

Charity number: 1096617

The Guild of Our Lady of Good Counsel
Trustees' report and financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

The Guild of Our Lady of Good Counsel

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The Guild of Our Lady of Good Counsel

Legal and administrative information

Charity number	1096617
Registered office	15 Maple Grove London NW9 8RD
Trustees	Mrs Clare McCullough (Chairman) Alan Ashfield Mrs Sarah Bignell Mrs. Marguerita Carroll (Treasurer) Fr Stephen Boyle
Accountants	Andrew Passer FIFA 20 Sunningdale Close Stanmore Middlesex HA7 3QL
Bankers	HSBC 59- 61 The Mall Stratford Centre Stratford London E15 1XF
Solicitors	Pothecary, Witham Weld Solicitors 70 St George's Square London SW1V 3RD

The Guild of Our Lady of Good Counsel

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 1.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is governed by five Trustees. The trustees are appointed every four years at the Charity's AGM and the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer constitute the Officers. The trustees meet four times a year to consider strategic issues and policies affecting the Charity. Further meetings of the Trustees can be called as required. The Trustees ensure that they have taken the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance into account when making any decision it is relevant to.

Objectives and activities

The charity's principal objectives are as follows:

The provision of education, instruction and information on the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church particularly in relation to sexual morality and life issues.

The relief in cases of need, hardship or distress of women who are pregnant or are mothers, and of their families and dependants.

The provision of financial support to organisations which assist women who are pregnant or are mothers by providing them with services such as financial assistance, counselling, support, information, safe-houses, accommodation, education, employment, baby-sitting, and services which assist women in continuing their pregnancies, provided that all such services are in accordance with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

Achievements and performance

The Guild this year has been able to provide grants of £257,450 (2024 £224,790) to organisations which provide appropriate ongoing support and advice and information to expectant and new Mothers. We have also provided £133,377 (2024 £99,363) worth of grants to individual Mothers in the most difficult of circumstances. Finally, we have provided thousands of pounds worth of baby clothes, milk, nappies and new and used baby equipment. We continue to increase the amount of financial support and vouchers we provide because of the struggles Mothers face due to the increased cost of living.

Financial review

Total income decreased from £542,985 last year to £492,955 this year, whilst our charitable expenditure increased by £37,295 from £502,375 to £539,670. The Trustees are happy to report that we still have a healthy cumulative surplus of £1,220,152 to be carried forward for future years.

We assist other charities, councils and social services departments by keeping expectant and new Mothers in accommodation through helping with their rent, while we assist them in improving their circumstances and we also provide financial support, maternity goods and assistance in the home or with temporary childcare solutions for Mothers with little or no access to public funds.

Our Internship (Voluntary Worker) Programme has been particularly busy this year. It continues to provide training which we hope will give volunteers the ability and incentive to spread this work more widely.

Plans for future periods

Our baby bank continues to expand and we also have broadened out our services to make regular referrals to other baby banks, something many of our beneficiaries find hard to obtain. We are also increasing the support and representation of Mothers we assist, to enable them to get the appropriate help and support from councils and other state bodies, since we have found this is often missed or incorrectly assessed.

We also plan to increase the intake on our Internship Programme.

The Guild of Our Lady of Good Counsel

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

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

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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year. 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 judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which 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. 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. The trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty in section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

On behalf of the board

Mrs Clare McCullough (Chairman)

Trustee

The Guild of Our Lady of Good Counsel

Independent examiner's report to the trustees on the unaudited financial statements of The Guild of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

I report on the accounts of The Guild of Our Lady of Good Counsel for the year ended 31 March 2025 set out on pages 2 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, you consider that the audit requirement of section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act), does not apply and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act, as amended; to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, as amended; and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (i) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Acthave not been met; or
- (ii) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Andrew Passer FIFA

Independent examiner

The Guild of Our Lady of Good Counsel

Statement of financial activities

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Incoming resources				
Incoming resources from generating funds:				
Voluntary income	2	492,324	492,324	497,744
Activities for generating funds	3	-	-	45,170
Investment income	4	631	631	71
Total incoming resources		<u>492,955</u>	<u>492,955</u>	<u>542,985</u>
Resources expended				
Costs of generating funds:				
Fundraising trading:				
cost of goods sold and other costs	5	6,346	6,346	30,150
Charitable activities	6	523,830	523,830	468,872
Governance costs	8	9,494	9,494	3,353
Total resources expended		<u>539,670</u>	<u>539,670</u>	<u>502,375</u>
 Total funds brought forward		 <u>1,266,867</u>	 <u>1,266,867</u>	 <u>1,226,257</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>1,220,152</u>	<u>1,220,152</u>	<u>1,266,867</u>

The notes on pages 7 to 12 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Guild of Our Lady of Good Counsel

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Notes	£	2025 £	£	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		1,148,714		1,175,172
Current assets					
Debtors	13	51,752		27,022	
Cash at bank and in hand		44,326		84,544	
		<u>96,078</u>		<u>111,566</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(6,640)</u>		<u>(1,871)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>89,438</u>		<u>109,695</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			1,238,152		1,284,867
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	15		<u>(18,000)</u>		<u>(18,000)</u>
Net assets			<u>1,220,152</u>		<u>1,266,867</u>
Funds	16				
Unrestricted income funds			<u>1,220,152</u>		<u>1,266,867</u>
Total funds			<u>1,220,152</u>		<u>1,266,867</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on and signed on its behalf by

Mrs Clare McCullough (Chairman)
Trustee

The notes on pages 7 to 12 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Guild of Our Lady of Good Counsel

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and the preceding year.

1.1. Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRSSE)

1.2. Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Grants where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Gifts donated for resale are included as incoming resources within activities for generating funds when they are sold.

Income from investments is included in the year in which it is receivable.

Legacies are included when the charity is advised by the personal representative of an estate that payment will be made or property transferred and the amount involved can be quantified.

1.3. Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income including events.

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

Fund raising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management.

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Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

1.4. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Land and buildings	-	Straight line over 50 years
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	-	20% straight line

2. Voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
General Donations	273,530	273,530	188,991
Donations via gift aid	159,305	159,305	175,375
Gift aid tax recovered	38,640	38,640	43,781
Other donations	9,000	9,000	4,227
Legacies	11,849	11,849	85,370
	<u>492,324</u>	<u>492,324</u>	<u>497,744</u>

3. Activities for generating funds

	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Fundraising events	-	45,170
	<u>-</u>	<u>45,170</u>

4. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Other interest receivable	631	631	71
	<u>631</u>	<u>631</u>	<u>71</u>

5. Fundraising trading

	Unrestricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Fundraising events	6,346	6,346	30,150
	<u>6,346</u>	<u>6,346</u>	<u>30,150</u>

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Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

6. Costs of charitable activities - by fund type

	Unrestricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Grants to GCN London	257,450	257,450	224,790
Interns	9,343	9,343	8,392
Grants to mothers	133,377	133,377	99,363
Building expenses	49,659	49,659	50,354
Support costs	74,001	74,001	85,973
	<u>523,830</u>	<u>523,830</u>	<u>468,872</u>

7. Costs of charitable activities - by activity

	Activities undertaken directly £	Grant funding activities £	Support costs £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Grants to GCN London	-	257,450	-	257,450	224,790
Interns	9,343	-	-	9,343	8,392
Grants to mothers	-	133,377	-	133,377	99,363
Building expenses	49,659	-	-	49,659	50,354
Support costs	1,727	-	72,274	74,001	85,973
	<u>60,729</u>	<u>390,827</u>	<u>72,274</u>	<u>523,830</u>	<u>468,872</u>

8. Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Professional - Accountancy fees	2,700	2,700	2,102
Professional - Legal fees	6,794	6,794	1,200
Interest - Bank loans & overdraft	-	-	51
	<u>9,494</u>	<u>9,494</u>	<u>3,353</u>

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Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

9. Analysis of support costs

	Unrestricted Funds	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£
Staff costs	33,949	33,949	31,968
Telephone	3,035	3,035	3,164
Printing, postage and stationery	29,537	29,537	27,059
Depreciation and impairment	2,098	2,098	2,142
Bank charges	1,393	1,393	1,419
Other costs	2,262	2,262	19,938
	<u>72,274</u>	<u>72,274</u>	<u>85,690</u>

10. Employees

Employment costs	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	<u>33,949</u>	<u>31,968</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 (2024 : None).

Number of employees

The average monthly numbers of employees (including the trustees) during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents, was as follows:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Administration	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

11. Trustees' emoluments

None of the trustees were paid any remuneration or expenses during the year (2018 - £nil)

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Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

12. Tangible fixed assets	Land and buildings freehold	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2024	1,369,797	41,216	1,411,013
Additions	-	3,036	3,036
At 31 March 2025	<u>1,369,797</u>	<u>44,252</u>	<u>1,414,049</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2024	196,988	38,853	235,841
Charge for the year	27,396	2,098	29,494
At 31 March 2025	<u>224,384</u>	<u>40,951</u>	<u>265,335</u>
Net book values			
At 31 March 2025	<u>1,145,413</u>	<u>3,301</u>	<u>1,148,714</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,172,809</u>	<u>2,363</u>	<u>1,175,172</u>

13. Debtors	2025	2024
	£	£
Other debtors	<u>51,752</u>	<u>27,022</u>

14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	5,801	955
Other creditors	839	916
	<u>6,640</u>	<u>1,871</u>

15. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	2025	2024
	£	£
Other loan	<u>18,000</u>	<u>18,000</u>

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Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
Fund balances at 31 March 2025 as represented by:		
Tangible fixed assets	1,148,714	1,148,714
Current assets	96,078	96,078
Current liabilities	(6,640)	(6,640)
Long-term liabilities	(18,000)	(18,000)
	<u>1,220,152</u>	<u>1,220,152</u>

17. Unrestricted funds

	2024 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	2025 £
Unrestricted Funds	<u>1,266,867</u>	<u>492,955</u>	<u>(539,670)</u>	<u>1,220,152</u>

Purposes of unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds may be used for any purpose deemed by the trustees to comply with the objects of the charity