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## **Knights of Saint Mary of Bethlehem**

**Bulletin 27th April, 2025.**

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**United Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs



**ARMED FORCES  
COVENANT**

EMPLOYER  
RECOGNITION  
SCHEME

**BRONZE AWARD**



## **Welcome**

The warmest of greetings to the esteemed members of the Orders. We present the Knights of Saint Mary of Bethlehem Fortnightly Bulletin for April 27th, 2025 to our members and honoured guests. As spring unfolds, our Order continues in its mission to serve those in need across the United Kingdom.

## **Overview**

### **UK Christian Charities: Economic Outlook & Strategy 2025-26**

#### **Executive Summary**

The UK economy shows signs of recovery with GDP growth projected at 1.8% (1). Christian charities face a dual challenge: increasing service demand amid resource constraints.

#### **Key Economic Indicators 2025-26:**

- Inflation: ~3%
- Interest rates: 4.5%
- Unemployment: 4.2%
- Consumer confidence: Gradually improving



## **Critical Challenges**

### **Financial Pressures**

- Reduced individual giving
- Increased operational costs
- Energy price volatility
- Staff retention challenges

### **Service Demand**

- Rising mental health support needs
- Increased poverty-related assistance
- Family support services
- Spiritual guidance requirements

### **Operational Constraints**

- Resource limitations
- Technology gaps
- Workforce pressures
- Regulatory compliance

### **Success Factors**

- Partnership with Allied Organisation
- Efficient resource utilisation
- Quality service delivery
- Clear performance metrics
- Strong Governance



## **Conclusion**

Success in 2025-26 will depend on balancing traditional values with modern operational methods. Organisations must maintain their spiritual mission while adapting to changing economic and social conditions.

## **Easter Greetings**

The theme of Easter, where new life emerges in defiance of circumstances is a common theme, it is very gratifying to see the hard work and planning of the Order and our allies paying off beautifully and going from strength to strength .

## **Investiture Weekend**

Is on track and no new significance deviation has been mentioned, it will be a pleasure to see people face to face for a memorable and meaningful weekend.





## Walk the Loch, Scotland.

This event was attended by 27 people and showcased the new tent with promotional and signposting materials and was attended by partners in the sector.



The remarkable turnout of 27 participants at our Walk the Loch event represents far more than just numbers - it symbolises our community's unwavering commitment to making a difference. Our new promotional tent served not just as a physical presence, but as a beacon of hope and support for those in need.



The event's success demonstrates the power of partnership and collective action. Having our sector partners join us reinforced what we've always known: when we work together, our impact multiplies.

Each step taken around the loch represented our continued journey toward supporting those who need us most.

Seeing our promotional and signposting materials being actively engaged with by participants and passersby alike shows that our message of hope and support continues to resonate within our communities. This event wasn't just a walk - it was a statement of solidarity, a demonstration of community spirit, and a reminder that the Knights of Saint Mary of Bethlehem remain a vital force for positive change.

*Together, we walk. Together, we make a difference.*



## Heaton Park

Manchester saw a walk the bridge event attended by Keith, Emma and the Braveheart foundation. In today's world, where isolation and hardship can feel overwhelming, events like these remind us of our core message: **No one should struggle alone**. This isn't just a slogan - it's a promise we keep through actions like these, reaching out to those who need support and showing them there's always someone ready to walk beside them.





## Phillip's crowdfunding campaign

Making a Difference: Phillip's £1,000 Campaign



### A Campaign With Purpose

Phillip has launched an inspiring initiative to raise £1,000 for our vital support services. This fundraising drive directly impacts three of our most vulnerable community groups:

Every pound raised transforms into:

- Warm meals for those in need
- Essential supplies for veterans
- Support services for vulnerable individuals
- Emergency assistance for the homeless

Your support matters. Together, we can reach our goal and make a real difference in people's lives. Even the smallest contribution helps build a stronger, more compassionate community.

Because everyone deserves support when they need it most.

You can make a contribution [HERE](#)



## Easter visit to the Scottish Veterans Residences



In a beautiful demonstration of solidarity and care, the Knights Templar joined forces with the Knights of Saint Mary for a special Easter visit to the Scottish Veterans Residences. This collaboration brought more than just Easter eggs - it delivered hope, recognition, and the warmth of human connection. Each egg delivered gave warmth, solidarity and a tangible reminder of being included, validated and valued.

### A Reminder of Renewal

Just as nature awakens in Spring, life offers fresh starts and new beginnings. Our veterans, who have seen both the winters and springs of life, remind us that renewal is always possible. Their stories of resilience and courage inspire us all to face our own seasons with grace and strength.

Because like the eternal cycle of seasons, life renews for all of us.





## Keith's mobile phone and new battery campaign

Keith's remarkable initiative continues to evolve and grow. Building on the success of his mobile phone campaign, he's now expanded his efforts to include battery collection - and the results are already making a significant impact in our community.

The numbers tell a compelling story:

- **120 batteries** successfully collected and donated
- Direct support to the **Leukemia Ward in Oldham**
- Immediate positive impact on patient care and comfort

One person's initiative, supported by community participation, has created a chain reaction of positive change:

- Practical support for patients
- Environmental responsibility through proper battery collection
- Community engagement in healthcare support
- Inspiration for others to launch similar initiatives

Small actions, when multiplied by caring hearts, create waves of positive change. Keith's work reminds us that every contribution that a human being makes, no matter how small it might seem, has the power to brighten someone's outlook. Including someone in their dark moments breaks the curse and allow the light to come through, life's essential task!



## Conclusion

As we move forward through 2025, the Knights of Saint Mary of Bethlehem continue to demonstrate the enduring power of compassion and service. Our recent achievements - from the successful Walk the Loch event and Phillips fundraiser to Keith's expanding mobile phone and battery campaign, and finally supporting the veterans with care - this all showcases the remarkable impact that dedicated individuals can have when working alone or together for a greater cause.

The spirit of our Order remains as vital today as ever, adapting to modern challenges while staying true to our founding principles. Our members' unwavering commitment to supporting veterans, the homeless, and vulnerable members of our community reflects the timeless values that have guided Orders such as this through the centuries.

## Looking Ahead

We encourage all members to:

- Stay connected with our regular updates and communications
- Participate in upcoming events and initiatives
- Share your ideas for community engagement
- Continue supporting our various charitable programs



## Final Thoughts

Remember that every act of kindness, no matter how small, contributes to our larger mission. Whether it's donating Easter eggs to veterans, collecting batteries for hospital wards, or simply spreading awareness of our cause, each effort makes a meaningful difference in someone's life.

As Spring continues to unfold, let us carry forward with renewed energy and purpose, knowing that our collective efforts bring light and hope to those who need it most. Together, we remain steadfast in our commitment to serve, support, and uplift our communities across the United Kingdom.

*"In service to others, we find our greatest strength."*

In gratitude, always.

Privy Chamber.

