

CBC EW REPORT

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

2026

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Introduction

An introduction by Rev Canon William Agle, General Secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.



When the President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales asked me whether I would agree to my name being put forward for appointment as General Secretary, I must confess I knew very little about the organisation.

As such, when I took up the appointment at the beginning of October 2025, I was faced with a steep learning curve as I began to meet the people who work for the Conference, and to learn more about their job roles and current projects.

I know that many Catholics, both laity and clergy, do not know exactly what the Bishops' Conference is, how it functions and how it serves the Catholic Church in England and Wales. For this reason, I am delighted to be able to present this report to you, which will answer these questions and many more. In addition to the structures and workstreams of the Conference, you will also read about the work of the Catholic Trust for England and Wales. This is a charitable company, and the legal entity that enables the Conference to operate in this country. It is directed by a Board of Trustees made up of skilled clergy, religious and lay people, who offer their expertise and experience generously in the service of the Church.

This report begins with an overview of the Conference, and how it draws together our Catholic Dioceses, Eparchies and Ordinariates in England and Wales. Every Catholic in our two countries is part of one of these so, in a sense, it represents every one of us, as it presents the united face of the Church.

In these six months as General Secretary, I have been encouraged and impressed by the skills and the dedication of everyone who works in the six directorates and the executive offices, which make up the Conference Secretariat. These directorates serve and support the work of each Conference department.

This report will enable you to read about the work that each directorate does to support the mission of the Church in England and Wales. It will also help you to understand how the Church is able to achieve so much more nationally than could ever be achieved by Dioceses, Eparchies and Ordinariates working alone. Additionally, it will tell you more about the work that the agencies and apostolates of the Conference do on behalf of the Bishops and the wider Catholic community.

I must add a few words about our professional events team. The Bishops' Conference organises, manages and delivers high quality events, such as the 'Flame' youth event that takes place at the OVO Arena Wembley, and our 'Adoremus' National Eucharistic Congresses that we celebrate every two years or so. Bishops' Conference events are a very significant workstream involving all directorates.

To conclude, I do hope that this report will help you to understand and appreciate more fully the work of the Bishops' Conference. You can also keep up to date by visiting its website: cbcew.org.uk.



Rev Canon William Agley
General Secretary

Catholic Bishops' Conference of
England and Wales (CaTEW)



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 21 geographic Catholic Dioceses of England and Wales. The other members are: The Bishop of the Forces (Military Ordinariate), the Bishop of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham and the Eparchial Bishops of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Great Britain and the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church in Great Britain.

The retired bishops of England and Wales are members of the Conference without deliberative vote. The Bishop of Gibraltar, the Apostolic Visitor of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church in Europe, 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.

Geographic Dioceses

The Catholic Church in England and Wales is made up of 21 geographic 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 21 geographic dioceses are divided into five provinces: Westminster, Southwark, Birmingham and Liverpool for England, and Cardiff-Menevia for the two dioceses in Wales.

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).

† Province (Metropolitan)



Management Team

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



Canon William Agley
General Secretary



Greg Pope
Executive Director



Abbot Hugh Allan, O.Praem
Director of Mission



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

Mission Directorate

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



“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” *Matthew 28.19*

To help in this great commission, the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has a mission team which is based at the secretariat offices at Eccleston Square, London. This office supports the bishops in their work to promote the proclamation of the gospel across England and Wales. The Mission team does this in several diverse areas, all of which help to serve the kingdom of God. Catechesis and evangelisation; helping to deepen knowledge of the beauty of Holy Scripture; marriage and family life; the National Office for Vocation; loving and protecting the great patrimony of our historic churches and cathedrals; serving the liturgy of the Church; promoting Christian Unity and Interreligious dialogue; supporting the work of chaplaincy in Higher Education and in Prisons; and in supporting the work of those who do much to share the gospel with young people today.

This work of the Mission Directorate covers three Bishops' Conference departments: Evangelisation and Discipleship, Dialogue and Unity, and Christian Life and Worship.

Department for Evangelisation and Discipleship

Within this department, work has been continuing on the ministries of reader, acolyte and catechist.



A plan is currently being considered to look at ministry to the 'Nons', those who have no knowledge of faith who are now turning to the Church in growing numbers. As part of this, the department has been looking at work on an academic study of this area of evangelisation, looking to each diocese for examples of good evangelisation, and then hoping to share best practice nationally.

We have formed a working group to compile a list of lay groups within the Church which would come under the document, *Iuvenescit Ecclesia*.

The department regularly meets online with diocesan Evangelisation and Discipleship Co-ordinators. For the first time in three years, the department led an in-person day with co-ordinators. Bishop Philip Egan presented a paper *The Conversion of England*. Hannah Vaughan-Spruce and Berna Durcan spoke to the book *After Secularisation*.

The department has worked closely with a group called the Baptism Collaborative looking at supporting the work of baptismal preparation and the wider call to live out our baptismal vocation. They held an event in Southwark in May 2025 and then repeated it in Stockport in November. Abbot Hugh Allan gave the keynote lecture on both days. The group also wrote the 2026 five-week Lenten course *We Dare to Ask* – which has been very well received.

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.

National Office for Vocation

The National Office for Vocation (NOV) helps to build a culture of vocation for the Catholic Church in England and Wales. This year NOV has been present with young people at Youth 2000 and Flame events. They also accompanied young people to Lisbon for the 37th World Youth Day.

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 allowing space for religious communities to connect with schools to speak about their lives and answer questions.

The department is currently reviewing the work of the National Office for Vocation so that we can renew the work of the Church around the country in supporting vocational discernment.

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 the next couple of years. 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 Eparch, or Bishop, of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the Holy Family during these difficult years after 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 up the relationship between the Catholic Church and the Jewish community. This dialogue aims to promote an understanding of the living faith of Judaism and the Jewish roots of Christianity and works to eradicate antisemitism.

A significant moment in the past year has been the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of *Nostra Aetate*. This took place at St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham and was a great success. The Panel Discussion: *Dying to Live* was well attended. Under the guidance of the Lead Bishop for Interreligious Dialogue, Bishop Patrick McKinney, the event was run by Maggie Doherty, the Director of the Centre for the Art of Living and Dying Well and Pat Whitney, the Chair of the Birmingham Archdiocesan Interreligious Commission. The event culminated with Vespers in the cathedral.

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

Again, this department acts as a conduit for information from the Holy See and organises online meetings for diocesan 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.

Currently, alongside other areas of work, the Department is reviewing ICEL's revised grey book translations of the Blessing of an Abbot and Abbess, the Order of Consecrated Virgins and the Rite of Religious Profession with a view to presenting them to the Bishops' Conference plenary in November 2026.

The Department reviewed grey book texts from the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) for the Mass for the Care of Creation, for the Optional Memorial of St Teresa of Calcutta, and for St Faustina Kowalska and agreed to submit them to the Bishops' Conference for canonical vote at this meeting.

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 in this vital task of preserving the beauty and fabric of our Church buildings as well as everything within that sacred space – the paintings, the statues, the stained glass – as all exist for a spiritual purpose. The work of patrimony is an essential part of our work, engaging with a variety of different groups in order to help preserve and protect our spiritual and cultural heritage.



Abbot Hugh Allan O.Praem

Director of Mission

Policy and Research Directorate

Supporting the policy and research work of the bishops across a wide range of subjects domestically and internationally.



The Policy and Research Directorate serves the bishops by producing analysis of issues relevant to the workstreams of the departments of the Bishops' Conference. There is a particular focus on the work of the Departments for Social Justice and for International Affairs.

Throughout the last 18 months, a bill to legalise assisted suicide has been proceeding through parliament. The directorate has assisted the bishops in speaking out strongly against assisted suicide and has provided resources for parishes and lay organisations to help them mobilise opposition. We have worked closely with the Catholic Medical Association, especially given the threats to freedom of conscience for doctors. We have also been in close touch with Catholic hospices and care homes, working with Caritas Social Action Network, because, should the legislation pass, it is likely that Catholic institutions will be legally required to act against their charitable mission by facilitating assisted suicide.

Beginning of life issues have also been prominent in our work. Given recent legislation and current legislative threats, there is an ever-more urgent need to reinvigorate a culture that protects and nurtures life from conception to natural death. The directorate supports Day for Life and the administration of the associated fund which provides significant support for a wide range of organisations working to promote and protect life in various ways. The Bishops have spoken out strongly against buffer zones around abortion clinics and proposals to decriminalise abortion up to birth.



The Church's teaching on life issues also leads us to promote the importance of pastoral and spiritual support for parents who have lost their babies through miscarriage or still birth. In a statement to mark Baby Loss Awareness Week, Lead Bishop for Life Issues, Archbishop John Sherrington, and Lead Bishop for Marriage and Family Life, Bishop Bosco MacDonald wrote: "We invite parents to mark baby loss in meaningful ways: through prayer, memorials or liturgical remembrance and mass. These acts help affirm the dignity and innocence of the child and support you in your journey of grief and healing. We encourage parishes to invite parents to pray in front of the Most Blessed Sacrament or light a candle for their children at any time."

Environmental concerns continue to be an important area of work. Online events are regularly held during the Season of Creation, and Bishop John Arnold issued statements before and after the COP 30 conference. We also supported the important development of the inaugural conference of diocesan environmental leads.

Our international work includes supporting the bishops in leading the Holy Land Co-ordination. In January 2026, the theme of the Co-ordination was: *A Land of Promise: Encounter and Dialogue with People of Hope*. Bishop Nicholas Hudson led an international delegation of bishops and lay people on the co-ordination, the agenda of which included visits to Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Taybeh, and the Bedouin communities. This important initiative, in support of the Holy See, is very much valued by Christian communities in the Holy Land.

The directorate works with Catholic charities such as CAFOD, Missio, Stella Maris and Aid to the Church in Need to support our brothers and sisters overseas where they face poverty, oppression or conflict. We also develop resources for parishes for Racial Justice Sunday and help bishops promote the importance

of a Christian approach to managing migration and welcoming migrants and refugees.

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. As such, we work to promote a greater understanding of slavery and trafficking in our communities.

Recent documents published by the departments include *Called to be Peacemakers*. This explained how an integral part of the Church's mission involves working to limit the proliferation of weapons and to advance the cause of global disarmament. On criminal justice, *Remember Me* covered the Church's approach to punishment, mercy, rehabilitation and redemption. Alongside the publication, a two-page summary was produced for parish discussion groups. *Render unto Caesar* provided a variety of perspectives on Catholic social teaching, taxation and the functions of government. This was followed by an online event. The reflections in that document have informed our public affairs work.

The priorities of the directorate are determined by the Bishops through the departments of the Conference. Current work in development, which will come to fruition over the coming years, involves the additional areas of artificial intelligence, peacebuilding and human rights.



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 interfaith 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:

- Regular contact with the Religions and Belief team in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, facilitating our increased engagement with other Government departments.
- Providing responses to Government consultations on topics including immigration, education, public order, burials and baby loss.
- Support of the Catholic civil servants' group to encourage its continued growth.
- 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.
- Working with Child Poverty Unit in the Cabinet Office, DWP and DfE to promote the Catholic experience of supporting children and families in poverty.
- Building relationships with Welsh Government officials on devolved policy areas such as education, support for families, and health and social care.

Meetings have been held with:

- The Prime Minister, Deputy PM and Faith Minister on community cohesion and interfaith relations.
- The Secretary of State for Education, Schools Minister, Children's Minister and Children's commissioner for England on education and child poverty.
- The Minister of State for Prisons, Parole and Probation on probation and prison chaplaincy.
- The UK Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief to share Catholic experience of FORB issues globally including on the Holy Land, Myanmar, Nigeria and South Sudan.
- The Prime Minister's Special Adviser for Faith, Communities and Civil Society 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:

- Holding a number of successful parliamentary events including a Parliamentary Reception to host the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem and a CES reception to bring MPs and DSCs together as well as briefing session on criminal justice, child poverty and education to support policy knowledge and formation amongst parliamentarians.
- Producing election resources to encourage Catholics to reflect and engage with the general election and Welsh election processes. Post election work to welcome and inform new MPs through a joint reception with Cafod for Catholic MPs and a personalised welcome briefing to all MPs after the election.
- Event in the Senedd to celebrate the Catholic contribution to Wales.
- Engagement on the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, Criminal Justice Bill, Crime and Policing Bill and Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill including briefings, tabling of amendments and providing evidence to the Bill Committees.
- Meetings with the Opposition including with the Shadow Education Minister on SEND in Catholic schools and Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on Listed Places of Worship.
- Briefing MPs, Peers and MSs on non-legislative topics such as the war in Ukraine, domestic abuse, children of prisoners, child poverty, the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller (GRT) community, the environment, FORB, Nigeria, South Sudan, Myanmar are part of our regular work to showcase the breadth of Catholic teaching in the parliaments.
- Running e-action campaigns on assisted suicide, the decriminalisation of abortion, Listed Place of Worship Grant Scheme, Two-Child Cap and lifted the faith admissions cap with over 7,000 actions taken.
- Providing non-political support for Parliamentarians through the coordination of the Cardinal's annual pastoral visit to Parliament and pastoral events in Lent and Advent on the synod and finding time for prayer so that Catholic parliamentarians are supported in their vocation in public life. We also continue to support Catholics for Labour and Catholics in the Conservative Party.
- Submitting responses and holding relationships with the clerks to Parliamentary Select Committees inquiries including Culture Media and Sport Committee, Wales Committee, Justice Committee, Women and Equalities, Home Affairs Committee, Joint Committee on Human Rights International Development Committee, Education Committee and the Senedd's Equality and Social Justice Committee.

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 joint parliamentary events.
- Providing joint briefings to civil servants and parliamentarians.
- Showcasing agency work to Government and the wider Catholic community.

Partnerships with national organisations

Working with Catholic, ecumenical, and interfaith colleagues on shared policy concerns and to promote dialogue between the respective communities. Supporting and collaborating with organisations like:

- Consultative bodies such as the Catholic Union and National Board of Catholic Women.
- The Board of Deputies of British Jews to provide resources and training for Catholic schools on tackling antisemitism.
- The ecumenical coalition ChurchWorks which engages greater Church and Government partnerships on issues around poverty, wellbeing and children.
- The National Police Chiefs' Council and civil service to raise the issue of religious literacy and Catholic literacy in the public sector.



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 continues to follow a strategy that leads with high quality visual content. The two main workstreams of the directorate are media liaison and digital content creation and sharing.

Papal transition

In communications terms, 2025 was a year of change. We walked with Pope Francis, witnessing how he bore sickness and suffering with grace until the end. More than 500 calls and emails were fielded from media professionals in the days after Pope Francis's death. Conclave and the election of Pope Leo XIV ensured that the media gaze remained firmly on Rome throughout April and May.

A new Archbishop for Westminster

Changes were afoot domestically as well. Having served Westminster as Archbishop for almost 17 years, Cardinal Vincent Nichols retired and a new Archbishop was announced. Archbishop Richard Moth was Installed in the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Most Precious Blood on 14 February 2026.

Assisted suicide

In terms of legislation, the biggest campaign of the year, carrying through into 2026, was the Bishops' principled opposition to the *Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill* that sought to make assisted suicide law. Our main communications objective was to amplify the Bishops' voices, acting consistently and as one, to advocate for a society that values life in all its forms from conception to natural death. Working with other pro-life groups, we promoted a care-not-killing approach highlighting the work of Catholic hospices and calling for better funding for palliative and end-of-life care throughout England and Wales.

Other significant media events

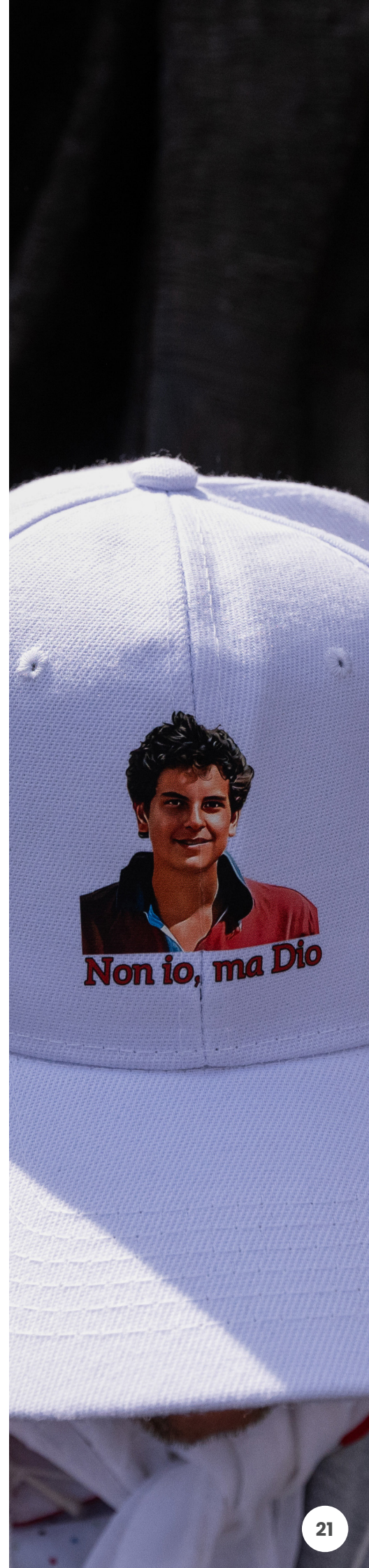
- The Jubilee Year of Hope.
- The visit of His Majesty King Charles and Her Majesty The Queen to the Vatican to meet with Pope Leo.
- The publication of the Holy Father's first Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi Te - On Love for the Poor*.
- The Canonisation of Carlo Acutis.
- St John Henry Newman announced as a Doctor of the Church and proclaimed a co-patron of the Church's educational mission alongside St Thomas Aquinas.
- 60th anniversary of *Nostra Aetate*.

Media Liaison and Networking

Media enquiries continue at a steady flow. We are now using an industry-standard media monitoring tool to improve our proactive work in terms of networking with media professionals and proactive story placement. We are expanding our database of 'engaged' journalists and continue to provide briefed and knowledgeable spokespeople to answer media queries.

Local Communications

We are continuing to work to support a functioning Diocesan Communications Officers (DCOs) Forum through which best practice, information sharing, and promoting grassroots stories to illustrate national messaging can be carried out effectively.



World Communications Day Mass and Lecture

In 2026, for the first time since the pandemic, we are holding a World Communications Day Mass and Lecture as a networking event for journalists to cultivate more positive relationships with media professionals and to encourage better Catholic literacy.

Digital

Our digital work fulfils a vital part of our communications strategy and we are looking to improve in all areas this year. The planning phase to redesign and upgrade the Bishops' Conference website is under way. Post-Easter, we welcomed a new team member, taking up the new role of 'Content Producer' for the directorate. In tandem, we have commissioned an external review of our social media output with a view to greatly improving our reach and impact.

Photography

Any image-led strategy has to offer high-quality visual content that takes the viewer on a journey to the transcendent - to Jesus Christ. Our photographer continues to provide professional images showcasing the life and witness of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. There have been a staggering **100 million views** of our photos on our Flickr channel, averaging between 20,000-50,000 views per day. The directorate makes these first-class images available in service of the Church for free. The only request is that a simple credit is run: Mazur/cbcew.org.uk.



Scan the QR code
for our photos

Communications in numbers

During 2025, we built **316 web pages**, published **371 news articles**, recorded and produced **43 podcasts**, made **2,750 social media posts** that were **viewed 5.47 million times**, sent out a judicious **72 press releases**, carried out **3 major e-action campaigns**, uploaded **51 videos** and shared nearly **20,000 photos**.



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.

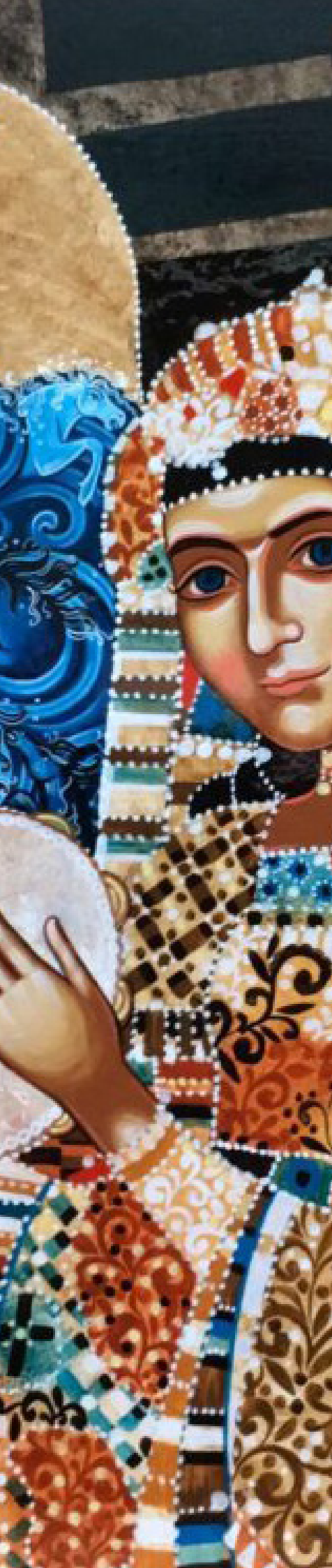


“Scripture is intended to speak to today’s believers, to touch their present lives with their problems, to enlighten the steps to be taken and the decisions to be made. This becomes possible only when believers read and interpret the sacred texts under the guidance of the same Spirit who inspired them.” Pope Leo XIV, General Audience, 4 February 2026

We continue to respond to Pope Leo’s guidance making the Scriptures accessible to everyone through our *God who Speaks* initiative in partnership with Bible Society. We provide a range of creative resources each month. We offer events and talks, training and formation, retreats and festivals. We support schools, parishes and other diocesan networks.

We are conducting a Research Project on Neurodiversity and the Catholic Experience in partnership with Birmingham Newman University; creating new Bible and Art resources for the RE Directory in collaboration with the education department of the Diocese of Nottingham, and with RE Today we produced eight lesson plans on art and interfaith dialogue for primary and secondary schools. We have created Bible resources for the Sunday of the Word of God, Education Sunday, Racial Justice Sunday, National Marriage Week, the new Catholic-ESV Lectionary and the Jubilee Year.

Our Biblical Apostolate promotes a holistic understanding of the Bible that shapes all aspects of our faith with resources on science, philosophy, mental health and spirituality, the dignity of work, the environment, a parish resource responding to *Dilexi Te: On Love for the Poor* and a



dedicated diocesan Social Justice Toolkit. Alongside monthly catechetical and devotional tools we have created Bible mosaic videos and reflections on Scripture and art.

As part of our wider cultural strategy, we curated an interfaith art competition and exhibition of 27 paintings: *Cloud of Witnesses: Images of Faith and Divinity Today* with St John's Church, Waterloo, Art & Christianity, and the Culham St Gabriel Trust. We will be curating a second competition and exhibition in 2027 in London focused on the 73 books of the Bible: *Divine Designs: Between the Covers*. Our exciting new Bible and Culture conference for the Scripture Champions' Community takes place in Leeds in 2027: *Treasures Old and New: Word and World Today. Exploring Scripture, context and culture in our faith and work*. Topics focus on the Catholic Church, media and culture, Bible lands and politics, youth violence and the face of Christ, Bible and poetry and Bible and Disability.

Media highlights include being a contributor to BBC Radio 4's *Prayer for the Day* and a monthly Scripture podcast segment on the 'At the Foot of the Cross' series. Our dedicated website for the *God who Speaks* serves, enriches and develops this apostolate: 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.

Image: © Miriam – Painting by Silvia Dimitrova (2018)

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 Internationalis, one of the largest aid networks in the world with a presence in 200 countries and territories. 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 Dr Christine Allen.

Agencies

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

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 Emeritus of Liverpool, is CSAN's Chair of Trustees.

Raymond Friel OBE is the CEO of CSAN.



Agencies

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



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.

Agencies

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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 up 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.

Safeguarding Statement

Bishop Paul Mason and Sister Una Coogan CJ explain why robust safeguarding is vitally important to protect all who come into contact with the Church.

The Catholic Church in England and Wales takes a unified and collaborative approach to Safeguarding.

Religious Life Groups, sometimes called religious communities or religious orders, work in partnership with Catholic Bishops and dioceses to respond in the most effective and robust way possible.

Bishop Paul Mason, the Lead Bishop for Safeguarding for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, alongside Sister Una Coogan CJ, the Lead Religious for Safeguarding for the Conference of Religious, explain how vitally important this work is to protect all who come into contact with the Church:

“Safeguarding is of vital importance to the Catholic Church in England and Wales and lies at the heart of our mission. Abuse has no place in the Church or wider society, and we have a zero-tolerance approach to it.

“Pope Leo XIV, addressing the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors in March 2026, reminded us that ‘the prevention of abuse is not an optional task, but a constitutive dimension of the mission of the Church’.

“The Church is committed to listening, with humility, to the voices of victims and survivors as their experiences will always inform our safeguarding work. We are open to any learning that will refine and improve our practices to protect all.

“We again offer an unreserved apology to those who have been hurt by abuse in the Catholic Church in England and Wales and reiterate the open invitation from the bishops to meet with and listen to victims and survivors.

“It is the policy of the Catholic Church in England and Wales to report all allegations of abuse to statutory authorities, regardless of whether the abuse occurred recently or in the past, or whether the accused person is living or deceased. If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, please call 999.

“The Church is committed to continual review and development, assisted by the independent auditing work of the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency, so that all our communities are places of safety and sanctuary for all.”

Bishop Paul Mason

Lead Bishop for Safeguarding

Bishop of the Forces Sister Una Coogan CJ

Lead Religious for Safeguarding

Conference of Religious



Finance Directorate

The Finance Team manages CaTEW's income, expenditure, and accountancy functions.

Income

Financially, 2025 was a good year for CaTEW. Total income for the period came to £5.7 million. We are happy to report that, following the restructure of 2021, we have continued to operate on a more efficient basis and have not had to reinstate the 25% reduction in the general levy brought in at the time of the COVID pandemic to alleviate the financial pressures faced by the dioceses.

Investment performance was strong, both in terms of income and unrealised gains on the investment portfolio.

National collections, despite showing increases in recent years, are not at pre-pandemic levels. The mandated collections are: World Communications Day in May, Day for Life in June, and Home Mission Sunday in September. A collection for Racial Justice Sunday is taken in February.

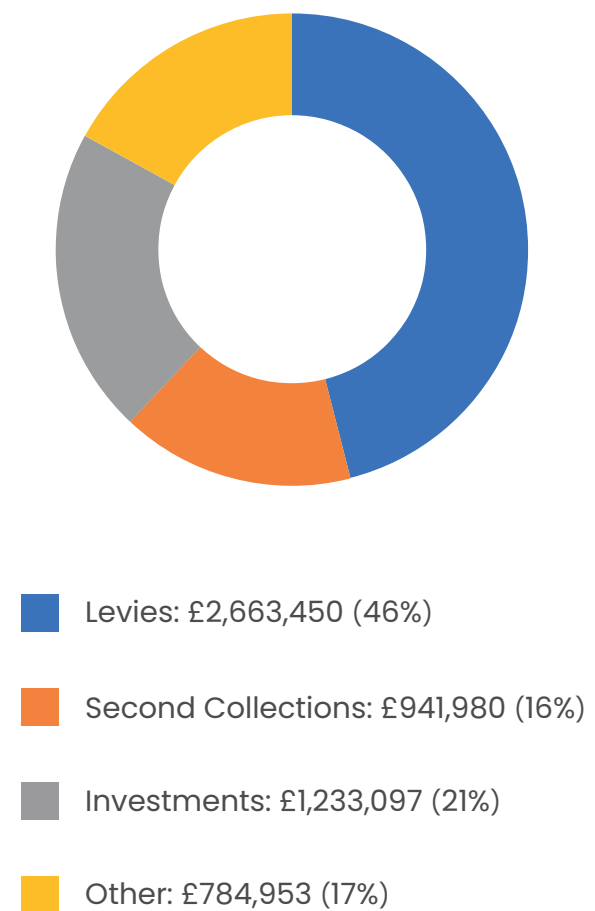
Expenditure

Following the restructure in 2020-21, CaTEW is organisationally more streamlined than in the past. New Mission and Policy teams were created, and staff 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.

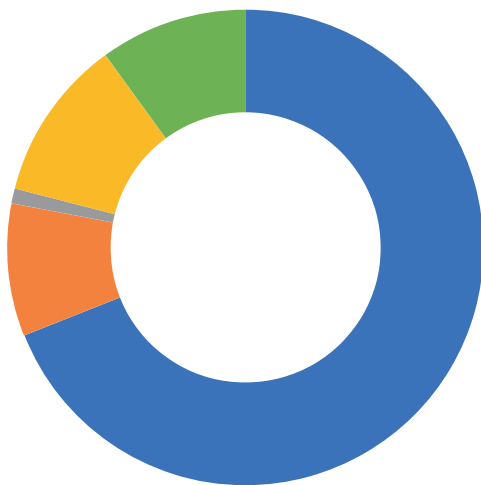
The new structure is now fully embedded, and this has allowed for the implementation of policies designed to drive down expenditure. Other than in exceptional circumstances there is a moratorium on overseas travel and staff are encouraged to attend meetings virtually where possible. These and other measures continue to enhance the operational performance of CaTEW.

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

CaTEW Income to 31 December 2025



CaTEW Expenditure to 31 December 2025



- Staff costs: £2,806,750 (69%)
- Property costs: £390,561 (9.6%)
- Investment: £4,994 (0.1%)
- Professional fees / insurance: £439,306 (10.8%)
- Other operating expenses: £425,751 (10.5%)

Staffing v Non-staffing Expenditure to 31 December 2025



- Staffing: £2,806,750 (69%)
- Non-staffing: £1,260,612 (31%)



Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

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



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Seeking the Kingdom of God implies the desire to transform human coexistence into a space of fraternity and dignity for all, without exception.

Pope Leo XIV