

The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund
Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements
for the financial year ended 31 December 2023



The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund

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The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Number	CHY3703
Charities Regulatory Authority Number	20004729
Auditors	Porter and Co. Millennium House Stephen Street Sligo Republic of Ireland
Trustees	Bishop Kevin Doran Fr Raymond Milton Fr Thomas Hever Fr John McManus Deacon Martin Reidy (appointed 1 September 2023)
Bankers	Allied Irish Banks Stephen Street Sligo Allied Irish Banks Church Street Roscommon Bank of Ireland Stephen Street Sligo Bank of Ireland Strokestown Co Roscommon

The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

The trustees present their Trustees' Report and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Trustees' Report contains the information required to be provided in the Trustees' Annual Report under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) guidelines. The trustees of the Fund are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the Charity's constitution are known as members of the board of trustees.

In this report the trustees of The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund present a summary of its purpose, governance, activities, achievements and finances for the financial year 2023.

The charity is a registered charity and although not obliged to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015), the organisation has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these financial statements.

Background

The Diocese of Elphin General Trust comprises the central administration of the Diocese of Elphin, together with the various offices and agencies which provide central services to the parishes of the diocese. The Diocese of Elphin includes much of Co. Sligo, most of Co. Roscommon and also part of East Galway and has a Catholic population of almost 90,000. Most of the pastoral activity of the Diocese actually takes place under the auspices of the individual parishes and has been reported under that Charity (CHY 6942).

This Fund therefore comprises the central administration together with the Welfare Fund, the Stewardship Fund and the Building Fund. Further information regarding these Funds is included below.

This is the ninth consecutive year in which a full audit of the Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund has taken place.

The current Trustees are set out on page 3.

Sources of Income

The regular income of the Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund comes from two principal sources.

- a) A "diocesan needs levy" on each of the parishes of the diocese. It is assessed as a percentage of the operational income of the parish for the last year for which audited accounts are available.
- b) An annual income deriving from investments and bequests.

As the COVID-19 pandemic ceased to be an immediate concern most of our operations returned to normal during the year under review. We have observed, however, that numbers engaging with the activities, at least in person, remain somewhat depressed, possibly because people became accustomed to the comfort of being at home and were not sufficiently motivated to return. The consolidated income of the parishes, as detailed in the report of the sister charity (Roman Catholic Parishes of the Diocese of Elphin; Reg. No. 20014018), has continued to show an improvement on the previous year. As the income of the Diocese is derived from a levy on the previous-year income of the Parishes, the uplift in the income of the Diocesan Trust is less obvious.

The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Expenditure

The expenditure of the Elphin Diocesan Trust Fund includes the running costs of the central office of the Diocese, the Diocesan Pastoral and Faith Development Service, the Elphin Youth and Young-adult Ministry, the Diocesan Safeguarding Service, the Diocesan Education Office, the Diocesan Vocations Service, the formation of seminarians, deacons and catechists, as well as partial funding of the services provided by Accord. Also included are a proportion of the costs associated with the employment of a Data Protection Officer who is shared between eight Dioceses and a HR Support contract which is shared with one other Diocese.

Staff salaries and stipends are included in the accounts of the fund. The income of the central office staff is included under the "Salaries" heading in the accounts, together with the income of three others:

- Director of Safeguarding,
- Director of Vocations and Youth Ministry,
- Director of Pastoral and Faith Development Services – including Secondary RE Advisory Service.

The Diocesan Trust Fund also provides stipends and expenses for three part-time staff members, who offer professional services in the areas of education and safeguarding. There was some saving on staff salaries in the year under review, as one position which became vacant at the start of the year was not filled before year end.

Seminarians, Overseas Clergy and Catechists.

There were three candidates for priesthood in formation during 2023, all of whom were ordained during the course of the year. There were no new seminarians. The costs of seminary formation are, therefore reduced. It is an essential dimension of the mission of the Diocese to form ordained ministers and, for that reason, the Diocese continues to set funds aside for that purpose. On the advice of the Diocesan Finance Council, the Trustees introduced a special collection in 2021 to support the formation of future priests which, in the year under review, brought in €21,661, together with other individual contributions totalling €31,155, a significant rise on the previous year.

There are no costs associated with the Vocations Service in the year under review, but a new Vocations Team has now been established and we anticipate some costs in 2024. The costs associated with overseas clergy reduced significantly. This is in direct proportion to the reduction in the numbers of priests coming from overseas in the year under review. A number of priests were assisted with the costs of completing their applications for naturalisation. There were no costs for the permanent diaconate as there were no candidates in formation, and very limited ongoing formation activity.

Costs in respect of the Partners in the Gospel Programme were slightly reduced in the year under review, and refer to in-service meetings and operational expenses.

The Relief of Poverty and other Special Projects

During the year under review, the Diocese of Elphin made direct contributions totalling €5,000 to various charities for the alleviation of poverty, both in Ireland and overseas. The Diocese also disbursed €3,000, in contributions for the education of disadvantaged children, from monies contributed for this purpose by individual donors. The Diocesan Trust also contributed to the costs of the post-graduate education of one priest (€12,500) and the seminary formation of two candidates for priesthood (€3,000), for our partner Diocese in Cameroon.

During the same period, the people of the Diocese also contributed a total of circa €152,000 to organisations such as Trocaire, Peter's Pence (Pontifical Charities), Overseas Missions, to the Holy Places (the impoverished Christian community in the Holy Land). This represents a reduction on the previous year, when there was a major contribution to assist the war-torn population of Ukraine. These contributions are included as Restricted Income from Charitable Activities, with the corresponding payments included as Restricted Expenditure on Charitable Activities. The contributions are collected in the parishes on behalf of the charities concerned and remitted to them via the Diocesan Office, passing into and out of the designated account of the diocese in the same tax year.

In addition, it should be mentioned that the annual Christmas collection taken up in the Churches of the diocese for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul are accounted for directly by the local members of SVP, which is a separate charity. The Diocese does not have a record of the amounts involved.

The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

National Pastoral Services

The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund, through the medium of levies and direct payments for service, contributes towards the cost of pastoral services established at provincial and national level, including the Galway Regional Marriage Tribunal and the Councils, Commissions and Services of the Episcopal Conference. This includes services to marriage preparation and counselling services, migrants, prisoners overseas, justice and peace as well as a range of administrative supports. This is funded from the Diocesan needs levy on the parishes. The cost of these services in the year under review was €40,352, representing a slight reduction on the previous year.

Exceptional Income and Expenditure

The accounts for the year under review show an excess of income over expenditure of €91,562, in relation to the ordinary operations of the diocese. This is an improvement of circa €555,000 on the previous year and would be accounted for largely by a reduction in maintenance costs on the previous year, which were associated with the Diocesan property at Summerhill, Athlone. There was also a saving on salaries, due to one post remaining unfilled during the year in question. Thankfully, the income from the Diocesan Needs levy has recovered well in the aftermath of COVID19.

The Net outcome for the year, taking into account of a significant improvement in the fair-value of Diocesan investments, following the decline in 2022, is a surplus of €282,015, as against a deficit of €788,334 in the previous year.

Investments

The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund does have some investments which are carefully managed as an essential reserve to meet the cost of projects such as those described above and also to respond to unforeseen demands such as might be expected to arise in these uncertain economic times. As reported above, there was no income, realised or unrealised, on the investments in the year under review.

Note on Restricted Funds

Among the restricted funds held within the Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund, are three which are specified in the Governance Document of the Charity, namely the Stewardship Fund, the Welfare Fund and the Building Fund.

- a. The Welfare Fund provides support for priests who are not in parochial ministry and for continuing professional development of clergy. As an expression of solidarity, priests ministering in the Diocese of Elphin voluntarily contribute to this fund, from the income received specifically for the support of clergy, as detailed in the audited accounts of our sister Charity the "Roman Catholic Parishes of the Diocese of Elphin" (Reg. 20014018).
- b. The Stewardship Fund covers a significant portion of the costs associated with operating the safeguarding service of the diocese. As an expression of their support for the safeguarding of children, priests ministering in the Diocese of Elphin voluntarily contribute to this fund, from the income received specifically for the support of clergy, as detailed in the audited accounts of our sister Charity the "Roman Catholic Parishes of the Diocese of Elphin" (Reg. 20014018).
- c. The Building Fund is the fruit of an historical levy on the parishes of the Diocese, out of which parishes needing to build or undertake major renovation projects can borrow. These borrowings are repaid according to a structured arrangement, and it has not been found necessary to replenish this fund in recent years.

Financial Review

The results for the financial year are set out on page 11 and additional notes are provided showing income and expenditure in greater detail.

Total income of the fund for the financial year ending 31st December 2023 was €1,121,178 representing a decrease by comparison with the previous year.

Total expenditure in the year under review amounted to €1,029,616, representing a decrease by comparison with the previous year, due primarily to the savings outlined above.

The net result for the financial year was a surplus amounting to €282,015.

The tangible and liquid assets of the Trust remain strong and reasonably stable.

The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund can continue to operate as a going concern.

The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Results

At the end of the financial year the charity has net assets of €6,752,960 comprising €2,635,751 in net current assets and €4,117,209 in fixed assets.

Liabilities at the financial year end amount to €487,134 (2022 - €156,322).

The net assets of the charity have increased by €282,015.

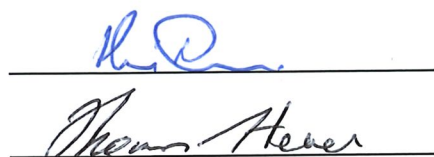
The book value of the fixed assets has remained substantially unchanged since the previous year's report.

Compliance with Sector-Wide Legislation and Standards

The charity engages pro-actively with legislation, standards and codes which are developed for the sector. The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund subscribes to and is compliant with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

The Charity is in compliance with the Charities Governance Code and the Trustees of the Charity have completed the Compliance Record Form for 2023.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 30th October 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



The first signature is in blue ink and appears to be 'H. O.'. The second signature is in black ink and appears to be 'Thomas Hever'.

The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

The trustees are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in the Republic of Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the charity as at the financial year end date and of the surplus or deficit of the charity and otherwise comply with the Charities Act, 2009.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

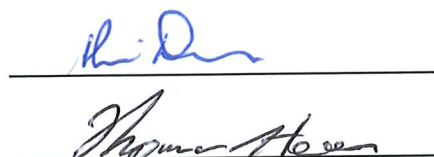
- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (2015);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2009 and the provisions of the charity's constitution and rules. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the Republic of Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 30th October 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

to the Members of The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund

Report on the audit of the financial statements

We have audited the charity financial statements of The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund for the financial year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 2. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the charity as at 31 December 2023 and of its surplus for the financial year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", as applied in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2014 and having regard to the Charities SORP;

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are described below in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard for Auditors (Ireland) issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

In our opinion, based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and

We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the charity were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited. In our opinion the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

to the Members of The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund

Respective responsibilities

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework that give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, if applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Further information regarding the scope of our responsibilities as auditor

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditor's Report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditor's Report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume any responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Thomas Anthony Porter
PORTER AND CO.
Millennium House
Stephen Street
Sligo
Dated this 30th October 2024

The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

		Restricted Funds 2023	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Total 2023	Total 2022
		€	€	€	€
	Notes				
Income:					
Charitable Activities	3.1	492,719	467,869	960,588	1,168,187
Donations and legacies	3.2	-	1,500	1,500	30,700
Investments	3.3	-	64,680	64,680	69,577
Other	3.4	-	94,410	94,410	-
		<u>492,719</u>	<u>628,459</u>	<u>1,121,178</u>	<u>1,268,464</u>
Expenditure:					
Charitable Activities	4.1	435,788	569,517	1,005,305	1,716,237
Cost of raising funds	4.2	-	17,300	17,300	8,261
Other costs	4.3	-	7,011	7,011	7,011
		<u>435,788</u>	<u>593,828</u>	<u>1,029,616</u>	<u>1,731,509</u>
Net (deficit)/surplus before (loss) / gain on investments		56,931	34,631	91,562	(463,045)
Net gain / (loss) on investments	5	-	190,453	190,453	(325,289)
		<u>56,931</u>	<u>225,084</u>	<u>282,015</u>	<u>(788,334)</u>
Net surplus / (deficit)		56,931	225,084	282,015	(788,334)
Transfer between funds		15,729	(15,729)	-	-
Net movement in funds for year		<u>72,660</u>	<u>209,355</u>	<u>282,015</u>	<u>(788,334)</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		745,867	5,725,078	6,470,945	7,259,279
Total funds carried forward		<u>818,527</u>	<u>5,934,433</u>	<u>6,752,960</u>	<u>6,470,945</u>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the financial year.
All income and expenditure relate to continuing activities.


Approved by the Board of Trustees on 30th October 2024 and signed on its behalf by:





The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

		Restricted Funds 2023 €	Unrestricted Funds 2023 €	Total 2023 €	Total 2022 € (Restated)
	Notes				
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	6	-	2,463,963	2,463,963	2,471,974
Investments at fair value	7	-	1,653,246	1,653,246	1,434,076
		-	4,117,209	4,117,209	3,906,050
Current assets:					
Cash at bank and in hand	8	771,370	1,599,677	2,371,047	2,286,351
Debtors and prepayments	9	47,157	704,681	751,838	434,866
		818,527	2,304,358	3,122,885	2,721,217
Creditors: (amounts falling due within one year)	10	-	(487,134)	(487,134)	(156,322)
Net current assets		818,527	1,817,224	2,635,751	2,564,895
Total assets less current liabilities		818,527	5,934,433	6,752,960	6,470,945
Total net assets		818,527	5,934,433	6,752,960	6,470,945
The Funds of the Charity					
General Funds	11	818,527	5,934,433	6,752,960	6,470,945

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 30th October 2024 and signed on its behalf by:





The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

continued

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund is a charity established in the Republic of Ireland. The registered office of the charity is St Mary's, Temple Street, Sligo, which is also the principal place of business of the charity. The financial statements have been presented in Euro (€) which is also the functional currency of the charity.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's financial statements.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)".

The charity has applied the Charities SORP on a voluntary basis as its application is not a requirement of the current regulations for charities registered in the Republic of Ireland.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements of the charity for the financial year ended 31 December 2023 have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)" and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Fund accounting

The following are the categories of funds maintained:

Restricted funds

Restricted Funds represent income received which can only be used for particular purposes, as specified by the donors. Such purposes are within the overall objectives of the charity.

These financial statements incorporate the following funds:

- The Central Administration Fund of the Diocese (these funds are generally unrestricted but include some restricted funds including income designated for charitable bodies such as Trocaire which is administered by this fund.
- The Welfare Fund, which provides support for priests who are not in parochial ministry and for continuing professional development of clergy. These funds are restricted.
- The Stewardship Fund, which covers a significant portion of the safeguarding service costs of the Diocese. These funds are restricted.
- The Building Fund, which provides loans to parishes needing to build or undertake major renovation projects. These funds are restricted.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds consist of General and Designated funds.

- General funds represent amounts which are expendable at the discretion of the board, in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.
- Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that the board has, at its discretion, set aside for particular purposes. These designations have an administrative purpose only, and do not legally restrict the board's discretion to apply the fund.

As mentioned above, the Central Administration Fund is comprised generally of unrestricted funds.

The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

continued

Income

Income is recognised by inclusion in the Statement of Financial Activities only when the charity is legally entitled to the income, performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, the amounts involved can be measured with sufficient reliability and it is probable that the income will be received by the charity.

Charitable Activities

Income from Charitable Activities, including Diocesan Office Levy, contributions to the Welfare Fund, contributions to the Stewardship Fund, contributions to chaplaincy, income designated for specific charitable organisations (Trocaire etc) is recognised when received or receivable. Where the donor has requested the donation is spent for a particular purpose, the income is included in the Statement of Financial Activity when the required performance criteria is met. Where the donation, contribution, collection or stipend is unrestricted, the income is included in the Statement of Financial Activity when received or receivable.

Where income is received in advance, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, it is accrued in debtors.

Grants from governments and other co-funders typically include one of the following types of conditions:

- Performance based conditions: whereby the charity is contractually entitled to funding only to the extent that the core objectives of the grant agreement are achieved. Where the charity is meeting the core objectives of a grant agreement, it recognises the related expenditure, to the extent that it is reimbursable by the donor, as income.

- Time based conditions: whereby the charity is contractually entitled to funding on the condition that it is utilised in a particular period. In these cases the charity recognises the income to the extent it is utilised within the period specified in the agreement.

In the absence of such conditions, assuming that receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured, grant income is recognised once the charity is notified of entitlement.

Grants received towards capital expenditure are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities when received or receivable, whichever is earlier.

Legacies and Bequests

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the Charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the Charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the Charity, or the Charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Income from Investments

Income from bank interest receivable, shares and investments and rental income is recognised as the income falls due.

Other Income

Other income relates to the sale of Diocesan properties which is registered with the property is sold and the Charity is contractually entitled to the sales proceeds. The specific allocation of a portion of the proceeds to a separate entity, where authorised by the Charities Regulator, is disclosed under this heading also.

Expenditure

Expenditure is analysed between costs of charitable activities, raising funds and other costs. The costs of each activity are separately accumulated and disclosed, and analysed according to their major components. Expenditure is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation exists as a result of a past event, a transfer of economic benefits is required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be reliably measured. Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but cannot be attributed to one activity. Such costs are allocated to activities in proportion to staff time spent or other suitable measure for each activity.

The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

continued

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or at valuation, less accumulated depreciation. Investment Property is stated at fair value. Where historic cost information is not available, discounted insurance value has been adopted by the Trustees for the purposes of recording Buildings in the financial statements. This does not represent market value or insurance value of these assets.

The charge to depreciation is calculated to write off the original cost or valuation of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives as follows:

Land freehold	- 0% Straight line
Buildings	- 2% Straight line
Office equipment and furniture	- 20% Straight line
Computer equipment	- 15% Straight line
Motor vehicles	- 20% Straight line

Investments

Investments are stated at market value. Realised and unrealised gains and losses on investments are included in the Statement of Financial Activity.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due. Income recognised by the charity from donors, tenants and Parishes, but not yet received at financial year end, is included in debtors.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand comprises cash on deposit at banks requiring less than three months notice of withdrawal.

Taxation and deferred taxation

No current or deferred taxation arises as the charity has been granted charitable exemption. Irrecoverable valued added tax is expensed as incurred.

Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost.

The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

continued

3. INCOME

	Restricted Funds 2023 €	Unrestricted Funds 2023 €	Total 2023 €	Total 2022 €
3.1 Charitable Activities				
Diocesan Office Levy	-	446,180	446,180	453,098
Contributions to Welfare Fund	48,252	-	48,252	52,811
Contributions to Stewardship Fund	51,927	-	51,927	54,191
CPSMA	-	10,692	10,692	9,542
Contributions to chaplaincy	152,440	-	152,440	141,216
Accord / Family Ministry	762	-	762	127
Holy Places	29,559	-	29,559	27,336
Peter's Pence	21,491	-	21,491	24,614
Emigrants	2,162	-	2,162	4,201
Trocaire	68,867	-	68,867	66,060
Sick Priests Fund	19,048	-	19,048	22,159
St. Pauls Missionary Nigeria	8,910	-	8,910	7,890
Mission Sunday	32,360	-	32,360	43,321
Diocesan Poor Children Fund	3,000	-	3,000	24,888
Ukraine Collection	1,125	-	1,125	102,088
Formation of Future Priests	21,661	-	21,661	24,223
Covid-related Loss of Income Insurance claim	-	-	-	101,264
Seminarian donations	31,155	-	31,155	5,605
Sundry income	-	10,997	10,997	3,553
	<u>492,719</u>	<u>467,869</u>	<u>960,588</u>	<u>1,168,187</u>
3.2 Donations and legacies				
Donations and bequests	-	1,500	1,500	30,700
3.4 Investments				
Dividend and interest income	-	16,340	16,340	14,377
Property rental income	-	48,340	48,340	55,200
	<u>-</u>	<u>64,680</u>	<u>64,680</u>	<u>69,577</u>
3.5 Other				
Sale of Parish Property	-	94,410	94,410	-

The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

continued

4. EXPENDITURE

	Restricted Funds 2023	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Total 2023	Total 2022
4.1 Charitable Activities				
Expenditure on Charitable Activities				
Salaries and expenses	10,700	250,557	261,257	326,961
Child protection and safeguarding costs	15,727	12,485	28,212	13,430
Pastoral Development Office costs	-	14,611	14,611	17,082
Mission related payments	-	12,500	12,500	12,500
Vocation committee costs	-	-	-	1,120
General insurance	-	10,709	10,709	11,678
Seminars, retreats, courses and meetings	15,281	7,324	22,605	21,297
Sligo ATU, St Angela's, hospital chaplaincy costs	125,618	13,447	139,065	140,842
Permanent diaconate costs	-	-	-	9,960
Seminarian costs	52,816	180	52,996	98,365
Priests' expenses	-	12,477	12,477	18,007
Catechetics primary level	-	1,256	1,256	57
Overseas Priests induction costs	-	19,250	19,250	35,464
Property maintenance costs	-	19,590	19,590	390,448
Diocesan Youth Office costs	-	6,827	6,827	21,329
Diocesan Colleges Chaplaincy	-	19,593	19,593	17,909
Partners in the Gospel	-	3,990	3,990	5,120
Polish chaplaincy costs	-	5,000	5,000	12,351
Ukraine chaplaincy costs	26,822	3,644	30,466	-
Marriage Tribunal	-	22,920	22,920	10,942
Miscellaneous subscriptions and donations	-	24,954	24,954	26,656
Postage, stationery and advertising	-	8,900	8,900	6,588
Synodal Pathway	-	-	-	14,307
Family Ministry	-	-	-	1,000
Sundry overheads	1,540	42,240	43,780	39,310
Depreciation	-	16,711	16,711	15,168
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	-	82,356	82,356
Accord / Family Ministry	762	-	762	127
National Pastoral Services	-	40,352	40,352	43,306
Holy Places	29,559	-	29,559	27,336
Peter's Pence	21,491	-	21,491	24,614
Emigrants	2,162	-	2,162	4,201
Trocaire	68,867	-	68,867	66,060
Sick Priests Fund	19,048	-	19,048	22,159
St. Pauls Missionary Nigeria	8,910	-	8,910	7,890
Mission Sunday	32,360	-	32,360	43,321
Diocesan Poor Children Fund	3,000	-	3,000	24,888
Ukraine Collection	1,125	-	1,125	102,088
	435,788	569,517	1,005,305	1,716,237
4.2 Cost of raising funds				
Rental costs	-	17,300	17,300	8,261
4.3 Other costs				
Audit fees	-	7,011	7,011	7,011

The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

continued

5. INVESTMENT AND OTHER INCOME

	Restricted Funds 2023 €	Unrestricted Funds 2023 €	Total 2023 €	Total 2022 €
Realised (loss) on investments	-	(1,562)	(1,562)	(4,020)
Unrealised gain / (loss) on investments	-	192,015	192,015	(321,269)
	<u>-</u>	<u>190,453</u>	<u>190,453</u>	<u>(325,289)</u>

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Motor vehicle €	Computer equipment €	Office Equipment & furniture €	Land and Buildings freehold €	Total €
Cost					
At 1 January 2023	-	26,512	9,804	2,514,715	2,551,031
Additions	8,700	-	-	-	8,700
	<u>8,700</u>	<u>26,512</u>	<u>9,804</u>	<u>2,514,715</u>	<u>2,559,731</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>8,700</u>	<u>26,512</u>	<u>9,804</u>	<u>2,514,715</u>	<u>2,559,731</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2023	-	25,318	9,804	43,935	79,057
Charge for year	1,740	326	-	14,645	16,711
	<u>1,740</u>	<u>25,644</u>	<u>9,804</u>	<u>58,580</u>	<u>95,768</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>1,740</u>	<u>25,644</u>	<u>9,804</u>	<u>58,580</u>	<u>95,768</u>
Net book value					
At 31 December 2023	<u>6,960</u>	<u>868</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,456,135</u>	<u>2,463,963</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>1,194</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,470,780</u>	<u>2,471,974</u>

The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

continued

6.1 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS PRIOR FINANCIAL YEAR (RESTATED)

	Computer equipment €	Office Equipment & furniture €	Land and Buildings freehold €	Total €
Cost				
At 1 January 2022	26,512	9,804	3,635,427	3,671,743
Disposals	-	-	(1,120,712)	(1,120,712)
	<u>26,512</u>	<u>9,804</u>	<u>2,514,715</u>	<u>2,551,031</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2022	24,791	9,804	51,708	86,303
Eliminated on disposals	-	-	(22,414)	(22,414)
Charge for year	527	-	14,641	15,168
	<u>25,318</u>	<u>9,804</u>	<u>43,935</u>	<u>79,057</u>
Net book value				
At 31 December 2022	<u>1,194</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,470,780</u>	<u>2,471,974</u>
At 31 December 2021	<u>1,721</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,583,719</u>	<u>3,585,440</u>

7. INVESTMENTS	2023 €	2022 €
Quoted investments at valuation – Unrestricted Funds	<u>1,653,246</u>	<u>1,434,076</u>
8. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	2023 €	2022 €
Cash and bank balances	<u>2,371,047</u>	<u>2,286,351</u>
9. DEBTORS	2023 €	2022 €
Receivables and prepayments	<u>751,838</u>	<u>434,866</u>
10. CREDITORS (Amounts Falling Due Within One Year)	2023 €	2022 €
Creditors and accruals	<u>487,134</u>	<u>156,322</u>

The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

continued

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

11. FUNDS

11.1 RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Restricted Funds €	Unrestricted Funds €	Total Funds €
At 1 January 2023	745,867	5,725,078	6,470,945
Surplus for year	56,931	225,084	282,015
Transfer between funds	15,729	(15,729)	-
	<u>818,527</u>	<u>5,934,433</u>	<u>6,752,960</u>
At 31 December 2023	818,527	5,934,433	6,752,960

11.2 ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENTS ON FUNDS

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	Balance 1 January 2023 €	Income €	Expenditure €	Gain on Invest- ments €	Transfer between funds €	Balance 31 December 2023 €
Welfare Fund	198,879	49,927	27,292	-	1	221,515
Stewardship Fund	24,026	50,252	15,781	-	15,728	74,225
Building Fund	522,962	-	175	-	-	522,787
Total Restricted Funds	<u>745,867</u>	<u>100,179</u>	<u>43,248</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,729</u>	<u>818,527</u>
Unrestricted Fund Central Fund	5,725,078	1,020,999	986,368	190,453	(15,729)	5,934,433
	<u>6,470,945</u>	<u>1,121,178</u>	<u>1,029,616</u>	<u>190,453</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,752,960</u>

The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

continued

11.3 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Fixed assets	Current Assets	Current Liabilities	Total
	€	€	€	€
Restricted funds				
Welfare Fund	-	221,515	-	221,515
Stewardship Fund	-	74,225	-	74,225
Building Fund	-	522,787	-	522,787
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	818,527	-	818,527
Unrestricted fund				
Central Diocesan Fund	4,117,209	2,304,358	487,134	5,934,433
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4,117,209	3,122,885	487,134	6,752,960
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

12. POST-BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There have been no significant events affecting the Charity since the financial year-end.

13. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 30th October 2024.