

# ST CECILIA'S ABBEY RYDE ISLE OF WIGHT

England & Wales · Charity number 1088086

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Trust

**Registered** 2001-08-16

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** St. Cecilians Abbey  
Appley Rise  
Ryde  
PO33 1LH

**Phone** 01983562602

**Website** [www.stceciliansabbey.org.uk](http://www.stceciliansabbey.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE PRESENT TRUSTEES DO AND THE TRUSTEES SHALL STAND POSSESSED OF THE TRUST PROPERTY AND THE INCOME OF THE TRUST PROPERTY UPON TRUST TO APPLY THE SAME EITHER AS CAPITAL OR AS INCOME FOR SUCH CHARITABLE PURPOSES WHICH ADVANCE THE RELIGIOUS AND OTHER CHARITABLE WORK FOR THE TIME BEING CARRIED ON BY OR UNDER THE DIRECTION OR WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD AS THE TRUSTEES WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE ABBESS SHALL FROM TIME TO TIME THINK FIT AND IF AT ANY TIME THE COMMUNITY SHALL CEASE TO EXIST OR SHALL CEASE TO CARRY ON DIRECT OR SUPPORT ANY CHARITABLE WORK THEN FOR SUCH LAWFUL CHARITABLE PURPOSES CONNECTED WITH THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC RELIGION ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD AS THE TRUSTEES SHALL DECIDE AND IT IS HEREBY DECLARED THAT NO PART OF THE TRUST PROPERTY NEED BE RETAINED OR SHALL BE TREATED AS PERMANENT ENDOWMENT WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE CHARITIES ACT 1993.

**Activities:** The advancement of the Catholic religion, principally though not exclusively through the maintenance of St Cecilia's Abbey and the community of Benedictine nuns who inhabit it and who celebrate daily in public the Divine Office, sung in Latin Gregorian Chant, and who minister to those seeking some share in the contemplative life through retreats and other contacts.

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Isle Of Wight

## Finances

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| Period end | Income     | Expenditure | Assets      | Employees |
|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| 2024-12-31 | £1,092,778 | £827,935    | £27,259,996 | 4         |
| 2023-12-31 | £1,906,131 | £669,874    | £26,618,168 | 4         |
| 2022-12-31 | £895,334   | £735,379    | £24,987,613 | 4         |
| 2021-12-31 | £801,011   | £617,974    | £26,023,005 | 5         |
| 2020-12-31 | £695,881   | £535,653    | £24,209,099 | 5         |

## Trustees

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| Name                 | Role | Appointed  |
|----------------------|------|------------|
| SR EUSTOCHIUM        |      |            |
| Sister Gertrude      |      | 2023-02-22 |
| Sister Madeleine     |      | 2023-02-22 |
| Sister Marie Germain |      | 2018-06-01 |

**ST CECILIA'S ABBEY RYDE ISLE OF WIGHT**

England & Wales - Charity number 1088086

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# Accounts

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**St Cecilia's Abbey**

**Annual Report**

**Year Ended 31 December 2024**

# St Cecilia's Abbey

Annual Report

Year Ended 31 December 2024

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# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The principal object of the Charity is the advancement of the Catholic religion. The principal means of advancing the Catholic religion is prayer, and the value and effects of this prayer can be measured only by God. Nevertheless the Charity undertakes the following activities in support of this aim.

The Charity maintains St Cecilia's Abbey and the community of Benedictine nuns which inhabits it. The chief work of the nuns is the celebration of the Divine Office, which is sung in Latin and in Gregorian Chant. Among communities of nuns in the British Isles St Cecilia's is unique in using Latin Gregorian Chant exclusively in its liturgy.

The nuns seek to earn their living by the production and sale of altar breads; they also undertake artistic commissions and sell religious books, recordings of their Gregorian Chant, rosaries and other pious articles, some of which are made by the nuns themselves.

The community share their contemplative life by welcoming visitors to their church and retreatants to the Garth, the Lower and Upper Lodges and the Hermitage, and through newsletters and the Internet. No charges are made for these services, and anyone is welcome to participate. The section below entitled 'Ministry to Visitors and Retreatants' explains these activities in more detail.

When possible, the Abbey takes the opportunity to assist other religious communities, either by financial help or by providing hospitality to other contemplative nuns for long or short visits, for studies and training in crafts which can contribute to the development of their own communities, or for a time of rest.

The Charity makes a number of grants, at the discretion of the Abbess, to both institutions and individuals. Further details are contained in note 5.

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

### ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

#### The Abbey and the Community

On 31 December 2024 there were 25 solemnly or perpetually professed nuns in the community, five temporarily professed, three novices and two postulants.

A number of young women visited the Abbey during the year to discern their vocation.

Two young women entered the monastery as postulants.

Two postulants received the habit and began their novitiate.

One novice made her First Profession.

One junior completed her three years of temporary profession and renewed her vows for one year, according to the new formation requirements of the document *Cor Orans*.

With the necessary permissions from the Abbot President of the Solesmes Congregation, in August the nuns created a 'Juniorate' for the formation of the Sisters in temporary vows who have already spent some years in the novitiate, ahead of full integration into the community. The Juniorate has its own area in the house, separate lessons and recreations, with a Junior Mistress appointed to the care and development of its members.

The Bishop of Portsmouth paid a visit to the community on the feast of Pentecost.

The Abbot-Primate of the Benedictine Confederation visited the community in July.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

The Apostolic Eparchy for Syro-Malabar Catholics in Great Britain visited the community in October.

At the request of a member of the Bishops' Conference, the Sisters undertook the final proof-reading of the new English translation of the Mass Lectionary for use in England, Wales and Scotland. They undertook this major project without any recompense, as a labour for the good of the Church. The work was completed in Lent, in time for the new Lectionary, in four volumes totalling over 3,600 pages, to come into public use in Advent 2024.

The tenant who has occupied the Upper Lodge for many years moved elsewhere in April 2023. The Charity decided to renovate the flat; this work was completed by August 2024 and the Upper Lodge is now available for guests and retreatants.

The tenants of the property on the mainland found another home during 2024. The Charity therefore via its professional advisers put the property up for sale, and in due course sold it to another Catholic charity for £1,030,000.

## Maintenance of the Abbey Buildings and Estate

In addition to the continuing programme of maintenance of the Abbey's extensive buildings, the following major works were undertaken:

- Re-roofing the Hermitage;
- Replacing three boilers for the church;
- Redecoration of cloister and St Scholastica's;
- Repair of plumbing and upgrade of safety/hygiene fittings in the infirmary bathroom;
- Installing driveway and entrance lights;
- Replacing old strip lights with LEDs;
- Replacing an industrial-size washing machine;
- Purchasing new equipment to complete installation of a new telephone system.

## Promotion of Gregorian Chant

The nuns continued work on the production of interlinear Latin/English booklets for the Divine Office for the use of visitors and postulants. These works require much time on the part of the nuns and also expenditure on paper and ink to make booklets of durable quality and suitable for their sacred function, but the nuns consider this work an important part of their apostolate.

The nuns received sessions of specialist choral direction in March and November, in order to maintain and improve their singing.

Some CDs of the nuns singing Gregorian Chant recorded many years ago have been made available on Spotify by the record company. The related "channel" has nearly five thousand monthly listeners.

## Ministry to Visitors and Retreatants

The Abbey Church was available all day throughout the year for those who wished to attend the daily Mass and eight services of the Divine Office, or for private prayer.

The Abbey Chronicle, produced twice in the year, was sent to approximately 750 addresses free of charge. The Abbey also maintained a website on the life and work of the community, [www.stceciliasabbey.org.uk](http://www.stceciliasabbey.org.uk), where the chronicle is also available to download.

There is always a Sister available to welcome visitors or give counsel to anyone in need.

The Abbey's retreat accommodation welcomed 158 persons for retreats. Though most retreatants make donations for their stay, no charge is levied. This year offerings were not made for only 5 nights. The

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

retreatants were able to participate in the Divine Office and to see the Guest Mistress or other nuns for spiritual counsel if they wished.

The numbers of secular oblates remained steady at about 40. The oblates received their own letter of news several times in the year and a Sister appointed to their spiritual care corresponds with them when this is required. An oblate weekend was held in October, during which the oblates heard talks from Mother Abbess and other Sisters; they also met the Sisters in the parlour and at the end renewed their oblation. A group of local oblates meets regularly for fellowship and mutual support.

## Assistance to and Collaboration with Other Religious Communities

Barrington Cottage continues to be let to a consecrated hermit at a low rent.

The Abbey made donations totalling £65,000 in 2024 to Quarr Abbey, which belongs to the Solesmes Congregation and whose monks serve St Cecilia's as chaplains, in order help with particular needs of their community.

In the new year, Mother Abbess travelled to Shanti Nilayam Abbey in Bangalore, India in order to help conduct their canonical visitation with a monk of St Pierre de Solesmes. She travelled in late July to Notre Dame de Wisques in the north of France, also to help conduct their canonical visitation, this time with the Abbot-President of the Solesmes Congregation.

Mother Abbess continues her role as a member of the council for the Union of Monastic Superiors, which consists of all the superiors of communities which follow the Rule of St Benedict in the UK and Ireland. In November, she travelled to Ireland to attend the Abbatial Blessing of the new abbess of Kylemore.

The Abbey continues to host a member of another community of the Solesmes Congregation. Other guests received within the enclosure were an abbess for a period of rest and another nun while she awaited a visa application in another country.

## Other Activities of the Community

The Altar Bread Department continued to be the nuns' principal means of earning their living. Turnover continues to increase, but rising costs mean that actual profit levels are low.

The Sisters continued the venture of selling home-made soap, which has proved very popular, especially with the visitors to Quarr Abbey.

There were also modest sales of rosaries, candles, pyrography and knitted items made by the nuns, together with other pious goods and religious books. There was only modest income from the art studio (calligraphy and illumination) but the younger Sisters are being trained in these arts so that there is hope for future development. The candle department provides candles for the needs of St Cecilia's Abbey and Quarr Abbey, as well as for sale in the Abbey shop. The wax for this work comes entirely from the Abbey's bees and from old candle-ends and wax scrapings recycled.

The Abbey's bees continued to be valued chiefly for the pollination of the orchard and soft fruit.

The extensive vegetable garden continued to be maintained by the young nuns. This garden, the orchard (apples, pears, plums, quince, walnuts, hazelnuts, cobnuts) and the soft fruit cages (blackberries, boysenberries, loganberries, gooseberries) are an important source of food for the nuns.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

### CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

There were no capital commitments at 31 December 2024.

### LEGACY

As noted in the accounts for 2021, the Charity has been informed that it is the principal beneficiary under the will of a friend of the Abbey who died in Scotland in early 2022. The legacy has been estimated at £840,000. Confirmation of the estate was obtained from the Scottish Courts only in October 2023 and consequently it was recognised in the 2023 accounts. The estate's portfolio of shares was transferred to the Abbey over the course of April-May 2024. The remaining proceeds were received in March 2025.

### SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AFTER THE YEAR END

For several years Barrington Cottage at the gates of the Abbey has been let to a Catholic hermit for a low rent. In 2025 she decided to move elsewhere. The trustees decided to use the cottage for retreatants and guests, pending possible renovations.

### PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

No significant changes in the activities of the Charity are planned. The Charity intends to continue to maintain the Community at St Cecilia's Abbey and the celebration of the Divine Office.

### FINANCIAL REVIEW AND RESERVE POLICY

During the year, the Abbey received income totalling £1,092,778 (2023: £1,906,131). The on-going principal sources of income were £764,959 (2023: £720,121) investment income, £111,349 (2023: £101,707) from the sale of Altar Breads and £140,817 (2023: £123,187) from the pensions and allowances received for the nuns. In addition to this, the Abbey benefitted from legacies and dowries of £14,376 (2023: £891,343). Gifts from benefactors were £35,013 (2023: £49,382). Expenditure for the year amounted to £827,935 (2023: £669,874). Of this, £489,446 (2023: £455,211) related to the costs of maintaining the religious community, £132,256 (2023: £59,150) to the grants and donations made, £66,585 (2023: £59,692) to the costs associated with the Altar Bread production and shop sales, £22,156 (2023: £9,628) to church expenses and £6,505 (2023: £5,128) to the costs of running the retreat house. £110,987 (2023: £81,065) was spent on raising funds including investment managers' fees and rental property expenses.

After taking into account the net gain on the revaluation of investment assets of £376,985 (2023: net gain of £394,298), the charity had net income for the year of £641,828 (2023: net income £1,630,555). The charity's funds mainly comprise tangible fixed assets and an investment portfolio which at 31 December 2024 was valued at £22,276,620 (2023: £21,183,902).

The Trustees have reviewed the reserves and income of the Charity against its immediate and foreseeable needs and are satisfied that the reserves are not excessive and should be sufficient to meet their needs. The Trustees consider that the long term nature of the Trust's charitable objectives requires that it retain some of its surplus income as reserves. These reserves are necessary in order to secure the future ability of the Charity to support the religious community at St Cecilia's Abbey.

At 31 December 2024, the total reserves of the charity were £27,259,996 (2023: £26,618,168). Of this total, £1,901,796 are restricted reserves that are not available for the general purposes of the charity. The Trustees have designated funds totalling £11,373,582 including a fixed asset and PRI fund that represents those funds 'tied up' in fixed assets and programme related investments and a number of other reserves,

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

full details of which can be found in note 13. At 31 December 2024 general unrestricted funds stood at £13,984,618 (2023: £13,235,523).

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

### Investment performance

The investment policy of the Trustees is to maintain and enhance the real value of their assets over the long term by investment in a portfolio comprising equities, fixed income stocks and cash. The investment policy, drawn up in consultation with Charles Stanley, aims to ensure a steady stream of dividend income while taking capital gains when an attractive opportunity arises.

The main portfolio is split between a capital account with a balanced objective and an income account with an income objective. The investment managers do not work to a fixed benchmark but use market indices to gauge the performance of the portfolios.

The Abbey's investment income for 2024 was £764,959 (2023: £720,121).

### **Risk management**

The Sisters entrust themselves and their future to Divine Providence. Knowing, however, that part of the proper exercise of this trust is the careful stewardship of the resources which Providence has granted, the trustees have considered the risks faced by the charity.

The risk which requires most attention from the Trustees is the possibility of the decline of the community of nuns at St Cecilia's Abbey. The object of the Charity could not be achieved without the presence of a monastic community. As recruitment and retention of new members, under the Holy Spirit, is largely dependent on the fervour and integrity with which the nuns follow their calling, the effective apostolate of the Charity requires paradoxically constant vigilance to safeguard the silence and seclusion of the monastery. The Trustees strive to mitigate the risk of such a decline by managing the assets of the Charity appropriately and providing the resources necessary to support this effort. In particular, a continuous programme of maintenance of the buildings and grounds of the Abbey obviates the risk of major works and all the disruption they would entail. Investment in modern machinery reduces the need for seculars within the enclosure, while provision of the modern means of communication reduces the need for exits by the nuns. While frugality should characterize the lifestyle of the Sisters, the Trustees ensure that funds are available to maintain the library and pay for outside speakers when appropriate. The sick and elderly of the community are seen as a special treasure, and the trustees watch that sufficient resources are available to ensure their proper care.

The Charity's investment portfolio is a major support in providing funds for the Abbey's own needs and charitable giving. The Trustees consider the variability of returns on the portfolio to be the Charity's major financial risk. To reduce this risk they maintain a diversified portfolio and use the services of investment advisors who are not only experts in the charity sector but who also know the Abbey well and understand its ethos.

In this era of increasing government legislation and third-party litigation, the Trustees note also the risks which these present to the Abbey. The Trustees seek to reduce these risks by using the services of experts in the relevant fields (for example, lawyers, financial advisers, insurance brokers) and also engage health and safety and employment law services to provide the knowledge which the trustees may lack.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

In making charitable donations the Abbey risks that these grants will be ineffective. The Trustees reduce this risk by donating in the main to charities which are well known to them and whose accounts are available for inspection. Where necessary they seek the advice of relevant professionals or other charities in the field.

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

St Cecilia's Abbey is a charity established and governed by a Trust Deed dated 1 November 2000.

The Abbey is governed by the Abbess, who is elected for life by the nuns. She is advised by her prioress and by a council consisting of the prioress, a nun chosen by the Abbess and two nuns elected by the community. The Abbess appoints a bursar who oversees the financial affairs of the charity.

Trustees are appointed by the Abbess from members of the community and decisions are made on a majority basis. The Trustees in office during the period and at the date of this report are set out on page 6.

All of the Trustees are senior nuns of the community and, as such, have an in-depth knowledge of the charity. The Trustees also seek guidance whenever necessary from professional firms (for example, accountants, solicitors, investment managers, insurance brokers) of suitable standing and with wide knowledge of the religious charity sector.

St Cecilia's Abbey is a member of the Benedictine Congregation of Solesmes, a grouping of abbeys and priories in several countries which have a common history and traditions, derived from the Abbey of S-Pierre de Solesmes, France. The nuns at St Cecilia's follow the Rule of St Benedict as interpreted by the Declarations of the Abbey of Ste-Cécile de Solesmes. The chief financial consequence of the Rule and Declarations is that any activities of the Abbey must not trespass on the strictly enclosed contemplative life of the nuns, which finds its principal expression in the praise of God in the Divine Office. In accordance with the aforesaid Rule and Declarations, the Abbey of St Cecilia is an independent religious community and its financial affairs are in the hands of the nuns themselves.

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

|                              |                                                                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The name of the Charity:     | St Cecilia's Abbey                                                     |
| Charity registration number: | 1088086                                                                |
| Address:                     | St Cecilia's Abbey<br>Appley Rise<br>Ryde<br>Isle of Wight<br>PO33 1LH |
| Trustees:                    | E Lee<br>A-M Fiévet<br>C Quayle<br>M McCann                            |

The custodian trustees at 31 December 2024 were as above.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

|                             |                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Solicitors:</b>          | Tozers Solicitors<br>Southernhay West<br>Exeter<br>EX1 1UA                                                           |
| <b>Auditors:</b>            | Francis Clark LLP<br>Chartered Accountants<br>Sigma House<br>Oak View Close<br>Edginswell Park<br>Torquay<br>TQ2 7FF |
| <b>Bankers:</b>             | HSBC<br>101 St James' Street<br>Newport<br>Isle of Wight<br>PO30 1HX                                                 |
| <b>Investment Managers:</b> | Charles Stanley Limited<br>Ropemaker Place<br>25 Ropemaker Street<br>London<br>EC2Y 9LY                              |

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

### Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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).

The law applicable to charities in England and 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 then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in 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 business.

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 Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. 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.

**Signed on behalf of the Trustees**

*Elizabeth Lee*

**Trustee**

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of St. Cecilia's Abbey

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of St. Cecilia's Abbey (the "Charity") for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial reporting Standard in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described 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 the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, 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 when the original 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 other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 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.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of St. Cecilia's Abbey

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report;
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

### **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 8 the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees 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, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditor under the Charities Act 2011, s144 and report in accordance with regulations made under the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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 (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

As part of our audit planning we obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that is applicable to the Charity and the sector in which it operates to identify the key laws and regulations affecting the Charity. The key regulations we identified were Charity legislation and Charity Commission requirements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements, primarily the Charities Act and the Charities SORP.

We discussed with management how the compliance with these laws and regulations is monitored and discussed policies and procedures in place. We also identified the individuals who have responsibility for ensuring that the Charity complies with laws and regulations and deals with reporting any issues if they arise. As part of our planning procedures, we assessed the risk of any non-compliance with laws and regulations on the Charity's ability to continue its activities and the risk of material misstatement to the accounts.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of St. Cecilia's Abbey

Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Our procedures involved the following:

- Enquiries of management and those charged with governance regarding their knowledge of any non-compliance with laws and regulations by the charity that could affect the financial statements.
- As part of these enquiries we also discussed with management whether there have been any known instances, allegations or suspicions of fraud, of which there were none.
- Reviewed filings with the Charity Commission and enquired with management whether there were any Serious Incident Reports made during the year of which there were none.
- Reviewed legal and professional costs to identify any possible non compliance or legal costs in respect of non compliance;
- Reviewed Board minutes;
- Audited the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business of which there were none.
- Reviewed estimates and judgements made in the accounts for any indication of bias and challenged assumptions used by management in making the estimates.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements. This risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate omissions, collusion, forgery, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are also less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Charity trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the trustees those matters we are required to state to trustees in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Francis Clark LLP.*

.....  
(Senior Statutory Auditor)  
Francis Clark LLP, Statutory Auditor

Sigma House  
Oak View Close  
Edginswell Park  
Torquay  
TQ2 7FF

Date ..... 30 October 2025

Francis Clark LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 December 2024

|                                    |       | Restricted Fund  | Unrestricted Funds | 2024 Total Funds  | 2023 Total Funds  |
|------------------------------------|-------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                    | Notes | £                | £                  | £                 | £                 |
| <b>Income from:</b>                |       |                  |                    |                   |                   |
| Donations and legacies             | 3     | -                | 49,389             | 49,389            | 940,725           |
| Retreat income                     |       | -                | 15,893             | 15,893            | 10,741            |
| Nuns' pensions and allowances      |       | -                | 140,817            | 140,817           | 123,187           |
| Charitable activities:             |       |                  |                    |                   |                   |
| Sale of Altar Breads               |       | -                | 111,349            | 111,349           | 101,707           |
| Other Shop Sales                   |       | -                | 8,357              | 8,357             | 8,752             |
| Investment income                  | 4     | -                | 764,959            | 764,959           | 720,121           |
| Other                              |       | -                | 2,014              | 2,014             | 898               |
| <b>Total</b>                       |       | -                | <b>1,092,778</b>   | <b>1,092,778</b>  | <b>1,906,131</b>  |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>             |       |                  |                    |                   |                   |
| Raising funds:                     |       |                  |                    |                   |                   |
| Investment managers' fees          |       | -                | 70,092             | 70,092            | 64,007            |
| Rental property expenses           |       | -                | 40,895             | 40,895            | 17,058            |
| Charitable activities:             |       |                  |                    |                   |                   |
| Altar breads and shop expenses     |       | -                | 66,585             | 66,585            | 59,692            |
| Retreat expenses                   |       | -                | 6,505              | 6,505             | 5,128             |
| Church expenses                    |       | -                | 22,156             | 22,156            | 9,628             |
| Costs of maintaining the community | 6     | -                | 489,446            | 489,446           | 455,211           |
| Grants and donations               | 5     | -                | 132,256            | 132,256           | 59,150            |
| <b>Total</b>                       |       | -                | <b>827,935</b>     | <b>827,935</b>    | <b>669,874</b>    |
| Net gains on investments           | 9     | -                | 376,985            | 376,985           | 394,298           |
| <b>Net income</b>                  |       | -                | <b>641,828</b>     | <b>641,828</b>    | <b>1,630,555</b>  |
| Transfers between funds            | 12    | 88,400           | (88,400)           | -                 | -                 |
| <b>Net movement in funds</b>       |       | <b>88,400</b>    | <b>553,428</b>     | <b>641,828</b>    | <b>1,630,555</b>  |
| <b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>    |       |                  |                    |                   |                   |
| Total Funds brought forward        |       | 1,813,396        | 24,804,772         | 26,618,168        | 24,987,613        |
| <b>Total funds carried forward</b> |       | <b>1,901,796</b> | <b>25,358,200</b>  | <b>27,259,996</b> | <b>26,618,168</b> |

The notes on page 15 to 25 form part of these accounts.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Balance Sheet

31 December 2024

|                                                | Notes | 2024<br>£         | 2023<br>£         |
|------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Fixed assets</b>                            |       |                   |                   |
| Tangible assets                                | 8     | 5,715,982         | 5,745,909         |
| Investments                                    | 9     | 22,276,620        | 21,183,902        |
|                                                |       | <u>27,992,602</u> | <u>26,929,811</u> |
| <b>Current assets</b>                          |       |                   |                   |
| Stock                                          |       | 4,700             | 4,700             |
| Debtors                                        | 10    | 576,774           | 951,116           |
| Cash at bank and in hand                       |       | 93,333            | 137,557           |
|                                                |       | <u>674,807</u>    | <u>1,093,373</u>  |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                             |       |                   |                   |
| Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year | 11    | (1,407,413)       | (1,405,016)       |
|                                                |       | <u>(732,606)</u>  | <u>(311,643)</u>  |
| <b>Net current liabilities</b>                 |       |                   |                   |
|                                                |       | <u>(732,606)</u>  | <u>(311,643)</u>  |
| <b>Total Net assets</b>                        |       |                   |                   |
|                                                |       | <u>27,259,996</u> | <u>26,618,168</u> |
| <b>The funds of the charity:-</b>              |       |                   |                   |
| Restricted funds                               | 12    | 1,901,796         | 1,813,396         |
| Unrestricted funds:                            | 13    |                   |                   |
| Designated funds                               |       | 11,373,582        | 11,569,249        |
| General funds                                  |       | 13,984,618        | 13,235,523        |
|                                                |       | <u>27,259,996</u> | <u>26,618,168</u> |

Approved by the Trustees on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

*Elizabeth Lee*

Trustee

The notes on page 15 to 25 form part of these accounts.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Statement of Cash Flows

Year Ended 31 December 2024

|                                                                           | Notes | 2024<br>£            | 2023<br>£        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------|------------------|
| <b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>                              |       |                      |                  |
| <b>Net Cash (used in) operating activities</b>                            | 17    | <u>(93,450)</u>      | <u>(363,103)</u> |
| <b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>                              |       |                      |                  |
| Dividends, interest and rents from investments                            | 4     | 764,959              | 720,121          |
| Net investments in investment portfolio                                   | 9     | (2,012,156)          | (604,049)        |
| Cash withdrawn from investment portfolio                                  | 9     | 300,000              | 300,025          |
| Proceeds from sale of programme related investment property               | 9     | 996,423              | -                |
| <b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>                          |       | <u>49,226</u>        | <u>416,097</u>   |
| <b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>        |       | <b>(44,224)</b>      | 52,994           |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period</b> |       | <b>137,557</b>       | 84,563           |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>       |       | <u><b>93,333</b></u> | <u>137,557</u>   |

The notes on page 15 to 25 form part of these accounts.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2024

### 1 Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

(a) **Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern**

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared on an accruals basis under the historical cost convention, except for the valuation of investments at market value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

(b) **Fund accounting**

- (i) The Charity's unrestricted general fund consists of funds which the Charity may use for its charitable purposes at its discretion.
- (ii) The Charity has designated certain funds. Further details are contained in note 13. There is no legal force for the designations.
- (iii) The Charity has one restricted fund. Further details of this fund can be found in note 12.

(c) **Income recognition**

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

*Donations and legacies*

Donations are recognised when the Trust has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date.

Where the charity does not have discretion in the collection and distribution of donations and has no entitlement to the donations, then these amounts are conduit funding. Amounts relating to conduit funding are not included in the Statement of Financial Activities of the Charity.

Legacy gifts are recognised on a case by case basis following the granting of probate when the administrator/executor for the estate has communicated in writing both the amount and settlement date.

*Retreat income*

This relates to the donations received from retreatants and is recognised on a receivable basis.

*Nuns' pensions and allowances*

Pensions and allowances are recognised on a receivable basis.

*Altar bread and shop income*

Income from the sale of altar breads and shop sales is recognised when the goods are despatched.

*Investment income*

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis. Where income is receivable net of basic rate tax, the gross amount of income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) as investment income. No adjustment is made for accrued income included in the price of securities that were acquired or disposed of during the year.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2024

### 1 Accounting Policies *(continued)*

#### (d) Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and includes irrecoverable VAT. All costs have been directly attributed to one of the categories of resources expended in the SOFA.

- Costs of raising funds consist of investment managers' fees and the costs associated with rental properties.
- Costs of charitable activities include the costs of maintaining the community, grants and donations made, the costs associated with the production of altar breads and the sale of religious items as well as church, retreat house, and programme related property expenses.

#### (e) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible assets donated on the creation of the Trust have been valued in accordance with their insurance values at that time. Subsequent additions are included at cost or, in the case of property transferred from investments, at its insurance value. Replacement fixtures, furniture and equipment are charged to the SOFA in the year in which the expense is incurred.

Tangible assets other than freehold land are depreciated over their estimated useful lives, at the following rates:-

|                                  |       |               |
|----------------------------------|-------|---------------|
| Abbey buildings                  | 0%    | straight line |
| Other leasehold buildings        | 2%    | straight line |
| Fixtures, fittings and equipment | 5-10% | straight line |

No depreciation is provided on the Abbey buildings. It is the Charity's policy to maintain the Abbey in such a condition that the value is not impaired by the passage of time. Such expenditure is charged in the year it is committed. The nature of the Abbey owned by the Charity is such that it is unlikely to suffer from economic changes or technical advances. As a consequence any element of depreciation would, in the opinion of the Trustees, be immaterial and therefore no provision has been made.

The valuation of the Abbey buildings is reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances suggest that the carrying value may be in excess of its recoverable amount. Recoverable amount is the higher of net realisable value and value in use (which is measured on the basis of the worth of the service delivery of the asset). Where an impairment has occurred, the carrying value of the asset is written down to its recoverable amount, and the revised value of the asset is depreciated over its remaining useful life. The impairment loss is charged to the Statement of Financial Activities ("SOFA").

#### (f) Financial instruments

The Abbey only has financial assets and other financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. These comprise cash and bank balances, short term trade and other debtors and creditors and listed investments.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value. They are derecognised when the contractual rights to cash flows from the assets expire or substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are transferred to another party or in the case of liabilities when obligations are discharged.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2024

### 1 Accounting Policies *(continued)*

#### (g) Investments

- (i) Quoted investments are originally recorded at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value at the balance sheet date using the quoted market price.
- (ii) Investment properties have been valued at fair value as follows. Investment properties donated on the creation of the Trust have been valued in accordance with their current insurance values. Investment properties subsequently acquired are initially valued at cost and thereafter revalued in line with the movement in the house price index.
- (iii) Programme related investments are included in the balance sheet at cost less any impairments.
- (iv) Realised and unrealised gains and losses on the investments are credited/charged directly to the Statement of Financial Activities.
- (v) All investments, including bank balances held as part of the investment portfolio, are included as fixed assets.

#### (h) Dowries

Dowries represent monies introduced by the nuns when they take their solemn or perpetual vows, or legacies which they subsequently receive. Although not legally repayable, the Trustees consider that they have a compelling moral obligation to repay these sums in the event that a nun leaves the Abbey and they are therefore shown as creditors. On the death of the nun they are released to the Statement of Financial Activities.

#### (i) Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the net gains arising on the revaluation and disposal of investment assets.

### 2 Related party transactions and trustees' expenses and remuneration

All trustees are nuns of St Cecilia's Abbey and do not receive any remuneration by virtue of their position as trustees.

The charity maintains and supports the trustees in the same way as nuns who are not trustees. As this is part of the charitable objects of the charity it is not seen to be remuneration for their services as trustees.

No expenses have been paid or reimbursed to the trustees by virtue of their position as trustees.

During the year trustees donated their pensions and allowances totalling £6,079 to the charity (2023: £10,818), as well as dowries of £nil (2023: £5,000).

| 3 Income                         | 2024<br>£     | 2023<br>£      |
|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| <b>Donations and legacies:</b>   |               |                |
| Legacies and dowries             | 14,376        | 891,343        |
| Other gifts and donations        | 35,013        | 49,382         |
|                                  | <u>49,389</u> | <u>940,725</u> |
| <i>Other gifts and donations</i> |               |                |

Includes £nil (2023: £nil) restricted income.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2024

|                                                          |                       |                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>4 Investment Income (unrestricted)</b>                | <b>2024</b>           | <b>2023</b>           |
|                                                          | <b>£</b>              | <b>£</b>              |
| Income received from:                                    |                       |                       |
| Properties                                               | <b>43,247</b>         | 41,183                |
| Listed investments                                       | <b>690,367</b>        | 644,565               |
| Cash held as part of an investment portfolio and at bank | <b>31,345</b>         | 34,373                |
|                                                          | <b><u>764,959</u></b> | <b><u>720,121</u></b> |

## 5 Grants Payable

During the year the following grants and donations were made:

|                                    | <b>2024</b>           |                  | <b>2023</b>          |                  |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|
|                                    | <b>£</b>              | <b>Number</b>    | <b>£</b>             | <b>Number</b>    |
| Individuals:                       |                       |                  |                      |                  |
| Grants to people in financial need | <b>355</b>            | <b>3</b>         | 4,008                | 21               |
| Institutions involved in:          |                       |                  |                      |                  |
| Religious Welfare                  | <b>109,421</b>        | <b>32</b>        | 29,812               | 16               |
| Overseas Aid                       | <b>12,000</b>         | <b>6</b>         | 14,500               | 7                |
| Children                           | <b>450</b>            | <b>1</b>         | 600                  | 1                |
| Medical                            | <b>3,780</b>          | <b>4</b>         | 2,670                | 4                |
| Poor                               | <b>4,600</b>          | <b>5</b>         | 4,600                | 5                |
| Other                              | <b>1,650</b>          | <b>5</b>         | 2,960                | 6                |
|                                    | <b><u>131,901</u></b> | <b><u>53</u></b> | <b><u>55,142</u></b> | <b><u>39</u></b> |
| Total                              | <b><u>132,256</u></b> | <b><u>56</u></b> | <b><u>59,150</u></b> | <b><u>60</u></b> |

Included in the grants above is £nil (2023: £nil) relating to restricted funds.

Included in the above institutional grants are the following amounts greater than £1,000:

|                           |               |
|---------------------------|---------------|
|                           | <b>£</b>      |
| Quarr Abbey               | <b>65,000</b> |
| ACN                       | <b>20,000</b> |
| Grief to Grace            | <b>4,000</b>  |
| Mary's Meals              | <b>6,000</b>  |
| Earl Mountbatten Hospice  | <b>3,000</b>  |
| Portsmouth Diocese        | <b>3,000</b>  |
| Mercy Ships               | <b>2,000</b>  |
| Stanbrook Abbey           | <b>5,000</b>  |
| Holy See                  | <b>3,250</b>  |
| Association Latin Liturgy | <b>1,015</b>  |

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2024

### 6 Costs of Maintaining the Community

|                                             | Designated<br>£ | Unrestricted<br>£ | 2024<br>£      | 2023<br>£      |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Wages Costs                                 | -               | 123,660           | 123,660        | 107,326        |
| Nuns' NIC                                   | -               | 4,147             | 4,147          | 4,915          |
| Repairs, renewals and maintenance           | -               | 107,706           | 107,706        | 96,089         |
| Heat and light                              | -               | 39,321            | 39,321         | 34,522         |
| Postage, phone and stationery               | -               | 17,558            | 17,558         | 16,936         |
| Water rates and council tax                 | -               | 9,927             | 9,927          | 8,902          |
| Household provisions                        | -               | 33,936            | 33,936         | 30,459         |
| Insurance                                   | -               | 15,944            | 15,944         | 17,819         |
| Clothing                                    | -               | 1,060             | 1,060          | 534            |
| Gardening expenses                          | -               | 31,896            | 31,896         | 31,542         |
| Monastic hospitality                        | -               | 152               | 152            | 1,715          |
| Medical costs                               | -               | 32,624            | 32,624         | 25,305         |
| Library Costs                               | -               | 1,493             | 1,493          | 1,764          |
| Motor and travel expenses                   | -               | 3,794             | 3,794          | 9,783          |
| Advertising                                 | -               | 120               | 120            | 816            |
| Sundries                                    | -               | 10,767            | 10,767         | 8,938          |
| Depreciation                                | 29,927          | -                 | 29,927         | 35,230         |
| Legal and Professional<br><i>Governance</i> | -               | 8,025             | 8,025          | 8,096          |
| Auditors' remuneration - statutory audit    | -               | 16,200            | 16,200         | 11,100         |
| - other                                     | -               | 1,189             | 1,189          | 3,420          |
|                                             | <u>29,927</u>   | <u>459,519</u>    | <u>489,446</u> | <u>455,211</u> |

Included in the costs above is £nil (2023: £nil) relating to restricted funds.

| 7 Staff costs                    | 2024<br>£      | 2023<br>£      |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Gross wages and salaries         | 115,829        | 102,040        |
| Employer's national insurance    | 6,107          | 3,731          |
| Employer's pension contributions | 1,724          | 1,555          |
|                                  | <u>123,660</u> | <u>107,326</u> |
| Average number of staff          | <u>4</u>       | <u>4</u>       |

The charity considers its key management personnel comprise the Trustees only to whom no employment benefits were paid.

No employees received any employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2023: none).

During the year a termination payment of £Nil (2023: £1,145) was made.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2024

| 8 Tangible Fixed Assets         | Freehold<br>Property<br>£ | Leasehold<br>Property<br>£ | Fixtures<br>Fittings &<br>Equipment<br>£ | Total<br>£              |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Cost</b>                     |                           |                            |                                          |                         |
| At 1 January 2024               | 5,538,694                 | 200,655                    | 1,191,098                                | 6,930,447               |
| Additions                       | -                         | -                          | -                                        | -                       |
| Disposals                       | -                         | -                          | -                                        | -                       |
| <b>At 31 December 2024</b>      | <b><u>5,538,694</u></b>   | <b><u>200,655</u></b>      | <b><u>1,191,098</u></b>                  | <b><u>6,930,447</u></b> |
| <b>Accumulated Depreciation</b> |                           |                            |                                          |                         |
| At 1 January 2024               | -                         | 92,299                     | 1,092,239                                | 1,184,538               |
| Charge for the year             | -                         | 4,013                      | 25,914                                   | 29,927                  |
| Disposals                       | -                         | -                          | -                                        | -                       |
| <b>At 31 December 2024</b>      | <b><u>-</u></b>           | <b><u>96,312</u></b>       | <b><u>1,118,153</u></b>                  | <b><u>1,214,465</u></b> |
| <b>Net Book Value</b>           |                           |                            |                                          |                         |
| <b>At 31 December 2024</b>      | <b><u>5,538,694</u></b>   | <b><u>104,343</u></b>      | <b><u>72,945</u></b>                     | <b><u>5,715,982</u></b> |
| At 31 December 2023             | <u>5,538,694</u>          | <u>108,356</u>             | <u>98,859</u>                            | <u>5,745,909</u>        |

Tangible assets donated on creation of the Trust have been valued in accordance with their insurance values at the time.

All tangible fixed assets are used in direct furtherance of the charity's objectives.

The leasehold property is held on a 1,000 year lease that expires in 2841.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2024

| 9 Investments                                           | 2024<br>£         | 2023<br>£  |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| <b>Listed on a recognised stock exchange:</b>           |                   |            |
| Market value of Portfolio at 1 January 2024             | 17,251,622        | 15,791,723 |
| Transfers from/(to) cash                                | 23,351            | 439,238    |
| Net investment additions/(disposals) made in the year   | 2,012,156         | 604,049    |
| Realised and unrealised gains/(losses) on investments   | 126,853           | 416,612    |
| <b>Market value at 31 December 2024</b>                 | <b>19,413,982</b> | 17,251,622 |
| <b>Cash held as part of the investment portfolio:</b>   |                   |            |
| Balance at 1 January 2024                               | 1,191,984         | 1,931,247  |
| Transfers (to)/from listed investments                  | (23,351)          | (439,238)  |
| Withdrawn from investment                               | (300,000)         | (300,025)  |
| Balance at 31 December 2024                             | 868,633           | 1,191,984  |
| <b>UK Investment properties:</b>                        |                   |            |
| Balance at 1 January 2024                               | 1,987,804         | 2,010,119  |
| Revaluation during year                                 | 6,201             | (22,315)   |
| Market value of investment property at 31 December 2024 | 1,994,005         | 1,987,804  |
| <b>Programme related property investments:</b>          |                   |            |
| Cost at 1 January 2024                                  | 752,492           | 752,492    |
| Realised gain on disposal                               | 243,931           | -          |
| Disposal proceeds                                       | (996,423)         | -          |
| Cost at 31 December 2024                                | -                 | 752,492    |
| <b>Total</b>                                            | <b>22,276,620</b> | 21,183,902 |

The investment property donated on creation of the Trust has been valued by the Trustees on the basis of its building insurance value. The investment property purchased in 2015 has been included at indexed cost. These are considered to be fair values.

The programme related property investment has been made to support another religious order and is valued at cost.

The market value of the listed investments held at 31 December 2024 was £19,413,982 (2023: £17,251,622); of this value £6,398,781 (2023: £2,553,599) relates to non-UK investments.

The cost of listed investments at 31 December 2024 was £17,948,262 (2023: £15,968,293).

The trustees consider that there were no material individual investment holdings in the year that require disclosure.

All quoted investments are carried at their fair value. Investments in equities and fixed interest securities are all traded in quoted public markets. Holdings in common investment funds and unit trusts are valued at bid price. The basis of fair value for quoted investments is equivalent to the market value. Asset sales and purchases are recognised at the date of trade at cost (that is their transaction value).

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2024

### 10 Debtors

|                                | 2024<br>£             | 2023<br>£             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Trade Debtors                  | 3,641                 | 7,483                 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | <u>573,133</u>        | <u>943,633</u>        |
|                                | <u><u>576,774</u></u> | <u><u>951,116</u></u> |

### 11 Creditors

|                   | 2024<br>£               | 2023<br>£               |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Other Creditors   | 51,754                  | 50,057                  |
| Repayable Dowries | <u>1,355,659</u>        | <u>1,354,959</u>        |
|                   | <u><u>1,407,413</u></u> | <u><u>1,405,016</u></u> |

### 12 Restricted Funds

The Congregation of Solesmes restricted fund represents an amount prescribed by the Congregation. It may not be expended without the Congregation's permission. The fund is held in the form of traded investments which enable it to be accessed if required. A transfer is made to or from the fund to ensure it continues to match the Congregation's requirements.

The movement on the restricted fund is shown below.

|                          | Balance at<br>1 Jan 2024<br>£ | Incoming<br>Gifts<br>£ | Transfers<br>£   | Expenditure<br>£ | Balance at<br>31 Dec 2024<br>£ |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Current year:</b>     |                               |                        |                  |                  |                                |
| Congregation of Solesmes | <u>1,813,396</u>              | <u>-</u>               | <u>88,400</u>    | <u>-</u>         | <u>1,901,796</u>               |
| <b>Previous year:</b>    |                               |                        |                  |                  |                                |
| Congregation of Solesmes | <u>1,946,861</u>              | <u>-</u>               | <u>(133,465)</u> | <u>-</u>         | <u>1,813,396</u>               |

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2024

### 13 Unrestricted Funds

The movements on the designated and unrestricted funds are shown below.

|                                 | Balance at<br>1 Jan 2024<br>£ | Income<br>£      | Expenditure/<br>Transfers<br>£ | Depreciation/<br>Gains/<br>(Losses)<br>£ | Balance at<br>31 Dec 2024<br>£ |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Current year:</b>            |                               |                  |                                |                                          |                                |
| <b>Designated Funds</b>         |                               |                  |                                |                                          |                                |
| Repairs                         | 446,201                       | -                | (41,967)                       | -                                        | 404,234                        |
| Nursing Fees                    | 2,496,000                     | -                | 648,960                        | -                                        | 3,144,960                      |
| Library and liturgical Books    | 22,243                        | -                | -                              | -                                        | 22,243                         |
| Contingency Reserve             | 2,088,964                     | -                | (20,241)                       | -                                        | 2,068,723                      |
| Fixed Assets/PRI                | 6,498,401                     | -                | (752,492)                      | (29,927)                                 | 5,715,982                      |
| New Car                         | 12,000                        | -                | -                              | -                                        | 12,000                         |
| India                           | 440                           | -                | -                              | -                                        | 440                            |
| Visiting Nuns Fund              | 5,000                         | -                | -                              | -                                        | 5,000                          |
| <b>Total Designated Funds</b>   | <b>11,569,249</b>             | <b>-</b>         | <b>(165,740)</b>               | <b>(29,927)</b>                          | <b>11,373,582</b>              |
| Unrestricted General Fund       | 13,235,523                    | 1,092,778        | (720,668)                      | 376,985                                  | 13,984,618                     |
| <b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b> | <b>24,804,772</b>             | <b>1,092,778</b> | <b>(886,408)</b>               | <b>347,058</b>                           | <b>25,358,200</b>              |
| <b>Previous year:</b>           |                               |                  |                                |                                          |                                |
| <b>Designated Funds</b>         |                               |                  |                                |                                          |                                |
| Repairs                         | 445,201                       | -                | 1,000                          | -                                        | 446,201                        |
| Nursing Fees                    | 1,996,800                     | -                | 499,200                        | -                                        | 2,496,000                      |
| Library and liturgical Books    | 22,243                        | -                | -                              | -                                        | 22,243                         |
| Contingency Reserve             | 2,069,962                     | -                | 19,002                         | -                                        | 2,088,964                      |
| Fixed Assets/PRI                | 6,533,631                     | -                | -                              | (35,230)                                 | 6,498,401                      |
| New Car                         | 12,000                        | -                | -                              | -                                        | 12,000                         |
| India                           | 440                           | -                | -                              | -                                        | 440                            |
| Visiting Nuns Fund              | 5,000                         | -                | -                              | -                                        | 5,000                          |
| <b>Total Designated Funds</b>   | <b>11,085,277</b>             | <b>-</b>         | <b>519,202</b>                 | <b>(35,230)</b>                          | <b>11,569,249</b>              |
| Unrestricted General Fund       | 11,955,475                    | 1,906,131        | (1,020,381)                    | 394,298                                  | 13,235,523                     |
| <b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b> | <b>23,040,752</b>             | <b>1,906,131</b> | <b>(501,179)</b>               | <b>359,068</b>                           | <b>24,804,772</b>              |

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2024

### 13 Unrestricted Funds *(continued)*

#### **Repairs fund**

This represents a reserve designated for building maintenance. A transfer from this fund has been made during the year so that the fund amounts to five years repair costs.

#### **Nursing fees**

This is a fund designated to meet the cost of nursing fees likely to be required if a Sister is in need of specialist care.

#### **Library books**

The Abbey has to meet the costs of providing new books for the library and choir. This fund is to ensure that these costs can be met as and when required.

#### **Contingency reserve**

This designation is to be used for emergency purposes and is based on the cost of maintaining the Community over the last five years. A transfer to the fund has been made during the year to reflect this.

#### **Fixed asset and PRI reserve**

This fund represents the net book value of the Charity's tangible fixed assets and programme related investments (PRI). A transfer is made to or from unrestricted reserves each year to ensure that the fund continues to reflect the net book value of these assets.

#### **New car**

This fund is for the purchase of a new car.

#### **India fund**

This is a fund used to account for gifts and donations from the monastery and from friends so that the Charity is able to assist in an emergency and pay for machinery for altar breads from other European countries.

#### **Visiting nuns reserve**

This designation is for anticipated long term costs that will arise in connection with Sisters staying at the Abbey.

### 14 Commitments

The charity had promised to allow a religious community to live in one of its properties for as long as the community needed it. The community left the property during 2024.

At 31 December 2024 and 31 December 2023 the Abbey had no capital commitments.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2024

### 15 Obligations under operating leases

Lessor

The total of future minimum lease payments receivable is as follows:

|                         | <b>2024</b>         | <b>2023</b>         |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                         | £                   | £                   |
| Not later than one year | <b>4,091</b>        | 4,031               |
|                         | <b><u>4,091</u></b> | <b><u>4,031</u></b> |

### 16 Split of Assets Between Funds

|                        | <b>Restricted<br/>Fund<br/>£</b> | <b>Unrestricted<br/>Funds<br/>£</b> | <b>2024<br/>Total<br/>Funds<br/>£</b> | <b>2023<br/>Total<br/>Funds<br/>£</b> |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Represented by:</b> |                                  |                                     |                                       |                                       |
| Tangible fixed assets  | -                                | 5,715,982                           | 5,715,982                             | 5,745,909                             |
| Investments            | 1,901,796                        | 20,374,824                          | 22,276,620                            | 21,183,902                            |
| Current assets         | -                                | 674,807                             | 674,807                               | 1,093,373                             |
| Current liabilities    | -                                | (1,407,413)                         | (1,407,413)                           | (1,405,016)                           |
|                        | <b><u>1,901,796</u></b>          | <b><u>25,358,200</u></b>            | <b><u>27,259,996</u></b>              | <b><u>26,618,168</u></b>              |

### 17 Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

|                                                                                           | <b>2024</b>            | <b>2023</b>             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
|                                                                                           | £                      | £                       |
| <b>Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)</b> | <b>641,828</b>         | 1,630,555               |
| <b>Adjustments for:</b>                                                                   |                        |                         |
| Depreciation charges                                                                      | <b>29,927</b>          | 35,230                  |
| (Gains)/losses on investments                                                             | <b>(376,985)</b>       | (394,298)               |
| Loss on fixed assets                                                                      | -                      | -                       |
| Dividends, interest and rents from investments                                            | <b>(764,959)</b>       | (720,121)               |
| (Increase) /decrease in debtors                                                           | <b>374,342</b>         | (875,534)               |
| Increase / (decrease) in creditors                                                        | <b>2,397</b>           | (38,935)                |
| Net cash (used in) operating activities                                                   | <b><u>(93,450)</u></b> | <b><u>(363,103)</u></b> |

**ST CECILIA'S ABBEY RYDE ISLE OF WIGHT**

England & Wales - Charity number 1088086

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# Accounts

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**St Cecilia's Abbey**

**Annual Report**

**Year Ended 31 December 2023**

# **St Cecilia's Abbey**

Annual Report

Year Ended 31 December 2023

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# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The principal object of the Charity is the advancement of the Catholic religion. The principal means of advancing the Catholic religion is prayer, and the value and effects of this prayer can be measured only by God. Nevertheless the Charity undertakes the following activities in support of this aim.

The Charity maintains St Cecilia's Abbey and the community of Benedictine nuns which inhabits it. The chief work of the nuns is the celebration of the Divine Office, which is sung in Latin and in Gregorian Chant. Among communities of nuns in the British Isles St Cecilia's is unique in using Latin Gregorian Chant exclusively in its liturgy.

The nuns seek to earn their living by the production and sale of altar breads; they also undertake artistic commissions and sell religious books, recordings of their Gregorian Chant, rosaries and other pious articles, some of which are made by the nuns themselves.

The community share their contemplative life by welcoming visitors to their church and retreatants to the Garth, the Lower Lodge or the Hermitage, and through newsletters and the Internet. No charges are made for these services, and anyone is welcome to participate. The section below entitled 'Ministry to Visitors and Retreatants' explains these activities in more detail.

When possible the Abbey takes the opportunity to assist other religious communities, either by financial help or by providing hospitality to other contemplative nuns for long or short visits, for studies and training in crafts which can contribute to the development of their own communities, or for a time of rest.

The Charity makes a number of grants, at the discretion of the Abbess, to both institutions and individuals. Further details are contained in note 5.

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

### ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

#### The Abbey and the Community

At 31 December 2023 there were 25 solemnly or perpetually professed nuns in the community, four temporarily professed, two novices and two postulants.

A number of young women visited the Abbey during the year to discern their vocation.

Two young women entered the monastery as postulants.

Two novices made their First Profession.

A postulant who entered in 2022 received the habit and began her novitiate.

A professed nun of another Benedictine community who with the agreement of her superior had transferred to St Cecilia's in 2020 completed her three years of probation; after a positive vote by the community Chapter, and with the consent of the Abbot President of the Solesmes Congregation and of her former superior, she was admitted to the Chapter of St Cecilia's Abbey and the Solesmes Congregation.

Mother Abbess' Silver Jubilee of Profession was celebrated on 2 February, Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. The monks of Quarr Abbey together with Mother Abbess' family and friends joined the community of St Cecilia's for Mass, followed by lunch and a festive recreation; the day concluded with Vespers sung by the monks and nuns together.

The Bishop of Portsmouth paid a visit to the community during the Easter Octave.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

The Abbot President of the Solesmes Congregation visited the community in May.

After the death of Pope-Emeritus Benedict XVI, a solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated at the Abbey.

The Coronation of King Charles III was marked at the Abbey by special prayers as requested by the Bishops of England & Wales, a Mass for the King (including the singing of the antiphon *Domine salvum fac*) and suitable non-liturgical celebrations.

### Maintenance of the Abbey Buildings and Estate

In addition to the continuing programme of maintenance of the Abbey's extensive buildings, the following major works were undertaken:

- Re-roofing and insulating the roof of St Mary's;
- Replacing extern boiler and boiler pump;
- Alterations to plumbing system required by Southern Water report;
- Re-decorating parlours;
- Re-decorating bathrooms in Holy Angels;
- Replacing old strip lights with LEDs;
- Novitiate shelter at Keur Moussa;
- New fire door at end of parlour corridor.

### Promotion of Gregorian Chant

The nuns continued work on the production of interlinear Latin/English booklets for the Divine Office for the use of visitors and postulants. These works require much time on the part of the nuns and also expenditure on paper and ink to make booklets of durable quality and suitable for their sacred function, but the nuns consider this work an important part of their apostolate.

The Chant Group of Ealing Abbey visited for a day's tuition in Gregorian Chant by the choir mistress of St Cecilia's.

Several nuns from other communities stayed at St Cecilia's Abbey in order to participate at the Gregorian Chant Forum at Quarr. The focus of the Forum this time was the repertoire of the Paschal Triduum, and the speakers were Giedrius Gapsys, Jaan-Eik Tolve and Fr Abbot Xavier Perrin. Several of the nuns of St Cecilia's also attended the forum, and on one day the forum's Mass and all its sessions were held at St Cecilia's so that more of the community could benefit.

### Ministry to Visitors and Retreatants

The Abbey Church was available all day throughout the year for those who wished to attend the daily Mass and eight services of the Divine Office, or for private prayer.

The Abbey Chronicle, produced twice in the year, was sent to approximately 750 addresses free of charge. The Abbey also maintained a website on the life and work of the community, [www.stceciliasabbey.org.uk](http://www.stceciliasabbey.org.uk).

There is always a Sister available to welcome visitors or give counsel to anyone in need.

The Abbey's small retreat house, the Garth, welcomed 115 persons for retreats. Though most retreatants make donations for their stay, no charge is levied, and this year offerings were not made for 50 nights. The retreatants were able to participate in the Divine Office and to see the Guest Mistress or other nuns for spiritual counsel if they wished.

The Lower Lodge flat which was renovated in 2021 was also available as additional accommodation for short-term guests or retreatants.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

Visiting groups included a group of Confirmation candidates and their families from Portsmouth Cathedral and a parish group from Bournemouth. Some of the Sisters showed them a power-point presentation of life at the Abbey, and answered questions. The Island's Divine Mercy Group came one Sunday and held the Divine Mercy devotions in the Abbey church.

The numbers of secular oblates remained steady at about 40. The oblates received their own letter of news several times in the year. A novice-oblate made her oblation in June and another in July. An oblate weekend was held in October, during which the oblates heard talks from Mother Abbess and other Sisters on such subjects as the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, lectio divina and prayer; they also met the Sisters in the parlour and at the end renewed their oblation. A group of local oblates meets regularly for fellowship and mutual support.

### Assistance to and Collaboration with Other Religious Communities

Barrington Cottage continues to be let to a consecrated hermit at a low rent.

A property on the mainland continues to be let to another religious community at a low rent.

The Abbey made a final payment of £37,446, in fulfilment of the commitment to the Monastery of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Westfield, to pay for their new altar bread machinery (the full amount of the commitment to Westfield was accounted for in 2019).

Mother Abbess assisted in the canonical visitations of the Abbey of Ste Cécile de Solesmes in January and of Stanbrook Abbey in November. The Monastery of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Westfield, was raised to the rank of an abbey during the year. In order to support this young and vibrant community, Mother Abbess attended the Abbatial Blessing of the new abbess; this occasion was also the opportunity for meetings with other abbesses of the Solesmes Congregation.

### Other Activities of the Community

The Altar Bread Department continued to be the nuns' principal means of earning their living. After a severe fall in demand during the pandemic and its aftermath, sales have started to increase.

The Sisters continued the venture of selling home-made soap, which has proved very popular, especially with the visitors to Quarr Abbey.

There were also modest sales of rosaries, candles, pyrography and knitted items made by the nuns, together with other pious goods and religious books. There was only modest income from the art studio (calligraphy and illumination) but the younger Sisters are being trained in these arts so that there is hope for future development. The candle department provides candles for the needs of St Cecilia's Abbey and Quarr Abbey, as well as for sale in the Abbey shop. The wax for this work comes entirely from the Abbey's bees and from old candle-ends and wax scrapings recycled.

The Abbey's bees continued to be valued chiefly for the pollination of the orchard and soft fruit.

The extensive vegetable garden continued to be maintained by the young nuns. This garden, the orchard (apples, pears, plums, quince, walnuts, hazelnuts, cobnuts) and the soft fruit cages (blackberries, boysenberries, loganberries, gooseberries) are an important source of food for the nuns.

Sr Claire Waddelove was among the contributors to *Beloved of God and Men: Essays in Honour of Blessed Columba Marmion*, published by Silverstream Priory to mark the centenary of the death of Marmion. Sr Anne Eason's study of the Servant Songs of Isaiah, *The Passion of the Word*, was published on Academia.edu.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

### CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

Before 31 December 2023 the Charity had accepted a quotation of £21,000 for the renewal of the telephone system. This work took place in 2024.

### LEGACY

As noted in the accounts for 2021, the Charity has been informed that it is the principal beneficiary under the will of a friend of the Abbey who died in Scotland in early 2022. The legacy has been estimated at £840,000. Confirmation of the estate was obtained from the Scottish Courts only in October 2023 and consequently it was recognised in the 2023 accounts.

### SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AFTER THE YEAR END

The tenant who has occupied the Upper Lodge for many years moved elsewhere in April 2023. The Charity decided to renovate the flat with a view to using it as additional accommodation for guests and retreatants; this work was complete only in 2024.

The tenants of the property on the mainland found another home during 2024. The Charity therefore via its professional advisers put the property up for sale, and in due course sold it to another Catholic charity for £1,030,000.

### PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Czech, German and Korean translations of *The Joy of God* are in preparation.

No significant changes in the activities of the Charity are planned. The Charity intends to continue to maintain the Community at St Cecilia's Abbey and the celebration of the Divine

### FINANCIAL REVIEW AND RESERVE POLICY

During the year, the Abbey received income totalling £1,906,131 (2022: £895,334). The on-going principal sources of income were £720,121 (2022: £6,000,870) investment income, £101,707 (2022: £83,635) from the sale of Altar Breads and £123,187 (2022: £109,194) from the pensions and allowances received for the nuns. In addition to this, the Abbey benefitted from legacies and dowries of £891,343 (2022: £27,361). Gifts from benefactors were £49,382 (2022: £57,515). Expenditure for the year amounted to £669,874 (2022: £735,379). Of this, £455,211 (2022: £393,141) related to the costs of maintaining the religious community, £59,150 (2022: £201,395) to the grants and donations made, £59,692 (2022: £31,278) to the costs associated with the Altar Bread production and shop sales, £9,628 (2022: £24,982) to church expenses and £5,128 (2022: £7,996) to the costs of running the retreat house. £81,065 (2022: £76,587) was spent on raising funds including investment managers' fees and rental property expenses.

After taking into account the net gain on the revaluation of investment assets of £394,298 (2022: net loss of £1,195,347), the charity had net income for the year of £1,630,555 (2022: net expenditure £1,035,392). The charity's funds mainly comprise tangible fixed assets and an investment portfolio which at 31 December 2023 was valued at £21,183,902 (2022: £20,485,581).

The Trustees have reviewed the reserves and income of the Charity against its immediate and foreseeable needs and are satisfied that the reserves are not excessive and should be sufficient to meet their needs. The Trustees consider that the long term nature of the Trust's charitable objectives requires that it retain some of its surplus income as reserves. These reserves are necessary in order to secure the future ability of the Charity to support the religious community at St Cecilia's Abbey.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

At 31 December 2023, the total reserves of the charity were £26,618,168 (2022: £24,987,613). Of this total, £1,813,396 are restricted reserves that are not available for the general purposes of the charity. The Trustees have designated funds totalling £11,569,247 including a fixed asset and PRI fund that represents those funds 'tied up' in fixed assets and programme related investments and a number of other reserves, full details of which can be found in note 13. At 31 December 2023 general unrestricted funds stood at £13,235,525 (2022: £11,955,475).

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

### Investment performance

The investment policy of the Trustees is to maintain and enhance the real value of their assets over the long term by investment in a portfolio comprising equities, fixed income stocks and cash. The investment policy, drawn up in consultation with Charles Stanley, aims to ensure a steady stream of dividend income while taking capital gains when an attractive opportunity arises.

The main portfolio is split between a capital account with a balanced objective and an income account with an income objective. The investment managers do not work to a fixed benchmark but use market indices to gauge the performance of the portfolios.

The Abbey's investment income for 2023 was £720,121 (2022: £600,870).

### **Risk management**

The Sisters entrust themselves and their future to Divine Providence. Knowing, however, that part of the proper exercise of this trust is the careful stewardship of the resources which Providence has granted, the trustees have considered the risks faced by the charity.

The risk which requires most attention from the Trustees is the possibility of the decline of the community of nuns at St Cecilia's Abbey. The object of the Charity could not be achieved without the presence of a monastic community. As recruitment and retention of new members, under the Holy Spirit, is largely dependent on the fervour and integrity with which the nuns follow their calling, the effective apostolate of the Charity requires paradoxically constant vigilance to safeguard the silence and seclusion of the monastery. The Trustees strive to mitigate the risk of such a decline by managing the assets of the Charity appropriately and providing the resources necessary to support this effort. In particular, a continuous programme of maintenance of the buildings and grounds of the Abbey obviates the risk of major works and all the disruption they would entail. Investment in modern machinery reduces the need for seculars within the enclosure, while provision of the modern means of communication reduces the need for exits by the nuns. While frugality should characterize the life-style of the Sisters, the Trustees ensure that funds are available to maintain the library and pay for outside speakers when appropriate. The sick and elderly of the community are seen as a special treasure, and the trustees watch that sufficient resources are available to ensure their proper care. The Charity's investment portfolio is a major support in providing funds for the Abbey's own needs and charitable giving. The Trustees consider the variability of returns on the portfolio to be the Charity's major financial risk. To reduce this risk they maintain a diversified portfolio and use the services of investment advisors who are not only experts in the charity sector but who also know the Abbey well and understand its ethos.

In this era of increasing government legislation and third-party litigation, the Trustees note also the risks which these present to the Abbey. The Trustees seek to reduce these risks by using the services of experts in the relevant fields (for example, lawyers, financial advisers, insurance brokers) and also engage health and safety and employment law services to provide the knowledge which the trustees may lack.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

In making charitable donations the Abbey risks that these grants will be ineffective. The Trustees reduce this risk by donating in the main to charities which are well known to them and whose accounts are available for inspection. Where necessary they seek the advice of relevant professionals or other charities in the field.

### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

St Cecilia's Abbey is a charity established and governed by a Trust Deed dated 1 November 2000.

The Abbey is governed by the Abbess, who is elected for life by the nuns. She is advised by her prioress and by a council consisting of the prioress, a nun chosen by the Abbess and two nuns elected by the community. The Abbess appoints a bursar who oversees the financial affairs of the charity.

Trustees are appointed by the Abbess from members of the community and decisions are made on a majority basis. The Trustees in office during the period and at the date of this report are set out on page 7.

All of the Trustees are senior nuns of the community and, as such, have an in depth knowledge of the charity. The Trustees also seek guidance whenever necessary from professional firms (for example, accountants, solicitors, investment managers, insurance brokers) of suitable standing and with wide knowledge of the religious charity sector.

St Cecilia's Abbey is a member of the Benedictine Congregation of Solesmes, a grouping of abbeys and priories in several countries which have a common history and traditions, derived from the Abbey of S-Pierre de Solesmes, France. The nuns at St Cecilia's follow the Rule of St Benedict as interpreted by the

Declarations of the Abbey of Ste-Cécile de Solesmes. The chief financial consequence of the Rule and Declarations is that any activities of the Abbey must not trespass on the strictly enclosed contemplative life of the nuns, which finds its principal expression in the praise of God in the Divine Office. In accordance with the aforesaid Rule and Declarations, the Abbey of St Cecilia is an independent religious community and its financial affairs are in the hands of the nuns themselves.

### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The name of the Charity: St Cecilia's Abbey

Charity registration number: 1088086

Address: St Cecilia's Abbey  
Appley Rise  
Ryde  
Isle of Wight  
PO33 1LH

Trustees: H Eckhardt (retired 22 February 2023)  
E Lee  
A-M Fiévet  
C Quale (appointed 22 February 2023)  
M McCann (appointed 22 February 2023)

The custodian trustees at 31 December 2022 were as above.

## **St Cecilia's Abbey**

### Trustees' Report

|                             |                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Solicitors:</b>          | Tozers Solicitors<br>Southernhay West<br>Exeter<br>EX1 1UA                                                           |
| <b>Auditors:</b>            | Francis Clark LLP<br>Chartered Accountants<br>Sigma House<br>Oak View Close<br>Edginswell Park<br>Torquay<br>TQ2 7FF |
| <b>Bankers:</b>             | HSBC<br>38 Union Street<br>Ryde<br>Isle of Wight<br>PO33 2LJ                                                         |
| <b>Investment Managers:</b> | Charles Stanley Limited<br>25 Luke Street<br>London<br>EC2A 4AR                                                      |

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

### Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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).

The law applicable to charities in England and 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 then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in 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 business.

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 Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. 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.

**Signed on behalf of the Trustees**

*E. Lee*

**Trustee**

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of St. Cecilia's Abbey

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of St. Cecilia's Abbey (the "Charity") for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the statement of Cash Flows and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial reporting Standard in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described 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 the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, 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 when the original 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 other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 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.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of St. Cecilia's Abbey

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report;
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

### **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 8 the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees 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, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditor under the Charities Act 2011, s144 and report in accordance with regulations made under the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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 (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

As part of our audit planning we obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that is applicable to the Charity and the sector in which it operates to identify the key laws and regulations affecting the Charity. The key regulations we identified were Charity legislation and Charity Commission requirements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements, primarily the Charities Act and the Charities SORP.

We discussed with management how the compliance with these laws and regulations is monitored and discussed policies and procedures in place. We also identified the individuals who have responsibility for ensuring that the Charity complies with laws and regulations and deals with reporting any issues if they arise. As part of our planning procedures, we assessed the risk of any non-compliance with laws and regulations on the Charity's ability to continue its activities and the risk of material misstatement to the accounts.

## St Cecilia's Abbey

### Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of St. Cecilia's Abbey

Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Our procedures involved the following:

- Enquiries of management and those charged with governance regarding their knowledge of any non-compliance with laws and regulations by the charity that could affect the financial statements.
- As part of these enquiries we also discussed with management whether there have been any known instances, allegations or suspicions of fraud, of which there were none.
- Reviewed filings with the Charity Commission and enquired with management whether there were any Serious Incident Reports made during the year of which there were none.
- Reviewed legal and professional costs to identify any possible non compliance or legal costs in respect of non compliance;
- Reviewed Board minutes;
- Audited the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business of which there were none.
- Reviewed estimates and judgements made in the accounts for any indication of bias and challenged assumptions used by management in making the estimates.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements. This risk increases the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements as we are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

#### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Charity trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the trustees those matters we are required to state to trustees in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



.....  
(Senior Statutory Auditor)  
Francis Clark LLP, Statutory Auditor

Sigma House  
Oak View Close  
Edginswell Park  
Torquay  
TQ2 7FF

Date ..... 30 October 2024 .....

Francis Clark LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 December 2023

|                                     | Notes | Restricted Fund  | Unrestricted Funds | 2023 Total Funds  | 2022 Total Funds   |
|-------------------------------------|-------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
|                                     |       | £                | £                  | £                 | £                  |
| <b>Income from:</b>                 |       |                  |                    |                   |                    |
| Donations and legacies              | 3     | -                | 940,725            | 940,725           | 84,876             |
| Retreat income                      |       | -                | 10,741             | 10,741            | 3,465              |
| Nuns' pensions and allowances       |       | -                | 123,187            | 123,187           | 109,194            |
| Charitable activities:              |       |                  |                    |                   |                    |
| Sale of Altar Breads                |       | -                | 101,707            | 101,707           | 83,635             |
| Other Shop Sales                    |       | -                | 8,752              | 8,752             | 8,920              |
| Investment income                   | 4     | -                | 720,121            | 720,121           | 600,870            |
| Other                               |       | -                | 898                | 898               | 4,374              |
| <b>Total</b>                        |       | -                | <b>1,906,131</b>   | <b>1,906,131</b>  | <b>895,334</b>     |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>              |       |                  |                    |                   |                    |
| Raising funds:                      |       |                  |                    |                   |                    |
| Investment managers' fees           |       | -                | 64,007             | 64,007            | 65,114             |
| Rental property expenses            |       | -                | 17,058             | 17,058            | 11,473             |
| Charitable activities:              |       |                  |                    |                   |                    |
| Altar breads and shop expenses      |       | -                | 59,692             | 59,692            | 31,278             |
| Retreat expenses                    |       | -                | 5,128              | 5,128             | 7,996              |
| Church expenses                     |       | -                | 9,628              | 9,628             | 24,982             |
| Costs of maintaining the community  | 6     | -                | 455,211            | 455,211           | 393,141            |
| Grants and donations                | 5     | -                | 59,150             | 59,150            | 201,395            |
| <b>Total</b>                        |       | -                | <b>669,874</b>     | <b>669,874</b>    | <b>735,379</b>     |
| Net (losses) / gains on investments | 9     | -                | 394,298            | 394,298           | (1,195,347)        |
| <b>Net (expenditure)/income</b>     |       | -                | <b>1,630,555</b>   | <b>1,630,555</b>  | <b>(1,035,392)</b> |
| Transfers between funds             | 12    | (133,465)        | 133,465            | -                 | -                  |
| <b>Net movement in funds</b>        |       | <b>(133,465)</b> | <b>1,764,020</b>   | <b>1,630,555</b>  | <b>(1,035,392)</b> |
| <b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>     |       |                  |                    |                   |                    |
| Total Funds brought forward         |       | 1,946,861        | 23,040,752         | 24,987,613        | 26,023,005         |
| <b>Total funds carried forward</b>  |       | <b>1,813,396</b> | <b>24,804,772</b>  | <b>26,618,168</b> | <b>24,987,613</b>  |

The notes on page 15 to 25 form part of these accounts.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Balance Sheet

31 December 2023

|                                                | Notes | 2023<br>£         | 2022<br>£          |
|------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Fixed assets</b>                            |       |                   |                    |
| Tangible assets                                | 8     | 5,745,909         | 5,781,139          |
| Investments                                    | 9     | 21,183,902        | 20,485,581         |
|                                                |       | <u>26,929,811</u> | <u>26,266,720</u>  |
| <b>Current assets</b>                          |       |                   |                    |
| Stock                                          |       | 4,700             | 4,700              |
| Debtors                                        | 10    | 951,116           | 75,582             |
| Cash at bank and in hand                       |       | 137,557           | 84,563             |
|                                                |       | <u>1,093,373</u>  | <u>164,845</u>     |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                             |       |                   |                    |
| Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year | 11    | (1,405,016)       | (1,443,952)        |
|                                                |       | <u>(311,643)</u>  | <u>(1,279,107)</u> |
| <b>Net current liabilities</b>                 |       | <u>(311,643)</u>  | <u>(1,279,107)</u> |
| <b>Total Net assets</b>                        |       | <u>26,618,168</u> | <u>24,987,613</u>  |
| <b>The funds of the charity:-</b>              |       |                   |                    |
| Restricted funds                               | 12    | 1,813,396         | 1,946,861          |
| Unrestricted funds:                            | 13    |                   |                    |
| Designated funds                               |       | 11,569,249        | 11,085,277         |
| General funds                                  |       | 13,235,523        | 11,955,475         |
| <b>Total charity funds</b>                     |       | <u>26,618,168</u> | <u>24,987,613</u>  |

Approved by the Trustees on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

*E. Lee*

Trustee

The notes on page 15 to 25 form part of these accounts.

## St Cecilia's Abbey

### Statement of Cash Flows

Year Ended 31 December 2023

|                                                                           | Notes     | 2023<br>£        | 2022<br>£        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>                              |           |                  |                  |
| <b>Net Cash (used in) operating activities</b>                            | <b>17</b> | <b>(363,103)</b> | <b>(435,695)</b> |
| <b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>                              |           |                  |                  |
| Dividends, interest and rents from investments                            | 4         | 720,121          | 600,870          |
| Purchase of property and equipment                                        | 8         | -                | (8,148)          |
| Net investments in investment portfolio                                   | 9         | (604,049)        | (483,294)        |
| Cash withdrawn from investment portfolio                                  |           | 300,025          | 200,000          |
| <b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>                          |           | <b>416,097</b>   | <b>309,428</b>   |
| <b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>        |           | <b>52,994</b>    | <b>(126,267)</b> |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period</b> |           | <b>84,563</b>    | <b>210,830</b>   |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>       |           | <b>137,557</b>   | <b>84,563</b>    |

The notes on page 15 to 25 form part of these accounts.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2023

### 1 Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

(a) **Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern**

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared on an accruals basis under the historical cost convention, except for the valuation of investments at market value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

(b) **Fund accounting**

(i) The Charity's unrestricted general fund consists of funds which the Charity may use for its charitable purposes at its discretion.

(ii) The Charity has designated certain funds. Further details are contained in note 13. There is no legal force for the designations.

(iii) The Charity has one restricted fund. Further details of this fund can be found in note 12.

(c) **Income recognition**

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

*Donations and legacies*

Donations are recognised when the Trust has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date.

Where the charity does not have discretion in the collection and distribution of donations and has no entitlement to the donations, then these amounts are conduit funding. Amounts relating to conduit funding are not included in the Statement of Financial Activities of the Charity.

Legacy gifts are recognised on a case by case basis following the granting of probate when the administrator/executor for the estate has communicated in writing both the amount and settlement date.

*Retreat income*

This relates to the donations received from retreatants and is recognised on a receivable basis.

*Nuns' pensions and allowances*

Pensions and allowances are recognised on a receivable basis.

*Altar bread and shop income*

Income from the sale of altar breads and shop sales is recognised when the goods are despatched.

*Investment income*

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis. Where income is receivable net of basic rate tax, the gross amount of income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) as investment income. No adjustment is made for accrued income included in the price of securities that were acquired or disposed of during the year.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2023

### 1 Accounting Policies (continued)

#### (d) Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and includes irrecoverable VAT. All costs have been directly attributed to one of the categories of resources expended in the SOFA.

- Costs of raising funds consist of investment managers' fees and the costs associated with rental properties.
- Costs of charitable activities include the costs of maintaining the community, grants and donations made, the costs associated with the production of altar breads and the sale of religious items as well as church, retreat house, and programme related property expenses.

#### (e) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible assets donated on the creation of the Trust have been valued in accordance with their insurance values at that time. Subsequent additions are included at cost or, in the case of property transferred from investments, at its insurance value. Replacement fixtures, furniture and equipment are charged to the SOFA in the year in which the expense is incurred.

Tangible assets other than freehold land are depreciated over their estimated useful lives, at the following rates:-

|                                  |       |               |
|----------------------------------|-------|---------------|
| Abbey buildings                  | 0%    | straight line |
| Other leasehold buildings        | 2%    | straight line |
| Fixtures, fittings and equipment | 5-10% | straight line |

No depreciation is provided on the Abbey buildings. It is the Charity's policy to maintain the Abbey in such a condition that the value is not impaired by the passage of time. Such expenditure is charged in the year it is committed. The nature of the Abbey owned by the Charity is such that it is unlikely to suffer from economic changes or technical advances. As a consequence any element of depreciation would, in the opinion of the Trustees, be immaterial and therefore no provision has been made.

The valuation of the Abbey buildings is reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances suggest that the carrying value may be in excess of its recoverable amount. Recoverable amount is the higher of net realisable value and value in use (which is measured on the basis of the worth of the service delivery of the asset). Where an impairment has occurred, the carrying value of the asset is written down to its recoverable amount, and the revised value of the asset is depreciated over its remaining useful life. The impairment loss is charged to the Statement of Financial Activities ("SOFA").

#### (f) Financial instruments

The Abbey only has financial assets and other financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. These comprise cash and bank balances, short term trade and other debtors and creditors and listed investments.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value. They are derecognised when the contractual rights to cash flows from the assets expire or substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are transferred to another party or in the case of liabilities when obligations are discharged.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2023

### 1 Accounting Policies *(continued)*

#### (g) Investments

- (i) Quoted investments are originally recorded at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value at the balance sheet date using the quoted market price.
- (ii) Investment properties have been valued at fair value as follows. Investment properties donated on the creation of the Trust have been valued in accordance with their current insurance values. Investment properties subsequently acquired are initially valued at cost and thereafter revalued in line with the movement in the house price index.
- (iii) Programme related investments are included in the balance sheet at cost less any impairments.
- (iv) Realised and unrealised gains and losses on the investments are credited/charged directly to the Statement of Financial Activities.
- (v) All investments, including bank balances held as part of the investment portfolio, are included as fixed assets.

#### (h) Dowries

Dowries represent monies introduced by the nuns when they take their solemn or perpetual vows, or legacies which they subsequently receive. Although not legally repayable, the Trustees consider that they have a compelling moral obligation to repay these sums in the event that a nun leaves the Abbey and they are therefore shown as creditors. On the death of the nun they are released to the Statement of Financial Activities.

#### (i) Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the net gains arising on the revaluation and disposal of investment assets.

### 2 Related party transactions and trustees' expenses and remuneration

All trustees are nuns of St Cecilia's Abbey and do not receive any remuneration by virtue of their position as trustees.

The charity maintains and supports the trustees in the same way as nuns who are not trustees. As this is part of the charitable objects of the charity it is not seen to be remuneration for their services as trustees.

No expenses have been paid or reimbursed to the trustees by virtue of their position as trustees.

During the year trustees donated their pensions and allowances totalling £10,818 to the charity (2022: £18,304), as well as dowries of £5,000 (2022: £1,000).

| 3 Income                       | 2023<br>£      | 2022<br>£     |
|--------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| <b>Donations and legacies:</b> |                |               |
| Legacies and dowries           | 891,343        | 27,361        |
| Other gifts and donations      | 49,382         | 57,515        |
|                                | <u>940,725</u> | <u>84,876</u> |

*Other gifts and donations*

Includes £nil (2022: £nil) restricted income.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2023

|                                                          |                |                |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>4 Investment Income (unrestricted)</b>                | <b>2023</b>    | <b>2022</b>    |
|                                                          | <b>£</b>       | <b>£</b>       |
| Income received from:                                    |                |                |
| Properties                                               | 41,183         | 42,593         |
| Listed investments                                       | 644,565        | 558,027        |
| Cash held as part of an investment portfolio and at bank | 34,373         | 250            |
|                                                          | <u>720,121</u> | <u>600,870</u> |

## 5 Grants Payable

During the year the following grants and donations were made:

|                                    | 2023          |           | 2022           |           |
|------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|
|                                    | £             | Number    | £              | Number    |
| Individuals:                       |               |           |                |           |
| Grants to people in financial need | 4,008         | 21        | 449            | 7         |
| Institutions involved in:          |               |           |                |           |
| Religious Welfare                  | 29,812        | 16        | 180,466        | 26        |
| Overseas Aid                       | 14,500        | 7         | 8,500          | 7         |
| Children                           | 600           | 1         | 600            | 1         |
| Medical                            | 2,670         | 4         | 3,620          | 4         |
| Poor                               | 4,600         | 5         | 4,800          | 5         |
| Other                              | 2,960         | 6         | 2,960          | 5         |
|                                    | <u>55,142</u> | <u>39</u> | <u>200,946</u> | <u>48</u> |
| Total                              | <u>59,150</u> | <u>60</u> | <u>201,395</u> | <u>55</u> |

Included in the grants above is £nil (2022: £nil) relating to restricted funds.

Included in the above institutional grants are the following amounts greater than £1,000:

|                                     | £      |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| ACN                                 | 15,000 |
| Grief to Grace                      | 2,000  |
| Ethiopaïd                           | 1,000  |
| International Refugee Trust         | 1,000  |
| Mary's Meals                        | 3,500  |
| Opportunity International           | 1,000  |
| Earl Mountbatten Hospice            | 2,150  |
| De Paul Trust                       | 1,000  |
| Emmaus                              | 1,000  |
| Missionaries of Charity, Manchester | 1,000  |
| The Passage                         | 1,000  |
| Portsmouth Diocese                  | 5,000  |
| Practical Action                    | 1,000  |
| Mercy Ships                         | 2,000  |
| CAFOD                               | 5,000  |
| AIM                                 | 1,000  |
| Friends Holy Land                   | 1,000  |

## St Cecilia's Abbey

### Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2023

#### 6 Costs of Maintaining the Community

|                                             | Designated<br>£ | Unrestricted<br>£ | 2023<br>£      | 2022<br>£      |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Wages Costs                                 | -               | 107,326           | 107,326        | 98,546         |
| Nuns' NIC                                   | -               | 4,915             | 4,915          | 3,218          |
| Repairs, renewals and maintenance           | -               | 96,089            | 96,089         | 70,755         |
| Heat and light                              | -               | 34,522            | 34,522         | 22,500         |
| Postage, phone and stationery               | -               | 16,936            | 16,936         | 8,835          |
| Water rates and council tax                 | -               | 8,902             | 8,902          | 8,052          |
| Household provisions                        | -               | 30,459            | 30,459         | 28,443         |
| Insurance                                   | -               | 17,819            | 17,819         | 17,990         |
| Clothing                                    | -               | 534               | 534            | 2,761          |
| Gardening expenses                          | -               | 31,542            | 31,542         | 29,730         |
| Monastic hospitality                        | -               | 1,715             | 1,715          | 3,392          |
| Medical costs                               | -               | 25,305            | 25,305         | 19,272         |
| Library Costs                               | -               | 1,764             | 1,764          | 2,672          |
| Motor and travel expenses                   | -               | 9,783             | 9,783          | 6,945          |
| Advertising                                 | -               | 816               | 816            | 294            |
| Sundries                                    | -               | 8,938             | 8,938          | 12,917         |
| Depreciation                                | 35,230          | -                 | 35,230         | 41,051         |
| Legal and Professional<br><i>Governance</i> | -               | 8,096             | 8,096          | 3,108          |
| Auditors' remuneration - statutory audit    | -               | 11,100            | 11,100         | 6,500          |
| - other                                     | -               | 3,420             | 3,420          | 6,160          |
|                                             | <u>35,230</u>   | <u>419,981</u>    | <u>455,211</u> | <u>393,141</u> |

Included in the costs above is £nil (2022: £nil) relating to restricted funds.

| 7 Staff costs                    | 2023<br>£      | 2022<br>£     |
|----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Gross wages and salaries         | 102,040        | 93,769        |
| Employer's national insurance    | 3,731          | 3,516         |
| Employer's pension contributions | 1,555          | 1,261         |
|                                  | <u>107,326</u> | <u>98,546</u> |
| Average number of staff          | <u>4</u>       | <u>4</u>      |

The charity considers its key management personnel comprise the Trustees only to whom no employment benefits were paid.

No employees received any employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2022: £60,000).

During the year a termination payment of £1,145 was made.

## St Cecilia's Abbey

### Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2023

#### 8 Tangible Fixed Assets

|                                 | Freehold<br>Property<br>£ | Leasehold<br>Property<br>£ | Fixtures<br>Fittings &<br>Equipment<br>£ | Total<br>£              |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Cost</b>                     |                           |                            |                                          |                         |
| At 1 January 2023               | 5,538,694                 | 200,655                    | 1,191,098                                | 6,930,447               |
| Additions                       | -                         | -                          | -                                        | -                       |
| Disposals                       | -                         | -                          | -                                        | -                       |
| <b>At 31 December 2023</b>      | <b><u>5,538,694</u></b>   | <b><u>200,655</u></b>      | <b><u>1,191,098</u></b>                  | <b><u>6,930,447</u></b> |
| <b>Accumulated Depreciation</b> |                           |                            |                                          |                         |
| At 1 January 2023               | -                         | 88,286                     | 1,061,022                                | 1,149,308               |
| Charge for the Year             | -                         | 4,013                      | 31,217                                   | 35,230                  |
| Disposals                       | -                         | -                          | -                                        | -                       |
| <b>At 31 December 2023</b>      | <b><u>-</u></b>           | <b><u>92,299</u></b>       | <b><u>1,092,239</u></b>                  | <b><u>1,184,538</u></b> |
| <b>Net Book Value</b>           |                           |                            |                                          |                         |
| <b>At 31 December 2023</b>      | <b><u>5,538,694</u></b>   | <b><u>108,356</u></b>      | <b><u>98,859</u></b>                     | <b><u>5,745,909</u></b> |
| At 31 December 2022             | <u>5,538,694</u>          | <u>112,369</u>             | <u>130,076</u>                           | <u>5,781,139</u>        |

Tangible assets donated on creation of the Trust have been valued in accordance with their insurance values at the time.

All tangible fixed assets are used in direct furtherance of the charity's objectives.

The leasehold property is held on a 1,000 year lease that expires in 2841.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2023

| 9 Investments                                                                           | 2023<br>£         | 2022<br>£         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Listed on a recognised stock exchange:</b>                                           |                   |                   |
| Market value of Portfolio at 1 January 2023                                             | 15,791,723        | 16,963,826        |
| Transfers to/(from) cash                                                                | 439,238           | (180,572)         |
| Net investment (disposals)/additions made in the year                                   | 604,049           | 483,295           |
| Realised and unrealised gains/(losses) on investments                                   | 416,612           | (1,474,826)       |
|                                                                                         | <hr/>             | <hr/>             |
| <b>Market value at 31 December 2023</b>                                                 | <b>17,251,622</b> | <b>15,791,723</b> |
| <b>Cash held as part of the investment portfolio:</b>                                   |                   |                   |
| Balance at 1 January 2023                                                               | 1,931,247         | 1,950,675         |
| Transfers (to)/from listed investments                                                  | (439,238)         | 180,572           |
| Withdrawn from investment                                                               | (300,025)         | (200,000)         |
|                                                                                         | <hr/>             | <hr/>             |
| Balance at 31 December 2023                                                             | 1,191,984         | 1,931,247         |
| <b>UK Investment properties:</b>                                                        |                   |                   |
| Balance at 1 January 2023                                                               | 2,010,119         | 1,730,640         |
| Revaluation during year                                                                 | (22,315)          | 279,479           |
|                                                                                         | <hr/>             | <hr/>             |
| Market value of investment property at 31 December 2023                                 | 1,987,804         | 2,010,119         |
| <b>Programme related property investments:</b>                                          |                   |                   |
| Balance at 1 January 2023 and cost of programme related investments at 31 December 2023 | 752,492           | 752,492           |
|                                                                                         | <hr/>             | <hr/>             |
|                                                                                         | <b>21,183,902</b> | <b>20,485,581</b> |
|                                                                                         | <hr/> <hr/>       | <hr/> <hr/>       |

The investment property donated on creation of the Trust has been valued by the Trustees on the basis of its building insurance value. The investment property purchased in 2015 has been included at indexed cost. These are considered to be fair values.

The programme related property investment has been made to support another religious order and is valued at cost.

The market value of the listed investments held at 31 December 2023 was £17,251,622 (2022: £15,791,723); of this value £2,553,599 (2022: £5,097,949) relates to non-UK investments. The cash held in the portfolio also includes £120,631 held in US\$ (2022: £124,987 held in US\$).

The cost of listed investments at 31 December 2023 was £15,968,293 (2022: £15,088,469).

The trustees consider that there were no material individual investment holdings in the year that require disclosure.

All quoted investments are carried at their fair value. Investments in equities and fixed interest securities are all traded in quoted public markets. Holdings in common investment funds and unit trusts are valued at bid price. The basis of fair value for quoted investments is equivalent to the market value. Asset sales and purchases are recognised at the date of trade at cost (that is their transaction value).

## St Cecilia's Abbey

### Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2023

#### 10 Debtors

|                                | 2023           | 2022          |
|--------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
|                                | £              | £             |
| Trade Debtors                  | 7,483          | 13,371        |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 943,633        | 62,211        |
|                                | <u>951,116</u> | <u>75,582</u> |

#### 11 Creditors

|                   | 2023             | 2022             |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                   | £                | £                |
| Other Creditors   | 50,057           | 85,595           |
| Repayable Dowries | 1,354,959        | 1,358,357        |
|                   | <u>1,405,016</u> | <u>1,443,952</u> |

#### 12 Restricted Funds

The Congregation of Solesmes restricted fund represents an amount prescribed by the Congregation. It may not be expended without the Congregation's permission. The fund is held in the form of traded investments which enable it to be accessed if required. A transfer is made to or from the fund to ensure it continues to match the Congregation's requirements.

The movement on the restricted fund is shown below.

|                          | Balance at<br>1 Jan 2023 | Incoming<br>Gifts | Transfers        | Expenditure | Balance at<br>31 Dec 2023 |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
|                          | £                        | £                 | £                | £           | £                         |
| <b>Current year:</b>     |                          |                   |                  |             |                           |
| Congregation of Solesmes | 1,946,861                | -                 | (133,465)        | -           | 1,813,396                 |
|                          | <u>1,946,861</u>         | <u>-</u>          | <u>(133,465)</u> | <u>-</u>    | <u>1,813,396</u>          |
| <b>Previous year:</b>    |                          |                   |                  |             |                           |
| Congregation of Solesmes | 1,606,959                | -                 | 339,902          | -           | 1,946.861                 |
|                          | <u>1,606,959</u>         | <u>-</u>          | <u>339,902</u>   | <u>-</u>    | <u>1,946.861</u>          |

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2023

### 13 Unrestricted Funds

The movements on the designated and unrestricted funds are shown below.

|                                 | Balance at<br>1 Jan 2023 | Income           | Expenditure/<br>Transfers | Depreciation/<br>Gains/<br>(Losses) | Balance at<br>31 Dec 2023 |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Current year:                   | £                        | £                | £                         | £                                   | £                         |
| <b>Designated Funds</b>         |                          |                  |                           |                                     |                           |
| Repairs                         | 445,201                  | -                | 1,000                     | -                                   | 446,201                   |
| Nursing Fees                    | 1,996,800                | -                | 499,200                   | -                                   | 2,496,000                 |
| Library and liturgical Books    | 22,243                   | -                | -                         | -                                   | 22,243                    |
| Contingency Reserve             | 2,069,962                | -                | 19,002                    | -                                   | 2,088,964                 |
| Fixed Assets/PRI                | 6,533,631                | -                | -                         | (35,230)                            | 6,498,401                 |
| New Car                         | 12,000                   | -                | -                         | -                                   | 12,000                    |
| India                           | 440                      | -                | -                         | -                                   | 440                       |
| Visiting Nuns Fund              | 5,000                    | -                | -                         | -                                   | 5,000                     |
| <b>Total Designated Funds</b>   | <b>11,085,277</b>        | <b>-</b>         | <b>519,202</b>            | <b>(35,230)</b>                     | <b>11,569,249</b>         |
| Unrestricted General Fund       | 11,955,475               | 1,906,131        | (1,020,381)               | 394,298                             | 13,235,523                |
| <b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b> | <b>23,040,752</b>        | <b>1,906,131</b> | <b>(501,179)</b>          | <b>359,068</b>                      | <b>24,804,772</b>         |
| <br>                            |                          |                  |                           |                                     |                           |
|                                 | Balance at<br>1 Jan 2022 | Income           | Expenditure/<br>Transfers | Depreciation/<br>Gains/<br>(Losses) | Balance at<br>31 Dec 2022 |
| Previous year:                  | £                        | £                | £                         | £                                   | £                         |
| <b>Designated Funds</b>         |                          |                  |                           |                                     |                           |
| Repairs                         | 498,221                  | -                | (53,020)                  | -                                   | 445,201                   |
| Nursing Fees                    | 2,610,000                | -                | (613,200)                 | -                                   | 1,996,800                 |
| Library and liturgical Books    | 22,143                   | -                | -                         | -                                   | 22,243                    |
| Contingency Reserve             | 2,091,936                | -                | (21,974)                  | -                                   | 2,069,962                 |
| Fixed Assets/PRI                | 6,567,084                | -                | 7,598                     | (41,051)                            | 6,533,631                 |
| New Car                         | 12,000                   | -                | -                         | -                                   | 12,000                    |
| India                           | 440                      | -                | -                         | -                                   | 440                       |
| Visiting Nuns Fund              | 5,000                    | -                | -                         | -                                   | 5,000                     |
| <b>Total Designated Funds</b>   | <b>11,806,924</b>        | <b>-</b>         | <b>(680,596)</b>          | <b>(41,051)</b>                     | <b>11,085,277</b>         |
| Unrestricted General Fund       | 12,609,122               | 895,334          | (353,634)                 | (1,195,347)                         | 11,955,475                |
| <b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b> | <b>24,416,046</b>        | <b>895,334</b>   | <b>(1,034,230)</b>        | <b>(1,236,398)</b>                  | <b>23,040,752</b>         |

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2023

### 13 Unrestricted Funds *(continued)*

#### **Repairs fund**

This represents a reserve designated for building maintenance. A transfer from this fund has been made during the year so that the fund amounts to five years repair costs.

#### **Nursing fees**

This is a fund designated to meet the cost of nursing fees likely to be required if a Sister is in need of specialist care.

#### **Library books**

The Abbey has to meet the costs of providing new books for the library and choir. This fund is to ensure that these costs can be met as and when required.

#### **Contingency reserve**

This designation is to be used for emergency purposes and is based on the cost of maintaining the Community over the last five years. A transfer to the fund has been made during the year to reflect this.

#### **Fixed asset and PRI reserve**

This fund represents the net book value of the Charity's tangible fixed assets and programme related investments (PRI). A transfer is made to or from unrestricted reserves each year to ensure that the fund continues to reflect the net book value of these assets.

#### **New car**

This fund is for the purchase of a new car.

#### **India fund**

This is a fund used to account for gifts and donations from the monastery and from friends so that the Charity is able to assist in an emergency and pay for machinery for altar breads from other European countries.

#### **Visiting nuns reserve**

This designation is for anticipated long term costs that will arise in connection with Sisters staying at the Abbey.

### 14 Commitments

The charity has promised to allow a religious community to live in one of its properties for as long as the community needs it.

At 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2022 the Abbey had no capital commitments.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2023

### 15 Obligations under operating leases

Lessor

The total of future minimum lease payments receivable is as follows:

|                         | 2023<br>£    | 2022<br>£    |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Not later than one year | 4,031        | 5,062        |
|                         | <u>4,031</u> | <u>5,062</u> |

### 16 Split of Assets Between Funds

|                        | Restricted<br>Fund<br>£ | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2023<br>Total<br>Funds<br>£ | 2022<br>Total<br>Funds<br>£ |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Represented by:</b> |                         |                            |                             |                             |
| Tangible fixed assets  | -                       | 5,745,909                  | 5,745,909                   | 5,781,139                   |
| Investments            | 1,813,396               | 19,370,506                 | 21,183,902                  | 20,485,581                  |
| Current assets         | -                       | 1,093,373                  | 1,093,373                   | 164,845                     |
| Current liabilities    | -                       | (1,405,016)                | (1,405,016)                 | (1,443,952)                 |
|                        | <u>1,813,396</u>        | <u>24,804,772</u>          | <u>26,618,168</u>           | <u>24,987,613</u>           |

### 17 Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash flow from operating activities

|                                                                                                         | 2023<br>£        | 2022<br>£          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)</b> | <b>1,630,555</b> | <b>(1,035,392)</b> |
| <b>Adjustments for:</b>                                                                                 |                  |                    |
| Depreciation charges                                                                                    | 35,230           | 41,051             |
| (Gains)/losses on investments                                                                           | (394,298)        | 1,195,347          |
| Loss on fixed assets                                                                                    | -                | 549                |
| Dividends, interest and rents from investments                                                          | (720,121)        | (600,870)          |
| (Increase) /decrease in debtors                                                                         | (875,534)        | 31,678             |
| Increase / (decrease) in creditors                                                                      | (38,935)         | (68,058)           |
| Net cash (used in) operating activities                                                                 | <u>(363,103)</u> | <u>(435,695)</u>   |

**ST CECILIA'S ABBEY RYDE ISLE OF WIGHT**

England & Wales - Charity number 1088086

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# Accounts

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**St Cecilia's Abbey**

**Annual Report**

**Year Ended 31 December 2022**

# **St Cecilia's Abbey**

Annual Report

Year Ended 31 December 2022

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# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2022.

### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The principal object of the Charity is the advancement of the Catholic religion. The principal means of advancing the Catholic religion is prayer, and the value and effects of this prayer can be measured only by God. Nevertheless the Charity undertakes the following activities in support of this aim.

The Charity maintains St Cecilia's Abbey and the community of Benedictine nuns which inhabits it. The chief work of the nuns is the celebration of the Divine Office, which is sung in Latin and in Gregorian Chant. Among communities of nuns in the British Isles St Cecilia's is unique in using Latin Gregorian Chant exclusively in its liturgy.

The nuns seek to earn their living by the production and sale of altar breads; they also undertake artistic commissions and sell religious books, recordings of their Gregorian Chant, rosaries and other pious articles, some of which are made by the nuns themselves.

The community share their contemplative life by welcoming visitors to their church and retreatants to the Garth, the Lower Lodge or the Hermitage, and through newsletters and the Internet. No charges are made for these services, and anyone is welcome to participate. The section below entitled 'Ministry to Visitors and Retreatants' explains these activities in more detail.

When possible the Abbey takes the opportunity to assist other religious communities, either by financial help or by providing hospitality to other contemplative nuns for long or short visits, for studies and training in crafts which can contribute to the development of their own communities, or for a time of rest.

The Charity makes a number of grants, at the discretion of the Abbess, to both institutions and individuals. Further details are contained in note 5.

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

### ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

#### The Abbey and the Community

At 31 December 2022 there were 25 solemnly or perpetually professed nuns in the community, two temporarily professed, four novices and two postulants.

On 3 January Mother Abbess Ninian Eaglesham announced her retirement after nearly thirty-four years in office. In accordance with the Declarations of the nuns of the Solesmes Congregation, the election for her successor was held on 17 January, presided over by the Abbot President, Père Abbé Philippe Dupont. Sr Eustochium Lee, formerly the prioress, was elected as fourth abbess of St Cecilia's. On 26 April, feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel (secondary patron of the monastery), the Abbatial Blessing was conferred on Mother Eustochium by Bishop Philip Egan of the Diocese of Portsmouth, at a concelebrated Mass in the Abbey Church. A large number of abbots, monks and other priests concelebrated, while the nave of the church was filled with friends of the Abbey. Within the enclosure the Sisters welcomed a number of abbesses and other representatives of Benedictine communities in the UK, France, USA, Canada and India, including the abbess of an Anglican Benedictine monastery.

A number of young women visited the Abbey during the year to discern their vocation.

Two young women entered the monastery as postulants.

Two postulants who entered in 2021 received the habit and began their novitiate.

One novice left the community, having decided that her vocation lay elsewhere; another novice made her temporary profession at a Mass on 19 November followed by a festive recreation.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

A junior made her solemn profession at a Mass on 14 September in the presence of the Bishops of Portsmouth and of Cork & Ross and a large gathering of priests, relatives and friends. The guests were given a buffet lunch, followed by festive recreation, tea, Vespers and Benediction.

Two elderly nuns died during the year, in February and August respectively, and were buried in the Abbey cemetery.

### Maintenance of the Abbey Buildings and Estate

In addition to the continuing programme of maintenance of the Abbey's extensive buildings, the following major works were undertaken:

- Provision of hot and cold-water supplies to the new Dairy;
- Replacement freezer;
- Renewal of doors in the cloister;
- Repairs to window mechanisms and replacing fogged window panes in various locations;
- Renewal of the front door of the Abbey;
- Replacement tumble drier;
- Replacing fluorescent lights with LED in various places;
- Repair of church roof gutters;
- Replacement scaffold tower;
- Painting and decorating in many parts of the Abbey.

Included in capital expenditure are the costs relating to the installation of a hot water boiler in the Service Room, and of a sink in the Laundry.

In addition to the continuing programme of maintenance of the rental and guest properties, the following major work was undertaken:

- Renewal of a WC at the Garth.

### Promotion of Gregorian Chant

The nuns continued work on the production of interlinear Latin/English booklets for the Divine Office for the use of visitors and postulants. These works require much time on the part of the nuns and also expenditure on paper and ink to make booklets of durable quality and suitable for their sacred function, but the nuns consider this work an important part of their apostolate.

A group of Anglican organists and choir directors who were visiting the Island heard a talk on Gregorian Chant from the choir-mistress of St Cecilia's.

### Ministry to Visitors and Retreatants

The Abbey Church was available all day throughout the year for those who wished to attend the daily Mass and eight services of the Divine Office, or for private prayer.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

The Abbey Chronicle, produced twice in the year, was sent to approximately 750 addresses free of charge. The Abbey also maintained a website on the life and work of the community, [www.stceciliabbey.org.uk](http://www.stceciliabbey.org.uk).

There is always a Sister available to welcome visitors or give counsel to anyone in need.

The Abbey's small retreat house, the Garth, welcomed 53 persons for retreats. Though most retreatants make donations for their stay, no charge is levied, and this year offerings were not made for 34 nights. The retreatants were able to participate in the Divine Office and to see the Guest Mistress or other nuns for spiritual counsel if they wished.

The Lower Lodge flat which was renovated in 2021 was also available as additional accommodation for short-term guests or retreatants.

Visiting groups included the First Holy Communicants from a local parish and ladies from two Anglican Mothers' Union groups.

The numbers of secular oblates remained steady at about 40. The oblates received their own letter of news several times in the year. A number visited the Abbey to receive spiritual counsel from the Oblate Mistress. A novice-oblate made her oblation in June. An oblate weekend was held in October, during which the oblates heard talks from Mother Abbess and other Sisters on such subjects as the Te Deum, fear of the Lord, and the Lukan parables on prayer. A group of local oblates meets regularly for fellowship and mutual support.

After the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, a solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated at the Abbey.

### Assistance to and Collaboration with Other Religious Communities

Barrington Cottage continues to be let to a consecrated hermit at a low rent.

A property on the mainland continues to be let to another religious community at a low rent.

The Abbey made a donation of £150,000 to another community in the Solesmes Congregation, Quarr Abbey, which was in particular need. St Cecilia's also made a further payment of £105,022 in fulfilment of the commitment to the Monastery of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Westfield, to pay for their new altar bread machinery (the full amount of the commitment to Westfield was accounted for in 2019).

A nun from a Benedictine abbey in Nigeria was welcomed for two weeks for intensive instruction in Gregorian Chant.

Mother Abbess attended the assembly of the Union of Monastic Superiors of Great Britain and Ireland at Buckfast Abbey in May, the Abbatial Blessing of the new Abbot of Solesmes in July, and the Chapitre des Abbesses of the Solesmes Congregation at the Monastery of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Westfield, in September.

### Other Activities of the Community

The Altar Bread Department continued to be the nuns' principal means of earning their living. After a severe fall in demand during the pandemic and its aftermath, sales have started to increase.

The Sisters continued the venture of selling home-made soap, which has proved very popular, especially with the visitors to Quarr Abbey.

There were also modest sales of rosaries, candles, pyrography and knitted items made by the nuns, together with other pious goods and religious books. There was only modest income from the art studio (calligraphy and illumination) but the younger Sisters are being trained in these arts so that there is hope for future development. The candle department provides candles for the needs of St Cecilia's Abbey and Quarr Abbey, as well as for sale in the Abbey shop. The wax for this work comes entirely from the Abbey's bees and from old candle-ends and wax scrapings recycled.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

The Abbey's bees continued to be valued chiefly for the pollination of the orchard and soft fruit.

The extensive vegetable garden continued to be maintained by the young nuns. This garden, the orchard (apples, pears, plums, quince, walnuts, hazelnuts, cobnuts) and the soft fruit cages (blackberries, boysenberries, loganberries, raspberries, gooseberries, strawberries) are an important source of food for the nuns.

At the beginning of 2021 Gracewing published *Our Father: a Biblical meditation on the Lord's Prayer* by Sr Claire Waddelove. During 2022 favourable reviews were published in *Cistercian Studies Quarterly* and on the website *The Imaginative Conservative*. The collection of writings of Sr Mary David Totah, *The Joy of God*, was published in 2022 in French by Éditions de Solesmes under the title *La Joie de Dieu*, and in Polish by Wydawnictwo W Drodze under the title *Droga do Radości*. Sr Laetitia Payne collaborated on an English translation of *À l'école de Saint Benoît* by Abbot Xavier Perrin, which was published by Gracewing under the title *The School of St Benedict*.

During the year one of the Sisters contributed articles to the German publication, *Die Tagespost*.

### CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

There were no capital commitments at 31 December 2022.

### LEGACY

As noted in the accounts for 2021, the Charity has been informed that it is the principal beneficiary under the will of a friend of the Abbey who died in Scotland in early 2022. The legacy has been estimated at £700,000. Confirmation of the estate was obtained from the Scottish Courts only in October 2023 and consequently it has not been recognised in the 2022 accounts.

### SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AFTER THE YEAR END

Mother Ninian Eaglesham ceased to act as a trustee after her retirement. In February 2023 Mother Abbess appointed Sr Gertrude (Clare) Quayle to replace her, and Sr Madeleine McCann to replace Sr Marie Bernard (Hadwig) Eckhardt, who has also retired.

The final payment of £37,446 to the Monastery of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for its new altar bread equipment was made in February 2023.

### PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

A Czech translation of *The Joy of God* is in preparation.

The tenant who has occupied the Upper Lodge for many years moved elsewhere in April 2023. The Charity has decided to renovate the flat with a view to using it as additional accommodation for guests and retreatants.

The tenants at the property on the mainland have given notice of their intention to move elsewhere before the end of 2023, though by October 2023 no date had been set. The trustees intend to sell the property once the tenants no longer need it.

No significant changes in the activities of the Charity are planned. The Charity intends to continue to maintain the Community at St Cecilia's Abbey and the celebration of the Divine Office.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

### FINANCIAL REVIEW AND RESERVE POLICY

During the year, the Abbey received income totalling £895,334 (2021: £801,011). The on-going principal sources of income were £600,870 (2021: £522,426) investment income, £83,635 (2021: £59,703) from the sale of Altar Breads and £109,194 (2021: £106,965) from the pensions and allowances received for the nuns. In addition to this, the Abbey benefitted from legacies and dowries of £27,361 (2021: £43,404). Gifts from benefactors were £57,515 (2021: £45,080). Expenditure for the year amounted to £735,379 (2021: £617,974). Of this, £393,141 (2021: £397,710) related to the costs of maintaining the religious community, £201,395 (2021: £87,812) to the grants and donations made, £31,278 (2021: £28,575) to the costs associated with the Altar Bread production and shop sales, £24,982 (2021: £18,463) to church expenses and £7,996 (2021: £4,131) to the costs of running the retreat house. £76,587 (2021: £81,283) was spent on raising funds including investment managers' fees and rental property expenses.

After taking into account the net loss on the revaluation of investment assets of £1,195,347 (2021: net gain of £1,630,869), the charity had net expenditure for the year of £1,035,392 (2021: net income £1,813,906). The charity's funds mainly comprise tangible fixed assets and an investment portfolio which was valued at £20,485,581 (2021: £21,397,633).

The Trustees have reviewed the reserves and income of the Charity against its immediate and foreseeable needs and are satisfied that the reserves are not excessive and should be sufficient to meet their needs. The Trustees consider that the long term nature of the Trust's charitable objectives requires that it retain some of its surplus income as reserves. These reserves are necessary in order to secure the future ability of the Charity to support the religious community at St Cecilia's Abbey. At 31 December 2022, the total reserves of the charity were £24,987,613. Of this total, £1,946,861 are restricted reserves that are not available for the general purposes of the charity. The Trustees have designated funds totalling £11,085,277 including a fixed asset and PRI fund that represents those funds 'tied up' in fixed assets and programme related investments and a number of other reserves, full details of which can be found in note 13. At 31 December 2022 general unrestricted funds stood at £11,955,475.

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

#### Investment performance

The investment policy of the Trustees is to maintain and enhance the real value of their assets over the long term by investment in a portfolio comprising equities, fixed income stocks and cash. The investment policy, drawn up in consultation with Charles Stanley, aims to ensure a steady stream of dividend income while taking capital gains when an attractive opportunity arises.

The main portfolio is split between a capital account with a balanced objective and an income account with an income objective. The investment managers do not work to a fixed benchmark but use market indices to gauge the performance of the portfolios.

The Abbey's investment income for 2022 was 15% higher than in 2021 and at £600,870 is approaching the pre pandemic level seen in 2019 of £649,407.

#### **Risk management**

The Sisters entrust themselves and their future to Divine Providence. Knowing, however, that part of the proper exercise of this trust is the careful stewardship of the resources which Providence has granted, the trustees have considered the risks faced by the charity.

The risk which requires most attention from the Trustees is the possibility of the decline of the community of nuns at St Cecilia's Abbey. The object of the Charity could not be achieved without the presence of a monastic community. As recruitment and retention of new members, under the Holy Spirit, is largely

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

dependent on the fervour and integrity with which the nuns follow their calling, the effective apostolate of the Charity requires paradoxically constant vigilance to safeguard the silence and seclusion of the monastery. The Trustees strive to mitigate the risk of such a decline by managing the assets of the Charity appropriately and providing the resources necessary to support this effort. In particular, a continuous programme of maintenance of the buildings and grounds of the Abbey obviates the risk of major works and all the disruption they would entail. Investment in modern machinery reduces the need for seculars within the enclosure, while provision of the modern means of communication reduces the need for exits by the nuns. While frugality should characterize the life-style of the Sisters, the Trustees ensure that funds are available to maintain the library and pay for outside speakers when appropriate. The sick and elderly of the community are seen as a special treasure, and the trustees watch that sufficient resources are available to ensure their proper care.

The Charity's investment portfolio is a major support in providing funds for the Abbey's own needs and charitable giving. The Trustees consider the variability of returns on the portfolio to be the Charity's major financial risk. To reduce this risk they maintain a diversified portfolio and use the services of investment advisors who are not only experts in the charity sector but who also know the Abbey well and understand its ethos.

In this era of increasing government legislation and third-party litigation, the Trustees note also the risks which these present to the Abbey. The Trustees seek to reduce these risks by using the services of experts in the relevant fields (for example, lawyers, financial advisers, insurance brokers) and also engage health and safety and employment law services to provide the knowledge which the trustees may lack.

In making charitable donations the Abbey risks that these grants will be ineffective. The Trustees reduce this risk by donating in the main to charities which are well known to them and whose accounts are available for inspection. Where necessary they seek the advice of relevant professionals or other charities in the field.

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

St Cecilia's Abbey is a charity established and governed by a Trust Deed dated 1 November 2000.

The Abbey is governed by the Abbess, who is elected for life by the nuns. She is advised by her prioress and by a council consisting of the prioress, a nun chosen by the Abbess and two nuns elected by the community. The Abbess appoints a bursar who oversees the financial affairs of the charity.

Trustees are appointed by the Abbess from members of the community and decisions are made on a majority basis. The Trustees in office during the period and at the date of this report are set out on page 7.

All of the Trustees are senior nuns of the community and, as such, have an in depth knowledge of the charity. The Trustees also seek guidance whenever necessary from professional firms (for example, accountants, solicitors, investment managers, insurance brokers) of suitable standing and with wide knowledge of the religious charity sector.

St Cecilia's Abbey is a member of the Benedictine Congregation of Solesmes, a grouping of abbeys and priories in several countries which have a common history and traditions, derived from the Abbey of S-Pierre de Solesmes, France. The nuns at St Cecilia's follow the Rule of St Benedict as interpreted by the

Declarations of the Abbey of Ste-Cécile de Solesmes. The chief financial consequence of the Rule and Declarations is that any activities of the Abbey must not trespass on the strictly enclosed contemplative life of the nuns, which finds its principal expression in the praise of God in the Divine Office. In accordance with the aforesaid Rule and Declarations, the Abbey of St Cecilia is an independent religious community and its financial affairs are in the hands of the nuns themselves.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The name of the Charity: St Cecilia's Abbey

Charity registration number: 1088086

Address: St Cecilia's Abbey  
Appley Rise  
Ryde  
Isle of Wight  
PO33 1LH

Trustees: E Eaglesham (retired 22 January 2022)  
H Eckhardt (retired 22 February 2023)  
E Lee  
A-M Fiévet  
C Quale (appointed 22 February 2023)  
M McCann (appointed 22 February 2023)

The custodian trustees at 31 December 2022 were as above.

**Solicitors:** Tozers Solicitors  
Southernhay West  
Exeter  
EX1 1UA

**Auditors:** Francis Clark LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Sigma House  
Oak View Close  
Edginswell Park  
Torquay  
TQ2 7FF

**Bankers:** HSBC  
38 Union Street  
Ryde  
Isle of Wight  
PO33 2LJ

**Investment Managers:** Charles Stanley Limited  
25 Luke Street  
London  
EC2A 4AR

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

### Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

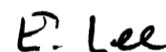
The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and 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 then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in 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 business.

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 Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. 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.

**Signed on behalf of the Trustees**



**Trustee**

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of St. Cecilia's Abbey

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of St. Cecilia's Abbey (the "Charity") for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the statement of Cash Flows and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial reporting Standard in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described 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 the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, 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 when the original 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 other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 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.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of St. Cecilia's Abbey

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report;
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

### **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 8 the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees 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, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditor under the Charities Act 2011, s144 and report in accordance with regulations made under the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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 (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

As part of our audit planning we obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that is applicable to the Charity and the sector in which it operates to identify the key laws and regulations affecting the Charity. The key regulations we identified were Charity legislation and Charity Commission requirements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements, primarily the Charities Act and the Charities SORP.

We discussed with management how the compliance with these laws and regulations is monitored and discussed policies and procedures in place. We also identified the individuals who have responsibility for ensuring that the Charity complies with laws and regulations and deals with reporting any issues if they arise. As part of our planning procedures, we assessed the risk of any non-compliance with laws and regulations on the Charity's ability to continue its activities and the risk of material misstatement to the accounts.

## St Cecilia's Abbey

### Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of St. Cecilia's Abbey

Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Our procedures involved the following:

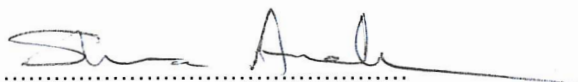
- Enquiries of management and those charged with governance regarding their knowledge of any non-compliance with laws and regulations by the charity that could affect the financial statements.
- As part of these enquiries we also discussed with management whether there have been any known instances, allegations or suspicions of fraud, of which there were none.
- Reviewed filings with the Charity Commission and enquired with management whether there were any Serious Incident Reports made during the year of which there were none.
- Reviewed legal and professional costs to identify any possible non compliance or legal costs in respect of non compliance;
- Reviewed Board minutes;
- Audited the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business of which there were none.
- Reviewed estimates and judgements made in the accounts for any indication of bias and challenged assumptions used by management in making the estimates.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements. This risk increases the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements as we are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

#### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Charity trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the trustees those matters we are required to state to trustees in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



(Senior Statutory Auditor)  
Francis Clark LLP, Statutory Auditor

Sigma House  
Oak View Close  
Edginswell Park  
Torquay  
TQ2 7FF

Date 26 October 2023

Francis Clark LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 December 2022

|                                    |       | Restricted Fund  | Unrestricted Funds | 2022 Total Funds   | 2021 Total Funds  |
|------------------------------------|-------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
|                                    | Notes | £                | £                  | £                  | £                 |
| <b>Income from:</b>                |       |                  |                    |                    |                   |
| Donations and legacies             | 3     | -                | 84,876             | 84,876             | 88,484            |
| Retreat income                     |       | -                | 3,465              | 3,465              | 5,210             |
| Nuns' pensions and allowances      |       | -                | 109,194            | 109,194            | 106,965           |
| Charitable activities:-            |       |                  |                    |                    |                   |
| Sale of Altar Breads               |       | -                | 83,635             | 83,635             | 59,703            |
| Other Shop Sales                   |       | -                | 8,920              | 8,920              | 9,067             |
| Investment income                  | 4     | -                | 600,870            | 600,870            | 522,426           |
| Other                              |       | -                | 4,374              | 4,374              | 9,156             |
| <b>Total</b>                       |       | -                | <b>895,334</b>     | <b>895,334</b>     | <b>801,011</b>    |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>             |       |                  |                    |                    |                   |
| Raising funds:                     |       |                  |                    |                    |                   |
| Investment managers' fees          |       | -                | 65,114             | 65,114             | 56,630            |
| Rental property expenses           |       | -                | 11,473             | 11,473             | 24,653            |
| Charitable activities:             |       |                  |                    |                    |                   |
| Altar breads and shop expenses     |       | -                | 31,278             | 31,278             | 28,575            |
| Retreat expenses                   |       | -                | 7,996              | 7,996              | 4,131             |
| Church expenses                    |       | -                | 24,982             | 24,982             | 18,463            |
| Costs of maintaining the community | 6     | -                | 393,141            | 393,141            | 397,710           |
| Grants and donations               | 5     | -                | 201,395            | 201,395            | 87,812            |
| <b>Total</b>                       |       | -                | <b>735,379</b>     | <b>735,379</b>     | <b>617,974</b>    |
| Net (losses)/ gains on investments | 9     | -                | (1,195,347)        | (1,195,347)        | 1,630,869         |
| <b>Net (expenditure)/income</b>    |       | -                | <b>(1,035,392)</b> | <b>(1,035,392)</b> | <b>1,813,906</b>  |
| Transfers between funds            | 12    | 339,902          | (339,902)          | -                  | -                 |
| <b>Net movement in funds</b>       |       | <b>339,902</b>   | <b>(1,375,294)</b> | <b>(1,035,392)</b> | <b>1,813,906</b>  |
| <b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>    |       |                  |                    |                    |                   |
| Total Funds brought forward        |       | 1,606,959        | 24,416,046         | 26,023,005         | 24,209,099        |
| <b>Total funds carried forward</b> |       | <b>1,946,861</b> | <b>23,040,752</b>  | <b>24,987,613</b>  | <b>26,023,005</b> |

The notes on page 15 to 25 form part of these accounts.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Balance Sheet

31 December 2022

|                                                | Notes | 2022<br>£          | 2021<br>£          |
|------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Fixed assets</b>                            |       |                    |                    |
| Tangible assets                                | 8     | 5,781,139          | 5,814,592          |
| Investments                                    | 9     | 20,485,581         | 21,397,633         |
|                                                |       | <u>26,266,720</u>  | <u>27,212,225</u>  |
| <b>Current assets</b>                          |       |                    |                    |
| Stock                                          |       | 4,700              | 4,700              |
| Debtors                                        | 10    | 75,582             | 107,260            |
| Cash at bank and in hand                       |       | 84,563             | 210,830            |
|                                                |       | <u>164,845</u>     | <u>322,790</u>     |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                             |       |                    |                    |
| Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year | 11    | (1,443,952)        | (1,512,010)        |
|                                                |       | <u>(1,279,107)</u> | <u>(1,189,220)</u> |
| <b>Net current liabilities</b>                 |       |                    |                    |
|                                                |       | <u>(1,279,107)</u> | <u>(1,189,220)</u> |
| <b>Total Net assets</b>                        |       |                    |                    |
|                                                |       | <u>24,987,613</u>  | <u>26,023,005</u>  |
| <b>The funds of the charity:-</b>              |       |                    |                    |
| Restricted funds                               | 12    | 1,946,861          | 1,606,959          |
| Unrestricted funds:                            | 13    |                    |                    |
| Designated funds                               |       | 11,085,277         | 11,806,924         |
| General funds                                  |       | 11,955,475         | 12,609,122         |
|                                                |       | <u>24,987,613</u>  | <u>26,023,005</u>  |

Approved by the Trustees on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

*E. Lee*

Trustee

The notes on page 15 to 25 form part of these accounts.

## St Cecilia's Abbey

### Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of St. Cecilia's Abbey

Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Our procedures involved the following:

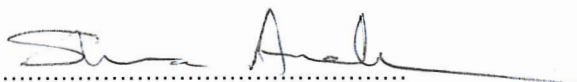
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- As part of these enquiries we also discussed with management whether there have been any known instances, allegations or suspicions of fraud, of which there were none.
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- Reviewed legal and professional costs to identify any possible non compliance or legal costs in respect of non compliance;
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- Audited the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business of which there were none.
- Reviewed estimates and judgements made in the accounts for any indication of bias and challenged assumptions used by management in making the estimates.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements. This risk increases the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements as we are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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#### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Charity trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the trustees those matters we are required to state to trustees in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



(Senior Statutory Auditor)  
Francis Clark LLP, Statutory Auditor

Sigma House  
Oak View Close  
Edginswell Park  
Torquay  
TQ2 7FF

Date 26 October 2023

Francis Clark LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Statement of Cash Flows

Year Ended 31 December 2022

|                                                                           | Notes     | 2022<br>£        | 2021<br>£        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>                              |           |                  |                  |
| <b>Net Cash (used in) operating activities</b>                            | <b>17</b> | <b>(435,695)</b> | <b>(108,092)</b> |
| <b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>                              |           |                  |                  |
| Dividends, interest and rents from investments                            | <b>4</b>  | <b>600,870</b>   | 522,426          |
| Purchase of property and equipment                                        | <b>8</b>  | <b>(8,148)</b>   | (5,950)          |
| Net investments in investment portfolio                                   | <b>9</b>  | <b>(483,294)</b> | (428,970)        |
| Cash withdrawn from investment portfolio                                  |           | <b>200,000</b>   | -                |
| <b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>                          |           | <b>309,428</b>   | <b>87,506</b>    |
| <b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>        |           | <b>(126,267)</b> | <b>(20,586)</b>  |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period</b> |           | <b>210,830</b>   | 231,416          |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>       |           | <b>84,563</b>    | <b>210,830</b>   |

The notes on page 15 to 25 form part of these accounts.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2022

### 1 Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

(a) **Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern**

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared on an accruals basis under the historical cost convention, except for the valuation of investments at market value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

(b) **Fund accounting**

- (i) The Charity's unrestricted general fund consists of funds which the Charity may use for its charitable purposes at its discretion.
- (ii) The Charity has designated certain funds. Further details are contained in note 13. There is no legal force for the designations.
- (iii) The Charity has one restricted fund. Further details of this fund can be found in note 12.

(c) **Income recognition**

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

*Donations and legacies*

Donations are recognised when the Trust has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date.

Where the charity does not have discretion in the collection and distribution of donations and has no entitlement to the donations, then these amounts are conduit funding. Amounts relating to conduit funding are not included in the Statement of Financial Activities of the Charity.

Legacy gifts are recognised on a case by case basis following the granting of probate when the administrator/executor for the estate has communicated in writing both the amount and settlement date.

*Retreat income*

This relates to the donations received from retreatants and is recognised on a receivable basis.

*Nuns' pensions and allowances*

Pensions and allowances are recognised on a receivable basis.

*Altar bread and shop income*

Income from the sale of altar breads and shop sales is recognised when the goods are despatched.

*Investment income*

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis. Where income is receivable net of basic rate tax, the gross amount of income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) as investment income. No adjustment is made for accrued income included in the price of securities that were acquired or disposed of during the year.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2022

### 1 Accounting Policies (continued)

#### (d) Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and includes irrecoverable VAT. All costs have been directly attributed to one of the categories of resources expended in the SOFA.

- Costs of raising funds consist of investment managers' fees and the costs associated with rental properties.
- Costs of charitable activities include the costs of maintaining the community, grants and donations made, the costs associated with the production of altar breads and the sale of religious items as well as church, retreat house, and programme related property expenses.

#### (e) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible assets donated on the creation of the Trust have been valued in accordance with their insurance values at that time. Subsequent additions are included at cost or, in the case of property transferred from investments, at its insurance value. Replacement fixtures, furniture and equipment are charged to the SOFA in the year in which the expense is incurred.

Tangible assets other than freehold land are depreciated over their estimated useful lives, at the following rates:-

|                                  |       |               |
|----------------------------------|-------|---------------|
| Abbey buildings                  | 0%    | straight line |
| Other leasehold buildings        | 2%    | straight line |
| Fixtures, fittings and equipment | 5-10% | straight line |

No depreciation is provided on the Abbey buildings. It is the Charity's policy to maintain the Abbey in such a condition that the value is not impaired by the passage of time. Such expenditure is charged in the year it is committed. The nature of the Abbey owned by the Charity is such that it is unlikely to suffer from economic changes or technical advances. As a consequence any element of depreciation would, in the opinion of the Trustees, be immaterial and therefore no provision has been made.

The valuation of the Abbey buildings is reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances suggest that the carrying value may be in excess of its recoverable amount. Recoverable amount is the higher of net realisable value and value in use (which is measured on the basis of the worth of the service delivery of the asset). Where an impairment has occurred, the carrying value of the asset is written down to its recoverable amount, and the revised value of the asset is depreciated over its remaining useful life. The impairment loss is charged to the Statement of Financial Activities ("SOFA").

#### (f) Financial instruments

The Abbey only has financial assets and other financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. These comprise cash and bank balances, short term trade and other debtors and creditors and listed investments.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value. They are derecognised when the contractual rights to cash flows from the assets expire or substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are transferred to another party or in the case of liabilities when obligations are discharged.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2022

### 1 Accounting Policies *(continued)*

#### (g) Investments

- (i) Quoted investments are originally recorded at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value at the balance sheet date using the quoted market price.
- (ii) Investment properties have been valued at fair value as follows. Investment properties donated on the creation of the Trust have been valued in accordance with their current insurance values. Investment properties subsequently acquired are initially valued at cost and thereafter revalued in line with the movement in the house price index.
- (iii) Programme related investments are included in the balance sheet at cost less any impairments.
- (iv) Realised and unrealised gains and losses on the investments are credited/charged directly to the Statement of Financial Activities.
- (v) All investments, including bank balances held as part of the investment portfolio, are included as fixed assets.

#### (h) Dowries

Dowries represent monies introduced by the nuns when they take their solemn or perpetual vows, or legacies which they subsequently receive. Although not legally repayable, the Trustees consider that they have a compelling moral obligation to repay these sums in the event that a nun leaves the Abbey and they are therefore shown as creditors. On the death of the nun they are released to the Statement of Financial Activities.

#### (i) Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the net gains arising on the revaluation and disposal of investment assets.

### 2 Related party transactions and trustees' expenses and remuneration

All trustees are nuns of St Cecilia's Abbey and do not receive any remuneration by virtue of their position as trustees.

The charity maintains and supports the trustees in the same way as nuns who are not trustees. As this is part of the charitable objects of the charity it is not seen to be remuneration for their services as trustees.

No expenses have been paid or reimbursed to the trustees by virtue of their position as trustees.

During the year trustees donated their pensions and allowances totalling £18,304 to the charity (2021: £24,193), as well as dowries of £1,000 (2021: £174,000).

| 3 Income                         | 2022<br>£     | 2021<br>£     |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Donations and legacies:</b>   |               |               |
| Legacies and dowries             | 27,361        | 43,404        |
| Other gifts and donations        | 57,515        | 45,080        |
|                                  | <u>84,876</u> | <u>88,484</u> |
| <i>Other gifts and donations</i> |               |               |

Includes £nil (2021: £nil) restricted income.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2022

|                                                          |                       |                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>4 Investment Income (unrestricted)</b>                | <b>2022</b>           | <b>2021</b>           |
|                                                          | <b>£</b>              | <b>£</b>              |
| Income received from:                                    |                       |                       |
| Properties                                               | <b>42,593</b>         | 40,962                |
| Listed investments                                       | <b>558,027</b>        | 481,443               |
| Cash held as part of an investment portfolio and at bank | <b>250</b>            | 21                    |
|                                                          | <b><u>600,870</u></b> | <b><u>522,426</u></b> |

## 5 Grants Payable

During the year the following grants and donations were made:

|                                    | <b>2022</b>           |                  | <b>2021</b>          |                  |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|
|                                    | <b>£</b>              | <b>Number</b>    | <b>£</b>             | <b>Number</b>    |
| Individuals:                       |                       |                  |                      |                  |
| Grants to people in financial need | <b>449</b>            | <b>7</b>         | 120                  | 2                |
| Institutions involved in:          |                       |                  |                      |                  |
| Religious Welfare                  | <b>180,466</b>        | <b>26</b>        | 67,362               | 15               |
| Overseas Aid                       | <b>8,500</b>          | <b>7</b>         | 9,950                | 8                |
| Children                           | <b>600</b>            | <b>1</b>         | 800                  | 2                |
| Medical                            | <b>3,620</b>          | <b>4</b>         | 2,520                | 4                |
| Poor                               | <b>4,800</b>          | <b>5</b>         | 4,600                | 5                |
| Other                              | <b>2,960</b>          | <b>5</b>         | 2,460                | 5                |
|                                    | <b><u>200,946</u></b> | <b><u>48</u></b> | <b><u>87,692</u></b> | <b><u>39</u></b> |
| Total                              | <b><u>201,395</u></b> | <b><u>55</u></b> | <b><u>87,812</u></b> | <b><u>41</u></b> |

Included in the grants above is £nil (2021: £nil) relating to restricted funds.

Included in the above institutional grants are the following amounts greater than £1,000:

|                                     | <b>£</b>       |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| ACN                                 | <b>15,000</b>  |
| Grief to Grace                      | <b>1,000</b>   |
| Holy See                            | <b>3,250</b>   |
| Ethiopaid                           | <b>2,000</b>   |
| International Refugee Trust         | <b>1,000</b>   |
| Mary's Meals                        | <b>2,500</b>   |
| Opportunity International           | <b>1,000</b>   |
| Earl Mountbatten Hospice            | <b>3,100</b>   |
| De Paul Trust                       | <b>1,000</b>   |
| Emmaus                              | <b>1,200</b>   |
| Missionaries of Charity, Manchester | <b>1,000</b>   |
| The Passage                         | <b>1,000</b>   |
| Jubilee                             | <b>1,240</b>   |
| Quarr Abbey                         | <b>150,000</b> |
| Portsmouth Diocese                  | <b>5,000</b>   |
| Kiln Green                          | <b>1,000</b>   |
| Practical Action                    | <b>1,000</b>   |

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2022

### 6 Costs of Maintaining the Community

|                                             | Designated<br>£ | Unrestricted<br>£ | 2022<br>£      | 2021<br>£      |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Wages Costs                                 | -               | 98,546            | 98,546         | 95,918         |
| Nuns' NIC                                   | -               | 3,218             | 3,218          | 5,256          |
| Repairs, renewals and maintenance           | -               | 70,755            | 70,755         | 98,046         |
| Heat and light                              | -               | 22,500            | 22,500         | 16,710         |
| Postage, phone and stationery               | -               | 8,835             | 8,835          | 11,123         |
| Water rates and council tax                 | -               | 8,052             | 8,052          | 7,828          |
| Household provisions                        | -               | 28,443            | 28,443         | 23,115         |
| Insurance                                   | -               | 17,990            | 17,990         | 15,845         |
| Clothing                                    | -               | 2,761             | 2,761          | 2,046          |
| Gardening expenses                          | -               | 29,730            | 29,730         | 31,871         |
| Monastic hospitality                        | -               | 3,392             | 3,392          | 1,446          |
| Medical costs                               | -               | 19,272            | 19,272         | 11,111         |
| Library Costs                               | -               | 2,672             | 2,672          | 1,668          |
| Motor and travel expenses                   | -               | 6,945             | 6,945          | 1,491          |
| Advertising                                 | -               | 294               | 294            | 13,367         |
| Sundries                                    | -               | 12,917            | 12,917         | 8,363          |
| Depreciation                                | 41,051          | -                 | 41,051         | 40,817         |
| Legal and Professional<br><i>Governance</i> | -               | 3,108             | 3,108          | 109            |
| Auditors' remuneration - statutory audit    | -               | 6,500             | 6,500          | 6,000          |
| - other                                     | -               | 6,160             | 6,160          | 5,580          |
|                                             | <u>41,051</u>   | <u>352,090</u>    | <u>393,141</u> | <u>397,710</u> |

Included in the costs above is £nil (2021: £nil) relating to restricted funds.

| 7 Staff costs                    | 2022<br>£     | 2021<br>£     |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Gross wages and salaries         | 93,769        | 87,685        |
| Employer's national insurance    | 3,516         | 7,170         |
| Employer's pension contributions | 1,261         | 1,063         |
|                                  | <u>98,546</u> | <u>95,918</u> |
| Average number of staff          | <u>4</u>      | <u>5</u>      |

The charity considers its key management personnel comprise the Trustees only to whom no employment benefits were paid.

No employees received any employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2021: nil).

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2022

| 8 Tangible Fixed Assets         | Freehold<br>Property<br>£ | Leasehold<br>Property<br>£ | Fixtures<br>Fittings &<br>Equipment<br>£ | Total<br>£              |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Cost</b>                     |                           |                            |                                          |                         |
| At 1 January 2022               | 5,538,694                 | 200,655                    | 1,183,500                                | 6,922,849               |
| Additions                       | -                         | -                          | 8,148                                    | 8,148                   |
| Disposals                       | -                         | -                          | (550)                                    | (550)                   |
| <b>At 31 December 2022</b>      | <b><u>5,538,694</u></b>   | <b><u>200,655</u></b>      | <b><u>1,191,098</u></b>                  | <b><u>6,930,447</u></b> |
| <b>Accumulated Depreciation</b> |                           |                            |                                          |                         |
| At 1 January 2022               | -                         | 84,273                     | 1,023,984                                | 1,108,257               |
| Charge for the Year             | -                         | 4,013                      | 37,038                                   | 41,051                  |
| Disposals                       | -                         | -                          | -                                        | -                       |
| <b>At 31 December 2022</b>      | <b><u>-</u></b>           | <b><u>88,286</u></b>       | <b><u>1,061,022</u></b>                  | <b><u>1,149,308</u></b> |
| <b>Net Book Value</b>           |                           |                            |                                          |                         |
| <b>At 31 December 2022</b>      | <b><u>5,538,694</u></b>   | <b><u>112,369</u></b>      | <b><u>130,076</u></b>                    | <b><u>5,781,139</u></b> |
| At 31 December 2021             | <u>5,538,694</u>          | <u>116,382</u>             | <u>159,516</u>                           | <u>5,814,592</u>        |

Tangible assets donated on creation of the Trust have been valued in accordance with their insurance values at the time.

All tangible fixed assets are used in direct furtherance of the charity's objectives.

The leasehold property is held on a 1,000 year lease that expires in 2841.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2022

| 9 Investments                                                                           | 2022<br>£         | 2021<br>£         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Listed on a recognised stock exchange:</b>                                           |                   |                   |
| Market value of Portfolio at 1 January 2022                                             | 16,963,826        | 15,432,382        |
| Transfers to/(from) cash                                                                | (180,572)         | (421,216)         |
| Net investment (disposals)/additions made in the year                                   | 483,295           | 428,970           |
| Realised and unrealised gains/(losses) on investments                                   | (1,474,826)       | 1,523,690         |
|                                                                                         | <u>15,791,723</u> | <u>16,963,826</u> |
| <b>Market value at 31 December 2022</b>                                                 |                   |                   |
| <b>Cash held as part of the investment portfolio:</b>                                   |                   |                   |
| Balance at 1 January 2022                                                               | 1,950,675         | 1,529,459         |
| Transfers (to)/from listed investments                                                  | 180,572           | 421,216           |
| Withdrawn from investment                                                               | (200,000)         | -                 |
|                                                                                         | <u>1,931,247</u>  | <u>1,950,675</u>  |
| Balance at 31 December 2022                                                             |                   |                   |
| <b>UK Investment properties:</b>                                                        |                   |                   |
| Balance at 1 January 2022                                                               | 1,730,640         | 1,623,461         |
| Revaluation during year                                                                 | 279,479           | 107,179           |
|                                                                                         | <u>2,010,119</u>  | <u>1,730,640</u>  |
| Market value of investment property at 31 December 2022                                 |                   |                   |
| <b>Programme related property investments:</b>                                          |                   |                   |
| Balance at 1 January 2022 and cost of programme related investments at 31 December 2022 | 752,492           | 752,492           |
|                                                                                         | <u>20,485,581</u> | <u>21,397,633</u> |

The investment property donated on creation of the Trust has been valued by the Trustees on the basis of its building insurance value. The investment property purchased in 2015 has been included at indexed cost. These are considered to be fair values.

The programme related property investment has been made to support another religious order and is valued at cost.

The market value of the listed investments held at 31 December 2022 was £15,791,723 (2021: £16,963,826); of this value £5,097,949 (2021: £4,912,614) relates to non-UK investments. The cash held in the portfolio also includes £124,987 held in US\$ (2021: £nil).

The cost of listed investments at 31 December 2022 was £15,088,469 (2021: £14,703,748).

The trustees consider that there were no material individual investment holdings in the year that require disclosure.

All quoted investments are carried at their fair value. Investments in equities and fixed interest securities are all traded in quoted public markets. Holdings in common investment funds and unit trusts are valued at bid price. The basis of fair value for quoted investments is equivalent to the market value. Asset sales and purchases are recognised at the date of trade at cost (that is their transaction value).

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2022

### 10 Debtors

|                                | 2022<br>£     | 2021<br>£      |
|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Trade Debtors                  | 13,371        | 5,483          |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 62,211        | 101,777        |
|                                | <u>75,582</u> | <u>107,260</u> |

### 11 Creditors

|                   | 2022<br>£        | 2021<br>£        |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Other Creditors   | 85,595           | 179,633          |
| Repayable Dowries | 1,358,357        | 1,332,377        |
|                   | <u>1,443,952</u> | <u>1,512,010</u> |

### 12 Restricted Funds

The Congregation of Solesmes restricted fund represents an amount prescribed by the Congregation. It may not be expended without the Congregation's permission. The fund is held in the form of traded investments which enable it to be accessed if required. A transfer is made to or from the fund to ensure it continues to match the Congregation's requirements.

The movement on the restricted fund is shown below.

|                          | Balance at<br>1 Jan 2022<br>£ | Incoming<br>Gifts<br>£ | Transfers<br>£     | Expenditure<br>£ | Balance at<br>31 Dec 2022<br>£ |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Current year:</b>     |                               |                        |                    |                  |                                |
| Congregation of Solesmes | 1,606,959                     | -                      | 339,902            | -                | 1,946,861                      |
|                          | <u>1,606,959</u>              | <u>-</u>               | <u>339,902</u>     | <u>-</u>         | <u>1,946,861</u>               |
| <b>Previous year:</b>    |                               |                        |                    |                  |                                |
| Congregation of Solesmes | 2,660,616                     | -                      | (1,053,657)        | -                | 1,606,959                      |
|                          | <u>2,660,616</u>              | <u>-</u>               | <u>(1,053,657)</u> | <u>-</u>         | <u>1,606,959</u>               |

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2022

### 13 Unrestricted Funds

The movements on the designated and unrestricted funds are shown below.

| <b>Current year:</b>            | <b>Balance at<br/>1 Jan 2022</b> | <b>Income</b>  | <b>Expenditure/<br/>Transfers</b> | <b>Depreciation/<br/>Gains/<br/>(Losses)</b> | <b>Balance at<br/>31 Dec 2022</b> |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                                 | £                                | £              | £                                 | £                                            | £                                 |
| <b>Designated Funds</b>         |                                  |                |                                   |                                              |                                   |
| Repairs                         | 498,221                          | -              | (53,020)                          | -                                            | 445,201                           |
| Nursing Fees                    | 2,610,000                        | -              | (613,200)                         | -                                            | 1,996,800                         |
| Library and liturgical Books    | 22,243                           | -              | -                                 | -                                            | 22,243                            |
| Contingency Reserve             | 2,091,936                        | -              | (21,974)                          | -                                            | 2,069,962                         |
| Fixed Assets/PRI                | 6,567,084                        | -              | 7,598                             | (41,051)                                     | 6,533,631                         |
| New Car                         | 12,000                           | -              | -                                 | -                                            | 12,000                            |
| India                           | 440                              | -              | -                                 | -                                            | 440                               |
| Visiting Nuns Fund              | 5,000                            | -              | -                                 | -                                            | 5,000                             |
| <b>Total Designated Funds</b>   | <b>11,806,924</b>                | <b>-</b>       | <b>(680,596)</b>                  | <b>(41,051)</b>                              | <b>11,085,277</b>                 |
| Unrestricted General Fund       | 12,609,122                       | 895,334        | (353,634)                         | (1,195,347)                                  | 11,955,475                        |
| <b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b> | <b>24,416,046</b>                | <b>895,334</b> | <b>(1,034,230)</b>                | <b>(1,236,398)</b>                           | <b>23,040,752</b>                 |
| <b>Previous year:</b>           |                                  |                |                                   |                                              |                                   |
|                                 | <b>Balance at<br/>1 Jan 2021</b> | <b>Income</b>  | <b>Expenditure/<br/>Transfers</b> | <b>Depreciation/<br/>Gains/<br/>(Losses)</b> | <b>Balance at<br/>31 Dec 2021</b> |
|                                 | £                                | £              | £                                 | £                                            | £                                 |
| <b>Designated Funds</b>         |                                  |                |                                   |                                              |                                   |
| Repairs                         | 584,939                          | -              | (86,718)                          | -                                            | 498,221                           |
| Nursing Fees                    | 1,800,000                        | -              | 810,000                           | -                                            | 2,610,000                         |
| Library and liturgical Books    | 22,143                           | -              | 100                               | -                                            | 22,243                            |
| Contingency Reserve             | 2,092,875                        | -              | (939)                             | -                                            | 2,091,936                         |
| Fixed Assets/PRI                | 6,603,201                        | -              | 4,975                             | (41,092)                                     | 6,567,084                         |
| New Car                         | 12,000                           | -              | -                                 | -                                            | 12,000                            |
| India                           | 440                              | -              | -                                 | -                                            | 440                               |
| Visiting Nuns Fund              | 5,000                            | -              | -                                 | -                                            | 5,000                             |
| <b>Total Designated Funds</b>   | <b>11,120,598</b>                | <b>-</b>       | <b>727,418</b>                    | <b>(41,092)</b>                              | <b>11,806,924</b>                 |
| Unrestricted General Fund       | 10,427,885                       | 801,011        | (250,643)                         | 1,630,869                                    | 12,609,122                        |
| <b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b> | <b>21,548,483</b>                | <b>801,011</b> | <b>476,775</b>                    | <b>1,589,777</b>                             | <b>24,416,046</b>                 |

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2022

### 13 Unrestricted Funds *(continued)*

#### **Repairs fund**

This represents a reserve designated for building maintenance. A transfer from this fund has been made during the year so that the fund amounts to five years repair costs.

#### **Nursing fees**

This is a fund designated to meet the cost of nursing fees likely to be required if a Sister is in need of specialist care.

#### **Library books**

The Abbey has to meet the costs of providing new books for the library and choir. This fund is to ensure that these costs can be met as and when required.

#### **Contingency reserve**

This designation is to be used for emergency purposes and is based on the cost of maintaining the Community over the last five years. A transfer to the fund has been made during the year to reflect this.

#### **Fixed asset and PRI reserve**

This fund represents the net book value of the Charity's tangible fixed assets and programme related investments (PRI). A transfer is made to or from unrestricted reserves each year to ensure that the fund continues to reflect the net book value of these assets.

#### **New car**

This fund is for the purchase of a new car.

#### **India fund**

This is a fund used to account for gifts and donations from the monastery and from friends so that the Charity is able to assist in an emergency and pay for machinery for altar breads from other European countries.

#### **Visiting nuns reserve**

This designation is for anticipated long term costs that will arise in connection with Sisters staying at the Abbey.

### 14 Commitments

The charity has promised to allow a religious community to live in one of its properties for as long as the community needs it.

At 31 December 2022 and 31 December 2021 the Abbey had no capital commitments.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2022

### 15 Obligations under operating leases

Lessor

The total of future minimum lease payments receivable is as follows:

|                                                   | 2022<br>£    | 2021<br>£    |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Not later than one year                           | 5,062        | 5,032        |
| Later than one year and not later than five years | -            | 3,168        |
|                                                   | <u>5,062</u> | <u>8,200</u> |

### 16 Split of Assets Between Funds

|                        | Restricted<br>Fund<br>£ | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2022<br>Total<br>Funds<br>£ | 2021<br>Total<br>Funds<br>£ |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Represented by:</b> |                         |                            |                             |                             |
| Tangible fixed assets  | -                       | 5,781,139                  | 5,781,139                   | 5,814,592                   |
| Investments            | 1,946,861               | 18,538,720                 | 20,485,581                  | 21,397,633                  |
| Current assets         | -                       | 164,845                    | 164,845                     | 322,790                     |
| Current liabilities    | -                       | (1,443,952)                | (1,443,952)                 | (1,512,010)                 |
|                        | <u>1,946,861</u>        | <u>23,040,752</u>          | <u>24,987,613</u>           | <u>26,023,005</u>           |

### 17 Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash flow from operating activities

|                                                                                                         | 2022<br>£          | 2021<br>£        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| <b>Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)</b> | <b>(1,035,392)</b> | 1,813,906        |
| <b>Adjustments for:</b>                                                                                 |                    |                  |
| Depreciation charges                                                                                    | 41,051             | 41,092           |
| (Gains)/losses on investments                                                                           | 1,195,347          | (1,630,869)      |
| Loss on fixed assets                                                                                    | 549                | 975              |
| Dividends, interest and rents from investments                                                          | (600,870)          | (522,426)        |
| (Increase) /decrease in debtors                                                                         | 31,678             | (19,152)         |
| Increase / (decrease) in creditors                                                                      | (68,058)           | 208,382          |
| Net cash (used in) operating activities                                                                 | <u>(435,695)</u>   | <u>(108,092)</u> |

**ST CECILIA'S ABBEY RYDE ISLE OF WIGHT**

England & Wales - Charity number 1088086

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# Accounts

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**St Cecilia's Abbey**

**Annual Report**

**Year Ended 31 December 2021**

# St Cecilia's Abbey

Annual Report

Year Ended 31 December 2021

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# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2021.

### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The principal object of the Charity is the advancement of the Catholic religion. The principal means of advancing the Catholic religion is prayer, and the value and effects of this prayer can be measured only by God. Nevertheless the Charity undertakes the following activities in support of this aim.

The Charity maintains St Cecilia's Abbey and the community of Benedictine nuns which inhabits it. The chief work of the nuns is the celebration of the Divine Office, which is sung in Latin and in Gregorian Chant. Among communities of nuns in the British Isles St Cecilia's is unique in using Latin Gregorian Chant exclusively in its liturgy.

The nuns seek to earn their living by the production and sale of altar breads; they also undertake artistic commissions and sell religious books, recordings of their Gregorian Chant, rosaries and other pious articles, some of which are made by the nuns themselves.

The community share their contemplative life by welcoming visitors to their church and retreatants to the Garth, the Lower Lodge or the Hermitage, and through newsletters and the Internet. No charges are made for these services, and anyone is welcome to participate. The section below entitled 'Ministry to Visitors and Retreatants' explains these activities in more detail.

When possible the Abbey takes the opportunity to assist other religious communities, either by financial help or by providing hospitality to other contemplative nuns for long or short visits, for studies and training in crafts which can contribute to the development of their own communities, or for a time of rest.

The Charity makes a number of grants, at the discretion of the Abbess, to both institutions and individuals. Further details are contained in note 5.

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

### ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

#### The Abbey and the Community

At 31 December 2021 there were 26 solemnly or perpetually professed nuns in the community, two temporarily professed, four novices and two postulants.

A number of young women visited the Abbey during the year to discern their vocation.

Two young women entered the monastery as postulants.

Two postulants who entered in 2020 received the habit and began their novitiate.

A novice made her temporary profession at a Mass in August followed by a festive recreation.

A junior renewed her temporary vows in accordance with the new legislation for contemplative nuns, *Cor Orans*.

A Sister celebrated her Silver Jubilee of Profession in September, with a special Mass and a festive recreation.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

### Maintenance of the Abbey Buildings and Estate

In addition to the continuing programme of maintenance of the Abbey's extensive buildings, the following major works were undertaken:

- Renewal of part of the roof of St Mary's;
- Renewal of part of the roof of the Sacred Heart Oratory;
- Re-gilding of a number of gold and silver items for use at Mass;
- Installation of a radiator in the Altar Bread Bakery;
- Repair of lead and a corner slab on the roof of Holy Angels;
- Repainting of part of the gable of Holy Angels;
- Renewal of the roof of the Conservatory;
- Replacement of the door of the outside garage;
- Repair of the roof of the Little King corridor;
- Replacement of the front doors, cloister doors and the doors of St Scholastica;
- Renovation of sash windows in the Oratory, Novitiate and library;
- Decoration of St Mary's bathroom and Cell 6;
- Replacement of the boiler in the back kitchen;
- Repairs and improvements to the sound system in the church;
- Extension of the kitchen food store with new flooring and redecoration
- Transfer of the dairy to another site, with a new sink.

Included in capital expenditure are a replacement robot lawn-mower and iron railings for the extension to the nuns' cemetery.

In addition to the continuing programme of maintenance of the rental and guest properties, the following major works were undertaken:

- Replacement of the shower, carpets and vinyl in the Lower Lodge, and redecoration throughout;
- Renewal of the Lower Lodge garden;
- Replacement storage heater for the Upper Lodge.

### Promotion of Gregorian Chant

The nuns continued work on the production of interlinear Latin/English booklets for the Divine Office for the use of visitors and postulants. These works require much time on the part of the nuns and also expenditure on paper and ink to make booklets of durable quality and suitable for their sacred function, but the nuns consider this work an important part of their apostolate.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

### Ministry to Visitors and Retreatants

In spite of the pandemic, the Abbey Church was available all day throughout the year for those who wished to attend the daily Mass and eight services of the Divine Office, or for private prayer.

The Abbey Chronicle, produced twice in the year, was sent to approximately 750 addresses free of charge. The Abbey also maintained a website on the life and work of the community, [www.stceciliasabbey.org.uk](http://www.stceciliasabbey.org.uk). The website was completely renewed during the year.

There is always a Sister available to welcome visitors or give counsel to anyone in need. Because of the pandemic, the usual groups of Confirmation candidates and others were unable to visit.

The Abbey's small retreat house, the Garth, was closed from January to May 2021 on account of the pandemic. In the later part of the year it was open and welcomed 40 persons for retreats. Though most retreatants make donations for their stay, no charge is levied, and this year offerings were not made for sixteen nights. The retreatants were able to participate in the Divine Office and to see the Guest Mistress or other nuns for spiritual counsel if they wished.

The Lower Lodge flat which had become vacant at the end of 2020 was thoroughly renovated at the beginning of 2021 and equipped to serve as additional accommodation for short-term guests or retreatants.

The numbers of secular oblates remained steady at about 40. The oblates received their own letter of news and discussion of monastic spirituality several times in the year. Once household mixing was allowed, a number visited the Abbey to receive spiritual counsel from the Oblate Mistress. A novice-oblate made her oblation in September. During lockdown a group of oblates "met" by Zoom each week to sing Compline together. A group of local oblates meets regularly for fellowship and mutual support.

### Assistance to and Collaboration with Other Religious Communities

Barrington Cottage continues to be let to a consecrated hermit at a low rent.

A property on the mainland continues to be let to another religious community at a low rent.

As stated in note 5, the Abbey made a significant donation to another community in the Solesmes Congregation, Quarr Abbey, which was in particular need as a result of the pandemic.

### Other Activities of the Community

The Altar Bread Department continued to be the nuns' principal means of earning their living. The closure of churches and the suspension of the Sunday obligation meant that this income was much reduced in 2020. In 2021 there was a gradual increase in demand, but sales remain below what they were in 2019.

The Sisters continued the venture of selling home-made soap, which has proved very popular, especially with the visitors to Quarr Abbey.

There were also modest sales of rosaries, candles, pyrography and knitted items made by the nuns, together with other pious goods and religious books, though these too were less than usual, because of the lockdown in the first part of the year. There was only modest income from the art studio (calligraphy and illumination) but the younger Sisters are being trained in these arts so that there is hope for future development. The candle department provides candles for the needs of St Cecilia's Abbey and Quarr Abbey, as well as for sale in the Abbey shop. The wax for this work comes entirely from the Abbey's bees and from old candle-ends and wax scrapings recycled.

The Abbey's bees continued to be valued chiefly for the pollination of the orchard and soft fruit.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

The extensive vegetable garden continued to be maintained by the young nuns. This garden, the orchard (apples, pears, plums, quince, walnuts, hazelnuts, cobnuts) and the soft fruit cages (blackberries, boysenberries, loganberries, raspberries, gooseberries, strawberries) are an important source of food for the nuns.

At the beginning of 2021 Gracewing published *Our Father: a Biblical meditation on the Lord's Prayer* by Sr Claire Waddelove. Many readers wrote to express their appreciation and it has received complimentary reviews in *The Tablet*, *Faith Magazine* and elsewhere.

One of the Sisters contributed articles to the German publication, *Die Tagespost*.

### The Pandemic

As noted in the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020, the Coronavirus Pandemic prompted the Sisters to redouble their work of intercession for the world, both informally and by the addition of special prayers at the end of Vespers each day. These prayers continued throughout 2021.

In the national lockdown in the first few months of 2021 churches were permitted to remain open. The nuns accordingly kept their church open for the benefit of anyone who wished to attend services or to spend time in silent prayer. Thanks to the monks of Quarr Abbey, Mass was celebrated every day. The nuns continued to sing the Divine Office.

The restrictions on numbers in parish churches meant that even though Masses were permitted the demand for altar breads was weak. By August 2022 altar bread income for the year was still only 80% of what it had been at the same stage in 2019.

### **CAPITAL COMMITMENTS**

There were no capital commitments at 31 December 2021.

### **SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AFTER THE YEAR END**

On 3 January 2022 Mother Abbess Ninian Eaglesham announced to the community that on account of her failing health she had submitted her resignation to the Abbot President of the Solesmes Congregation and it had been accepted. This news caused profound sorrow to the nuns, who are immensely grateful for Mother Ninian's selfless service, wisdom and example during her thirty-five years as abbess. At the request of the Abbot President she remained in office until the Chapter of the community could elect her successor. On 17 January Mother Eustochium Lee, formerly Prioress, was elected and was confirmed in office by the Abbot President. The Abbatial Blessing was conferred by the Bishop of Portsmouth on 26 April.

### **PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

Translations of *The Joy of God* in French and Polish were published in 2022. A German translation is in preparation.

In 2019 the Charity made a commitment to pay for new altar bread machinery for a community of the Solesmes Congregation in the United States, to a total of 206,002 euros. This sum was accounted for in the accounts for that year. The first payment of £36,091 was made in that year. The project was delayed by the pandemic, and the second payment of £105,022 was made only in 2022. The balance should be paid towards the end of 2022 or the beginning of 2023. The Charity had acquired investments in euros as a hedge against exchange movements.

No significant changes in the activities of the Charity are planned. The Charity intends to continue to maintain the Community at St Cecilia's Abbey and the celebration of the Divine Office.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

### FINANCIAL REVIEW AND RESERVE POLICY

During the year, the Abbey received income totalling £801,011 (2020: £695,881). The on-going principal sources of income were £522,426 (2020: £466,949) investment income, £59,703 (2020: £43,703) from the sale of Altar Breads and £106,965 (2020: £101,535) from the pensions and allowances received for the nuns. In addition to this, the Abbey benefitted from legacies of £43,404 (2020: £11,500). Gifts from benefactors were £45,080 (2020: £50,383). Expenditure for the year amounted to £617,974 (2020: £535,653). Of this, £397,710 (2020: £379,008) related to the costs of maintaining the religious community, £87,812 (2020: £60,216) to the grants and donations made, £28,575 (2020: £19,367) to the costs associated with the Altar Bread production and shop sales, £18,463 (2020: £9,070) to church expenses and £4,131 (2020: £3,846) to the costs of running the retreat house. £81,283 (2020: £64,146) was spent on raising funds including investment managers' fees and rental property expenses.

After taking into account the net gain on the revaluation of investment assets of £1,630,869 (2020: net loss of £711,147), the charity had net income for the year of £1,813,906 (2020: net expenditure £550,919). The charity's funds mainly comprise tangible fixed assets and an investment portfolio which was valued at £21,397,633 (2020: £19,337,794).

The Trustees have reviewed the reserves and income of the Charity against its immediate and foreseeable needs and are satisfied that the reserves are not excessive and should be sufficient to meet their needs. The Trustees consider that the long term nature of the Trust's charitable objectives requires that it retain some of its surplus income as reserves. These reserves are necessary in order to secure the future ability of the Charity to support the religious community at St Cecilia's Abbey. At 31 December 2021, the total reserves of the charity were £26,023,005. Of this total, £1,606,959 are restricted reserves that are not available for the general purposes of the charity. The Trustees have designated funds totalling £11,865,934 including a fixed asset and PRI fund that represents those funds 'tied up' in fixed assets and programme related investments and a number of other reserves, full details of which can be found in note 13. At 31 December 2021 general unrestricted funds stood at £12,550,112.

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

#### Investment performance

The investment policy of the Trustees is to maintain and enhance the real value of their assets over the long term by investment in a portfolio comprising equities, fixed income stocks and cash. The investment policy, drawn up in consultation with Charles Stanley, aims to ensure a steady stream of dividend income while taking capital gains when an attractive opportunity arises.

The main portfolio is split between a capital account with a balanced objective and an income account with an income objective. The investment managers do not work to a fixed benchmark but use market indices to gauge the performance of the portfolios.

The Abbey's investment income for 2021 was 12% higher than in 2020 but at £522,426 was still significantly less than the pre pandemic level seen in 2019 of £649,407. Nevertheless, the Trustees do not foresee any difficulty in continuing the work of the Charity.

#### **Risk management**

The Sisters entrust themselves and their future to Divine Providence. Knowing, however, that part of the proper exercise of this trust is the careful stewardship of the resources which Providence has granted, the trustees have considered the risks faced by the charity.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

The risk which requires most attention from the Trustees is the possibility of the decline of the community of nuns at St Cecilia's Abbey. The object of the Charity could not be achieved without the presence of a monastic community. As recruitment and retention of new members, under the Holy Spirit, is largely dependent on the fervour and integrity with which the nuns follow their calling, the effective apostolate of the Charity requires paradoxically constant vigilance to safeguard the silence and seclusion of the monastery. The Trustees strive to mitigate the risk of such a decline by managing the assets of the Charity appropriately and providing the resources necessary to support this effort. In particular, a continuous programme of maintenance of the buildings and grounds of the Abbey obviates the risk of major works and all the disruption they would entail. Investment in modern machinery reduces the need for seculars within the enclosure, while provision of the modern means of communication reduces the need for exits by the nuns. While frugality should characterize the life-style of the Sisters, the Trustees ensure that funds are available to maintain the library and pay for outside speakers when appropriate. The sick and elderly of the community are seen as a special treasure, and the trustees watch that sufficient resources are available to ensure their proper care.

The Charity's investment portfolio is a major support in providing funds for the Abbey's own needs and charitable giving. The Trustees consider the variability of returns on the portfolio to be the Charity's major financial risk. To reduce this risk they maintain a diversified portfolio and use the services of investment advisors who are not only experts in the charity sector but who also know the Abbey well and understand its ethos.

In this era of increasing government legislation and third-party litigation, the Trustees note also the risks which these present to the Abbey. The Trustees seek to reduce these risks by using the services of experts in the relevant fields (for example, lawyers, financial advisers, insurance brokers) to provide the knowledge which the trustees may lack.

In making charitable donations the Abbey risks that these grants will be ineffective. The Trustees reduce this risk by donating in the main to charities which are well known to them and whose accounts are available for inspection. Where necessary they seek the advice of relevant professionals or other charities in the field.

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

St Cecilia's Abbey is a charity established and governed by a Trust Deed dated 1 November 2000.

The Abbey is governed by the Abbess, who is elected for life by the nuns. She is advised by her prioress and by a council consisting of the prioress, a nun chosen by the Abbess and two nuns elected by the community. The Abbess appoints a bursar who oversees the financial affairs of the charity.

Trustees are appointed by the Abbess from members of the community and decisions are made on a majority basis. The Trustees in office during the period and at the date of this report are set out on page 8.

All of the Trustees are senior nuns of the community and, as such, have an in-depth knowledge of the charity. All Trustees have been given a copy of the Charity Commission Publications, *The Essential Trustee: What you need to Know* and *The Hallmarks of an Effective Charity* so that they are fully aware of their responsibilities. The bursar during the period, who was also a trustee, attended the meetings of Benedictine bursars of the British Isles and also of the Solesmes Congregation whenever possible to hear of new legislation and developments and to share in the bursars' network of experience and mutual help. The Trustees also seek guidance whenever necessary from professional firms (for example, accountants, solicitors, investment managers, insurance brokers) of suitable standing and with wide knowledge of the religious charity sector.

St Cecilia's Abbey is a member of the Benedictine Congregation of Solesmes, a grouping of abbeys and priories in several countries which have a common history and traditions, derived from the Abbey of S-Pierre de Solesmes, France. The nuns at St Cecilia's follow the Rule of St Benedict as interpreted by the Declarations of the Abbey of Ste-Cécile de Solesmes. The chief financial consequence of the Rule and Declarations is that any activities of the Abbey must not trespass on the strictly enclosed contemplative life of the nuns, which finds its principal expression in the praise of God in the Divine Office. In accordance with the aforesaid Rule and Declarations, the Abbey of St Cecilia is an independent religious community and its financial affairs are in the hands of the nuns themselves.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

|                              |                                                                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The name of the Charity:     | St Cecilia's Abbey                                                         |
| Charity registration number: | 1088086                                                                    |
| Address:                     | St Cecilia's Abbey<br>Appley Rise<br>Ryde<br>Isle of Wight<br>PO33 1LH     |
| Trustees:                    | E Eaglesham (retired 22 January 2022)<br>H Eckhardt<br>E Lee<br>A-M Fiévet |

The custodian trustees at 31 December 2021 were as above.

|                             |                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Solicitors:</b>          | Tozers Solicitors<br>Southernhay West<br>Exeter<br>EX1 1UA                                                           |
| <b>Auditors:</b>            | Francis Clark LLP<br>Chartered Accountants<br>Sigma House<br>Oak View Close<br>Edginswell Park<br>Torquay<br>TQ2 7FF |
| <b>Bankers:</b>             | HSBC<br>38 Union Street<br>Ryde<br>Isle of Wight<br>PO33 2LJ                                                         |
| <b>Investment Managers:</b> | Charles Stanley Limited<br>25 Luke Street<br>London<br>EC2A 4AR                                                      |

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

### Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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).

The law applicable to charities in England and 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 then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in 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 business.

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 Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. 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.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

*Elizabeth Lee*

Trustee

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of St. Cecilia's Abbey

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of St. Cecilia's Abbey (the "Charity") for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the statement of Cash Flows and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial reporting Standard in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described 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 the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, 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 when the original 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 other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 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.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of St. Cecilia's Abbey

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report;
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

### **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 8 the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees 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, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditor under the Charities Act 2011, s144 and report in accordance with regulations made under the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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 (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

As part of our audit planning we obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that is applicable to the Charity and the sector in which it operates to identify the key laws and regulations affecting the Charity. The key regulations we identified were Charity legislation and Charity Commission requirements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements, primarily the Charities Act and the Charities SORP.

We discussed with management how the compliance with these laws and regulations is monitored and discussed policies and procedures in place. We also identified the individuals who have responsibility for ensuring that the Charity complies with laws and regulations and deals with reporting any issues if they arise. As part of our planning procedures, we assessed the risk of any non-compliance with laws and regulations on the Charity's ability to continue its activities and the risk of material misstatement to the accounts.

Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Our procedures involved the following:

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of St. Cecilia's Abbey

- Enquiries of management and those charged with governance regarding their knowledge of any non-compliance with laws and regulations by the charity that could affect the financial statements.
- As part of these enquiries we also discussed with management whether there have been any known instances, allegations or suspicions of fraud, of which there were none.
- Reviewed filings with the Charity Commission and enquired with management whether there were any Serious Incident Reports made during the year of which there were none.
- Reviewed legal and professional costs to identify any possible non compliance or legal costs in respect of non compliance;
- Reviewed Board minutes;
- Audited the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business of which there were none.
- Reviewed estimates and judgements made in the accounts for any indication of bias and challenged assumptions used by management in making the estimates.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements. This risk increases the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements as we are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Charity trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the trustees those matters we are required to state to trustees in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



(Senior Statutory Auditor)  
Francis Clark LLP, Statutory Auditor

Sigma House  
Oak View Close  
Edginswell Park  
Torquay  
TQ2 7FF

Date .27 October 2022

Francis Clark LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 December 2021

|                                    |       | Restricted Fund    | Unrestricted Funds | 2021 Total Funds  | 2020 Total Funds |
|------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
|                                    | Notes | £                  | £                  | £                 | £                |
| <b>Income from:</b>                |       |                    |                    |                   |                  |
| Donations and legacies             | 3     | -                  | 88,484             | 88,484            | 61,883           |
| Retreat income                     |       | -                  | 5,210              | 5,210             | 2,570            |
| Nuns' pensions and allowances      |       | -                  | 106,965            | 106,965           | 101,535          |
| Charitable activities:             |       |                    |                    |                   |                  |
| Sale of Altar Breads               |       | -                  | 59,703             | 59,703            | 43,703           |
| Other Shop Sales                   |       | -                  | 9,067              | 9,067             | 5,570            |
| Investment income                  | 4     | -                  | 522,426            | 522,426           | 466,949          |
| Other                              |       | -                  | 9,156              | 9,156             | 13,671           |
| <b>Total</b>                       |       | -                  | <b>801,011</b>     | <b>801,011</b>    | 695,881          |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>             |       |                    |                    |                   |                  |
| Raising funds:                     |       |                    |                    |                   |                  |
| Investment managers' fees          |       | -                  | 56,630             | 56,630            | 46,638           |
| Rental property expenses           |       | -                  | 24,653             | 24,653            | 17,508           |
| Charitable activities:             |       |                    |                    |                   |                  |
| Altar breads and shop expenses     |       | -                  | 28,575             | 28,575            | 19,367           |
| Retreat expenses                   |       | -                  | 4,131              | 4,131             | 3,846            |
| Church expenses                    |       | -                  | 18,463             | 18,463            | 9,070            |
| Costs of maintaining the community | 6     | -                  | 397,710            | 397,710           | 379,008          |
| Grants and donations               | 5     | -                  | 87,812             | 87,812            | 60,216           |
| <b>Total</b>                       |       | -                  | <b>617,974</b>     | <b>617,974</b>    | 535,653          |
| Net gains/(losses) on investments  | 9     | -                  | 1,630,869          | 1,630,869         | (711,147)        |
| <b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>    |       | -                  | <b>1,813,906</b>   | <b>1,813,906</b>  | (550,919)        |
| Transfers between funds            | 12    | (1,053,657)        | 1,053,657          | -                 | -                |
| <b>Net movement in funds</b>       |       | <b>(1,053,657)</b> | <b>2,867,563</b>   | <b>1,813,906</b>  | (550,919)        |
| <b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>    |       |                    |                    |                   |                  |
| Total Funds brought forward        |       | 2,660,616          | 21,548,483         | 24,209,099        | 24,760,018       |
| <b>Total funds carried forward</b> |       | <b>1,606,959</b>   | <b>24,416,046</b>  | <b>26,023,005</b> | 24,209,099       |

The notes on page 15 to 25 form part of these accounts.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Balance Sheet

31 December 2021

|                                                | Notes | 2021<br>£          | 2020<br>£         |
|------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Fixed assets</b>                            |       |                    |                   |
| Tangible assets                                | 8     | 5,814,592          | 5,850,709         |
| Investments                                    | 9     | 21,397,633         | 19,337,794        |
|                                                |       | <u>27,212,225</u>  | <u>25,188,503</u> |
| <b>Current assets</b>                          |       |                    |                   |
| Stock                                          |       | 4,700              | 4,700             |
| Debtors                                        | 10    | 107,260            | 88,108            |
| Cash at bank and in hand                       |       | 210,830            | 231,416           |
|                                                |       | <u>322,790</u>     | <u>324,224</u>    |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                             |       |                    |                   |
| Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year | 11    | (1,512,010)        | (1,303,628)       |
|                                                |       | <u>(1,189,220)</u> | <u>(979,404)</u>  |
| <b>Net current liabilities</b>                 |       |                    |                   |
|                                                |       | <u>(1,189,220)</u> | <u>(979,404)</u>  |
| <b>Total Net assets</b>                        |       | <u>26,023,005</u>  | <u>24,209,099</u> |
| <b>The funds of the charity:-</b>              |       |                    |                   |
| Restricted funds                               | 12    | 1,606,959          | 2,660,616         |
| Unrestricted funds:                            | 13    |                    |                   |
| Designated funds                               |       | 11,806,924         | 11,120,598        |
| General funds                                  |       | 12,609,122         | 10,427,885        |
|                                                |       | <u>26,023,005</u>  | <u>24,209,099</u> |

Approved by the Trustees on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

*Elizabeth Lee*

Trustee

The notes on page 15 to 25 form part of these accounts.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Statement of Cash Flows

Year Ended 31 December 2021

|                                                                           | Notes     | 2021<br>£        | 2020<br>£      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|----------------|
| <b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>                              |           |                  |                |
| <b>Net Cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>                | <b>17</b> | <b>(108,092)</b> | <b>61,056</b>  |
| <b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>                              |           |                  |                |
| Dividends, interest and rents from investments                            | <b>4</b>  | <b>522,426</b>   | 466,949        |
| Purchase of property and equipment                                        | <b>8</b>  | <b>(5,950)</b>   | (38,801)       |
| Net (investments) from investment portfolio                               | <b>9</b>  | <b>(428,970)</b> | (394,559)      |
| <b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>                          |           | <b>87,506</b>    | <b>33,589</b>  |
| <b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>        |           | <b>(20,586)</b>  | <b>94,645</b>  |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period</b> |           | <b>231,416</b>   | <b>136,771</b> |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>       |           | <b>210,830</b>   | <b>231,416</b> |

The notes on page 15 to 25 form part of these accounts.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2021

### 1 Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

(a) **Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern**

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared on an accruals basis under the historical cost convention, except for the valuation of investments at market value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

(b) **Fund accounting**

- (i) The Charity's unrestricted general fund consists of funds which the Charity may use for its charitable purposes at its discretion.
- (ii) The Charity has designated certain funds. Further details are contained in note 13. There is no legal force for the designations.
- (iii) The Charity has one restricted fund. Further details of this fund can be found in note 12.

(c) **Income recognition**

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

*Donations and legacies*

Donations are recognised when the Trust has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date.

Where the charity does not have discretion in the collection and distribution of donations and has no entitlement to the donations, then these amounts are conduit funding. Amounts relating to conduit funding are not included in the Statement of Financial Activities of the Charity.

Legacy gifts are recognised on a case by case basis following the granting of probate when the administrator/executor for the estate has communicated in writing both the amount and settlement date.

*Retreat income*

This relates to the donations received from retreatants and is recognised on a receivable basis.

*Nuns' pensions and allowances*

Pensions and allowances are recognised on a receivable basis.

*Altar bread and shop income*

Income from the sale of altar breads and shop sales is recognised when the goods are despatched.

*Investment income*

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis. Where income is receivable net of basic rate tax, the gross amount of income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) as investment income. No adjustment is made for accrued income included in the price of securities that were acquired or disposed of during the year.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2021

### 1 Accounting Policies (continued)

#### (d) Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and includes irrecoverable VAT. All costs have been directly attributed to one of the categories of resources expended in the SOFA.

- Costs of raising funds consist of investment managers' fees and the costs associated with rental properties.
- Costs of charitable activities include the costs of maintaining the community, grants and donations made, the costs associated with the production of altar breads and the sale of religious items as well as church, retreat house, and programme related property expenses.

#### (e) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible assets donated on the creation of the Trust have been valued in accordance with their insurance values at that time. Subsequent additions are included at cost or, in the case of property transferred from investments, at its insurance value. Replacement fixtures, furniture and equipment are charged to the SOFA in the year in which the expense is incurred.

Tangible assets other than freehold land are depreciated over their estimated useful lives, at the following rates:-

|                                  |       |               |
|----------------------------------|-------|---------------|
| Abbey buildings                  | 0%    | straight line |
| Other leasehold buildings        | 2%    | straight line |
| Fixtures, fittings and equipment | 5-10% | straight line |

No depreciation is provided on the Abbey buildings. It is the Charity's policy to maintain the Abbey in such a condition that the value is not impaired by the passage of time. Such expenditure is charged in the year it is committed. The nature of the Abbey owned by the Charity is such that it is unlikely to suffer from economic changes or technical advances. As a consequence any element of depreciation would, in the opinion of the Trustees, be immaterial and therefore no provision has been made.

The valuation of the Abbey buildings is reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances suggest that the carrying value may be in excess of its recoverable amount. Recoverable amount is the higher of net realisable value and value in use (which is measured on the basis of the worth of the service delivery of the asset). Where an impairment has occurred, the carrying value of the asset is written down to its recoverable amount, and the revised value of the asset is depreciated over its remaining useful life. The impairment loss is charged to the Statement of Financial Activities ("SOFA").

#### (f) Financial instruments

The Abbey only has financial assets and other financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. These comprise cash and bank balances, short term trade and other debtors and creditors and listed investments.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value. They are derecognised when the contractual rights to cash flows from the assets expire or substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are transferred to another party or in the case of liabilities when obligations are discharged.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2021

### 1 Accounting Policies *(continued)*

#### (g) Investments

- (i) Quoted investments are originally recorded at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value at the balance sheet date using the quoted market price.
- (ii) Investment properties have been valued at fair value as follows. Investment properties donated on the creation of the Trust have been valued in accordance with their current insurance values. Investment properties subsequently acquired are initially valued at cost and thereafter revalued in line with the movement in the house price index.
- (iii) Programme related investments are included in the balance sheet at cost less any impairments.
- (iv) Realised and unrealised gains and losses on the investments are credited/charged directly to the Statement of Financial Activities.
- (v) All investments, including bank balances held as part of the investment portfolio, are included as fixed assets.

#### (h) Dowries

Dowries represent monies introduced by the nuns when they take their solemn or perpetual vows, or legacies which they subsequently receive. Although not legally repayable, the Trustees consider that they have a compelling moral obligation to repay these sums in the event that a nun leaves the Abbey and they are therefore shown as creditors. On the death of the nun they are released to the Statement of Financial Activities.

#### (i) Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the net gains arising on the revaluation and disposal of investment assets.

### 2 Related party transactions and trustees' expenses and remuneration

All trustees are nuns of St Cecilia's Abbey and do not receive any remuneration by virtue of their position as trustees.

The charity maintains and supports the trustees in the same way as nuns who are not trustees. As this is part of the charitable objects of the charity it is not seen to be remuneration for their services as trustees.

No expenses have been paid or reimbursed to the trustees by virtue of their position as trustees.

During the year trustees donated their pensions and allowances totalling £24,193 to the charity (2020: £24,625), as well as dowries of £174,000 (2020: £nil).

| 3 Income                       | 2021<br>£     | 2020<br>£     |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Donations and legacies:</b> |               |               |
| Legacies                       | 43,404        | 11,500        |
| Other gifts and donations      | 45,080        | 50,383        |
|                                | <u>88,484</u> | <u>61,883</u> |

*Other gifts and donations*

Includes £nil (2020: £nil) restricted income.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2021

|                                                          |                       |                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>4 Investment Income (unrestricted)</b>                | <b>2021</b>           | <b>2020</b>           |
|                                                          | <b>£</b>              | <b>£</b>              |
| Income received from:                                    |                       |                       |
| Properties                                               | <b>40,962</b>         | 40,367                |
| Listed investments                                       | <b>481,443</b>        | 425,348               |
| Cash held as part of an investment portfolio and at bank | <b>21</b>             | 1,234                 |
|                                                          | <b><u>522,426</u></b> | <b><u>466,949</u></b> |

## 5 Grants Payable

During the year the following grants and donations were made:

|                                    | 2021                 |                  | 2020                 |                  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|
|                                    | £                    | Number           | £                    | Number           |
| Individuals:                       |                      |                  |                      |                  |
| Grants to people in financial need | <b>120</b>           | <b>2</b>         | 336                  | 4                |
| Institutions involved in:          |                      |                  |                      |                  |
| Religious Welfare                  | <b>67,362</b>        | <b>15</b>        | 41,405               | 23               |
| Overseas Aid                       | <b>9,950</b>         | <b>8</b>         | 7,800                | 7                |
| Children                           | <b>800</b>           | <b>2</b>         | 600                  | 1                |
| Medical                            | <b>2,520</b>         | <b>4</b>         | 2,520                | 4                |
| Poor                               | <b>4,600</b>         | <b>5</b>         | 5,100                | 5                |
| Other                              | <b>2,460</b>         | <b>5</b>         | 2,455                | 5                |
|                                    | <b><u>87,692</u></b> | <b><u>39</u></b> | <b><u>59,880</u></b> | <b><u>45</u></b> |
| Total                              | <b><u>87,812</u></b> | <b><u>41</u></b> | <b><u>60,216</u></b> | <b><u>49</u></b> |

Included in the grants above is £nil (2020: £nil) relating to restricted funds.

Included in the above institutional grants are the following amounts greater than £1,000:

|                                     | £      |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| ACN                                 | 15,000 |
| AIM                                 | 1,000  |
| CAFOD                               | 1,000  |
| CAFOD - Afghan                      | 1,000  |
| Grief to Grace                      | 1,000  |
| Holy See                            | 3,246  |
| Ethiopaid                           | 2,000  |
| International Refugee Trust         | 1,000  |
| Mary's Meals                        | 2,750  |
| Opportunity International           | 1,000  |
| Earl Mountbatten Hospice            | 2,000  |
| De Paul Trust                       | 1,000  |
| Emmaus                              | 1,000  |
| Missionaries of Charity, Manchester | 1,000  |
| The Passage                         | 1,000  |
| Jubilee                             | 1,240  |
| Domicans Lym                        | 5,000  |
| Quarr Abbey                         | 40,000 |

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2021

### 6 Costs of Maintaining the Community

|                                             | Designated<br>£ | Unrestricted<br>£ | 2021<br>£      | 2020<br>£      |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Wages Costs                                 | -               | 95,918            | 94,855         | 112,236        |
| Nuns' NIC                                   | -               | 5,256             | 5,256          | 2,363          |
| Repairs, renewals and maintenance           | -               | 98,046            | 98,046         | 41,262         |
| Heat and light                              | -               | 16,710            | 16,710         | 15,709         |
| Postage, phone and stationery               | -               | 11,123            | 11,123         | 6,334          |
| Water rates and council tax                 | -               | 7,828             | 7,828          | 7,149          |
| Household provisions                        | -               | 23,115            | 23,115         | 33,079         |
| Insurance                                   | -               | 15,845            | 15,845         | 15,041         |
| Clothing                                    | -               | 2,046             | 2,046          | 990            |
| Gardening expenses                          | -               | 31,871            | 31,871         | 31,519         |
| Monastic hospitality                        | -               | 1,446             | 1,446          | 1,353          |
| Medical costs                               | -               | 11,111            | 11,111         | 7,240          |
| Library Costs                               | -               | 1,668             | 1,668          | 1,703          |
| Motor and travel expenses                   | -               | 1,491             | 1,491          | 1,009          |
| Advertising                                 | -               | 13,367            | 13,367         | 120            |
| Sundries                                    | -               | 8,363             | 8,363          | 7,530          |
| Depreciation                                | 40,817          | -                 | 40,817         | 79,499         |
| Legal and Professional<br><i>Governance</i> | -               | 109               | 109            | 3,892          |
| Auditors' remuneration - statutory audit    | -               | 6,000             | 6,000          | 6,000          |
| - other                                     | -               | 5,580             | 5,580          | 4,980          |
|                                             | <u>40,817</u>   | <u>356,893</u>    | <u>397,710</u> | <u>379,008</u> |

Included in the costs above is £nil (2020: £nil) relating to restricted funds.

| 7 Staff costs                 | 2021<br>£     | 2020<br>£      |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Gross wages and salaries      | 87,685        | 108,111        |
| Employer's national insurance | 7,170         | 4,125          |
|                               | <u>94,855</u> | <u>112,236</u> |
| Average number of staff       | <u>5</u>      | <u>5</u>       |

The charity considers its key management personnel comprise the Trustees only to whom no employment benefits were paid.

No employees received any employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2020: nil).

During the year a redundancy payment of £Nil was made (2020: £8,568)

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2021

| 8 Tangible Fixed Assets         | Freehold<br>Property<br>£ | Leasehold<br>Property<br>£ | Fixtures<br>Fittings &<br>Equipment<br>£ | Total<br>£              |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Cost</b>                     |                           |                            |                                          |                         |
| At 1 January 2021               | 5,535,622                 | 200,655                    | 1,183,122                                | 6,919,399               |
| Additions                       | 3,072                     | -                          | 2,878                                    | 5,950                   |
| Disposals                       | -                         | -                          | (2,500)                                  | (2,500)                 |
| <b>At 31 December 2021</b>      | <b><u>5,538,694</u></b>   | <b><u>200,655</u></b>      | <b><u>1,183,500</u></b>                  | <b><u>6,922,849</u></b> |
| <b>Accumulated Depreciation</b> |                           |                            |                                          |                         |
| At 1 January 2021               | -                         | 80,260                     | 988,430                                  | 1,068,690               |
| Charge for the Year             | -                         | 4,013                      | 37,079                                   | 41,092                  |
| Disposals                       | -                         | -                          | (1,525)                                  | (1,525)                 |
| <b>At 31 December 2021</b>      | <b><u>-</u></b>           | <b><u>84,273</u></b>       | <b><u>1,023,984</u></b>                  | <b><u>1,108,257</u></b> |
| <b>Net Book Value</b>           |                           |                            |                                          |                         |
| <b>At 31 December 2021</b>      | <b><u>5,538,694</u></b>   | <b><u>116,382</u></b>      | <b><u>159,516</u></b>                    | <b><u>5,814,592</u></b> |
| At 31 December 2020             | <u>5,535,622</u>          | <u>120,395</u>             | <u>194,692</u>                           | <u>5,850,709</u>        |

Tangible assets donated on creation of the Trust have been valued in accordance with their insurance values at the time.

All tangible fixed assets are used in direct furtherance of the charity's objectives.

The leasehold property is held on a 1,000 year lease that expires in 2841.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2021

| 9 Investments                                                                           | 2021<br>£         | 2020<br>£         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Listed on a recognised stock exchange:</b>                                           |                   |                   |
| Market value of Portfolio at 1 January 2021                                             | 15,432,382        | 15,632,898        |
| Transfers to/(from) cash                                                                | (421,216)         | 212,824           |
| Net investment (disposals)/additions made in the year                                   | 428,970           | 394,559           |
| Realised and unrealised gains/(losses) on investments                                   | 1,523,690         | (807,899)         |
|                                                                                         | <u>16,963,826</u> | <u>15,432,382</u> |
| <b>Market value at 31 December 2021</b>                                                 |                   |                   |
| <b>UK Cash held as part of the investment portfolio:</b>                                |                   |                   |
| Balance at 1 January 2021                                                               | 1,529,459         | 1,742,283         |
| Transfers (to)/from listed investments                                                  | 421,216           | (212,824)         |
| Withdrawn from investment                                                               | -                 | -                 |
|                                                                                         | <u>1,950,675</u>  | <u>1,529,459</u>  |
| Balance at 31 December 2021                                                             |                   |                   |
| <b>UK Investment properties:</b>                                                        |                   |                   |
| Balance at 1 January 2021                                                               | 1,623,461         | 1,526,709         |
| Additions to investment properties                                                      | -                 | -                 |
| Revaluation during year                                                                 | 107,179           | 96,752            |
|                                                                                         | <u>1,730,640</u>  | <u>1,623,461</u>  |
| Market value of investment property at 31 December 2021                                 |                   |                   |
| <b>Programme related property investments:</b>                                          |                   |                   |
| Balance at 1 January 2021 and cost of programme related investments at 31 December 2021 | 752,492           | 752,492           |
|                                                                                         | <u>21,397,633</u> | <u>19,337,794</u> |

The investment property donated on creation of the Trust has been valued by the Trustees on the basis of its building insurance value. The investment property purchased in 2015 has been included at indexed cost. These are considered to be fair values.

The programme related property investment has been made to support another religious order and is valued at cost.

The market value of the listed investments held at 31 December 2021 was £16,963,826 (2020: £15,432,382); of this value £4,912,614 (2020: £4,495,889) relates to non-UK investments. The cost of listed investments at 31 December 2021 was £14,703,748 (2020: £14,290,343). The trustees consider that there were no material individual investment holdings in the year that require disclosure.

All quoted investments are carried at their fair value. Investments in equities and fixed interest securities are all traded in quoted public markets. Holdings in common investment funds and unit trusts are at bid price. The basis of fair value for quoted investments is equivalent to the market value. Assets sales and purchases are recognised at the date of trade at cost (that is their transaction value).

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2021

|                                |                  |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>10 Debtors</b>              | <b>2021</b>      | <b>2020</b>      |
|                                | £                | £                |
| Trade Debtors                  | 5,483            | 5,372            |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 101,777          | 82,736           |
|                                | <u>107,260</u>   | <u>88,108</u>    |
| <b>11 Creditors</b>            | <b>2021</b>      | <b>2020</b>      |
|                                | £                | £                |
| Other Creditors                | 176,955          | 186,531          |
| Repayable Dowries              | 1,332,377        | 1,117,097        |
|                                | <u>1,509,332</u> | <u>1,303,628</u> |

## 12 Restricted Funds

The Congregation of Solesmes restricted fund represents an amount prescribed by the Congregation. It may not be expended without the Congregation's permission. The fund is held in the form of traded investments which enable it to be accessed if required. A transfer is made to or from the fund to ensure it continues to match the Congregation's requirements.

The movement on the restricted fund is shown below.

|                          | <b>Balance at<br/>1 Jan 2021</b> | <b>Incoming<br/>Gifts</b> | <b>Transfers</b>   | <b>Expenditure</b> | <b>Balance at<br/>31 Dec 2021</b> |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                          | £                                | £                         | £                  | £                  | £                                 |
| <b>Current year:</b>     |                                  |                           |                    |                    |                                   |
| Congregation of Solesmes | 2,660,616                        | -                         | (1,053,657)        | -                  | 1,606,959                         |
|                          | <u>2,660,616</u>                 | <u>-</u>                  | <u>(1,053,657)</u> | <u>-</u>           | <u>1,606,959</u>                  |
| <b>Previous year:</b>    |                                  |                           |                    |                    |                                   |
| Congregation of Solesmes | 2,017,623                        | -                         | 642,993            | -                  | 2,660,616                         |
|                          | <u>2,017,623</u>                 | <u>-</u>                  | <u>642,993</u>     | <u>-</u>           | <u>2,660,616</u>                  |

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2021

### 13 Unrestricted Funds

The movements on the designated and unrestricted funds are shown below.

| <b>Current year:</b>            | <b>Balance at<br/>1 Jan 2021<br/>£</b> | <b>Income<br/>£</b> | <b>Expenditure/<br/>Transfers<br/>£</b> | <b>Depreciation/<br/>Gains/<br/>(Losses)<br/>£</b> | <b>Balance at<br/>31 Dec 2021<br/>£</b> |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Designated Funds</b>         |                                        |                     |                                         |                                                    |                                         |
| Repairs                         | 584,939                                | -                   | (86,718)                                | -                                                  | 498,221                                 |
| Nursing Fees                    | 1,800,000                              | -                   | 810,000                                 | -                                                  | 2,610,000                               |
| Library and liturgical Books    | 22,143                                 | -                   | 100                                     | -                                                  | 22,243                                  |
| Contingency Reserve             | 2,092,875                              | -                   | (939)                                   | -                                                  | 2,091,936                               |
| Fixed Assets/PRI                | 6,603,201                              | -                   | 4,975                                   | (41,092)                                           | 6,567,084                               |
| New Car                         | 12,000                                 | -                   | -                                       | -                                                  | 12,000                                  |
| India                           | 440                                    | -                   | -                                       | -                                                  | 440                                     |
| Visiting Nuns Fund              | 5,000                                  | -                   | -                                       | -                                                  | 5,000                                   |
| <b>Total Designated Funds</b>   | <b>11,120,598</b>                      | <b>-</b>            | <b>727,418</b>                          | <b>(41,092)</b>                                    | <b>11,806,924</b>                       |
| Unrestricted General Fund       | 10,427,885                             | 801,011             | (250,643)                               | 1,630,869                                          | 12,609,122                              |
| <b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b> | <b>21,548,483</b>                      | <b>801,011</b>      | <b>476,775</b>                          | <b>1,589,777</b>                                   | <b>24,416,046</b>                       |
| <b>Previous year:</b>           |                                        |                     |                                         |                                                    |                                         |
|                                 | <b>Balance at<br/>1 Jan 2020<br/>£</b> | <b>Income<br/>£</b> | <b>Expenditure/<br/>Transfers<br/>£</b> | <b>Depreciation/<br/>Gains/<br/>(Losses)<br/>£</b> | <b>Balance at<br/>31 Dec 2020<br/>£</b> |
| <b>Designated Funds</b>         |                                        |                     |                                         |                                                    |                                         |
| Repairs                         | 595,205                                | -                   | (10,266)                                | -                                                  | 584,939                                 |
| Nursing Fees                    | 1,800,000                              | -                   | -                                       | -                                                  | 1,800,000                               |
| Library and liturgical Books    | 22,143                                 | -                   | -                                       | -                                                  | 22,143                                  |
| Contingency Reserve             | 2,022,351                              | -                   | 70,524                                  | -                                                  | 2,092,875                               |
| Fixed Assets/PRI                | 6,643,899                              | -                   | 38,801                                  | (79,499)                                           | 6,603,201                               |
| New Car                         | 12,000                                 | -                   | -                                       | -                                                  | 12,000                                  |
| India                           | 440                                    | -                   | -                                       | -                                                  | 440                                     |
| Visiting Nuns Fund              | 5,000                                  | -                   | -                                       | -                                                  | 5,000                                   |
| <b>Total Designated Funds</b>   | <b>11,101,038</b>                      | <b>-</b>            | <b>99,059</b>                           | <b>(79,499)</b>                                    | <b>11,120,598</b>                       |
| Unrestricted General Fund       | 11,641,357                             | 695,881             | (1,198,206)                             | (711,147)                                          | 10,427,885                              |
| <b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b> | <b>22,742,395</b>                      | <b>695,881</b>      | <b>(1,099,147)</b>                      | <b>(790,646)</b>                                   | <b>21,548,483</b>                       |

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2021

### 13 Unrestricted Funds *(continued)*

#### **Repairs fund**

This represents a reserve designated for building maintenance. A transfer from this fund has been made during the year so that the fund amounts to five years repair costs.

#### **Nursing fees**

This is a fund designated to meet the cost of nursing fees likely to be required if a Sister is in need of specialist care.

#### **Library books**

The Abbey has to meet the costs of providing new books for the library and choir. This fund is to ensure that these costs can be met as and when required.

#### **Contingency reserve**

This designation is to be used for emergency purposes and is based on the cost of maintaining the Community over the last five years. A transfer to the fund has been made during the year to reflect this.

#### **Fixed asset and PRI reserve**

This fund represents the net book value of the Charity's tangible fixed assets and programme related investments (PRI). A transfer is made to or from unrestricted reserves each year to ensure that the fund continues to reflect the net book value of these assets.

#### **New car**

This fund is for the purchase of a new car.

#### **India fund**

This is a fund used to account for gifts and donations from the monastery and from friends so that the Charity is able to assist in an emergency and pay for machinery for altar breads from other European countries.

#### **Visiting nuns reserve**

This designation is for anticipated long term costs that will arise in connection with Sisters staying at the Abbey.

### 14 Commitments

The charity has promised to allow a religious community to live in one of its properties for as long as the community needs it.

At 31 December 2021 and 31 December 2020 the Abbey had no capital commitments.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2021

### 15 Obligations under operating leases

Lessor

The total of future minimum lease payments receivable is as follows:

|                                                   | 2021<br>£    | 2020<br>£    |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Not later than one year                           | 5,032        | 5,032        |
| Later than one year and not later than five years | 3,168        | 3,168        |
|                                                   | <u>8,200</u> | <u>8,200</u> |

### 16 Split of Assets Between Funds

|                        | Restricted<br>Fund | Unrestricted<br>Funds | 2021<br>Total<br>Funds | 2020<br>Total<br>Funds |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|                        | £                  | £                     | £                      | £                      |
| <b>Represented by:</b> |                    |                       |                        |                        |
| Tangible fixed assets  | -                  | 5,814,592             | 5,814,592              | 5,850,709              |
| Investments            | 1,606,959          | 19,790,674            | 21,397,633             | 19,337,794             |
| Current assets         | -                  | 322,790               | 322,790                | 324,224                |
| Current liabilities    | -                  | (1,512,010)           | (1,512,010)            | (1,303,628)            |
|                        | <u>1,606,959</u>   | <u>24,416,046</u>     | <u>26,023,005</u>      | <u>24,209,099</u>      |

### 17 Reconciliation of net income / (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

|                                                                                                           | 2021<br>£        | 2020<br>£        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Net income / (expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)</b> | <b>1,813,906</b> | <b>(550,919)</b> |
| <b>Adjustments for:</b>                                                                                   |                  |                  |
| Depreciation charges                                                                                      | 41,092           | 79,499           |
| (Gains)/losses on investments                                                                             | (1,630,869)      | 711,147          |
| Loss on fixed assets                                                                                      | 975              | -                |
| Dividends, interest and rents from investments                                                            | (522,426)        | (466,949)        |
| (Increase) /decrease in debtors                                                                           | (19,152)         | 276,496          |
| Increase in creditors                                                                                     | 208,382          | 11,782           |
|                                                                                                           | <u>(108,092)</u> | <u>61,056</u>    |
| Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities                                                       | <u>(108,092)</u> | <u>61,056</u>    |

**ST CECILIA'S ABBEY RYDE ISLE OF WIGHT**

England & Wales - Charity number 1088086

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# Accounts

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**St Cecilia's Abbey**

**Annual Report**

**Year Ended 31 December 2020**

# St Cecilia's Abbey

Annual Report

Year Ended 31 December 2020

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# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2020.

### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The principal object of the Charity is the advancement of the Catholic religion. The principal means of advancing the Catholic religion is prayer, and the value and effects of this prayer can be measured only by God. Nevertheless the Charity undertakes the following activities in support of this aim.

The Charity maintains St Cecilia's Abbey and the community of Benedictine nuns which inhabits it. The chief work of the nuns is the celebration of the Divine Office, which is sung in Latin and in Gregorian Chant. Among communities of nuns in the British Isles St Cecilia's is unique in using Latin Gregorian Chant exclusively in its liturgy.

The nuns seek to earn their living by the production and sale of altar breads; they also undertake artistic commissions and sell religious books, recordings of their Gregorian Chant, rosaries and other pious articles, some of which are made by the nuns themselves.

The community share their contemplative life by welcoming visitors to their church and retreatants to the Garth or the Hermitage, and through newsletters and the Internet. No charges are made for these services and anyone is welcome to participate. The section below entitled 'Ministry to Visitors and Retreatants' explains these activities in more detail.

When possible the Abbey takes the opportunity to assist other religious communities, either by financial help or by providing hospitality to other contemplative nuns for long or short visits, for studies and training in crafts which can contribute to the development of their own communities, or for a time of rest.

The Charity makes a number of grants, at the discretion of the Abbess, to both institutions and individuals. Further details are contained in note 5.

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

### ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

#### The Abbey and the Community

At 31 December 2020 there were 26 solemnly or perpetually professed nuns in the community, one temporarily professed, three novices and two postulants.

A number of young women visited the Abbey during the year to discern their vocation.

Three young women entered the monastery as postulants, two of whom were still present at the end of the year.

The two postulants who entered in 2019 received the habit and began their novitiate.

A junior completed her first three years and renewed her temporary vows in accordance with the new legislation for contemplative nuns, *Cor Orans*.

The community celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of one Sister in May, and the Diamond Jubilee of another in November.

In January 2020 the community's five-yearly canonical visitation was carried out by Fr Abbot Xavier Perrin of Quarr Abbey and Mère Abbess Claire de Sazilly of Abbaye Ste-Cécile de Solesmes. In February the community's annual retreat was preached by Bishop Hugh Gilbert of Aberdeen. Both events in their different ways were a source of encouragement to the community.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

### Maintenance of the Abbey Buildings and Estate

In order to reduce the need for fires, the community invested in a shredder-chipper to turn hedge clippings and broken branches into chippings for paths and mulch for flower beds.

Linear motors were installed for two of the church bells, with a digital control panel allowing automated ringing with great flexibility about the settings, to fit in with the many variations in the monastic time-table.

In addition to the continuing programme of maintenance of the Abbey's extensive buildings, the following major works were undertaken:

- replacement of rusted gas pipes;
- replacement hot water cylinder for the novitiate;
- solar-powered lighting for the garage;
- provision of water heaters for the Sisters and the employees, to encourage hand-washing;
- erection of a new larger shed for the workmen's breaks, with electric power, to give them more comfort and to allow for social distancing.

Because of the pandemic the trustees sought to minimise the visits of contractors to the Abbey and so from March onwards only essential repairs were undertaken.

In addition to the continuing programme of maintenance of the rental and guest properties, the following major works were undertaken:

- upgrading the electrical fittings at the Upper and Lower Lodge flats.

### Promotion of Gregorian Chant

The nuns continued work on the production of interlinear Latin/English booklets for the Divine Office for the use of visitors and postulants. These works require much time on the part of the nuns and also expenditure on paper and ink to make booklets of durable quality and suitable for their sacred function, but the nuns consider this work an important part of their apostolate.

For the first part of the year, every Sunday and Holy Day the Abbey continued to produce leaflets for all the proper and ordinary chants, prayers and readings of the Mass, with Latin and English translations side by side, for the use of visitors to the Abbey Church. When the pandemic began, however, the Sisters had to give up distributing leaflets and booklets to the laity, in accordance with the guidelines of the Diocese of Portsmouth.

### Ministry to Visitors and Retreatants

Before the pandemic, the Abbey Church was available all day throughout the year for those who wished to attend the daily Mass and eight services of the Divine Office, or for private prayer. The church was closed during the first two lockdowns like all places of worship. The church was reopened as soon as churches were allowed to open.

The Abbey Chronicle, produced twice in the year, was sent to approximately 750 addresses free of charge. The Abbey also maintained a website on the life and work of the community, [www.stceciliasabbey.org.uk](http://www.stceciliasabbey.org.uk). During the year a daily reflection on the Rule of St Benedict continued to be provided on the website.

A short presentation on life at the Abbey was available on Gloria TV and YouTube.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

There is always a Sister available to welcome visitors or give counsel to anyone in need. Because of the pandemic, the usual groups of Confirmation candidates and others were unable to visit.

The Abbey's small retreat house, the Garth, had to close once the pandemic began. It reopened in July, and then had to close again for November and December. In the time that it was open it welcomed 25 persons for retreats. Though most retreatants make donations for their stay, no charge is levied, and this year one person made no offering. The retreatants were able to participate in the Divine Office and to see the Guest Mistress or other nuns for spiritual counsel if they wished.

The numbers of secular oblates remained steady at about 40. The oblates received their own letter of news and discussion of monastic spirituality six times in the year. In the parts of the year when household mixing was allowed, a number visited to receive spiritual counsel from the Oblate Mistress. Two ladies were affiliated as novice-oblates and three novice-oblates made their oblation. During lockdown a group of oblates "met" by Zoom each week to sing Compline together.

### Assistance to and Collaboration with Other Religious Communities

Following the meeting of the Abbesses and Conventual Prioresses of the Solesmes Congregation in Martinique in 2019, substantial work was undertaken in 2019 and 2020 to revise the Declarations and Constitutions of the nuns of the Congregation, with all the houses collaborating by email.

One of the nuns of St Cecilia's had been sent in 2017 to give assistance to the Abbey of Ste-Marie des Deux-Montagnes, Canada, in its endeavour to become a bi-lingual community, serving also as Zélatrice to the novitiate. Having completed three years and three months in this task, she returned to her own monastery during 2020.

Barrington Cottage continues to be let to a consecrated hermit at a low rent.

A property on the mainland continues to be let to another religious community at a low rent.

As stated in note 5, the Abbey made a significant donation to another community in the Solesmes Congregation which was in particular need as a result of the pandemic.

### Other Activities of the Community

The Altar Bread Department continued to be the nuns' principal means of earning their living, though the closure of churches and the suspension of the Sunday obligation meant that this income was much reduced in the year.

The Sisters continued the venture of selling home-made soap, which has proved very popular, especially with the visitors to Quarr Abbey. Sales accordingly suffered from the reduction in the number of tourists to the Island in 2020.

There were also modest sales of rosaries, candles, pyrography and knitted items made by the nuns, together with other pious goods and religious books, though these too were less than usual, because of the closure of "non-essential" shops for part of the year. There was little income from the art studio (calligraphy and illumination) but the younger Sisters are being trained in these arts so that there is hope for future development. The candle department provides candles for the needs of St Cecilia's Abbey and Quarr Abbey, as well as for sale in the Abbey shop. The wax for this work comes entirely from the Abbey's bees and from old candle-ends and wax scrapings recycled.

The Abbey's bees continued to be valued chiefly for the pollination of the orchard and soft fruit. They produced honey for consumption by the nuns, and their wax was used in candle-making.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

The extensive vegetable garden continued to be maintained by the young nuns. This garden, the orchard (apples, pears, plums, quince, walnuts, hazelnuts, cobnuts) and the soft fruit cages (blackberries, boysenberries, loganberries, raspberries, gooseberries) are an important source of food for the nuns.

At the beginning of 2020 Gracewing published *Our Father: a Biblical meditation on the Lord's Prayer* by Sr Claire Waddelove. Many readers wrote to express their appreciation.

### The Pandemic

The Coronavirus Pandemic prompted the Sisters to redouble their work of intercession for the world, both informally and by the addition of special prayers at the end of Vespers each day. They followed the instructions of the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales in closing their church to the general public when required, but re-opened as soon as it was permitted to do so. During the closure they maintained the full round of worship and prayer. At the beginning of the national lock-down in March 2020, for a period of nine days no Mass was said at the Abbey, but subsequently a visiting priest and the monks of Quarr made it possible for the nuns to have Mass every day. Persons living near to the Abbey commented on how comforting they found the sound of the Abbey bells, even when they were not permitted to attend the services themselves.

When lock-down began the three of the Abbey's lay-employees who work indoors were asked to stay at home on full pay. After about a month the Abbey's maintenance man was asked to return, with procedures in place to ensure that his presence did not create undue risk of infection. The absence of the employee who helped in the kitchen revealed that her services could be dispensed with and she was made redundant in September. The third employee returned on a part-time basis in the summer. The Abbey took advantage of the Government's flexible furlough scheme in her regard. She returned to full-time work only in June 2021.

The closure of churches and the restrictions on numbers even after the re-opening meant a massive fall in the orders for altar breads. By August 2021 altar bread income for the year was still only half of what it had been at the same stage in 2019.

Once the impact of the pandemic began to be felt in the worldwide stock markets, the Charity's investment manager made a careful review of the portfolio, noting which companies had cut or suspended dividends and which investments had fallen significantly in value, and what action the management of those companies were taking in the face of the global disaster. It should be noted that, because Abbey's ethical investment policy makes it impossible to hold pharmaceutical stocks, the Charity could not compensate for its losses through the high performance of this sector. The review indicated that there would be a fall of 30% in investment income for the year, and this prediction proved to be most accurate. The Trustees decided that it would be prudent to retain those stocks which were likely to recover after the pandemic, and the improvement in the value of the portfolio in 2021 has borne out this decision.

### **CAPITAL COMMITMENTS**

There were no capital commitments at 31 December 2020.

### **SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AFTER THE YEAR END**

#### Receipt of Legacies

The Abbey was a residuary beneficiary under the will of a benefactor who died in 2003. The only asset in the estate was a house which was held in trust for a life-tenant. The life-tenant died in 2019 and the house

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

was put up for sale. The sale was completed in October 2020. After all other expenses had been paid, the Abbey received an interim payment of £100,000 in 2020 and a final payment of £15,300 in 2021.

### PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Work is underway for translations of *The Joy of God* in French, German and Polish.

In 2019 the Charity made a commitment to pay for new altar bread machinery for a community of the Solesmes Congregation in the United States, to a total of 206,002 euros. This sum was accounted for in the accounts for that year. The first payment of £36,091 was made in that year. The project was delayed by the pandemic, and the remainder is not expected to be paid until 2022. The Charity has acquired investments in euros as a hedge against exchange movements.

No significant changes in the activities of the Charity are planned. The Charity intends to continue to maintain the Community at St Cecilia's Abbey and the celebration of the Divine Office.

### FINANCIAL REVIEW AND RESERVE POLICY

During the year, the Abbey received income totalling £695,881 (2019: £1,187,216). The on-going principal sources of income were £466,949 (2019: £649,407) investment income, £43,703 (2019: £101,796) from the sale of Altar Breads and £101,535 (2019: £103,170) from the pensions and allowances received for the nuns. In addition to this, the Abbey benefitted from legacies of £11,500 (2019: £291,426). Gifts from benefactors were £50,383 (2019: £21,354). Expenditure for the year amounted to £535,653 (2019: £886,872). Of this, £379,008 (2019: £443,653) related to the costs of maintaining the religious community, £60,216 (2019: £329,443) to the grants and donations made, £19,367 (2019: £26,701) to the costs associated with the Altar Bread production and shop sales, £9,070 (2019: £9,704) to church expenses and £3,846 (2019: £4,020) to the costs of running the retreat house. £64,146 (2019: £73,351) was spent on raising funds including investment managers' fees and rental property expenses.

After taking into account the net loss on the revaluation of investment assets of £711,147 (2019: net gain of £1,679,566), the charity had net expenditure for the year of £550,919 (2019: net income £1,979,910). The charity's funds mainly comprise tangible fixed assets and an investment portfolio which was valued at £19,337,794 at 31 December 2020.

The Trustees have reviewed the reserves and income of the Charity against its immediate and foreseeable needs and are satisfied that the reserves are not excessive and should be sufficient to meet their needs. The Trustees consider that the long term nature of the Trust's charitable objectives requires that it retain some of its surplus income as reserves. These reserves are necessary in order to secure the future ability of the Charity to support the religious community at St Cecilia's Abbey. At 31 December 2020, the total reserves of the charity were £24,209,099. Of this total, £2,660,616 are restricted reserves that are not available for the general purposes of the charity. The Trustees have designated funds totalling £11,120,598 including a fixed asset and PRI fund that represents those funds 'tied up' in fixed assets and programme related investments and a number of other reserves, full details of which can be found in note 13. At 31 December 2020 general unrestricted funds stood at £10,427,885.

#### Investment performance

The investment policy of the Trustees is to maintain and enhance the real value of their assets over the long term by investment in a portfolio comprising equities, fixed income stocks and cash. The investment policy,

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

drawn up in consultation with Charles Stanley, aims to ensure a steady stream of dividend income while taking capital gains when an attractive opportunity arises.

The main portfolio is split between a capital account with a balanced objective and an income account with an income objective. The investment managers do not work to a fixed benchmark but use market indices to gauge the performance of the portfolios.

The Abbey's investment income for 2020 was 28% lower than in 2019. Nevertheless, the Trustees do not foresee any difficulty in continuing the work of the Charity. By August 2021 the investment income of the Charity was 15% higher than at the same point in 2020.

## Risk management

The Sisters entrust themselves and their future to Divine Providence. Knowing, however, that part of the proper exercise of this trust is the careful stewardship of the resources which Providence has granted, the trustees have considered the risks faced by the charity.

The risk which requires most attention from the Trustees is the possibility of the decline of the community of nuns at St Cecilia's Abbey. The object of the Charity could not be achieved without the presence of a monastic community. As recruitment and retention of new members, under the Holy Spirit, is largely dependent on the fervour and integrity with which the nuns follow their calling, the effective apostolate of the Charity requires paradoxically constant vigilance to safeguard the silence and seclusion of the monastery. The Trustees strive to mitigate the risk of such a decline by managing the assets of the Charity appropriately and providing the resources necessary to support this effort. In particular, a continuous programme of maintenance of the buildings and grounds of the Abbey obviates the risk of major works and all the disruption they would entail. Investment in modern machinery reduces the need for seculars within the enclosure, while provision of the modern means of communication reduces the need for exits by the nuns. While frugality should characterize the life-style of the Sisters, the Trustees ensure that funds are available to maintain the library and pay for outside speakers when appropriate. The sick and elderly of the community are seen as a special treasure, and the trustees watch that sufficient resources are available to ensure their proper care.

The Charity's investment portfolio is a major support in providing funds for the Abbey's own needs and charitable giving. The Trustees consider the variability of returns on the portfolio to be the Charity's major financial risk. To reduce this risk they maintain a diversified portfolio and use the services of investment advisors who are not only experts in the charity sector but who also know the Abbey well and understand its ethos.

In this era of increasing government legislation and third-party litigation, the Trustees note also the risks which these present to the Abbey. The Trustees seek to reduce these risks by using the services of experts in the relevant fields (for example, lawyers, financial advisers, insurance brokers) to provide the knowledge which the trustees may lack.

In making charitable donations the Abbey risks that these grants will be ineffective. The Trustees reduce this risk by donating in the main to charities which are well known to them and whose accounts are available for inspection. Where necessary they seek the advice of relevant professionals or other charities in the field.

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

St Cecilia's Abbey is a charity established and governed by a Trust Deed dated 1 November 2000.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

The Abbey is governed by the Abbess, who is elected for life by the nuns. She is advised by her prioress and by a council consisting of the prioress, a nun chosen by the Abbess and two nuns elected by the community. The Abbess appoints a bursar who oversees the financial affairs of the charity.

Trustees are appointed by the Abbess from members of the community and decisions are made on a majority basis. The Trustees in office during the period and at the date of this report are set out on page 8.

All of the Trustees are senior nuns of the community and, as such, have an in depth knowledge of the charity. All Trustees have been given a copy of the Charity Commission Publications, *The Essential Trustee: What you need to Know* and *The Hallmarks of an Effective Charity* so that they are fully aware of their responsibilities. The bursar, who is also a trustee, attends the meetings of Benedictine bursars of the British Isles and also of the Solesmes Congregation whenever possible to hear of new legislation and developments and to share in the bursars' network of experience and mutual help. The Trustees also seek guidance whenever necessary from professional firms (for example, accountants, solicitors, investment managers, insurance brokers) of suitable standing and with wide knowledge of the religious charity sector.

St Cecilia's Abbey is a member of the Benedictine Congregation of Solesmes, a grouping of abbeys and priories in several countries which have a common history and traditions, derived from the Abbey of S-Pierre de Solesmes, France. The nuns at St Cecilia's follow the Rule of St Benedict as interpreted by the Declarations of the Abbey of Ste-Cécile de Solesmes. The chief financial consequence of the Rule and Declarations is that any activities of the Abbey must not trespass on the strictly enclosed contemplative life of the nuns, which finds its principal expression in the praise of God in the Divine Office. In accordance with the aforesaid Rule and Declarations, the Abbey of St Cecilia is an independent religious community and its financial affairs are in the hands of the nuns themselves.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The name of the Charity: St Cecilia's Abbey

Charity registration number: 1088086

Address: St Cecilia's Abbey  
Appley Rise  
Ryde  
Isle of Wight  
PO33 1LH

Trustees: E Eaglesham (Abbess)  
H Eckhardt  
E Lee  
A-M Fiévet

The custodian trustees at 31 December 2019 were as above.

**Solicitors:** Tozers Solicitors  
Southernhay West  
Exeter  
EX1 1UA

**Auditors:** Francis Clark LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Sigma House  
Oak View Close  
Edginswell Park  
Torquay  
TQ2 7FF

**Bankers:** HSBC  
38 Union Street  
Ryde  
Isle of Wight  
PO33 2LJ

**Investment Managers:** Charles Stanley Limited  
25 Luke Street  
London  
EC2A 4AR

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Trustees' Report

### Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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).

The law applicable to charities in England and 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 then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in 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 business.

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 Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. 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.

**Signed on behalf of the Trustees**  
Elizabeth Eaglesham  
**Trustee**

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of St. Cecilia's Abbey

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of St. Cecilia's Abbey (the "Charity") for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising Charities SORP – FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard 102 applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described 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 the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, 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 when the original financial statements were 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 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.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of St. Cecilia's Abbey

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

### **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement [set out on page 9] the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees 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, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the Charity or to cease operations, or have 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 (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

As part of our audit planning we obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that is applicable to the Charity and the sector in which it operates to identify the key laws and regulations affecting the Charity. The key regulations we identified were Charity legislation and Charity Commission requirements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements, primarily the Charities Act and the Charities SORP.

We discussed with management how the compliance with these laws and regulations is monitored and discussed policies and procedures in place. We also identified the individuals who have responsibility for ensuring that the Charity complies with laws and regulations and deals with reporting any issues if they arise. As part of our planning procedures, we assessed the risk of any non-compliance with laws and regulations on the Charity's ability to continue its activities and the risk of material misstatement to the accounts.

Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Our procedures involved the following:

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of St. Cecilia's Abbey

- Enquiries of management and those charged with governance regarding their knowledge of any non-compliance with laws and regulations by the charity that could affect the financial statements.
- As part of these enquiries we also discussed with management whether there have been any known instances, allegations or suspicions of fraud, of which there were none.
- Reviewed filings with the Charity Commission and enquired with management whether there were any Serious Incident Reports made during the year of which there were none.
- Reviewed legal and professional costs to identify any possible non compliance or legal costs in respect of non compliance;
- Reviewed Board minutes;
- Audited the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business of which there were none.
- Reviewed estimates and judgements made in the accounts for any indication of bias and challenged assumptions used by management in making the estimates.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements. This risk increases the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements as we are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Charity trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the trustees those matters we are required to state to trustees in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



(Senior Statutory Auditor)  
PKF Francis Clark, Statutory Auditor

Sigma House  
Oak View Close  
Edginswell Park  
Torquay  
TQ2 7FF

Date 25 October 2021

Francis Clark LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 December 2020

|                                    | Notes | Restricted Fund  | Unrestricted Funds | 2020 Total Funds  | 2019 Total Funds |
|------------------------------------|-------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
|                                    |       | £                | £                  | £                 | £                |
| <b>Income from:</b>                |       |                  |                    |                   |                  |
| Donations and legacies             | 3     | -                | 61,883             | 61,883            | 312,780          |
| Retreat income                     |       | -                | 2,570              | 2,570             | 6,235            |
| Nuns' pensions and allowances      |       | -                | 101,535            | 101,535           | 103,170          |
| Charitable activities:             |       |                  |                    |                   |                  |
| Sale of Altar Breads               |       | -                | 43,703             | 43,703            | 101,796          |
| Other Shop Sales                   |       | -                | 5,570              | 5,570             | 8,118            |
| Investment income                  | 4     | -                | 466,949            | 466,949           | 649,407          |
| Other                              |       | -                | 13,671             | 13,671            | 5,710            |
| <b>Total</b>                       |       | -                | <b>695,881</b>     | <b>695,881</b>    | 1,187,216        |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>             |       |                  |                    |                   |                  |
| Raising funds:                     |       |                  |                    |                   |                  |
| Investment managers' fees          |       | -                | 46,638             | 46,638            | 49,868           |
| Rental property expenses           |       | -                | 17,508             | 17,508            | 23,483           |
| Charitable activities:             |       |                  |                    |                   |                  |
| Altar breads and shop expenses     |       | -                | 19,367             | 19,367            | 26,701           |
| Retreat expenses                   |       | -                | 3,846              | 3,846             | 4,020            |
| Church expenses                    |       | -                | 9,070              | 9,070             | 9,704            |
| Costs of maintaining the community | 6     | -                | 379,008            | 379,008           | 443,653          |
| Grants and donations               | 5     | -                | 60,216             | 60,216            | 329,443          |
| <b>Total</b>                       |       | -                | <b>535,653</b>     | <b>535,653</b>    | 886,872          |
| Net (losses)/gains on investments  | 9     | -                | (711,147)          | (711,147)         | 1,679,566        |
| <b>Net (expenditure)/income</b>    |       | -                | <b>(550,919)</b>   | <b>(550,919)</b>  | 1,979,910        |
| Transfers between funds            | 12    | 642,993          | (642,993)          | -                 | -                |
| <b>Net movement in funds</b>       |       | <b>642,993</b>   | <b>(1,193,912)</b> | <b>(550,919)</b>  | 1,979,910        |
| <b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>    |       |                  |                    |                   |                  |
| Total Funds brought forward        |       | 2,017,623        | 22,742,395         | 24,760,018        | 22,780,108       |
| <b>Total funds carried forward</b> |       | <b>2,660,616</b> | <b>21,548,483</b>  | <b>24,209,099</b> | 24,760,018       |

The notes on page 16 to 26 form part of these accounts.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Balance Sheet

31 December 2020

|                                                | Notes | 2020<br>£         | 2019<br>£         |
|------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Fixed assets</b>                            |       |                   |                   |
| Tangible assets                                | 8     | 5,850,709         | 5,891,407         |
| Investments                                    | 9     | 19,337,794        | 19,654,382        |
|                                                |       | <u>25,188,503</u> | <u>25,545,789</u> |
| <b>Current assets</b>                          |       |                   |                   |
| Stock                                          |       | 4,700             | 4,700             |
| Debtors                                        | 10    | 88,108            | 364,604           |
| Cash at bank and in hand                       |       | 231,416           | 136,771           |
|                                                |       | <u>324,224</u>    | <u>506,075</u>    |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                             |       |                   |                   |
| Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year | 11    | (1,303,628)       | (1,291,846)       |
|                                                |       | <u>(979,404)</u>  | <u>(785,771)</u>  |
| <b>Net current liabilities</b>                 |       |                   |                   |
|                                                |       | <u>(979,404)</u>  | <u>(785,771)</u>  |
| <b>Total Net assets</b>                        |       | <u>24,209,099</u> | <u>24,760,018</u> |
| <b>The funds of the charity:-</b>              |       |                   |                   |
| Restricted funds                               | 12    | 2,660,616         | 2,017,623         |
| Unrestricted funds:                            | 13    |                   |                   |
| Designated funds                               |       | 11,120,598        | 11,101,038        |
| General funds                                  |       | 10,427,885        | 11,641,357        |
|                                                |       | <u>24,209,099</u> | <u>24,760,018</u> |
| <b>Total charity funds</b>                     |       | <u>24,209,099</u> | <u>24,760,018</u> |

Approved by the Trustees on 21 October 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Sr Elizabeth Lee

Trustee

The notes on page 16 to 26 form part of these accounts.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Statement of Cash Flows

Year Ended 31 December 2020

|                                                                           | Notes     | 2020<br>£        | 2019<br>£        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>                              |           |                  |                  |
| <b>Net Cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>                | <b>17</b> | <b>61,056</b>    | <b>(426,788)</b> |
| <b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>                              |           |                  |                  |
| Dividends, interest and rents from investments                            | <b>4</b>  | <b>466,949</b>   | 649,407          |
| Purchase of property and equipment                                        | <b>8</b>  | <b>(38,801)</b>  | (68,609)         |
| Net (investments)/withdrawals from investment portfolio                   | <b>9</b>  | <b>(394,559)</b> | (551,124)        |
| Cash withdrawn from investment portfolio                                  | <b>9</b>  | -                | 450,000          |
| <b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>                          |           | <b>33,589</b>    | <b>479,674</b>   |
| <b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>        |           | <b>94,645</b>    | <b>52,886</b>    |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period</b> |           | <b>136,771</b>   | <b>83,885</b>    |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>       |           | <b>231,416</b>   | <b>136,771</b>   |

The notes on page 16 to 26 form part of these accounts.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2020

### 1 Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

(a) **Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern**

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared on an accruals basis under the historical cost convention, except for the valuation of investments at market value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

(b) **Fund accounting**

- (i) The Charity's unrestricted general fund consists of funds which the Charity may use for its charitable purposes at its discretion.
- (ii) The Charity has designated certain funds. Further details are contained in note 13. There is no legal force for the designations.
- (iii) The Charity has one restricted fund. Further details of this fund can be found in note 12.

(c) **Income recognition**

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

*Donations and legacies*

Donations are recognised when the Trust has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date.

Where the charity does not have discretion in the collection and distribution of donations and has no entitlement to the donations, then these amounts are conduit funding. Amounts relating to conduit funding are not included in the Statement of Financial Activities of the Charity.

Legacy gifts are recognised on a case by case basis following the granting of probate when the administrator/executor for the estate has communicated in writing both the amount and settlement date.

*Retreat income*

This relates to the donations received from retreatants and is recognised on a receivable basis.

*Nuns' pensions and allowances*

Pensions and allowances are recognised on a receivable basis.

*Altar bread and shop income*

Income from the sale of altar breads and shop sales is recognised when the goods are despatched.

*Investment income*

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis. Where income is receivable net of basic rate tax, the gross amount of income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) as investment income. No adjustment is made for accrued income included in the price of securities that were acquired or disposed of during the year.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2020

### 1 Accounting Policies (continued)

#### (d) Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and includes irrecoverable VAT. All costs have been directly attributed to one of the categories of resources expended in the SOFA.

- Costs of raising funds consist of investment managers' fees and the costs associated with rental properties.
- Costs of charitable activities include the costs of maintaining the community, grants and donations made, the costs associated with the production of altar breads and the sale of religious items as well as church, retreat house, and programme related property expenses.

#### (e) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible assets donated on the creation of the Trust have been valued in accordance with their insurance values at that time. Subsequent additions are included at cost or, in the case of property transferred from investments, at its insurance value. Replacement fixtures, furniture and equipment are charged to the SOFA in the year in which the expense is incurred.

Tangible assets other than freehold land are depreciated over their estimated useful lives, at the following rates:-

|                                  |       |               |
|----------------------------------|-------|---------------|
| Abbey buildings                  | 0%    | straight line |
| Other leasehold buildings        | 2%    | straight line |
| Fixtures, fittings and equipment | 5-10% | straight line |

No depreciation is provided on the Abbey buildings. It is the Charity's policy to maintain the Abbey in such a condition that the value is not impaired by the passage of time. Such expenditure is charged in the year it is committed. The nature of the Abbey owned by the Charity is such that it is unlikely to suffer from economic changes or technical advances. As a consequence any element of depreciation would, in the opinion of the Trustees, be immaterial and therefore no provision has been made.

The valuation of the Abbey buildings is reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances suggest that the carrying value may be in excess of its recoverable amount. Recoverable amount is the higher of net realisable value and value in use (which is measured on the basis of the worth of the service delivery of the asset). Where an impairment has occurred, the carrying value of the asset is written down to its recoverable amount, and the revised value of the asset is depreciated over its remaining useful life. The impairment loss is charged to the Statement of Financial Activities ("SOFA").

#### (f) Financial instruments

The Abbey only has financial assets and other financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. These comprise cash and bank balances, short term trade and other debtors and creditors and listed investments.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value. They are derecognised when the contractual rights to cash flows from the assets expire or substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are transferred to another party or in the case of liabilities when obligations are discharged.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2020

### 1 Accounting Policies *(continued)*

#### (g) Investments

- (i) Quoted investments are originally recorded at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value at the balance sheet date using the quoted market price.
- (ii) Investment properties have been valued at fair value as follows. Investment properties donated on the creation of the Trust have been valued in accordance with their current insurance values. Investment properties subsequently acquired are initially valued at cost and thereafter revalued in line with the movement in the house price index.
- (iii) Programme related investments are included in the balance sheet at cost less any impairments.
- (iv) Realised and unrealised gains and losses on the investments are credited/charged directly to the Statement of Financial Activities.
- (v) All investments, including bank balances held as part of the investment portfolio, are included as fixed assets.

#### (h) Dowries

Dowries represent monies introduced by the nuns when they take their solemn or perpetual vows, or legacies which they subsequently receive. Although not legally repayable, the Trustees consider that they have a compelling moral obligation to repay these sums in the event that a nun leaves the Abbey and they are therefore shown as creditors. On the death of the nun they are released to the Statement of Financial Activities.

#### (i) Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the net gains arising on the revaluation and disposal of investment assets.

### 2 Related party transactions and trustees' expenses and remuneration

All trustees are nuns of St Cecilia's Abbey and do not receive any remuneration by virtue of their position as trustees.

The charity maintains and supports the trustees in the same way as nuns who are not trustees. As this is part of the charitable objects of the charity it is not seen to be remuneration for their services as trustees.

No expenses have been paid or reimbursed to the trustees by virtue of their position as trustees.

During the year trustees donated their pensions and allowances totalling £24,625 to the charity (2019: £26,219), as well as dowries of £nil (2019: £nil).

| 3 Income                       | 2020<br>£     | 2019<br>£      |
|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| <b>Donations and legacies:</b> |               |                |
| Legacies                       | 11,500        | 291,426        |
| Other gifts and donations      | 50,383        | 21,354         |
|                                | <u>61,883</u> | <u>312,780</u> |

*Other gifts and donations*

Includes £nil (2019: £nil) restricted income.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2020

|                                                          |                       |                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>4 Investment Income (unrestricted)</b>                | <b>2020</b>           | <b>2019</b>           |
|                                                          | <b>£</b>              | <b>£</b>              |
| Income received from:                                    |                       |                       |
| Properties                                               | <b>40,367</b>         | 39,202                |
| Listed investments                                       | <b>425,348</b>        | 608,362               |
| Cash held as part of an investment portfolio and at bank | <b>1,234</b>          | 1,843                 |
|                                                          | <b><u>466,949</u></b> | <b><u>649,407</u></b> |

## 5 Grants Payable

During the year the following grants and donations were made:

|                                    | <b>2020</b>          |                  | <b>2019</b>           |                  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
|                                    | <b>£</b>             | <b>Number</b>    | <b>£</b>              | <b>Number</b>    |
| Individuals:                       |                      |                  |                       |                  |
| Grants to people in financial need | <b>336</b>           | <b>4</b>         | 1,396                 | 7                |
| Institutions involved in:          |                      |                  |                       |                  |
| Religious Welfare                  | <b>41,405</b>        | <b>23</b>        | 309,051               | 23               |
| Overseas Aid                       | <b>7,800</b>         | <b>7</b>         | 7,700                 | 8                |
| Children                           | <b>600</b>           | <b>1</b>         | 600                   | 1                |
| Medical                            | <b>2,520</b>         | <b>4</b>         | 2,520                 | 4                |
| Poor                               | <b>5,100</b>         | <b>5</b>         | 4,600                 | 5                |
| Elderly                            | -                    | -                | -                     | -                |
| Other                              | <b>2,455</b>         | <b>5</b>         | 3,576                 | 7                |
|                                    | <b><u>59,880</u></b> | <b><u>45</u></b> | <b><u>328,047</u></b> | <b><u>48</u></b> |
| Total                              | <b><u>60,216</u></b> | <b><u>49</u></b> | <b><u>329,443</u></b> | <b><u>55</u></b> |

Included in the grants above is £nil (2019: £nil) relating to restricted funds.

Included in the above institutional grants are the following amounts greater than £1,000:

|                                     | <b>£</b> |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| ACN                                 | 15,000   |
| AIM                                 | 1,000    |
| Grief to Grace                      | 1,000    |
| Abbey of Keur Moussa                | 18,676   |
| Holy See                            | 3,250    |
| Ethiopaid                           | 2,000    |
| International Refugee Trust         | 1,000    |
| Mary's Meals                        | 2,000    |
| Opportunity International           | 1,000    |
| Practical Action                    | 1,000    |
| Earl Mountbatten Hospice            | 2,000    |
| De Paul Trust                       | 1,000    |
| Emmaus                              | 1,000    |
| Missionaries of Charity, Manchester | 1,000    |
| The Passage                         | 1,500    |

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2020

### 6 Costs of Maintaining the Community

|                                             | Designated<br>£ | Unrestricted<br>£ | 2020<br>£      | 2019<br>£      |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Wages Costs                                 | -               | 112,236           | 112,236        | 110,006        |
| Nuns' NIC                                   | -               | 2,363             | 2,363          | 3,659          |
| Repairs, renewals and maintenance           | -               | 41,262            | 41,262         | 100,833        |
| Heat and light                              | -               | 15,709            | 15,709         | 15,228         |
| Postage, phone and stationery               | -               | 6,334             | 6,334          | 4,671          |
| Water rates and council tax                 | -               | 7,149             | 7,149          | 1,730          |
| Household provisions                        | -               | 33,079            | 33,079         | 22,978         |
| Insurance                                   | -               | 15,041            | 15,041         | 14,035         |
| Clothing                                    | -               | 990               | 990            | 658            |
| Gardening expenses                          | -               | 31,519            | 31,519         | 32,839         |
| Monastic hospitality                        | -               | 1,353             | 1,353          | 22,136         |
| Medical costs                               | -               | 7,240             | 7,240          | 8,833          |
| Library Costs                               | -               | 1,703             | 1,703          | 1,632          |
| Motor and travel expenses                   | -               | 1,009             | 1,009          | 3,980          |
| Advertising                                 | -               | 120               | 120            | 112            |
| Sundries                                    | -               | 7,530             | 7,530          | 9,169          |
| Depreciation                                | 79,499          | -                 | 79,499         | 77,795         |
| Legal and Professional<br><i>Governance</i> | -               | 3,892             | 3,892          | 2,559          |
| Auditors' remuneration - statutory audit    | -               | 6,000             | 6,000          | 6,000          |
| - other                                     | -               | 4,980             | 4,980          | 4,800          |
|                                             | <u>79,499</u>   | <u>299,509</u>    | <u>379,008</u> | <u>443,653</u> |

Included in the costs above is £nil (2019: £nil) relating to restricted funds.

| 7 Staff costs                 | 2020<br>£      | 2019<br>£      |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Gross wages and salaries      | 108,111        | 104,587        |
| Employer's national insurance | 4,125          | 5,419          |
|                               | <u>112,236</u> | <u>110,006</u> |
| Average number of staff       | <u>5</u>       | <u>5</u>       |

The charity considers its key management personnel comprise the Trustees only to whom no employment benefits were paid.

No employees received any employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2019: nil).

During the year a redundancy payment of £8,568 was made (2019: £nil)

# St Cecilia's Abbey

Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2020

| 8 Tangible Fixed Assets         | Freehold<br>Property<br>£ | Leasehold<br>Property<br>£ | Fixtures<br>Fittings &<br>Equipment<br>£ | Total<br>£              |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Cost</b>                     |                           |                            |                                          |                         |
| At 1 January 2020               | 5,527,247                 | 200,655                    | 1,152,696                                | 6,880,598               |
| Additions                       | 8,375                     | -                          | 30,426                                   | 38,801                  |
| Disposals                       | -                         | -                          | -                                        | -                       |
| <b>At 31 December 2020</b>      | <b><u>5,535,622</u></b>   | <b><u>200,655</u></b>      | <b><u>1,183,122</u></b>                  | <b><u>6,919,399</u></b> |
| <b>Accumulated Depreciation</b> |                           |                            |                                          |                         |
| At 1 January 2020               | -                         | 76,247                     | 912,944                                  | 989,191                 |
| Charge for the Year             | -                         | 4,013                      | 75,486                                   | 79,499                  |
| Disposals                       | -                         | -                          | -                                        | -                       |
| <b>At 31 December 2020</b>      | <b><u>-</u></b>           | <b><u>80,260</u></b>       | <b><u>988,430</u></b>                    | <b><u>1,068,690</u></b> |
| <b>Net Book Value</b>           |                           |                            |                                          |                         |
| <b>At 31 December 2020</b>      | <b><u>5,535,622</u></b>   | <b><u>120,395</u></b>      | <b><u>194,692</u></b>                    | <b><u>5,850,709</u></b> |
| At 31 December 2019             | <u>5,527,247</u>          | <u>124,408</u>             | <u>239,752</u>                           | <u>5,891,407</u>        |

Tangible assets donated on creation of the Trust have been valued in accordance with their insurance values at the time.

All tangible fixed assets are used in direct furtherance of the charity's objectives.

The leasehold property is held on a 1,000 year lease that expires in 2841.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2020

| 9 Investments                                                                           | 2020<br>£         | 2019<br>£         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Listed on a recognised stock exchange:</b>                                           |                   |                   |
| Market value of Portfolio at 1 January 2020                                             | 15,632,898        | 13,929,862        |
| Transfers to/(from) cash                                                                | 212,824           | (465,710)         |
| Net investment (disposals)/additions made in the year                                   | 394,559           | 551,124           |
| Realised and unrealised gains/(losses) on investments                                   | (807,899)         | 1,617,622         |
|                                                                                         | <u>15,432,382</u> | <u>15,632,898</u> |
| <b>Market value at 31 December 2020</b>                                                 |                   |                   |
| <b>UK Cash held as part of the investment portfolio:</b>                                |                   |                   |
| Balance at 1 January 2020                                                               | 1,742,283         | 1,726,573         |
| Transfers (to)/from listed investments                                                  | (212,824)         | 465,710           |
| Withdrawn from investment                                                               | -                 | (450,000)         |
|                                                                                         | <u>1,529,459</u>  | <u>1,742,283</u>  |
| <b>UK Investment properties:</b>                                                        |                   |                   |
| Balance at 1 January 2020                                                               | 1,526,709         | 1,464,765         |
| Additions to investment properties                                                      | -                 | -                 |
| Revaluation during year                                                                 | 96,752            | 61,944            |
|                                                                                         | <u>1,623,461</u>  | <u>1,526,709</u>  |
| <b>Market value of investment property at 31 December 2020</b>                          |                   |                   |
| <b>Programme related property investments:</b>                                          |                   |                   |
| Balance at 1 January 2020 and cost of programme related investments at 31 December 2020 | 752,492           | 752,492           |
|                                                                                         | <u>19,337,794</u> | <u>19,654,382</u> |

The investment property donated on creation of the Trust has been valued by the Trustees on the basis of its building insurance value. The investment property purchased in 2015 has been included at indexed cost. These are considered to be fair values.

The programme related property investment has been made to support another religious order and is valued at cost.

The market value of the listed investments held at 31 December 2020 was £15,432,382 (2019: £15,632,898); of this value £4,495,889 (2019: £4,131,740) relates to non-UK investments. The cost of listed investments at 31 December 2020 was £14,290,343 (2019: £13,662,642). The trustees consider that there were no material individual investment holdings in the year that require disclosure.

All quoted investments are carried at their fair value. Investments in equities and fixed interest securities are all traded in quoted public markets. Holdings in common investment funds and unit trusts are at bid price. The basis of fair value for quoted investments is equivalent to the market value. Assets sales and purchases are recognised at the date of trade at cost (that is their transaction value).

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2020

|                                |                  |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>10 Debtors</b>              | <b>2020</b>      | <b>2019</b>      |
|                                | <b>£</b>         | <b>£</b>         |
| Trade Debtors                  | 5,372            | 6,609            |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 82,736           | 357,995          |
|                                | <u>88,108</u>    | <u>364,604</u>   |
| <b>11 Creditors</b>            | <b>2020</b>      | <b>2019</b>      |
|                                | <b>£</b>         | <b>£</b>         |
| Other Creditors                | 186,531          | 194,449          |
| Repayable Dowries              | 1,117,097        | 1,097,397        |
|                                | <u>1,303,628</u> | <u>1,291,846</u> |

## 12 Restricted Funds

The Congregation of Solesmes restricted fund represents an amount prescribed by the Congregation. It may not be expended without the Congregation's permission. The fund is held in the form of traded investments which enable it to be accessed if required. A transfer is made to or from the fund to ensure it continues to match the Congregation's requirements.

The movement on the restricted fund is shown below.

|                          | <b>Balance at<br/>1 Jan 2020</b> | <b>Incoming<br/>Gifts</b> | <b>Transfers</b> | <b>Expenditure</b> | <b>Balance at<br/>31 Dec 2020</b> |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                          | <b>£</b>                         | <b>£</b>                  | <b>£</b>         | <b>£</b>           | <b>£</b>                          |
| <b>Current year:</b>     |                                  |                           |                  |                    |                                   |
| Congregation of Solesmes | 2,017,623                        | -                         | 642,993          | -                  | 2,660,616                         |
|                          | <u>2,017,623</u>                 | <u>-</u>                  | <u>642,993</u>   | <u>-</u>           | <u>2,660,616</u>                  |
| <b>Previous year:</b>    |                                  |                           |                  |                    |                                   |
| Congregation of Solesmes | 1,595,730                        | -                         | 421,893          | -                  | 2,017,623                         |
|                          | <u>1,595,730</u>                 | <u>-</u>                  | <u>421,893</u>   | <u>-</u>           | <u>2,017,623</u>                  |

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2020

### 13 Unrestricted Funds

The movements on the designated and unrestricted funds are shown below.

| <b>Current year:</b>            | <b>Balance at<br/>1 Jan 2020<br/>£</b> | <b>Income<br/>£</b> | <b>Expenditure/<br/>Transfers<br/>£</b> | <b>Depreciation/<br/>Gains/<br/>(Losses)<br/>£</b> | <b>Balance at<br/>31 Dec 2020<br/>£</b> |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Designated Funds</b>         |                                        |                     |                                         |                                                    |                                         |
| Repairs                         | 595,205                                | -                   | (10,266)                                | -                                                  | 584,939                                 |
| Nursing Fees                    | 1,800,000                              | -                   | -                                       | -                                                  | 1,800,000                               |
| Library and liturgical Books    | 22,143                                 | -                   | -                                       | -                                                  | 22,143                                  |
| Contingency Reserve             | 2,022,351                              | -                   | 70,524                                  | -                                                  | 2,092,875                               |
| Fixed Assets/PRI                | 6,643,899                              | -                   | 38,801                                  | (79,499)                                           | 6,603,201                               |
| New Car                         | 12,000                                 | -                   | -                                       | -                                                  | 12,000                                  |
| India                           | 440                                    | -                   | -                                       | -                                                  | 440                                     |
| Visiting Nuns Fund              | 5,000                                  | -                   | -                                       | -                                                  | 5,000                                   |
| <b>Total Designated Funds</b>   | <b>11,101,038</b>                      | <b>-</b>            | <b>99,059</b>                           | <b>(79,499)</b>                                    | <b>11,120,598</b>                       |
| Unrestricted General Fund       | 11,641,357                             | 695,881             | (1,198,206)                             | (711,147)                                          | 10,427,885                              |
| <b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b> | <b>22,742,395</b>                      | <b>695,881</b>      | <b>(1,099,147)</b>                      | <b>(790,646)</b>                                   | <b>21,548,483</b>                       |

| <b>Previous year:</b>           | <b>Balance at<br/>1 Jan 2019<br/>£</b> | <b>Income<br/>£</b> | <b>Expenditure/<br/>Transfers<br/>£</b> | <b>Depreciation/<br/>Gains/<br/>(Losses)<br/>£</b> | <b>Balance at<br/>31 Dec 2019<br/>£</b> |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Designated Funds</b>         |                                        |                     |                                         |                                                    |                                         |
| Repairs                         | 606,485                                | -                   | (11,280)                                | -                                                  | 595,205                                 |
| Nursing Fees                    | 2,100,000                              | -                   | (300,000)                               | -                                                  | 1,800,000                               |
| Library and liturgical Books    | 22,143                                 | -                   | -                                       | -                                                  | 22,143                                  |
| Contingency Reserve             | 1,936,714                              | -                   | 85,637                                  | -                                                  | 2,022,351                               |
| Fixed Assets/PRI                | 6,653,086                              | -                   | 68,608                                  | (77,795)                                           | 6,643,899                               |
| New Car                         | 12,000                                 | -                   | -                                       | -                                                  | 12,000                                  |
| India                           | 210                                    | 230                 | -                                       | -                                                  | 440                                     |
| Visiting Nuns Fund              | 5,000                                  | -                   | -                                       | -                                                  | 5,000                                   |
| <b>Total Designated Funds</b>   | <b>11,335,638</b>                      | <b>230</b>          | <b>(157,035)</b>                        | <b>(77,795)</b>                                    | <b>11,101,038</b>                       |
| Unrestricted General Fund       | 9,848,740                              | 1,186,986           | (1,073,935)                             | 1,679,566                                          | 11,641,357                              |
| <b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b> | <b>21,184,378</b>                      | <b>1,187,216</b>    | <b>(1,230,970)</b>                      | <b>1,601,771</b>                                   | <b>22,742,395</b>                       |

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2020

### 13 Unrestricted Funds *(continued)*

#### **Repairs fund**

This represents a reserve designated for building maintenance. A transfer from this fund has been made during the year so that the fund amounts to five years repair costs.

#### **Nursing fees**

This is a fund designated to meet the cost of nursing fees likely to be required if a Sister is in need of specialist care.

#### **Library books**

The Abbey has to meet the costs of providing new books for the library and choir. This fund is to ensure that these costs can be met as and when required.

#### **Contingency reserve**

This designation is to be used for emergency purposes and is based on the cost of maintaining the Community over the last five years. A transfer to the fund has been made during the year to reflect this.

#### **Fixed asset and PRI reserve**

This fund represents the net book value of the Charity's tangible fixed assets and programme related investments (PRI). A transfer is made to or from unrestricted reserves each year to ensure that the fund continues to reflect the net book value of these assets.

#### **New car**

This fund is for the purchase of a new car.

#### **India fund**

This is a fund used to account for gifts and donations from the monastery and from friends so that the Charity is able to assist in an emergency and pay for machinery for altar breads from other European countries.

#### **Visiting nuns reserve**

This designation is for anticipated long term costs that will arise in connection with Sisters staying at the Abbey.

### 14 Commitments

The charity has promised to allow a religious community to live in one of its properties for as long as the community needs it.

At 31 December 2020 the Abbey had no capital commitments. At 31 December 2019 the Abbey had commitments of £11,509 for updating the Abbey's bells and £11,938 for replacing gas piping.

# St Cecilia's Abbey

## Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 31 December 2020

### 15 Obligations under operating leases

Lessor

The total of future minimum lease payments receivable is as follows:

|                                                   | 2020<br>£    | 2019<br>£     |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Not later than one year                           | 5,032        | 4,992         |
| Later than one year and not later than five years | 3,168        | 3,168         |
| Later than five years                             | -            | 3,960         |
|                                                   | <u>8,200</u> | <u>12,120</u> |

### 16 Split of Assets Between Funds

|                        | Restricted<br>Fund | Unrestricted<br>Funds | 2020<br>Total<br>Funds | 2019<br>Total<br>Funds |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|                        | £                  | £                     | £                      | £                      |
| <b>Represented by:</b> |                    |                       |                        |                        |
| Tangible fixed assets  | -                  | 5,850,709             | 5,850,709              | 5,891,407              |
| Investments            | 2,660,616          | 16,677,178            | 19,337,794             | 19,654,382             |
| Current assets         | -                  | 324,224               | 324,224                | 506,075                |
| Current liabilities    | -                  | (1,303,628)           | (1,303,628)            | (1,291,846)            |
|                        | <u>2,660,616</u>   | <u>21,548,483</u>     | <u>24,209,099</u>      | <u>24,760,018</u>      |

### 17 Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash flow from operating activities

|                                                                                                         | 2020<br>£        | 2019<br>£        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)</b> | <b>(550,919)</b> | 1,979,910        |
| <b>Adjustments for:</b>                                                                                 |                  |                  |
| Depreciation charges                                                                                    | 79,499           | 77,795           |
| Losses/(gains) on investments                                                                           | 711,147          | (1,679,566)      |
| Dividends, interest and rents from investments                                                          | (466,949)        | (649,407)        |
| Decrease /(increase) in debtors                                                                         | 276,496          | (287,422)        |
| Increase / (decrease) in creditors                                                                      | 11,782           | 131,902          |
| Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities                                                     | <u>61,056</u>    | <u>(426,788)</u> |

### 18 Funds received as agent

Until the pandemic began the Abbey held a weekly collection, as agent, on behalf of 'St Mary's Church, Ryde'. The income and payments to the church are not included in these accounts. There was no balance due to St Mary's Church at 31 December 2020. This practice was discontinued at the time of the first lockdown and there is no plan to resume it.