



Knights of Saint Mary of Bethlehem

Bulletin 23rd February, 2025.



Overview.

UK's Current Economic Situation

UK Economic Situation & Charity Sector Impact Analysis - February 2025 - Expanded Analysis Current Situation & Impacts:

- Economic Environment:

Nearly 30% of business organizations in the UK report significant economic uncertainty[1], creating a challenging operational landscape where charities must compete for diminishing resources while facing increased demand for services[2].

- Key Challenges & Practical Responses:

Financial Management: Challenge: Reduced donor capacity amid cost-of-living pressures[3] Practical Responses:

- Diversify funding streams through multiple channels
- Implement robust financial forecasting systems
- Develop contingency budgets[4]



Digital Transformation: Challenge: Traditional operational models becoming unsustainable[5] Practical Responses:

- Invest in data analytics for better decision-making
- Embrace digital fundraising platforms
- Implement efficient digital service delivery methods[6]

Operational Efficiency: Challenge: Rising operational costs (28% reporting increases)[7] Practical Responses:

- Review and optimize internal processes
- Consider shared service models
- Implement cost-control measures[8]

Donor Engagement: Challenge: Maintaining supporter relationships during economic hardship[9] Practical Responses:

- Enhance impact reporting
- Develop personalized stewardship programs
- Strengthen digital communication channels[10]



Projects

A significant expansion of Walk the Bridge events is taking shape this March, with coordinated activities in multiple locations. In Leicester, Keith and Edward are spearheading an ambitious expansion of the initiative. They're reaching out to create a comprehensive community partnership, inviting participation from emergency services, NHS staff, and Macmillan nurses. The potential involvement of Leicester City Football Club representatives would add another prestigious dimension to the event along with local journalists.

Simultaneously, the Scottish chapter will be conducting their Walk the Bridge event in Glenrothes, Scotland on March 9th demonstrating the growing national scope of these initiatives.

The Leicester event is being strategically developed to maximise community impact, with local media engagement planned to ensure broader awareness and participation. The timing aligns perfectly with Leicester's heightened community activity in March, coinciding with other significant city events.

The Knights of Saint Mary's coordinated approach to these walk events demonstrates effective organisational capacity, bringing together diverse community stakeholders for a common cause and thus greatly amplifying the impact of these events for the event and clearing the path of yet more impact in the future.



WALK THE BRIDGE

Join Us for a Mental Health Awareness Event!

You are invited to be a part of something extraordinary through our charity awareness day.



Together lets make changes to those struggling with mental health & suicide.

Date: Sunday, 16th March, 2025
Time: 1 pm
Venue: Abbey Park,
Abbey Park Rd,
Leicester, LE4 5AQ



Show your support at our event and lets create change and stamp out the stigma of mental health and suicide by changing lives one bridge at a time.

info@oksmb.org
www.oksmb.org



Let's shine a light on mental health together.



WALK THE BRIDGE

Join Us for a Mental Health Awareness Event!

You are invited to be a part of something extraordinary through our charity awareness day.



Together lets make changes to those struggling with mental health & suicide.

Date: Sunday, 16th March, 2025
Time: 11:00am
Venue: Holiday Inn Express,
Leslie Roundabout, Leslie
Road, Glenrothes KY6 3EP



Show your support at our event and lets create change and stamp out the stigma of mental health and suicide by changing lives one bridge at a time.

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Let's shine a light on mental health together.

Meeting: Ordo Militum Christi et Templari Hierosolyma

We are pleased to announce that Phillip will be representing us in Leicester for a significant meeting with the Ordo Militum Christi et Templari Hierosolyma (OMCTH). During this gathering, he will discuss our ongoing initiatives and formalise a friendship agreement between our respective Orders.

The OMCTH stands as a distinguished organisation known for its substantial charitable contributions, raising considerable funds for various worthy causes. Their membership includes notable academics, including Oxford historians, professionals, business owners and those who wish to nobly serve, the Order maintains a steadfast commitment to Spiritual values. They have earned a reputation for exemplary organisational efficiency and operational excellence.

This friendship represents an exciting opportunity for collaboration between our Orders, bringing together our shared values and expanding our mutual commitment to service.



www.omcth.org

The coat drive is starting to come together, people have been busy and already have received articles which will be put together to create a warm pack. Please continue the good work, there is no such thing as a small donation!



My **COAT** *Drive*

As winter continues to hold it's bitter grip on us, let's make a difference by participating in my Winter Coat Drive event as a volunteer of the Order of Knights of St Mary of Bethlehem.

Donate your gently used coats and help someone stay warm during the cold winter months.

I am looking for :
SCARVES | GLOVES | HATS | COATS | BLANKETS

If you can help please contact me on.



For More Information
www.oksmb.org



The Knights Templar Goodwill Charity

Continuing its major work with foodbanks, clothes banks, warm spaces, veteran support and homeless support, templar tots - they have just added ten more fruit trees to their orchard.

Midlands activity

Edward has made contact with a local group in Derby which help the homeless, they have no official website and are very much a group of informal like minded volunteers doing very applaudable work. There is a possibility that a joint outreach could be performed and further collaboration occur in the future. Very early days yet, but if skillfully managed, a hub in the Midlands benefiting from grants, local council funding and local business could be potentially be created magnifying everyone's efforts into assisting the homeless, this is a long term project.

Investiture Weekend, dates finalised.

Saturday, 24th May, 2025. Investiture at 11AM, Location TBC. In the evening we will be doing a fundraising event of a big sleepout in Stockport.

Sunday, 25th May, 2025. We will be doing a Walk the Bridge in Stockport starting at Woodbank Park finishing at Stockport Sea Cadet unit, then in the evening we will be doing an outreach care pack distribution in Stockport centre.

Monday, 26th May, 2025. We will be taking part in the Whit Walks in Manchester City Centre, this will be in the morning finishing around lunchtime.

The travelodge in Stockport is the usual venue of choice for this event. Their site is [HERE](#), alternatively [booking.com](#) may give a cheaper price.



Mobile Phone appeal

Keith has been very busy with his mobile phone appeal where an old mobile phone is sent to Keith, wiped, repurposed and then given to a vulnerable person, he has just sent out his last phone, if ANYONE can have a look for an old phone in the house, someone, somewhere would be highly appreciative of it.



Conclusion

The Knights of Saint Mary of Bethlehem stand with resilience, determination, and service in a world too often marred by uncertainty and hardship. In the face of economic challenges that have tested even the strongest organisations, we have risen above the fray, not only holding ground but making meaningful progress in the fight for compassion, community, and care.

Efforts are not merely symbolic to be engulfed by the world's darkness, they are just the opposite; they are tangible impacts on the lives of those who need it most. Walk the Bridge unites and inspires, bringing people together in fellowship and purpose now being purposely amped up for impact both now and more in the future. The coat drive transforms simple acts of generosity into life-changing gifts of warmth and dignity. The mobile phone appeal—an innovation born out of necessity and care—has given a voice to the voiceless and a lifeline to the vulnerable. And the forthcoming Investiture Weekend promises to celebrate this service while sowing the seeds for even greater achievements.

The road ahead may be littered with new obstacles, but the foundation of this Order built on resilience, compassion, and unwavering dedication ensures that no challenge is insurmountable. Let every member of this Order carry with them the profound knowledge that through resolve and collaboration, our impact is measurable in society.

Let us march onward, united and unyielding, as we continue to serve and inspire. The Knights of Saint Mary of Bethlehem are a testament that even in the most uncertain times, hope, perseverance, and action can change lives. The work continues. The mission endures. The Light endures.

With deepest respect and gratitude

Privy Chamber.



References

Primary Sources Legislation Charities Act 2022 Government Publications

[1] Office for National Statistics, 'Business Insights and Impact on the UK Economy' (20 February 2025)

[2] HM Treasury, 'Economic and Fiscal Outlook' (February 2025) Secondary Sources Books

[3] Matthews R, The Modern Charity Sector (OUP 2025) Journal Articles

[4] Smith J, 'Financial Resilience in the Charitable Sector' (2025) 12 Third Sector Review 45 Reports

[5] Association of Charitable Organizations, 'Charity News Review' (February 2025)

[6] Charity Commission, 'Sector Insight Report' (2025)

[7] Grant Thornton, 'Charity Sector Developments' (2025) Online Sources

[8] Charity Today, 'The Biggest Challenges Facing UK Charities Right Now' (February 2025)

[9] CAF, 'Charity Landscape Report' (2025)

[10] NCVO, 'Road Ahead Report' (2025) accessed 22 February 2025

