas of national specialism.

## Local Communications update

Much of the action takes place at grassroots level, so we need to be well **connected to our dioceses** – their parishes, schools and organisations. We have a monthly ‘call for information’, as well as a remote meeting to collaborate and work on **forward planning**. In September 2023, the directorate organised a day for the **DCO Forum** to help it reconstitute itself – how local communications officers work as a group, and how they feed into the national picture.

## Ongoing plans

The building blocks are in place, and all strands will be developed – better relationships with the Holy See and its Dicasteries, wider dissemination of our digital content to influencers, and strengthening our network of spokespeople. The directorate is **creative and proactive** in how it promotes the work of the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales.



**James Abbott**

Director of Communications





# Biblical Apostolate

The Biblical Apostolate serves the Catholic Bishops' Conference by enabling Catholics across England and Wales to engage with the Scriptures more creatively.



***The word of God given to us makes us not only hearers, but also heralds so that we share in Christ's mission and are empowered by the Holy Spirit. The word that we receive is meant for all; it cannot be kept to ourselves. Since it is true, it belongs to everyone.*** Verbum Domini, 2010

We have responded to this Vatican directive to make the Scriptures accessible to everyone through our *God who Speaks* initiative in partnership with Bible Society. This initiative provides a wide range of resources, events, talks, retreats, Scripture festivals and support to schools, parishes, universities and other networks across the dioceses.

Working with different age groups and learning styles has highlighted the need for the Bible to be available in different formats such as through our youth gospels; our autism-friendly Christmas and Easter resources; our signed Mark's gospel series, our bible and art videos and with BBC Radio 4. Our *God who Sings* concert brought choirs together to sing bible songs in their own languages.

We commissioned a biblical mosaic artwork – 'Little Bits of God' by Pete Codling which we have toured with, and collaborated on nine Scripture festivals to date. We celebrated the 1,600 anniversary of St Jerome and his translation of the Bible with school resources and the 'God who Roars' toy lions. We've run various national school campaigns such as our 'Let the Scriptures Speak: Personification Poetry challenge' and provided grants of up to £1,000 to five diocesan Scripture projects.





Our biblical apostolate has promoted a holistic understanding of the Bible that shapes all aspects of our faith including underpinning our social justice, racial justice, formation and ecumenical remits. Through our *God who Speaks* social media and cyber discipleship strategy we seek to fulfil Pope Francis' call digitally that:

The study of the sacred Scriptures must be a door opened to every believer. It is essential that the revealed word radically enrich our catechesis and all our efforts to pass on the faith. *Evangelii Gaudium, 2013*

We created our dedicated God who Speaks website in order to serve, enrich and develop this apostolate: [www.godwhospeaks.uk](http://www.godwhospeaks.uk)

## **Our Vision**

Scripture is foundational to the life of the Catholic Church and so we want to celebrate, share and live out our faith through deeper Scriptural engagement.

We want to create new and renewed encounters with Christ through the Scriptures.

We want to achieve transformation in the faith and life of our Church and in the public arena through evangelisation, education, creative arts and social action.

## **Our Themes**

### **Celebrating God's Word**

Enriching our worshipping and spiritual community.

### **Living God's Word**

Enriching our social action and outreach.

### **Sharing God's Word**

Enriching our formation, proclamation and evangelisation.



# Finance Directorate

The Finance Team manages CaTEW's income and expenditure.

## Income

We are still seeing the adverse effects of the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns on CaTEW's main sources of income. **Levies on dioceses**, which account for 45% of CaTEW's income for the period to the end of September 2023, were voluntarily reduced by 25% in 2020 to reflect the difficulties faced by diocesan colleagues and that continues.

**Investment performance** remains uneven but is showing signs of improvement and accounted for 28% of income in this period.

**National collections**, despite showing signs of recovery, are not at pre-pandemic levels. The mandated collections are: World Communications Day in May, Day for Life in June, and Evangelii Gaudium in September. Other collections are taken for Stella Maris and for racial justice.

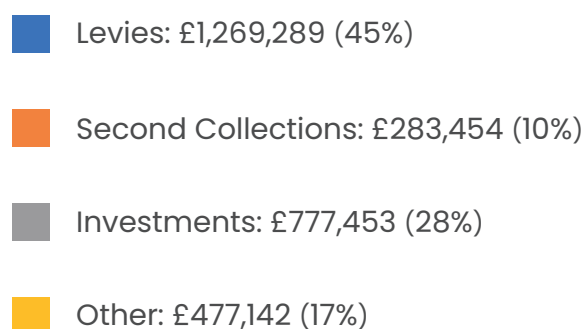
## Expenditure

CaTEW is organisationally slimmer compared to pre-pandemic levels of staffing. The organisation has been restructured, new Mission and Policy teams have been created, and staff are now encouraged to work across teams. As well as improving clear and defined outputs and the ability to respond to a greater number of needs, this has also led to efficiencies and savings.

The new structure continues to be embedded, and this has allowed for the implementation of policies designed to drive down expenditure. Other than in exceptional circumstances there is a moratorium on travel and overnight meetings, there is sharply reducing catering for meetings, and staff are encouraged to attend meetings virtually where possible. These and other measures have helped mitigate the effects of the loss of income.

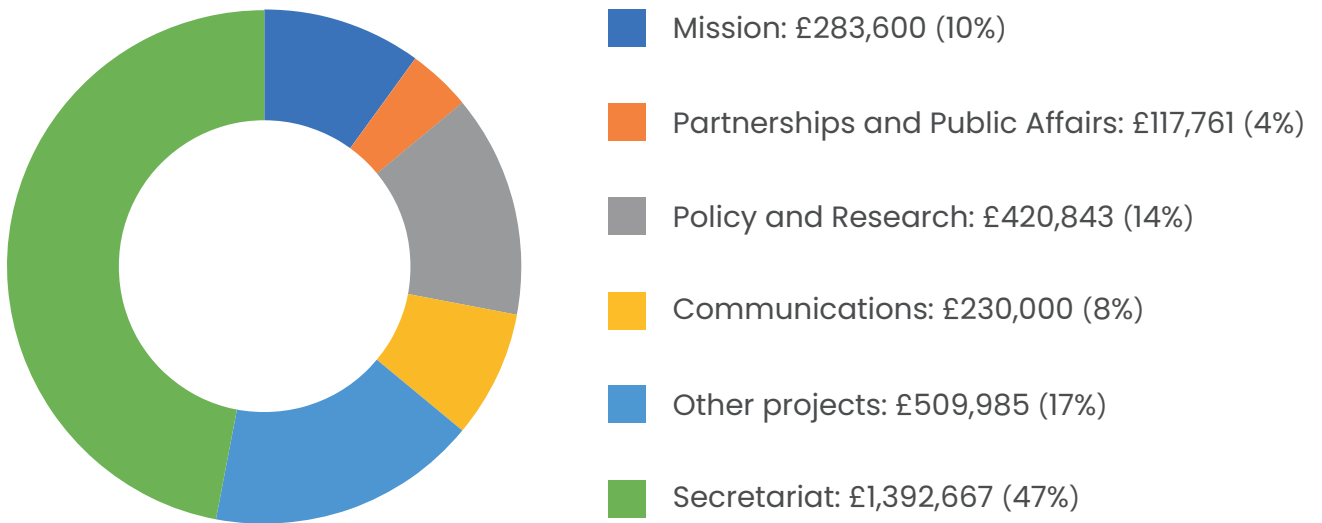
CaTEW's Trustees have reaffirmed the need to retain these policies in order to make operational savings wherever possible.

## CaTEW Income to 30 September 2023

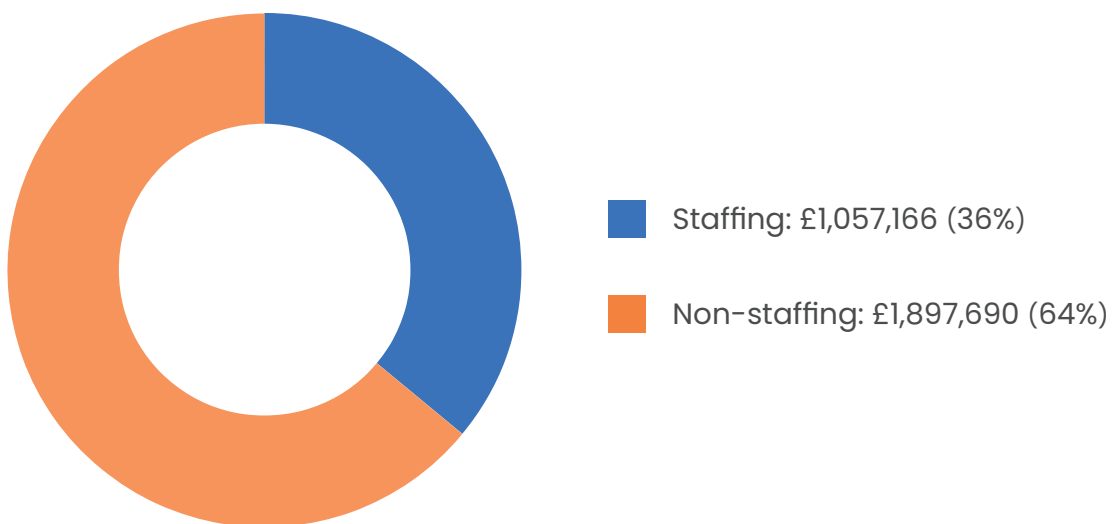




## CaTEW Expenditure to 30 September 2023



## Staffing v Non-staffing Expenditure to 30 September 2023



## Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

Catholic Trust for England and Wales  
Registered Charity No. 1097482  
Company No. 4734592