

THE CATHOLIC UNION

England | Scotland | Wales

Annual Report for 2026

**The 147th Report for the period 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2026
for submission to the Annual General Meeting
to be held at 5.00 pm on Tuesday 3 November 2026 at the
London Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street, London W1K 3AY**



St Thomas More was a man faithful to his civic responsibilities, a perfect servant of the state precisely because of his faith, which led him to view politics not as a profession but as a mission for the spread of truth and goodness.

Pope Leo XIV: address to members of the International Inter-Parliamentary Union in the Hall of Benediction

Saturday 21 June 2025

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 Catholic Union of Great Britain



**Public Engagement by Catholics
for the Common Good**

The Catholic Union of Great Britain is an unincorporated membership organisation for lay Catholics in England, Scotland and Wales. It was founded in 1870 to address the pressing social challenges of the day, to support and encourage Catholics to contribute to those debates and participate in wider public affairs. Our membership includes people from all parts of the country, all walks of life, backgrounds, ages and lines of work. There is a wealth and breadth of experience, expertise and goodwill. Membership of the Catholic Union is open to all practising members of the Catholic laity in Great Britain and includes doctors, nurses, teachers, lawyers, academics, civil servants, politicians, and many, many others. The Catholic Union endeavours to channel lay Catholic experience and expertise in the service of society.



President

Baroness Hollins

For more than 150 years, the Catholic Union has been trying to ensure that lay Catholics are informed about the great issues of their time. We're proud of our history and determined to continue to help Catholics play confident roles in public life, to engage in public debate and to understand today's challenges through the prism of Church teaching. I am pleased by our increasing engagement with parliamentarians from all parties as we help to inform them about some of the pressing issues of the day, such as assisted dying, child poverty, and artificial intelligence. This year we have welcomed 9 new Vice Presidents.

Remember that it takes courage to speak up for what you believe to be right and to play a part in trying to make a difference in our world. Catholics in public life need us to engage constructively with them and offer timely support as they juggle challenges and discern the best path when faced with conflicting needs.

To me the Catholic Union means raising awareness, encouraging honest debate, providing information, oversight, practical help and support. It means not being afraid to ask questions and importantly it means nurturing close relationships with the Bishops' Conferences of England & Wales and Scotland. There are some fascinating events planned in 2026/7 across Great Britain. I am grateful to our members, supporters and all those who contribute to the life of the Catholic Union.



Chairman

Richard Collyer-Hamlin

We have focused our resources on defeating the threat of Assisted Suicide legislation in the three parliaments. We offer our gratitude to Catholic parliamentarians who have worked tirelessly to get the right result and persuade their colleagues. The Catholic Union continues to promote and explain Catholic Social Teaching through its public education programme of pub talks, webinars, expert panels and lectures. Two of our events in the last year have been the best ever attended. Our impact in Scotland is growing and we hope to hold events across Great Britain in 2026/27. Our team has enjoyed working with the two bishops' conferences and the Union is becoming better known in parishes and schools across the country. In the coming months, we hope to appoint a Director and to expand our engagement with diocesan departments across Great Britain. I would like to thank our generous donors and express my gratitude for the support given by CCLA, Stone King and Jesuits in Britain.



President of the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales

Archbishop Richard Moth

Earlier this year, Pope Leo spoke of some important aspects of the mission of the Church: 'to develop relationships with other religious communities and the civil authorities, to make the Gospel present in the culture and social fabric, for the protection of human life, the promotion of peace and justice'

(Message of the Holy Father on the occasion of the 13th General Assembly of the Association of Episcopal Conferences of the Central Africa Region, 29 January 2026).

The Catholic Union, with its focus on supporting and encouraging Catholics in public life, has an important role to play in facilitating and promoting these aspects of the life of the Church in our countries. I think of the essential work it has undertaken, and will continue to undertake, in opposing the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill; the support it offers to our Catholic parliamentarians; the expertise it makes available to the Bishops in their ministry – to name just a few of its activities.

In my early days as President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, I am delighted to acknowledge the warm and constructive relationships between the Catholic Union and the staff of the Bishops' Conference Secretariat, and I look forward to our continuing close collaboration in the years to come.



President of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland

Bishop John Keenan

I am glad to commend the good work of the Catholic Union as it continues to encourage lay Catholics to bring their faith, experience and expertise to public life. Founded over one hundred and fifty years ago to help Catholics address the social challenges of the day, it remains highly relevant in our own time. Its work in promoting Catholic social teaching, supporting engagement with Parliament and public authorities, informing Catholics about current issues and serving the common good is a real gift to the Church and wider society. I want to thank and commend all who are involved in this promising effort for their generous service, and I pray that the Union's work may continue to bear abundant and fruitful witness.

Parliamentary Overview (to September 2026)

Since last year's report we have witnessed another change of Prime Minister and the first Roman Catholic to occupy this office. The murder of former parliamentarian, Rt Hon Ann Widdecombe DSG, has been a horrendous shock to the Catholic community and the nation. All of those who play a part in the life of the Catholic Union are immensely grateful to Catholics who enter public life and nothing should deter good people from this contribution to society.

The issue that by far dominated the parliamentary work of the Catholic Union in the past year has been The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, a private members' bill first introduced by backbench Labour MP Kim Leadbeater in October 2024.

Since its introduction, the Catholic Union has been involved in briefing parliamentarians about the contents of the bill and concerns about its impact on the sick, the elderly, the disabled and on the provision of palliative care. The vote at the third reading of the bill in the Commons was close – 314 to 291 – and the bill then moved to the House of Lords. The Union did similar work during its passage in the Upper House, where it came under multiple challenges with over 1,200 amendments put forward by peers. The Union's president, Baroness Hollins, was among those scrutinising the bill in the House of Lords, line by line, and again, the Union has worked hard to keep parliamentarians well-informed about the contents of the bill. As you will know, the bill fell in late April 2026, Lauren Edwards MP re-introduced it having come second highest in the private members' bill ballot 2026-27. On 11 September 2026, the House of Commons voted against the bill, defeating it by 286 to 270. The Catholic Union is extremely grateful to all who raised their very real concerns with their Members of Parliament and will continue to help those in positions of power to ensure that high quality palliative care is available to all in need.

Meanwhile, the other parliaments in Great Britain have also been voting on assisted dying. In Scotland, the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill fell in the Scottish Assembly, defeated by 69 votes to 57. It would have made it legal for a medical practitioner or authorised health professional to give an eligible patient a lethal drug to end their life but the bill was defeated after concerns were raised that people could be coerced into choosing to die. Meanwhile, assisted dying has been voted for in the Channel Island of Jersey for people who are terminally ill or who have degenerative conditions. It is likely to be on the Statute Book within a short period.

All this has taken place at the same time as the Crime and Policing Bill, with its clause to decriminalise abortion by pregnant women outside the legal framework. This was passed in the Commons by 379 to 137 and has now also been passed in the Lords, despite speeches against it warning of its impact on women, the unborn and wider society.

In September 2026, the Prime Minister announced that the government would seek to end a ban on Catholics and Jews advising the Crown on Church of England and Church of Scotland appointments (*The Church Appointments (Repeal of Discriminatory Provision) Bill*). Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP stated that it was unacceptable for there to be a legislative bar against people of any faith performing the functions of his office.

As well as advising parliamentarians, the Catholic Union has kept Catholics across the country up to speed with these bills through its Weekly Briefing. We wish to record our appreciation for the work of Fr Christopher Colven, Catholic Chaplain to the Westminster Parliament, and all Catholic clergy who serve our political institutions across the country.



Ecclesiastical Adviser

Rev Canon William Agley, General Secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, has been appointed as Ecclesiastical Adviser to the Catholic Union. Canon Agley

succeeds Rt Rev Nicholas Hudson, Bishop of Plymouth in this role. The Catholic Union is very grateful to Bishop Nicholas for all his support and we expressed our gratitude to him at the Summer Gathering at Buckfast Abbey on 11 July. As Ecclesiastical Adviser, Canon Agley, along with Executive Director Greg Pope, will be the key interface between the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and the Catholic Union. Our close working relationship is fundamental to the Union's service to the laity and clergy across the country. Canon Agley is a qualified solicitor and priest of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, Canon Agley served as an official of what is now the Dicastery for the Clergy in Rome from 2012 to 2017.

Vice Presidents

We were delighted to welcome nine additional Vice Presidents at the 2025 AGM: Sarah Bool MP, Professor Charles Egbu, Patricia Ferguson MP, Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP, Sojan Joseph MP, Angus MacDonald OBE MP, Frank McNally MP, Brendan O'Hara MP, John Studzinski CBE.

Weekly Briefing

Our emailed Weekly Briefing is full of news and information about the Church, about parliamentary and political developments of interest to Catholics, and about events, such as lectures and exhibitions. This time last year we had nearly 4,800 subscribers and we are delighted to tell you our readership is close to 7,000.

Guest Editorial

Each week, we are fortunate to have a Guest Editorial contributed by a notable individual in public life. In the last year alone, these have included:

Pierpaolo Finaldi	Edward Sparrow	Dave Legrand
Margaret Mizen MBE	Rev'd Dr Timothy Howles	Edward Reed
Prof Michael Hurley	Oliver Pawle	Prof Claire Ozanne
Timothy Cho	Dr David Ryall	Paul Barber
Lady Rae	Jacintha Bowe	Angus MacDonald OBE KSG MP
Edward Adoo	George O'Neill	Gregory Stafford MP
Edward Stourton	Elaine McGinlay	Jasmine de Kretser
Rt Hon Sir Edward Leigh KSG MP	Prof Anthony McClaran	Paul Connolly
Brendan O'Hara MP	David Barclay	Vincent Keaveny CBE
Teresa Lynch RN	John Pontifex	Brendan O'Hara MP
Stewart McCulloch	John Duddington	Rev Canon Jonathan Martin
Michael Forbes Smith KCHS	Charlotte de Klee	Yogi Sutton DSG
Dr Ed Kessler MBE	Seamus Logan MP	

School of the Week

Each week, the Catholic Union celebrates the unique and wonderful contribution Catholic Schools in England, Scotland and Wales make to our society. This section keeps our readers informed about the wealth of Catholic schools serving their communities across the country. If you know of a school that you think should be included, do let us know. Primary and secondary schools featured in the last 12 months have included:

Good Shepherd Academy, Woodthorpe
St. Clare's Primary School, Drumchapel
St Philomena's Catholic High School, Carshalton
Sacred Heart Primary School, New Malden
Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School, Upminster
St Joseph's Primary, Aberdeen
St Edward's School, Romsey
Our Lady and St Swithin's, Croxteth
St Cuthbert's Catholic High School, Newcastle
St James' Catholic High School, Cheadle
Our Lady & St Chad, Wolverhampton
All Saints Catholic High School, Sheffield
St Bede's College, Manchester
Corpus Christi Catholic High School, Cardiff
St Francis' Catholic Primary, Preston
St Mary's Catholic Academy, Blackpool
St Philip Howard Primary School, Hatfield
St Thomas More Catholic School, Eltham
St Bernard's Catholic High School, Barrow-in-Furness
Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Crawley
Saints John Fisher & Thomas More, Colne
Donhead School, Wimbledon
St Teresa's Catholic Primary School, Preston
Annecey Catholic Primary School, Seaford
St Edmund's Catholic School, Dover
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Heysham
St Bede's Catholic Primary, School, Basingstoke
La Retraite Catholic Girls' School, Clapham
Holy Rood Catholic Primary School, Watford
Mayfield School, Mayfield
Our Lady's Catholic High School, Fulwood
St John Bosco Arts College, Croxteth
St Anthony's Girls Catholic Academy, Sunderland
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Blackhall

Prayer of the Faithful

We also provide weekly Bidding Prayers used by parishes and schools which help busy priests and others who use them for their Prayer of the Faithful each week. Again, the numbers have risen and the Bidding Prayers are now reaching nearly three thousand parishes, schools and communities.

Reflections for Feastdays

We endeavour to provide a short reflection, given by a senior member of the Church, for major moments in the ecclesiastical year. In the last twelve months, each of the eight Scottish bishops have contributed pieces as have other leading clergy in England and Wales. Our readers tell us how much they have appreciated this innovation.

WeBelieve Festival

The WeBelieve Festival was held at the magnificent grounds of St Mary's College, Oscott for the second year running in July 2026. The Catholic Union was pleased to support the event and organised a particular discussion in the Goodness marquee titled, 'Faith in The Public Square: Being a Christian in British Politics' with former MP, Stephen Pound reflecting on a lifetime in public service from local government to Parliament and what it means to live as a Christian in British politics. The discussion was chaired by Martin Foley, Secretary of the CUGB, and the conversation explored conscience, vocation and the challenges and opportunities of faith in the public square today.



Archbishop of Westminster



Among the news that we reported in the Weekly Briefings was the election of Cardinal Robert Prevost as Pope Leo XIV in May last year. We also reported on the appointment of Bishop Richard Moth of Arundel and Brighton to be successor to Cardinal Vincent Nichols as Archbishop of Westminster. We were privileged to have the then Bishop Moth as celebrant of the Mass held for current and deceased members of the Union at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in London's Farm Street on 5 November last year and as our speaker at our AGM that same evening at the London Jesuit Centre. The Catholic Union leadership was privileged to attend the Mass of Installation for the new Archbishop at Westminster Cathedral on 14 February. We offer Archbishop Moth our congratulations and look forward to working with him.



We offer great thanks to Cardinal Vincent Nichols for his incredible service and support of our work on his retirement as the Archbishop of Westminster. Representatives of the Catholic Union were honoured to be present for the Thanksgiving Mass for the Cardinal held at Westminster Cathedral.

Selected news and highlights from the year

September 2025

- Catholic Union supports AI and Catholic Social Thought conference at the Gillis Centre, Edinburgh.
- Professor Claire Ozanne, Vice-Chancellor and Rector of Liverpool Hope University and Chair of the Cathedrals Group of Universities writes Weekly Briefing editorial.
- Benjamin Saunders, Director of Music for the Diocese of Leeds, and Lead Consultant for the National Schools Singing Programme, writes in the Weekly Briefing.
- 2025 Craigmyle Lecture, 'Catholicism for the Next Generation', is given by Lord Lemos CMC CBE.
- Catholic Union supports Together for the Common Good with its Staying Human lecture series.
- Paul Barber, Director of the Catholic Education Service, writes Weekly Briefing editorial.
- Mark Choonara, CEO of Daughters of Charity Services, writes Weekly Briefing editorial.
- Angus MacDonald OBE KSG MP, Liberal Democrat MP for Inverness, Skye and West Ross-shire writes Weekly Briefing editorial.
- PASC meeting: presentation by James Corah and Celia Waring of CCLA.

October

- Gregory Stafford MP writes Weekly Briefing editorial to coincide with the Conservative Party conference.
- Seamus Logan MP writes Weekly Briefing editorial to coincide with the SNP party conference.
- Paul Connolly, Catholic Police Guild, writes Weekly Briefing editorial.
- Catholic Union congratulates Archbishop Gallagher who was honoured by the King and appointed a Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St. George.
- Andy Keen-Downs CBE writes Weekly Briefing editorial to coincide with Prisoners' Sunday.

November

- Reflection on Feast of All Saints by Bishop Frank Dougan.
- Catholic AGM, Mass and Reception is held at the London Jesuit Centre. Bishop Moth, Prof Philip Booth and Baroness Hollins give talks.
- Catholic Union meetings with Archdiocese of Liverpool and Liverpool Hope University.
- David Barclay, Campaign Director of 'Warm Welcome' writes Weekly Briefing editorial.
- Charlotte de Klee, Wintershall writes Weekly Briefing editorial.
- Peter Tyler, Professor of Pastoral Theology and Spirituality, St Mary's University writes Weekly Briefing editorial.

December

- St Thomas More Circle Presidential webinar given by Baroness Hollins.
- Professor Anthony McClaran, Vice-Chancellor of St Mary's University writes Weekly Briefing editorial.
- Teresa Lynch RN, MSc, President of the Association of Catholic Nurses for England and Wales writes Weekly Briefing editorial.
- Edward Stourton writes Weekly Briefing editorial.
- Christmas reflection by Bishop Andrew McKenzie.

January 2026

- New Year's Day Reflection by Mgr Paul McPartlan.
- Epiphany reflection by Archbishop William Nolan.
- Stewart McCulloch, Christians Against Poverty, writes Weekly Briefing editorial.
- PASC meeting: Catherine Pepinster spoke about Pope Leo and his pontificate.
- Pub talk given by Sojan Joseph MP on mental health.
- Margaret Mizen MBE writes Weekly Briefing editorial.
- Catholic Union attends meeting convened by Oliver Pawle on Catholic Church and China.

February

- Pub talk given by Margaret and Barry Mizen MBE and chaired by Catherine Pepinster.
- Pierpaolo Finaldi, Catholic Truth Society, writes Weekly Briefing editorial.
- Scottish Committee meeting held at Gillis Centre, Edinburgh.
- Catholic Union attends installation Mass for Archbishop Moth.
- Archbishop John Sherrington writes reflection for Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes.
- Prof Michael Hurley writes Weekly Briefing editorial.
- Elaine McGinlay, SCIAF, writes Weekly Briefing editorial.

March

- Michael Forbes Smith KCHS, President, Southern Section, Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem writes Weekly Briefing editorial.
- Jacintha Bowe, Board of Catholic Women, writes editorial for Weekly Briefing on Mother's Day.
- Catholic Union attends EducareM conference.
- Timothy Cho writes Weekly Briefing editorial.
- Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP writes piece on World Down Syndrome Day for Weekly Briefing.
- Pub talk given by John Studzinski CBE 'A Talent for Giving'.
- Webinar given by Revd Dr Gareth Leyshon, 'Does Science Pose a Threat to Today's Catholicism?'

April

- Good Friday reflection by Bishop John Keenan.
- Webinar given by Fr Patrick van der Vorst and Stefan Kaminski, entitled 'Place of Beauty'.
- President's lunch with Patron members of the St Thomas More Circle.
- Catholic Generosity Summit supported by CU.
- Canon Michael Dolman, Rector, Oscott Seminary, writes editorial for Weekly Briefing.
- Edward Adoo, journalist, writes editorial for Weekly Briefing.
- Eddie Conway, Head Teacher of St Michael's, writes editorial for Weekly Briefing.

May

- Catholic Union attends the Catholic Charities Conference.
- Pub talk given by Christopher Lamb, CNN on "The Leo Effect".
- Deacon Mark Paine sets up "Catholics with Autism" group.
- Catholic Union encourages members to get involved with local and national elections.
- Catholic Union supports Together for the Common Good's Staying Human lecture.

- Rt Hon Sir Edward Leigh MP invested as a Knight of St Gregory the Great.
- Rev Canon William Agle, appointed as Ecclesiastical Adviser to the Catholic Union.
- Pentecost reflection by Rev Canon Mark Cassidy.
- CU assists Surrogacy Concern with briefing for House of Lords debate.
- Ascension Day reflection by Archbishop Bernard Longley.
- Dr Philip Howard invested as a Knight of St Gregory the Great.
- Lady Rae, Chair of the SCSSA, writes Weekly Briefing editorial.
- Stephen Balogh, Chair of SDP, writes editorial for Weekly Briefing.
- John Green, Catholics in Fundraising, writes editorial for Weekly Briefing.
- Canon Jonathan Martin writes editorial for Weekly Briefing.
- Oliver Pawle writes guest editorial for Weekly Briefing.

June

- Catholic Young Artist Award closes with over 500 entries.
- PASC webinar discussion on legal migration with Rt Hon Ann Widdecombe DSG and Liam Allmark.
- Inaugural meeting of the Tech Group.
- St Thomas More Circle Annual Mass & Reception held at St Mary's, Cadogan Street, Chelsea with Bishop Gerard Bradley and Lord Alton.
- Joan McCarthy, Director of Education, Liverpool Diocese, writes in Weekly Briefing about the Good Shepherd Mass.
- Corpus Christi reflection by Bishop Thomas Neylon.
- Rt Hon Sir Edward Leigh KSG MP writes Father's Day reflection.
- Bishop John Arnold writes reflection for feast day of Saints Thomas More and John Fisher.
- Bishop Philip Egan writes reflection for feast day of St Peter and Paul.
- Catholic Union attends reception at Apostolic Nunciature.
- Rev'd Dr Timothy Howles, Associate Director, Laudato Si' Research Institute, writes editorial for Weekly Briefing.
- Keith Leslie, Chair of Samaritans, writes editorial for Weekly Briefing.
- Edward Sparrow, notable Catholic Trustee, writes editorial for Weekly Briefing.
- Dr Ed Kessler MBE, Woolf Institute, writes editorial for Weekly Briefing.

July

- Summer Gathering held at Buckfast Abbey, with Bishop Nicholas Hudson, Lord Lemos and Abbot David Charlesworth OSB.
- Catholic Union attends Religion Media Festival
- Catholic Union attends Caritas Parliamentary reception.
- Catholic Union attends EducareM gathering.
- Catholic Union attends St Mary's Medical School presentation at Archbishop's House, Westminster.
- Catholic Union attends WeBelieve festival.
- Stephen Preston, Chair of York Cassoc, writes editorial for Weekly Briefing.
- Yogi Sutton DSG, Founder of Catholic Association for Racial Justice, writes editorial for Weekly Briefing.
- James Somerville-Meikle, former Deputy Director of the Catholic Union, writes editorial for Weekly Briefing.

Scotland: political highlights 2025 – 2026



During 2025–2026, the Catholic Parliamentary Office played a prominent role in supporting the Bishops' Conference of Scotland in its engagement with public life, parliamentary debate and the political process. Its work focused on bringing

Catholic Social Teaching to bear on major questions facing Scotland, with particular emphasis on the dignity of every human person, the common good, solidarity, subsidiarity, the protection of vulnerable people, and the importance of moral responsibility in public service.

A major area of activity was the Church's response to the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill. Working on behalf of the bishops and with other stakeholders, the Catholic Parliamentary Office helped articulate a clear and consistent opposition to assisted suicide, arguing that true compassion should be expressed through care, accompaniment, protection and properly resourced palliative and hospice services, including Catholic hospice services. Engagement included parliamentary evidence, briefing materials, meetings with MSPs, public statements, and encouragement for Catholics to contact their MSPs and participate respectfully in the democratic process.

All this work helped to convince a majority of MSPs that the Bill was either fundamentally wrong or unfit for purpose, and the proposal was rejected by Parliament on 17th March.

The Office was closely involved in the 2026 Scottish Parliament election; producing election resources to help Catholics reflect on their civic responsibilities and assess political choices in the light of Catholic Social Teaching. These materials highlighted issues including the protection of life, poverty, healthcare, education, religious freedom, migration, care for the environment, and support for those most in need. The Office also encouraged voters to engage constructively with candidates and to consider how public policy can promote human dignity and the common good.

Following the election, the Director has been meeting with MSPs to discuss their priorities for the new parliamentary session as well as highlighting key areas of interest for the Bishops' Conference of Scotland.

The Office also played a key role in organising an Ash Wednesday service in the Scottish Parliament and will play a vital part in organising the annual Mass in the Scottish Parliament at the end of June.

Across the year, the Catholic Parliamentary Office continued to advocate on life and bioethical issues, including abortion and end-of-life care. It emphasised the inherent worth of every person from conception to natural death and warned against policies that could place vulnerable people, including the elderly, disabled, terminally ill or socially isolated, at greater risk. This advocacy was linked to a wider concern for the dignity of the human person and the need for a society that protects those least able to protect themselves.

The Office also promoted the place of Catholic education, the rights of parents, freedom of conscience and religious liberty within Scottish public life. These themes were presented not as sectional interests but as contributions to the wider common good, supporting a plural society in which faith communities can participate openly and constructively.

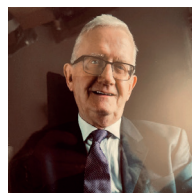
In summary, the work of the Catholic Parliamentary Office in 2025–2026 was marked by sustained engagement with Scotland's political institutions, practical support for Catholic voters, clear advocacy on the dignity of human life, in particular in relation to assisted suicide, and a consistent effort to apply Catholic Social Teaching to contemporary social and legislative challenges. Its contribution helped ensure that the voice of the Church remained present in public debate, especially on matters affecting life, family, conscience, education, healthcare, and the protection of the vulnerable.



Anthony Horan

Director, Catholic Parliamentary Office
Bishops' Conference of Scotland

Scottish Committee



The Scottish Committee of CUGB has been established and will become a proactive, visible, and constructive Catholic voice in Scotland, rooted in Catholic Social Teaching and engaged with the social, ethical, cultural, and political questions facing the country. Rather than responding only to issues as they arise, the Committee is developing a workplan with defined areas of focus, visible outputs, and is concerned with impact and visibility.

A central theme was the need to frame the Committee's work through Catholic Social Teaching, particularly in relation to human dignity, the dignity of work, family life, justice, the common good, and responsible citizenship. Members identified several priority areas for future attention, including marriage, family and life, artificial intelligence and emerging technologies, poverty and social fragmentation, international aid and development, assisted suicide, and the role of Catholics in public and political life. There is strong support for "horizon scanning" so the Committee can anticipate future challenges while remaining attentive to the immediate concerns of Catholics in Scotland.

Structures and procedures are being put in place for communication with parliamentarians in Holyrood and

Westminster. There will be a significant emphasis on listening to and involving young Catholics.

Professor Bart McGettrick

Chair, Scottish Committee

Parliamentary and Society Committee



Since August 2025, the Parliamentary and Society Committee (PASC) has continued to provide a valuable forum for Chief Executives and senior leaders of Catholic charities and organisations. The Committee enables members to network, exchange perspectives, and collaborate on matters of public policy and parliamentary interest.

At the September meeting, members heard presentations from Celia Waring (Client Investment Director) and James Corah (Head of Sustainability), both from CCLA, who explored the subject of ethical investment during times of political uncertainty. The discussion considered how Catholic organisations can remain faithful to their values while responding prudently to changing economic and political circumstances.

The guest speaker in January was Catherine Pepinster who addressed the Committee about the election of Pope Leo and the potential themes of his papacy.

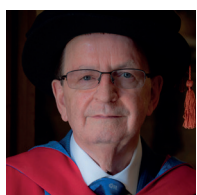
In June, the Committee welcomed the Rt Hon Ann Widdecombe DSG and Liam Allmark, Head of Communications, Fundraising and Advocacy at the Jesuit Refugee Service, to discuss how Catholic organisations in the United Kingdom should respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by large-scale legal migration.

Future meetings are also planned to focus on subjects as varied as the continuing cost-of-living challenges and how senior leaders within the Catholic charitable sector can approach ethical decision-making.

Matt Gibbs

Chair, Parliamentary and Society Committee

Education Committee



Once again, Catholic Education has featured prominently in debates among the members of the Catholic Union, reflecting ongoing debates within the Catholic education community nationally, especially in relation to bodies such as the CES, NBRIA and Diocesan education commissions. The following constitutes a sample of the issues being debated:

Revision of Catholic School Inspection Framework

A review of the National Framework for the Inspection of Catholic Schools is currently being progressed. A consultation (closed on 1st May 2026) sought the views of

those involved in the life and mission of Catholic education, including school leaders, staff, governors, clergy, and parents. The review focuses on the process, substance, and outcomes of inspection, while confirming that the fact, purpose, and areas of inspection are not under review. Dr Philip Robinson, the Chief Inspector of Catholic Schools, will report on the outcomes of the consultation early in the new Academic Year.

Curriculum and Assessment Review

At the most recent meeting of the CUGB Education Committee Paul Barber, Director of the Catholic Education Service of England and Wales, provided an update on ongoing national developments in Religious Education (RE). A Curriculum and Assessment Review has considered incorporating RE into the National Curriculum. This is a welcome development with a decision from the DfE imminent.

Scotland

A Scottish Committee of the Catholic Union of Great Britain has been established to address matters relating to the Scottish Parliament and this will include education issues locally. Prof. McGettrick is chairing the Scottish Committee and will keep this committee in touch with relevant developments. It should be noted that Scotland operates a different national Catholic RE curriculum approved by the Bishops of Scotland. The CUGB Committee England and Wales welcomes close collaboration with its Scottish counterpart going forward.

Ofsted Inspection Framework

Kate Griffin DSG, a member of the CUGB Education Committee, has agreed to lead on a review of the impact on Catholic schools of the latest Ofsted Education Inspection Framework.

Shepherding Talent

A programme, focusing on the leadership of Catholic schools created by Prof. John Lydon, Chair of the Education Committee, has recently been delivered to multi-academy trusts in England by Prof. Lydon and Dr Caroline Healy. The programme has also been shared with leaders in Uganda, Mauritius, South Africa and Northern Ireland. An agreement is in progress with a Catholic Higher Education Institute in the Philippines.

CATSC & EducareM

The Catholic Association of Teachers, Schools and Colleges (CATSC), EducareM: the National School of Formation and St Mary's University, Twickenham, has formed a groundbreaking partnership aimed at advancing the mission of the Catholic Church in education – the transformation of the person for the renewal of society. This partnership initiative is aimed at harnessing the strengths of each organisation, ensuring a holistic and impactful approach to Catholic education across England and Wales and beyond. The partnership was formally launched at the very successful inaugural Joint Catholic Education Day Conference at Coombe Abbey, Coventry.

Professor John Lydon

Chair, Education Committee

Joint Medical Ethics Committee



The move to introduce assisted suicide through the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill has been a major issue since November 2024. At the Third Reading on 20 June 2025, the Bill was passed by 314 to 291 with a majority of 23 (down from 55 at Second Reading). The Bill then proceeded

to the House of Lords but ran out of time on Friday 24 April 2026 before Report stage. The Bill on assisted suicide was reintroduced on 17 June as a private members Bill by Lauren Edwards MP. If it passes into law, it would have widespread effects on the practice of medicine. Our palliative care services have been highly regarded throughout the world. As pointed out at Committee, the majority of palliative care funding is through charitable donations. If assisted suicide ever becomes lawful, there is a very real risk that palliative care in the community and in hospices will be put at risk. The other major issue in Parliament was the removal of criminal liability for women who procure their own abortions which was brought into the Crime and Policing Act 2026 at short notice.

Dr Philip Howard KSG

Chair, Medical Ethics Committee

Events Committee



The Events Committee continues to support and assist in planning events such as Pub Talks, the Summer Gathering, Craigmyle Lecture, Thomas More Circle reception and webinars along with organising events that promote discussion. We have had seven committee meetings since 1 August 2025. We continue to actively find ways of being represented at Catholic and other relevant conferences or events throughout the UK.

A priority is to encourage young adult participation. As a result, we have supported events at some University Catholic Societies and have arranged a webinar for young adults. We are pleased to have the CUGB formally participate in the WeBelieve Festival for the first time this year.

A member of the Events Committee suggested having a separate Tech Group which has now been formed. Our mission is to make the important work of the Catholic Union known across the Catholic landscape of the UK. I offer my thanks to the nine Events Committee members for their assistance and support. My thanks to CCLA on behalf of the Events Committee for their support of some events and the generous donor who facilitated the Thomas More Circle reception.

Dr Karen Singarayer DCHS

Chair, Events Committee

Tech Group

The inaugural Catholic Union Tech Group Meeting was held on 24 June 2026 following the suggestion of Santana Luis KCHS that the CUGB should have a platform where the effect on society of the ubiquity of AI could be discussed.

The Tech sector, senior industry leadership, academia, cybersecurity, media, an organisation combining policy with research and medicine were represented.

Consideration of the role and remit of the Tech Group was a priority. It was an opportunity to identify how to add value and expertise in the realm of technology which has an influence on the lives of people both positively and negatively. One aim is to recognise and analyse unintended consequences of AI which uniquely has the potential to affect all aspects of life.

The timing of Pope Leo XIV's encyclical, 'Magnifica Humanitas on Safeguarding the Human Person in the Time of Artificial Intelligence' has been providential. There was enthusiasm and a desire to take up the challenge issued by the Holy Father to work to safeguard the human person.

We look ahead to working together to elucidate how AI can be in the service of the common good while cognisant of the possible perils.

Dr Karen Singarayer DCHS

Chair, Tech Group

Young People

Each year, we engage with and encourage young people through our **Young Writer Award** and, this year, we launched a **Young Artist Award** which has had nearly 500 entries. Both prizes have the theme of forgiveness this year. The Union has supported several **university CathSocs** and the Northern Spring Student Catholic Ball. In October, we will be holding a special online webinar focusing on young people, looking at loneliness as a spiritual crisis and political failure. Our student members are growing in number each year.

Engagement with Dioceses and Catholic Universities

The Catholic Union engages not only with parliamentarians, and those in public life, but also with dioceses in England, Scotland and Wales and our wonderful Catholic Universities. Our team is keen to learn about regional challenges for Catholic communities and how the Union might help. The Chairs and Secretary visited Liverpool Archdiocese and benefited from an excellent roundtable with senior officials. We also met with the Vice-Chancellors of Leeds Trinity and Liverpool Hope Universities, at their campuses, for some excellent discussions.

Fundraising for the Catholic Union

The Catholic Union's mission to provide a clear voice for Catholics in the Parliaments, and across society and the media, is made possible by our generous supporters. In order to truly succeed for Catholics in the country, the Union must be able to draw on not only our experts, who give so much on a voluntary basis, but also fund our staff salaries and events. The most helpful way to support the Union financially is via the St Thomas More Circle which is now in its eighth year (with 155 members at present). Please join if you can – the minimum contribution is £100. The Circle has enabled the CUGB and CUCT to grow steadily in output and impact. New members have included individuals and supportive charitable trusts and foundation. There have also been sponsors for our events which is crucial. As always, we are keen to be introduced to any prospective individual donors, charitable trusts or potential sponsors. Thank you to our supporters for their great generosity.



Webinars



Does Science Pose a Threat to Today's Catholicism?

Revd Dr Gareth Leyshon, Astrophysicist, Catholic Priest of the Archdiocese of Cardiff-Menevia, delivered a fascinating Catholic

Union webinar exploring whether science poses a threat to today's Catholicism. Chaired by Prof Peter Hindmarsh, Chair of the Catholic Union Charitable Trust, the event was extremely well attended and provided much for attendees to think about. Dr Leyshon concluded his fascinating talk by saying that "we can affirm the Catholic faith but must avoid pitfalls. The threat is ignorance. The solution is faith with reason, don't stop believing".

Place of Beauty

Father Patrick van der Vorst, art expert and Precentor at Westminster Cathedral and Stefan Kaminski, Director of the Christian Heritage Centre, gave a superb webinar, chaired by Catherine Pepinster. The webinar focused on the good, the true and the beautiful and provided a wonderful insight into the visible form of what is good. It was a hugely well-attended webinar with participants across Great Britain.



Pub Talks

One of our great success stories of recent times has been our pub talks – a way of keeping people informed and engaged in convivial surroundings. We hold the talks in a London pub with a different speaker each time and those who turn up get a chance not only to listen but ask pertinent questions.

We are most grateful to Catherine Pepinster for her expert chairing of our pub talks and other topical forums.

Among those who have spoken most recently are Labour MP Sojan Joseph, a former mental health nurse with a great interest in the NHS, Margaret and Barry Mizen MBE, of the Mizen Foundation, which focuses on young people and countering violence, CNN Vatican Correspondent Christopher Lamb and the philanthropist John Studzinski CBE. At the heart of all their talks was a desire for service: a desire to serve God, His Church and the wider community.



Margaret and Barry Mizen MBE gave a Pub Talk on 2 February, the Feast of Candlemas, at which their son Jimmy was remembered and the concept of forgiveness discussed and explored. Jimmy was murdered in 2008, one day after his sixteenth birthday. Margaret and Barry emphasised that forgiveness was not a uniform concept for everyone but for them, however painful, it was essential to forgive, to be able to lead their lives. They encouraged young people to look at things in a different way and promote the path of forgiveness, peace and hope, for the greater good of our communities.



John Studzinski focused his speech on the Common Good and its multiplier effect. He spoke about the inherent importance of dignity which no one should be deprived of and urged attendees, particularly younger people, to find the cause or organisation that they were interested in and to give their time and involvement.



As John Studzinski writes in his recent book, *A Talent for Giving*: "We all like the idea of making the world a better place. It is within our power to do so, even in a modest way...Wisdom lies in taking things step by step. As Mother Teresa of Calcutta once, unforgettably, said to me: "You can only change the world one person at a time". The person who can start to change the world is you...You have more talent than you know".

Kate Nightingale, CEO of The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) gave a talk during which she examined the changing needs of people, highlighting the depths of invisible poverty. The discussion focused on several interrelated issues including in-work poverty, refugees and asylum seekers, mental health and loneliness. Much debate centred on a recent SVP report, 'The Hidden Crisis of In-Work Poverty – A Frontline Perspective', which drew on first-hand accounts from over 200 of its frontline workers and volunteers who had supported individuals and families facing in-work poverty in the last twelve months. It shone a light on how many, despite being in work, remain trapped in poverty and must choose between essentials such as fuel or food.



Andy Keen-Downs CBE, Chief Executive of the Prison Advice and Care Trust (Pact) gave a talk entitled *Prisons in Crisis: What Does Catholic Social Teaching Have to Offer?* In his talk he reported that as many as 200,000 children per annum are affected by a parent being in prison. We know with absolute certainty that maintaining good, healthy and mutual familial relationships is a lifeline of support and reduces crime rates; it helps prevent children suffering collateral damage when their parents are imprisoned. Leaving prison can be as frightening as going into prison. Prisoners and their families need support along the way. We must not forget the hidden sentences for those family members who suffer stigma, abuse and hardship.



Christopher Lamb, CNN Vatican Correspondent, delivered the Catholic Union's most recent pub talk, entitled *Who is Pope Leo?* Christopher spoke about the formative influences on Pope Leo, including his time in Peru, and how he embodies servant leadership to confirm people to the faith and evangelise. With Augustinian principles almost in his DNA, and extensive knowledge of Canon Law, Pope Leo has established himself as a quiet yet powerful presence, with listening at the heart of all that he does.



We would love to organise pub talks outside of London, for example in Birmingham, Manchester, Cardiff and Glasgow. If you know of a suitable venue, please let us know.

Events in 2025

Summer Gathering



Our annual Summer Gathering was held at Worth Abbey on Saturday 6 July.

Baroness Hollins, President of the Catholic Union, spoke about the relevance of St Benedict in the struggles of today and how vital it was to hold onto hope that the tide will turn. Baroness Hollins underlined the important role of the Catholic Union to help and support Catholics in public life. She said that service was a key part of our formation in faith and, as Catholics, we should be supporting the next generation to stand up to serve society.

With regards to the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, Baroness Hollins emphasised how it did not offer choice, it simply provides a new way to die. She encouraged members to focus on one particular area of the bill, perhaps lethal drugs or lack of oversight by the coroner, and correspond with the newspapers, including local papers, in order that a wider awareness can be brought to light about the detrimental repercussions of the bill.



Vice Chair of the Catholic Union, Dr Karen Singarayer, spoke about the St Benedict's Week Study Day on 11 July which had representatives from the UK and Ireland of the Benedictine and Cistercian monastic communities, monks, nuns, members of the Lay Community of St Benedict and Oblates including Benedictine communities from the Anglican Communion.

Attendees had the wonderful opportunity to join in the 50th anniversary celebrations at Worth Abbey including Mass, a talk by the Abbot Primate and Vespers. Our thanks to Worth for hosting us and showing exceptional Benedictine hospitality.

Annual General Meeting



The Catholic Union of Great Britain held its AGM on 4 November at the London Jesuit Centre, administrated by Martin Foley, Secretary of the Catholic Union of Great Britain. The Chair, Richard Collyer-Hamlin,

outlined the work of the Catholic Union over the last twelve months focusing on Education, Engagement and

Encouragement. He thanked everyone who has played a part in the life of the Catholic Union across England, Scotland and Wales.

Rt Rev Richard Moth, Bishop of Arundel and Brighton, celebrated Mass at Farm Street Church, remembering existing and deceased members of the Catholic Union.

Following Mass, a reception was held in the Aula Magna, London Jesuit Centre, kindly sponsored by CCLA. Baroness Hollins, President of the Catholic Union, gave an excellent overview of legislation making its way through Parliament with a particular focus on the assisted suicide bill.

As Lead Bishop for Prisons, Bishop Moth addressed the reception and urged members and supporters of the Catholic Union to volunteer as prison visitors, support prison chaplaincies, look after families of prisoners, and work to ensure that your parish is a place, where possible, where former offenders will be welcomed. Bishop Moth highlighted *Remember Me* a document on criminal justice by the Department for Social Justice of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, exploring contemporary issues of criminal justice in the light of Catholic Social Teaching.

Professor Philip Booth, Director of Policy and Research at the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, provided an overview of public engagement work of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.



Craigmyle Lecture

Lord Lemos CMG CBE, social policy expert and author, delivered the Catholic Union's 2025 Craigmyle Lecture on Tuesday 16 September at Notre Dame London. The lecture, entitled 'Catholicism for the Next Generation', was extremely well attended with standing room only. It was Chaired by Baroness Hollins, President of the Catholic Union and sponsored by Stone King.

Speaking in a personal capacity, Lord Lemos' talk focused on social trends affecting children and young people beyond the Church and also the well-documented challenges facing the Catholic Church including the abuse crisis. Lord Lemos shared what he had found from his wide-ranging research, spanning four continents about the spiritual lives of Catholic children and young people. The question and answer session was extremely lively and included questions about youth workers, influencers, of which St Carlo Acutis was a powerful advocate, social outreach and social media.





Rt Hon Sir Edward Leigh KSG MP

His Holiness Pope Leo has bestowed a Knighthood of the Pontifical Order of Saint Gregory the Great on Rt Hon Sir Edward Leigh MP. This special honour has been given in recognition of his long service in politics as a well-known and faithful Roman Catholic. Sir Edward has served in the House of Commons for over forty years and, as the nation's longest serving Member of Parliament, is known as the 'Father of the House'. He was President of the Catholic Union for nine years between 2014 and 2023. His vision and determination supported efforts to revitalise the Union, making it the beating heart of Catholic lay participation in public life. The four chairs who served under him, along with the national Catholic Union community, congratulate Sir Edward and thank him for all he has done and continues to do! He was invested by Archbishop Richard Moth at a Mass in Westminster Cathedral on Tuesday 5 May.



Dr Philip J Howard MA GDip- Law LLM MA MD FRCP KSG

His Holiness Pope Leo has bestowed a Knighthood of the Pontifical Order of Saint Gregory the Great on Dr Philip Howard. This special award has been given in recognition of Philip's long service in the field of Catholic medical ethics and for his commitment to the sanctity of life through teaching, expert writing, and tireless campaigning. We congratulate Philip and thank him for his decades of service to the Catholic Union as chair of the Joint Committee for Medical Ethics with the Catholic Medical Association. He was invested by Bishop Gerard Bradley at a Mass at St Margaret of Scotland Church, Carshalton Beeches on Wednesday 27 May.

Catholic Union Charitable Trust



The Catholic Union Charitable Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (1137317). The Trust's charitable objects are "the advancement of the Catholic religion for the public benefit by advancing Catholic moral and spiritual principles." The principal method the Catholic Union Charitable Trustees uses to achieve these objectives is to promote and disseminate educational activities through Great Britain working in conjunction with the Catholic Union of Great Britain. The Charitable Trust does not engage in any political activity but does support the Catholic Union of Great Britain in its programme of work. A clear statement of what constitutes political activity has been drawn up to guide Trustees. The Charity is governed by the Catholic Union Charitable Trustees who meet three times per year and approve expenditure and the accounts of the Charitable Trust.

During 2025, the Trust has employed a Head of External Affairs and two consultant contractors. The annual accounts are currently with our independent external assessor but show a healthy balance sheet. The CUCT now has a series of policy statements dealing with areas such as Trustee Conflicts of Interest, Safeguarding and Beneficiaries' and Supporters' Privacy. The CUCT and CUGB have worked and continue to work closely in seeking to appoint a Director for the Catholic Union.

Finally, the Trust is proud to sponsor two activities for schools, the Catholic Union Young Writer Award and the Catholic Union Young Artist Award. The latter is a new addition and this year had a tremendous response from schools on the theme of Forgiveness. We are particularly grateful for the judging undertaken by Margaret Mizen MBE this year..

The Catholic Union Charitable Trust is a registered charity (1137317), independent of the Catholic Union of Great Britain.

Professor Peter Hindmarsh

Chair, Catholic Union Charitable Trust

Thomas More Legal Centre



The Thomas More Legal Centre offers free legal advice and assistance, predominantly to Christians, in cases involving religious discrimination or religious freedom. It has three volunteer advisers, who are qualified lawyers, and has access to a wider group of lawyers who can be consulted pro bono for specialist input. Our aim is to help enquirers find a practical resolution to the issues, rather than to encourage legal proceedings. Should legal proceedings be necessary, we refer them to an appropriate organisation.

Our work over the past year has focussed on a number of themes:

1. Workplace issues involving expressions of the Christian faith, particularly around moral teaching and wearing a crucifix at work.
2. Professional disciplinary matters; we advised a leader in a national voluntary organisation and a student, each of whom was alleged to have behaved inappropriately in expressing their faith.
3. Street preaching.
4. Issues involving children; for example, between parents as to a child's religious formation where one parent is a non-Christian; and a Christian couple seeking approval to adopt where questions arose about their response, were the adopted child to take certain life decisions.

The Thomas More Legal Centre is a registered charity (1122184), independent of the Catholic Union, whose aims we support.

Philip Stark

Chair, Thomas More Legal Centre

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS REPORT TO THE COUNCIL ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE CATHOLIC UNION OF GREAT BRITAIN

In accordance with our terms of engagement, we have examined the financial statements of the Catholic Union of Great Britain for the year ended 31 December 2025, which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet and the related notes, which have been prepared from your accounting records and from information and explanations you have given us.

As a practising member firm of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed at [icaew.com/membershandbook](https://www.icaew.com/membershandbook).

This report is made solely to you, the Union's Council, as a body, in accordance with our terms of engagement. Our work has been undertaken solely to examine the financial statements of The Catholic Union of Great Britain and state those matters that we have agreed to state to them in this report in accordance with the guidance of ICAEW Technical Release TECH08/16AAF. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Union and its Council as a body for our work or for this report.

You have approved the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 and have acknowledged your responsibility for them, for the appropriateness of the financial reporting framework adopted and for providing all information and explanations necessary for their compilation.

We have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the financial statements.

Sproull & Co.

First Floor, Jebson House
53-61 High Street
Ruislip
Middlesex
HA4 7BD

THE CATHOLIC UNION OF GREAT BRITAIN

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

Responsibilities of the Hon. Treasurer

The Hon. Treasurer is required to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs and of the surplus or deficit of the Union for the period. In preparing these accounts, the Hon. Treasurer is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently,
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent, and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Union will continue in existence.

The Hon. Treasurer is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which will disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Union. The Treasurer is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Union and thus for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Accounting Policies

1. Life Subscription Fund. Income credited to the Life Subscription Fund on receipt is taken to the credit of the Income and Expenditure Account over a period of twenty five years in equal annual instalments commencing in the year in which the subscription is received.
2. Annual Subscriptions. Annual subscriptions are taken to the credit of the Income and Expenditure account at the time of receipt.
3. Investment Income. Investment income is derived from securities listed on the London Stock Exchange.
4. Tangible Fixed Assets. Depreciation on office equipment is provided at 33% on cost per annum in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

THE CATHOLIC UNION OF GREAT BRITAIN

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025			2024		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME						
SUBSCRIPTIONS						
Annual subscriptions		12,451			11,922	
Transfer from Life Fund		1,738			1,738	
			14,189			13,660
ST THOMAS MORE CIRCLE						
Benefactors & Supporters		9,557			13,504	
Donations		-			-	
			9,557			13,504
INVESTMENT INCOME						
Allianz UK Equity Income Fund A Income		1,178			1,208	
Aberdeen Std UK Income Equity Fund Income A Share		919			925	
JPM UK Equity Income Fund B Income		253			240	
Janus Henderson Global Equity Income Fund A Income		2,631			2,443	
Fundsmith Sustainable Equity Fund		126			44	
Barclays UK Equity Income (Ser.2) Fund (Class A Inc. Shares)		1,165			1,110	
TOTAL INVESTMENT INCOME			6,272			5,970
DONATIONS			20,001			8,000
LEGACY			-			6,979
TOTAL INCOME			50,019			48,113
EXPENSES						
	Income	Costs	Net	Income	Costs	Net
Events	1,704	8,379	6,675	5,239	13,270	8,031
Staff costs			78,191			15,612
Rent			1,495			2,121
Postage and Telephone			3,750			1,759
Website and IT, incl database			2,352			4,040
Printing			3,542			1,474
Audit & Accountancy fees			1,662			1,414
Travel & Conference Expenses			150			535
Office Expenses			581			3,044
Hire of office equipment			4,400			3,124
Other expenses			1,272			248
TOTAL EXPENSES			104,070			41,402
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR BEFORE REVALUATION OF INVESTMENTS			(54,051)			6,711
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investments in the year			18,107			5,376
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR			(35,944)			12,087

THE CATHOLIC UNION OF GREAT BRITAIN

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025			2024		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
INVESTMENTS	Cost	Reval'n	Value	Cost	Reval'n	Value
5414.80 units Barclays UK Equity Income Fund (Class A Income Shares)	2,214	25,374	27,588	2,214	20,306	22,520
117,510.75 shares Janus Henderson Global Eq.Inc Fund	4,446	87,113	91,559	4,446	75,825	80,271
11,797.77 units JPM UK Equity Income Fund B Income	1,292	5,952	7,244	1,292	4,680	5,972
6512.06 units Aberdeen Standard UK Income Eq. Fund	3,198	22,291	25,489	3,198	20,631	23,829
19861.18 units Allianz UK Equity Income Fund A Income	4,974	21,930	26,904	4,974	19,272	24,246
26832.27 Fundsmith Sustainable Equity Fund T Inc (0P0001JK2W.L)	55,000	2,533	57,533	55,000	6,372	61,372
	<u>71,124</u>	<u>165,193</u>	<u>236,317</u>	<u>71,124</u>	<u>147,086</u>	<u>218,210</u>
OFFICE EQUIPMENT						
Cost		6,897			6,897	
Less: Depreciation to date		<u>(6,897)</u>			<u>(6,897)</u>	
			-			-
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors		-			5,300	
Bank Current Account		<u>29,426</u>			<u>26,742</u>	
		<u>29,426</u>			<u>32,042</u>	
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Creditors		<u>(54,473)</u>			<u>(1,600)</u>	
		<u>(54,473)</u>			<u>(1,600)</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>(25,047)</u>			<u>30,442</u>
			<u>211,270</u>			<u>248,652</u>
LIFE SUBSCRIPTION FUND						
Balance at 1 January		15,625			16,464	
Received during year		<u>300</u>			<u>900</u>	
		15,925			17,364	
Less: Transferred to subscriptions		<u>(1,738)</u>			<u>(1,739)</u>	
Balance at 31 December			14,187			15,625
REVALUATION RESERVE						
Balance at 1 January		147,086			141,710	
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investments in the year		<u>18,107</u>			<u>5,376</u>	
Balance at 31 December			165,193			147,086
ACCUMULATED FUND						
Balance at 1 January		85,941			79,230	
Surplus for the year		<u>(54,051)</u>			<u>6,711</u>	
Balance at 31 December			31,890			85,941
			<u>211,270</u>			<u>248,652</u>

Approved by the Council on 14 September 2026 and signed on its behalf

Benedict Jennings

Benedict Jennings ACA
Hon. Treasurer

Our Membership

The Chairman and the Council wish to express their thanks to all our Members and Supporters whose commitment allows the Catholic Union to flourish.

Welcome to our new members and supporters
(1 August 2025 to 31 July 2026)

Life members

Mr J Hickman, Mr D Margolin, Mr S McCrossan, Rt Hon The Baroness Smith of Newnham, Mrs J Grenfell, Mr S Grenfell.

Annual members

Mr S Adams, Ms L Armstrong, Mrs S Barreto, Mr M Betts, Mrs J Bowe, Mrs C-M Burchall, Mr R Burke, Mr S Byrne, Ms S Chambers, Mr R Charnock, Dr C A F Chilson, Dr T M Chilson, Mr M A Conroy, Ms M Creak, Dr A Crisp, Mrs J Cullen, Mr B Curran, Mr E Dalton-Ruark, Mr S Darvill, Ms M N de Freitas, Mr L Donaghy, Miss A M Dupelycz, Miss J Estall, Mr P Farmer, Ms R Fawcett, Mrs V Flanagan, Mrs S Flockton, Miss F Flynn, Mr B Fraulo, Mr A Gannon, Mr P Gay, Mrs C Ghose, Ms R Gledhill, Mr P Grobel, Mr F X Hinds, Mr P Holloway, Mrs A Hughes, Prof J Hughes, Mr J Hurst, Mr S Jennings, Mrs K Jones, Dr T Karačić, Ms K Keefe, Miss C Kickham, Miss M King, Mr J Langan, Mr K Leslie, Mrs S Leslie, Mr D Maclaren, Mr K Madine, Lord B Maher, Mr D Majendie, Mrs T Majendie, Mrs J Malone-Lee, Mrs S Malone-Lee, Mrs A-M McBrien, Mr S McGrath, Mr R Meldrum, Dr M Moffatt-Feldman, Rt Hon The Lord Moylan, Mr P W S Muller, Dr M Nash, Mrs R Nash, Ms A O'Brien, Mr B Ober, Mrs A Ober, Mr J O'Brien, Rt Hon The Baroness O'Loan, Mr M Oshodi, Mrs S Oxley, Dr E Pacha, Mr T F X Parr, Mr G Paulson, Mr D Pearson, Mrs S Penfold, Mr A Porter, Ms R Rivero, Mr C Roberts, Mrs J Roberts, Miss M Rumian, Mr P Schwenk, Mrs D Shenton, Mr C Shields, Miss V Simpson, Ms S Stevenson, Mr L Thompson, Mrs R Thompson, Mr H Trust, Mrs Y Vyshynska, Mrs E Watson, Mr J Willetts, Mrs G Williams, Mrs M Wishart, Mr I Wood, Mr D Young.

Students

Mr A Abdulmalik, Miss N Bain, Mr J J Barron, Miss H N Bayliss, Miss E Buckingham, Mr D Cahill, Mr O Cazalet Forshaw, Mr O Clement, Mr R Collins, Mr J Dugdale, Miss T Fakhoury, Mr R Fletcher, Mr F Geoff, Mr N J B Gregory, Miss A Horzyk, Mr C Humphrey, Mr S Johnson, Mr B Jordan, Mr D J Lee, Mr S D Lee, Miss F Mercado, Miss E Milburn, Mr N F O'Brien, Mr N O'Brien, Miss C O'Hara, Miss C Onwuaraghi, Mr H Price, Mr C Quigley, Mr J Riley, Mr R Robaczek, Mr J F P Rogers, Mr G Rowe, Miss C Rudge, Mr C Saji, Mr M Selva Prabhu, Mr C Sexton, Mr K E Stewart, Miss D M G Tassin de Nonneville, Mr B Thomas.

We request your prayers for the repose of the souls of members whose deaths have been reported to us since publication of the last Annual Report.

Mr C E T Bellord, Mr P de V Beauclerk-Dewar, Miss J M Bisgood, Mrs M E Black, Prof P Black, Mr J Blake, The Rt Hon the Viscount Bridgeman, Mr B J Carroll, Mr N Corbally Stourton, Mr B Crangle, Dr D Daley, Major General R N Evans, Mr D Farino, The Baroness Gardner of Parkes, Dr L Gracey, Emeritus Professor M P Hornsby-Smith, Mrs S M Lyons, Ms M P Marron, Prof V A McClelland, Mr J P O'Brien, Mr B O'Malley JP, Mrs J O'Malley, Mrs B Murphy, Mr W S C Richards, Mrs A M Ross, Professor J J Scarisbrick, Mr J J Shaw, Mr Robin Michael Tinsley, Dr J Whitehouse, Ms A Widdecombe, Professor R E White, Group Captain J F Woodard.

May they Rest in Peace. All our members, past and present, will be remembered at Holy Mass preceding the AGM.

As at 31 July 2026	2026	2025	2024	2023
Members				
Annual Single	563	524	483	437
Annual Joint	139	144	128	113
Life Single	517	489	504	491
Life Joint	138	114	121	114
Subtotal	1,357	1,272	1,236	1,155
Non-Paying Members				
Honorary	17	57	37	23
Student/Under25s	205	176	140	129
Clergy Associate	102			
Subtotal	324	233	177	152
Total	1,681	1,505	1,413	1,307

We are pleased that many Clergy have become "Associates" to show their support of the Catholic Union (only laity may be members).

Catholic Union of Great Britain 2025 – 2026

President

Professor The Baroness Hollins of Wimbledon FRCPsych, FRCPCH, FRCP hon, FCMSA, FHEA, FIPD (CB)

Former Presidents

The Lord Alton of Liverpool KCSG KCMCO (CB)
The Lord Brennan of Bibury KC*SG KC (Non-Affiliated)
The Rt Hon Sir Edward Leigh KSG MP for Gainsborough (CON)

Vice Presidents

House of Commons

Sarah Bool MP for South Northamptonshire (CON)
Patricia Ferguson MP for Glasgow West (LAB)
Mary Glindon MP for Newcastle upon Tyne East and Wallsend (LAB)
Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP for East Hampshire (CON)
Sojan Joseph MP for Ashford (LAB)
Mike Kane MP for Wythenshawe and Sale East (LAB)
Angus MacDonald OBE KSG MP for Inverness, Skye and West Ross-shire (LIB DEM)
Frank McNally MP for Coatbridge and Bellshill (LAB)
Brendan O'Hara MP for Argyll, Bute and South Lochaber (SNP)

House of Lords

The Baroness Hooper CMG DSG FRSA FRGS of Liverpool and St James's in the City of Westminster (CON)

Non Parliamentary

The Lord Craigmyle
Professor Charles Egbu
Michael Henderson KSG KCHS
Rt Hon Ruth Kelly
Professor Anthony McClaran
Stephen Pound RP
Dame Rachel de Souza DBE
John Studzinski CBE KSG KCSS

Ecclesiastical Adviser to the Council

Rev Canon William Agley

Chairman

Richard Collyer-Hamlin

Vice Chairs

Stuart Hudson MA MSc FRSA
Dr Karen Singarayer DCHS

Treasurer

Benedict Jennings ACA

Secretary

Martin Foley

Elected Members of the Council

Paul Barber MA (Cantab) MA (Canon Law) JCL
Dr David Campbell
Matthew Gibbs BA
Peter Frost
Stuart Hudson MA MSc FRSA
Prof John Lydon GCSS KHS KCMO
Dr Wojtek Rakowicz PhD (Cantab), FRCP
Andrea Speranza
Esther Theodore BA

Joint Medical Ethics Committee

Dr Philip J Howard KSG MA GDipLaw LLM MA MD FRCP (Chair)

Parliamentary Affairs & Society Committee

Matthew Gibbs BA (Chair)
Louisa Collyer-Hamlin (Secretary)

Scottish Committee

Prof Bart McGettrick OBE KC*HS (Chair)

Executive Committee

Richard Collyer-Hamlin (Chair)
Martin Foley (Secretary)

Events Committee

Dr Karen Singarayer DCHS (Chair)

Education Committee

Prof John Lydon GCSS KHS KCMO (Chair)
Dr Caroline Healy (Vice-Chair)
Prof Bart McGettrick OBE KC*HS (Secretary)

Tech Group

Dr Karen Singarayer DCHS (Chair)

Our Team

The Catholic Union continues to be blessed by the dedication of its professional team and a huge number of committed volunteers. Our professional team consists of **Louisa Collyer-Hamlin** (Head of External Affairs), **Yvonna Raftopoulos** and **Catherine Pepinster** (Consultants). We are indebted to our President, Baroness Hollins, for the outstanding role she plays in the life of the Catholic Union. Thank you to everyone who contributes to our vibrant organisation.

The Catholic Union is grateful to the private supporter who has generously sponsored the printing and dispatch of the Annual Report to our members.