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# THE STREAMS IN THE DESERT TRUST

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## **TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

# THE STREAMS IN THE DESERT TRUST

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# THE STREAMS IN THE DESERT TRUST

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees: Miss H J Mears, Chair  
Mrs M J Shephard  
Mr P Shephard  
Mr G S Tippen

Charity registered number: 1043034

Principal Office: 27 Pirelli Way  
Eastleigh  
Hampshire  
SO50 5GE

Accountants: G Schulz & Company Ltd  
Chartered Management Accountants  
G W Schulz FCMA CGMA  
3 Lane Close  
Broadbridge Heath  
Horsham  
RH12 3UF

# THE STREAMS IN THE DESERT TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

### **Structure, governance and management**

THE STREAMS IN THE DESERT TRUST, known as STREAMS IN THE DESERT, was set up in 1994. We are a charity run by committed Christians, dependent upon God for direction and provision.

The objects, as stated in the governing document dated 19th December 1994 are: "for the relief of poverty and those in need including the provision of temporary accommodation amongst the elderly in Israel".

The governing document also states that "Trustees may in their absolute discretion acquire by purchase exchange gift or otherwise freehold or leasehold land and premises for use in connection with the purposes of the charity."

Our area of work is Israel. Our focus is on supporting the poor and needy in Israel, especially providing housing for elderly immigrants from Russia and the former Russian Republics (though not exclusively so). There is a huge need in Israel for affordable housing, with a long waiting list for public housing. Pensioners have to wait ten or more years before anything is available for them.

The pension and benefits received by new immigrants in Israel are insufficient to meet the cost of living independently in reasonable rented accommodation in the private sector.

STREAMS IN THE DESERT works with its partner organisation in Israel, THE OPEN GATEWAY (RA), which was set up by the Trustees and has objectives similar to our own. It is a registered non-profit organisation in Israel, and currently performs the day-to-day running of one home for elderly people. It is financed partly by STREAMS IN THE DESERT. THE OPEN GATEWAY (RA) also provides temporary refuge for displaced persons and those suffering stressful situations, especially communities suffering from rocket attacks within Israel. The Board is in the planning stage of a multi-purpose complex for the elderly in Israel.

Since 2019 the Trustees of STREAMS IN THE DESERT have provided support for the SABRA Foundation (RA) in Israel, which provides assistance for people of any age in extreme poverty, including Holocaust Survivors and other elderly people. The funds used for this project are given by donors as restricted funds specifically for the SABRA Foundation. This assistance was discontinued at the end of January 2024.

Helen Mears, the founding Trustee, acts as executive director for The Open Gateway (RA) and therefore makes several trips to Israel each year. Streams in the Desert funds Helen's expenses to and within Israel. Two other Trustees are on the Executive Board of The Open Gateway (RA).

The charity is funded by donations. It is our unanimously agreed but unwritten policy not to make direct appeals for funds, but only to provide information. This is done through various means, including newsletters, prayer meetings and reports. We believe in the power of prayer, that God is our provider, He is the One who gave the vision and He is the One who will move the hearts of donors to give.

# THE STREAMS IN THE DESERT TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees serve for an indefinite period. The power of appointing new Trustees is vested in the existing Trustees, and this is done by resolution of a meeting of the Trustees. Each Trustee takes an active interest in all activities, having various necessary skills and understanding which benefit the work.

In setting the charity's programme each year, the Trustees have regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and prevention and relief of poverty for the public benefit. The Trustees always ensure that the programmes the charity undertakes are in line with its charitable objects and aims.

### ***Organisational structure and decision-making policies***

STREAMS IN THE DESERT is based in England. The Trustees meet several times a year, but are always kept fully informed personally and by telephone, and decisions are made with the agreement of all Trustees. Two Trustees voluntarily manage the day to day running of the charity.

### ***Risk management***

Before any decision is made to further the work, the Trustees actively review the major risks and implications to the charity. No major decision is made unless the Trustees are in unanimous agreement. The main risk to the charity is that donations will dry up to a level where donations to THE OPEN GATEWAY (RA) are insufficient to meet their commitments. However, THE OPEN GATEWAY (RA) is a separate legal entity and STREAMS IN THE DESERT has no legal requirement to provide funding.

### ***Public benefit***

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

# THE STREAMS IN THE DESERT TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### Objectives and activities

#### **Objectives for the year April 2023 to March 2024**

- To maintain communications with the current Israel partner organisation THE OPEN GATEWAY (RA) and oversee the work.
- To give financial assistance to THE OPEN GATEWAY (RA) and also to previous employees and residents of THE OPEN GATEWAY (RA) who find themselves in need.
- To give financial assistance to the SABRA Foundation (RA).
- To disseminate information to supporters so that they are aware of the progress of projects in Israel, and to increase the number of prayer partners and supporters by reaching out to new groups of people.
- To minimise administrative costs in England in order to release more funds for grants.

#### **Activities for achieving objectives**

1. Maintain communications with the organisations in Israel and monitor the work.  
Helen Mears was able to make three field visits to Israel during this financial year. Communications were maintained with the administrator in Israel and board members by means of Skype, Signal, WhatsApp and Zoom.

2. Grants for THE OPEN GATEWAY (RA), Israel  
STREAMS IN THE DESERT donated £12,000 to The Open Gateway (RA) during this financial year.

3. Grants for SABRA Foundation (RA), Israel  
STREAMS IN THE DESERT donated £46,884 to The SABRA Foundation (RA) during this financial year.

4. Disseminating information to supporters and outreach to new groups of people.  
Newsletters were sent out during the year, to all our supporters in the UK and overseas.

5. Administrative costs  
The Trustees continue to minimise administration costs by doing as much of the work as possible themselves, assisted by volunteers. There were no paid employees during the year of this report.

#### **Plans for the future**

The Board of The Open Gateway (RA) in Israel, which includes three of our Trustees, continues with its plan to establish a complex for elderly people which will meet their needs from the independent to the fully dependent. The current situation in Israel makes it difficult to make progress.

The Open Gateway (RA) continues to make its empty rooms available for temporary respite assistance and displaced people.

#### **Financial review**

Incoming resources amounted to £77,933 (2023 - £61,846). Resources expended amounted to £82,640 (2023 - £87,438). The deficit of £4,707 (2023 – deficit £25,592) was subtracted from funds brought forward and a balance of £14,127 was carried forward.

# THE STREAMS IN THE DESERT TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### ***Going concern***

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

### ***Reserves Policy***

A reserve fund of about £40,000 is the target. At present reserves are below this figure.

### **Trustees' responsibilities statement**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; 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 are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that 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 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the constitution. The Trustees 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.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 9 January 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

.....  
Miss H J Mears  
Trustee

# THE STREAMS IN THE DESERT TRUST

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### **Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of The Streams in the Desert Trust ("the charity")**

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year to 31 March 2024.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

.....  
G W Schulz FCMA CGMA

G Schulz & Company Ltd  
Chartered Management Accountants  
G W Schulz FCMA CGMA  
3 Lane Close  
Broadbridge Heath  
Horsham  
RH12 3UF .

9 January 2024



# THE STREAMS IN THE DESERT TRUST

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	38,701	38,976	77,677	61,336
Other trading activities	3	192	-	192	482
Investments	4	64	-	64	28
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>38,957</b>	<b>38,976</b>	<b>77,933</b>	<b>61,846</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
Raising funds	3	191	-	191	393
Charitable activities	5	34,500	47,949	82,449	87,045
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b>34,691</b>	<b>47,949</b>	<b>82,640</b>	<b>87,438</b>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>4,266</b>	<b>(8,973)</b>	<b>(4,707)</b>	<b>(25,592)</b>
<i>Total funds brought forward</i>		<i>9,861</i>	<i>8,973</i>	<i>18,834</i>	<i>44,426</i>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	11	<b>14,127</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,127</b>	<b>18,834</b>

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these financial statements

# THE STREAMS IN THE DESERT TRUST

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

		2024		2023	
	Note	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	7		-		-
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Stocks	8	246		437	
Debtors	9	4,238		5,623	
Cash at bank and in hand		10,123		13,224	
		14,607		19,284	
<b>CREDITORS:</b> amounts falling due within one year	10	(480)		(450)	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>			14,127		18,834
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			14,127		18,834
<b>CHARITY FUNDS</b>					
Unrestricted funds			14,127		9,861
Restricted funds			-		8,973
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	12		14,127		18,834

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 9 January 2024 and signed on their behalf, by:

.....  
Miss H J Mears  
Trustee

.....  
Mrs M J Shephard  
Trustee

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these financial statements

# THE STREAMS IN THE DESERT TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2024

### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### **Statement of compliance**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

#### **Basis of preparation**

The Streams in the Desert Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

#### **Going concern**

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

#### **Income and endowments**

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

#### ***Donations and legacies***

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

#### ***Gift aid***

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

#### **Expenditure**

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category.

#### ***Charitable activities***

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

#### ***Grant provisions***

Provisions for grants are made when the intention to make a grant has been communicated to the recipient but there is uncertainty about either the timing of the grant or the amount of grant payable.

#### **Tangible fixed assets**

Individual fixed assets costing £250 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

# THE STREAMS IN THE DESERT TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2024

### **Depreciation and amortisation**

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Fixtures and fittings - 25% on cost

### **Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

### **Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

### **Liabilities**

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

### **Financial instruments**

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

### **Fund accounting**

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

# THE STREAMS IN THE DESERT TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2024

### 2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations	34,460	35,997	70,457	55,712
Gift aid	4,241	2,979	7,220	5,624
	<u>38,701</u>	<u>38,976</u>	<u>77,677</u>	<u>61,336</u>

### 3. TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
<b>Charity trading income</b>				
Sale of goods	192	-	192	482
<b>Charity trading expenses</b>				
Cost of sales	191	-	191	393
Net income from trading activities	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>89</u>

### 4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Bank interest	64	-	64	28
	<u>64</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>28</u>

# THE STREAMS IN THE DESERT TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2024

### 5. COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Grant to The Open Gateway RA	12,000	-	12,000	28,500
Grants to SABRA (RA)	-	46,884	46,884	25,250
Establishment costs	9,618	-	9,618	9,584
Office expenses	2,660	-	2,660	2,979
Print, post and stationery	2,727	930	3,657	5,128
Conference and donations	-	-	-	240
Travel and subsistence	4,164	-	4,164	6,117
Expenses in Israel	157	-	157	745
Computer and internet	2,478	-	2,478	7,082
Bank charges	55	135	190	167
Sundry expenses	161	-	161	803
Independent examination	480	-	480	450
Depreciation	-	-	-	-
	<u>34,500</u>	<u>47,949</u>	<u>82,449</u>	<u>87,045</u>

### 6. TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

No Trustees received remuneration or benefits in kind in the current year (2023: £Nil).

No Trustees received reimbursement of expenses in the current year (2023: £Nil).

### 7. FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>		
At 1 April 2023	7,583	7,583
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
At 31 March 2024	<u>7,583</u>	<u>7,583</u>
<b>Accumulated Depreciation</b>		
At 1 April 2023	7,583	7,583
Charged in the period	-	-
Disposals	-	-
At 31 March 2024	<u>7,583</u>	<u>7,583</u>
<b>Net Book Value:</b>		
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

# THE STREAMS IN THE DESERT TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2024

### 8. STOCK

	2024 £	2023 £
Good for resale	246	437
	<u>246</u>	<u>437</u>

### 9. DEBTORS

	2024 £	2023 £
Gift aid receivable	4,238	5,623
	<u>4,238</u>	<u>5,623</u>

### 10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Accruals and deferred income	480	450
	<u>480</u>	<u>450</u>

### 11. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

Current year	Balance at 1 Apr 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 Mar 2024 £
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>					
General funds	9,861	38,957	(34,691)	-	14,127
<b>Restricted funds:</b>					
SABRA	8,973	38,976	(47,949)	-	-
	<u>18,834</u>	<u>77,933</u>	<u>(82,640)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,127</u>

Prior year	Balance at 1 Apr 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 Mar 2023 £
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>					
General funds	34,062	35,059	(59,260)	-	9,861
<b>Restricted funds:</b>					
SABRA	10,364	26,787	(28,178)	-	8,973
	<u>44,426</u>	<u>61,846</u>	<u>(87,438)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,834</u>

# THE STREAMS IN THE DESERT TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2024

### 12. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Current year	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Fixed assets	-	-	-
Current assets	14,607	-	14,607
Creditors due within one year	(480)	-	(480)
	<u>14,127</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,127</u>
 Prior year	 Unrestricted funds 2023 £	 Restricted funds 2023 £	 Total funds 2023 £
Fixed assets	-	-	-
Current assets	11,702	7,582	19,284
Creditors due within one year	(450)	-	(450)
	<u>11,252</u>	<u>7,582</u>	<u>18,834</u>