

Mercy Mission Welfare Society

Trustees Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2021

Reference and Administrative Information

Name of Charity: Mercy Mission Welfare Society

Charity Registration Number: 1088750

Principal Address: 4, The Croft, Henley Road, Claverdon, CV35 8PS

Charity Trustees: Stephen Collett, (Treasurer),
Jonathan Hibbs,
Andrew Raine (Secretary),
Pamela Raine,
Andrew Simpkins (Chair),

Independent Examiner: Ian English

Structure, Governance and Management

The Mission is governed by the Trust Deed dated 26th February 2001. Trustees are appointed by a resolution of trustees passed at a special meeting called for this purpose. There shall be at least 3 trustees, and the trustees shall hold at least 2 ordinary meetings every year. The trustees have adopted basic policies to ensure good practise governance and management in the principal areas of the charity.

Trustees are encouraged to be familiar with the range of activities with the associated Mercy Mission Welfare Society (MMWS) in India. All the current trustees have visited the MMWS campus in, Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh and have first-hand experience of the work in India. There is an awareness of additional support networks for Mercy Mission Welfare Society based in USA and in New Zealand.

A compliance meeting was held with the Charity Commission to review the charity's overseas expenditure and operating methods. The trustees have taken cognisance of the advice given and are implementing actions requested by the Commission to strengthen the Charity's governance.

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the Mercy Mission Welfare Society are as follows:

- To propagate the Christian faith, knowledge, practise and understanding in the designated area of Andhra Pradesh, India.
- To relieve poverty, sickness, distress by the provision of food, shelter, clothing and medical care.
- To advance education of the public, particularly children.
- To support the organisational base in India in its aim to become self-sufficient.

The Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on a range of issues particularly: public benefit, safeguarding duties and Due Diligence, Monitoring and Verification of End Use of Charitable Funds. Public benefit is clearly demonstrated in the range of services funded in Mercy Mission Welfare Society India, especially in the provision of a home for orphaned or neglected children and the provision of education to these and other children. Regular visits to the Indian campus by Trustees and examination of the Indian charity's annual accounts provide a level of monitoring and due diligence for the use of charitable funds.

Achievements and Performance from funds donated through the UK charity

The year has been dominated by the impact the Covid 19 Coronavirus which resulted in the Schools and Hostels in India being closed by Government imposed lockdown. Lockdown in the UK has meant that all Trustee Meetings have been held virtually on-line. These have been with increased frequency during the year and have been joined by the Indian President. This has enabled trustees to be kept aware the situation in India and take decisions on policy and funding accordingly.

The main focus has been to support the Mission as a whole to ensure its survival post Covid. Closure of the school resulted in a significant drop in income for the Indian Charity which was much greater than any cost savings due to the hostel children not being in residence. Increased funds have been sent during the year, agreed month by month, to enable the campus to be maintained and salaries of staff paid, including school teachers.

Work of the school has continued during lockdown with lessons on-line and contact maintained with the majority of pupils where connectivity was available. Similarly, contact with the Hostel children was maintained with supplies of materials and provisions sent out.

The Indian Mission has also provided some support to its community, neighbours and associates, where the impact of the lockdown caused poverty and hardship.

As the financial year ends Covid cases in Andhra Pradesh are low allowing lockdown to be lifted. The campus has reopened and the hostel children have returned and the majority of pupils (approx 670) are attending school. The newer rural School at Mendangi has also reopened.

Although Indian government Covid regulations prohibit schools demanding payment, a sufficient number of fees are being received to allowing sustainability without additional external funding.

During the year farming in the Paddy Fields was allowed to continue and good harvests have resulted providing rice and pulses, some of which have supported remaining staff and the wider community. The provision of Paddy fields in recent years has demonstrated their benefit in the drive towards greater sustainability, especially during the lockdown.

The Trustees are pleased to have been able to help support and sustain the mission throughout this pandemic year and know that the beneficiaries; hostel and school children as well as local community, have continued to receive such education, welfare and provisions as conditions allowed. This is in line with the charity's objectives and demonstrates a definite public benefit.

Risks

Although Covid cases in Andhra Pradesh are low at year end, they are rising elsewhere in India and this remains an ongoing risk to the work of the Indian Charity. Changes to the Indian Foreign Contribution Regulations now require all charity overseas funding to be banked in Delhi and there is potential delay in setting this up which may risk delays in UK funding being received resulting in short term hardship in the immediate future.

Covid Travel restrictions have meant planned trustee visits to India have been cancelled and present a risk to future visits to review and report on the work India if they persist. However regular on-line meetings and social media reports are keeping trustees well informed on the situation and status at the mission.

Progress in India funded independently

New Zealand and USA supporters have continued to fund the mission through the year. Funding has also been provided to build additional office and conference facilities for the school.

UK trustees were able to join a Mercy Mission Welfare Society Zoom International Conference on Mission in January 2021 and to “meet” representatives and donors and hear something of the activities of the other organisations involved.

Financial Review

Principal sources of income to Mercy Mission UK are through regular sponsorship of the children in the Mission home and donations to the general work of Mercy Mission in India, most of which is donated on a regular basis together with specific appeals where appropriate. This year the charity has received general donations of £65,000 including gift aid and a considerable number of Ad Hoc donations in response to the Covid crisis. This has enabled approximately £15,000 of additional funding to be sent, over and above regular budgeted funds for support during the Covid lockdown. A smaller amount of restricted funding received has been sent for specific purposes including campus maintenance and local support.

The charity continues to use a more cost-effective route using a Money Services Business, protected by Finance Conduct Authority regulation, for transferring funds to India and uses on-line banking with appropriate security.

Safeguarding

MMWS UK does not work directly with vulnerable children and young adults. When visits by trustees or groups sponsored by the charity are made to the Indian campus, contact with vulnerable children and young adults is overseen by local staff. Our visits policy covers the safeguarding aspects of these visits. The Charity funds MMWS India which clearly does work with vulnerable children and young adults. The trustees are aware of MMWS India's safeguarding measures which are in line with national requirements.

Signed: A Simpkins Chair of Trustees
18 November 2021



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Mercy Mission Welfare Society

On accounts for the year
ended

31st March 2021

Charity no
(if any)

1088750

Responsibilities and
basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2021.

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

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

Independent
examiner's statement

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

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

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

Signed:

Date: 20/05/2021

Name:

Ian English

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):


Finance Manager (Retired)

Address:

38 Sambourn Close

Solihull

B91 2SA

 CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES	Charity Name		No (if any)		CC16a
	Mercy Mission Welfare Society		1088750		
	Receipts and payments accounts				
	the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date	
		01/04/2020		31/03/2021	

Section A Receipts and payments					
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Sponsorship & Donations	55,039			55,039	37,281
Gift Aid	10,044			10,044	8,243
Paddyfield Appeal	-			-00	14,456
Village school Appeal	-			-00	2,294
Legacy	-			-00	45,000
Specific Donations		2,400		2,400	-00
				-00	-00
	-	-00	-00	-00	-00
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	65,084	2,400	-00	67,484	107,274
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-00	
	-	-	-	-00	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-00	-
Total receipts	65,084	2,400	-	67,484	107,274
A3 Payments					
Funding sent to MMWS India	65,158		-00	65,158	54,909
Paddy Field Funding to India	-		-00	-00	27,500
Village school Funding to India	4,921		-00	4,921	16,500
Banks Charges	-		-00	-00	542
Website expenses	-		-00	-00	127
Other expenses	-		-00	-00	4,500
Specific Funding		2,400	-00	2,400	-00
	-	-00	-00	-00	-00
	-	-00	-00	-00	-00
Sub total	70,079	2,400	-00	72,479	104,078
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-00	
	-	-	-	-00	
Sub total	-	-	-	-00	-
Total payments	70,079	2,400	-	72,479	104,078
Net of receipts/(payments)	-4,995	-00	-00	-4,995	-42,580
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-00	-00	-00	-00
A6 Cash funds last year end	8,924	-00	-00	8,924	52,585
Cash funds this year end	3,929	-00	-00	3,929	10,005

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank a/c no. 1	1,747	-00	-00
	Bank a/c no. 2	680	-00	-00
	Bank a/c no.3	1,502	-00	-00
	Total cash funds		3,929	-00
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
	Funds held at Smart Currency	250	-00	-00
		-00	-00	-00
		-00	-00	-00
		-00	-00	-00
		-00	-00	-00
		-00	-00	-00
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-00	-00
			-00	-00
			-00	-00
			-00	-00
			-00	-00
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-00	-00
			-00	-00
			-00	-00
			-00	-00
			-00	-00
			-00	-00
			-00	-00
			-00	-00
			-00	-00
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-00	
			-00	
			-00	
			-00	
			-00	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval
	signed	A Simpkins		14/06/2021
		Chair of Trustees		