

Pax Christi

Annual Report 2025-2026

Kathryn Lydon, Chair of Pax Christi England and Wales, writes:

This has been a tumultuous year for all concerned with world peace, marked by our sorrow on the death of Pope Francis and our joy in hearing Pope Leo's commitment to the centrality of gospel-based nonviolence. I was privileged to participate in the celebrations of the 80th anniversary of Pax Christi in Florence in November 2025 and the launch of a Pax Christi International Youth Forum. I was struck by the joyful energy of the gathering and the strong sense of unity of purpose across our different cultures. As one of the 'oldest' national branches of Pax Christi, we have been facing the challenge of the need to 'review and re-form', as I announced at the AGM in June 2025.



Kathryn Lydon with Bishop Arnold, on his appointment as Pax Christi's National President.

This review is ongoing. It coincided with the departure of Andrew Jackson, at the end of his three-year term of service as CEO. Initially the Executive Committee focussed on changes to the roles of staff but we have become aware of a deeper need to re-discern our vision and mission, models of leadership and the role of members. The review has raised questions about our capacity to be effective on all four fronts: disarmament, nonviolence, justice in Palestine and Israel, and Peace Education - and about the importance of designing roles which place fair expectations on staff and members of the Executive.

Events

I was delighted to meet with Bishop John Arnold in November and to welcome him as our new President. Among his many gifts are his experience in advocacy for the environment and his insight into the link between militarism and climate change.

Over the past year I have become very aware of the significance of working in partnerships, of both a religious and a secular nature - for example at the National Justice and Peace Network's annual conference in July 2025 on the theme of 'Towards a Just Peace: challenging the inevitability of violence'. This began with a stirring dialogue between Sister Katrina Alton (Pax Christi National Chaplain) and Sister MaryAnne Francalanza, who stepped up as emergency replacements for Dr Rowan Williams. The conference programme included a workshop by Andrew Jackson and a symbolic act of solidarity for Palestine led by Ann Farr.

The year has been marked by many events which reflect our pattern of prayer, study and action. We prayed outside the Foreign Office for all the dead of the Gaza war. We stood in solidarity with Ukrainian, Russian and Israeli conscientious objectors. We remembered the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We hosted a Franco-British conference on nuclear disarmament and alternative security strategies. We protested in London's Docklands, Birmingham, and other locations where the UK promotes its arms sales. Our Ash Wednesday vigils on the streets of London, Leeds, Liverpool and Coventry were followed by a very successful speaking tour in March by Nicolas Paz, Director of the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative. This tour was initiated by the Nonviolence group who worked in partnership with Pax Christi members in Merseyside, Leeds and London.

Following the visit, all members may benefit from the new resources for nonviolence which are available on the Pax Christi website: <https://paxchristi.org.uk/nonviolence-conference-resources/>

Sister Katrina Alton has regularly supported and challenged us in our vocation as peacemakers through meetings on Zoom (Advent, International Women's Day, Holy Week) personal witness at the Arms Fair in September, and coordination of advocacy by members.

We have seen *new shoots* in the development of a group in Nottingham, the ongoing work of Aisling Griffin, Schools and Youth Education Officer, and in the continuation of the Peace Pairs project, which links an 'experienced member' with a younger one.

Thanks

Pax Christi depends on less visible work behind the scenes. I would like to express my thanks to all who have worked with us and supported us over the past year - staff, volunteers, members, activists, members of the Executive, members of work groups, Vice-Presidents, and all who contributed to celebrating Peace Sunday, by creating and using the resources and generating much needed income. Fausta Valentine, our Administration and Finance Manager, has worked tirelessly and has taken on additional responsibilities in the absence of a CEO and Treasurer for much of the year.

I am also grateful to my fellow members of the Executive who have 'gone the extra mile' to keep us going at this time of change, and to the *Justpeace* team who are a rock in these turbulent times.

New members of the Executive - Could it be YOU?

We need new members to serve on the Executive Committee, to bring fresh ideas about how to deliver our mission, in ways which are suited to our times, and which will involve younger people. Members can be co-opted for one year, even after the AGM, so please consider offering this service which is vital to our movement.

In peace.

Kathryn Lydon

Pax Christi Executive Committee and Staff 2025-2026

President: Bishop John Arnold

Chair: Kathryn Lydon, Vice-Chair: vacant, **Acting Treasurer** (until Dec 2025): Arn Dekker

National Chaplain: Sr Katrina Alton CSJP

with Arn Dekker, Lucy Irven, Maria Lee, Sr Lucia McGuckin, Fr Joe Ryan, Susan Sanderson

Staff: Andrew Jackson (Chief Executive Officer until December 2025) Fausta Valentine (Administration & Finance Manager) Aisling Griffin (Schools & Youth Education Officer)

Consultants: Valerie Flessati (Editor) Andrew Jackson (IT Communications from January 2026)

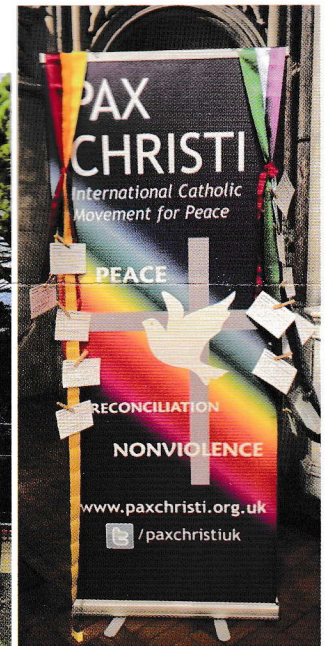
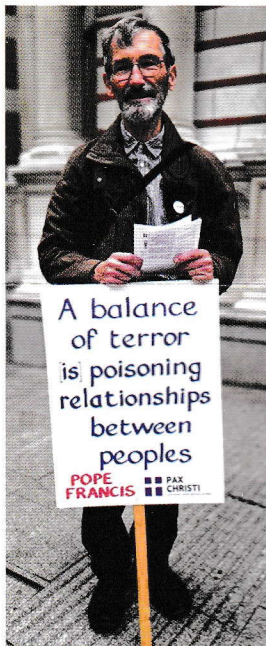
Office Volunteers: Guy Asaert, William Asaert, Mary Boley, Helga Calloway, Lauri Clarke, Monika Cleaver, Nuala Flynn, Cecilia McLoone, Rebecca McLoughlin, Peter McNamara, Jo O'Brien, Ed Tierney



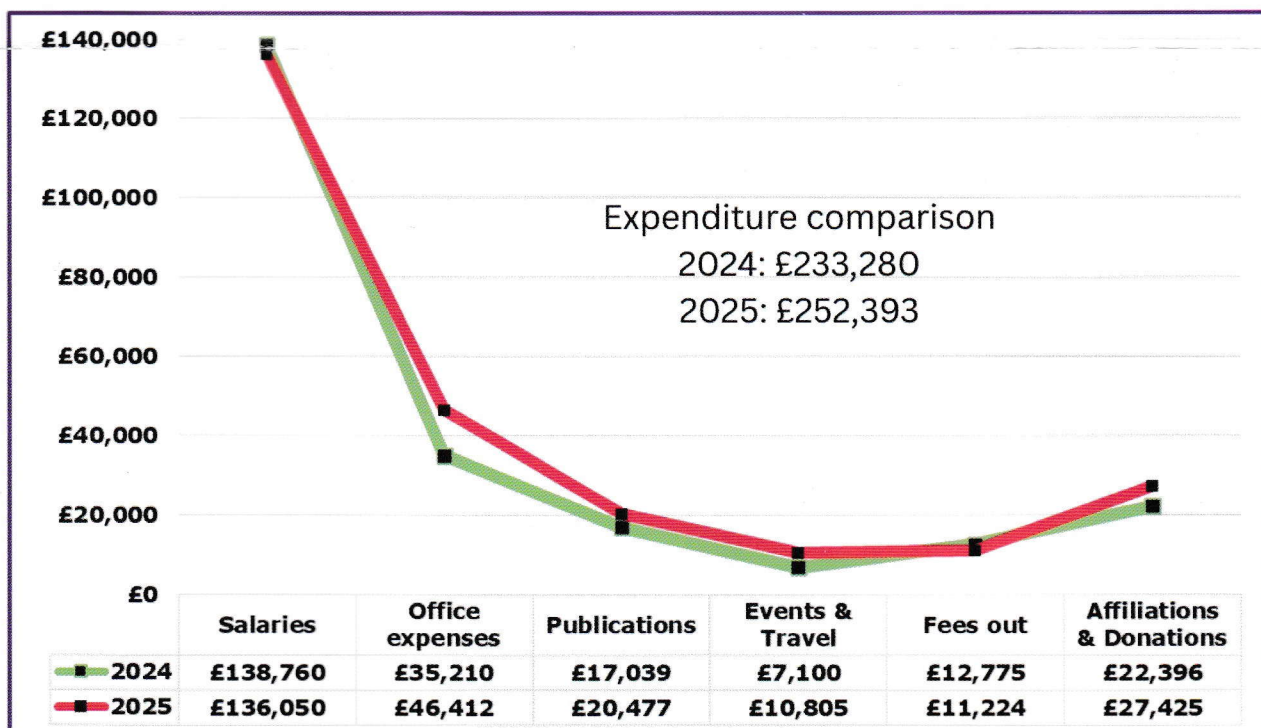
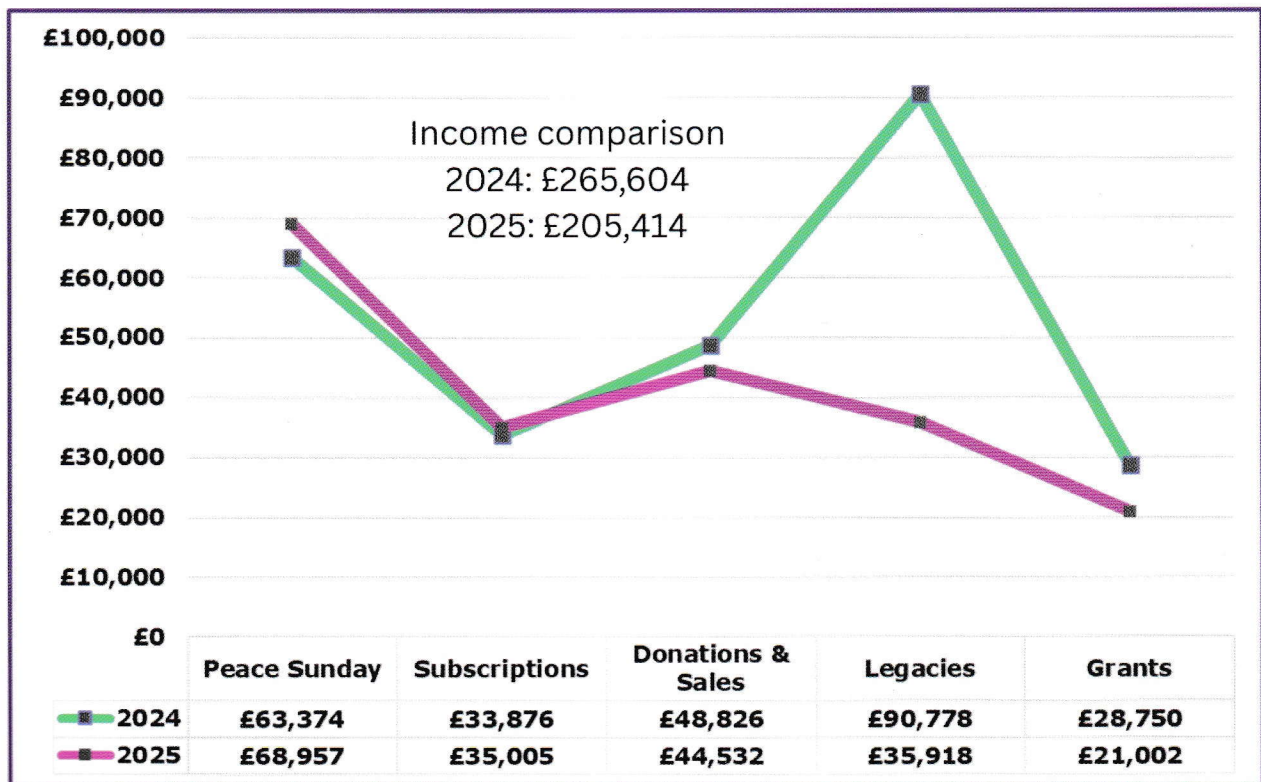
Photo highlights 2025-26



Above: Gaza march; Nicolas Paz on tour;
Middle row: Martin Birdseye at Hiroshima Day vigil;
Pax Christi International World Assembly in Florence;
Display for Day of Nonviolence; Below: Sr Katrina speaking at the DSEI
arms fair protest; Red Line action on Palestine at the
National Justice and Peace Conference.



Pax Christi Finances 2025



If you would like a copy of the full accounts for 2025 please contact the office.

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