

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1124067

Illyrian Gospel Trust

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Illyrian Gospel Trust

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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ILLYRIAN GOSPEL TRUST

TRUST INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Name: Illyrian Gospel Trust

Charity Registration Number: 1124067

Governing Documentation: Declaration of Trust dated 10th March 2008

Trustees during the period: Roger Aldridge
Michael Martin
Robert Ness
Neil Poole
Helen Romain (Secretary)
Jonathan Gulliford
Richard Patterson (Chairman)
Paul Dutton
Tim Rawlinson (appointed 30/01/2023)

Bankers: Virgin Money
7 Gold Street
Northampton
NN1 1EN

HSBC Bank
1 Market Place
Hitchin
Hertfordshire
SG5 1DR

Independent Examiner: SCM Accountancy Services
39 Silver Birch Avenue
Stotfold
Hitchin
Hertfordshire
SG5 4AS

ILLYRIAN GOSPEL TRUST
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees present their annual report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023. The accounts comply with the requirements of the SORP FRS102.

1. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

The governing document is the Declaration of Trust dated 10th March 2008

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

Trustees are appointed and recruited in accordance with the Declaration of Trust dated 10th March 2008. Recruitment and appointment of Trustees is conducted in accordance with paragraphs 15 & 16 of the said Declaration of Trust.

Organizational structure

The Trustees are responsible for the day to day running of the Trust and maintaining financial and other records for inspection at Trustees Meetings.

Due regard has been given to the Charity Commission Guidance on Public Benefit.

Trustees

The Trustees, for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year were as follows: -

Roger Aldridge
Neil Poole
Michael Martin
Robert Ness (Treasurer)
Helen Romain (Secretary)
Jonathan Gulliford
Richard Patterson (Chairman)
Paul Dutton
Tim Rawlinson (appointed 30/01/2023)

2. Objectives and Activities

Charitable objectives

- (a) to advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Statement of Beliefs appearing in the Schedule hereto in the United Kingdom, Albania or the world as the Trustees may from time to time think fit and to fulfil such other purposes which are exclusively charitable according to the law of England and Wales, and are connected with the

charitable work of the Trust

- (b) to relieve sickness and financial hardship and to promote and preserve good health by the provision of funds, goods or services of any kind, including through the provision of counselling and support in such parts of the United Kingdom, Albania or the world as the Trustees from time to time may think fit.
- (c) to advance education in accordance with the Christian principles set out in the Statement of Beliefs in the Schedule hereto by such means as the Trustees may consider appropriate including by means of establishing and operating any educational establishment or establishments in the United Kingdom, Albania or the world as the Trustees may from time to time think fit.

Main activities

The easing of the global pandemic allowed the Fier and Patos churches to be able to meet in person. This has also allowed the re-establishment of women's meetings in both towns and meetings for youth and children.

3. Achievements

Training and education

The Field Director was able to teach two times at the Torchbearers Bible school in Ersekë. He also was able to teach at the Torchbearers school in Embu, Kenya, which is an offshoot of the school in Ersekë. He was also able to preach in several churches in Albania and was asked to teach the "Light church" in Tirana over a weekend.

This year we have been able to support the camp for the visually impaired in Ersekë known as the "Light of Life" camp.

The Director visited several churches in England and Scotland during the year both to preach and to promote the work of the Trust. He continues to provide written updates to supporters and to take part in online meetings.

The Trust organised an online prayer conference to highlight various aspects of its work. We were joined by Bledar Lamaj from Patos and Fabjon Ivanaj, pastor of the Faith Bible church in Tirana whom the Trust supports.

The church in Fier was able to baptise one believer this year.

These activities are in accord with paragraph (c) as set out in the objectives of the Trust and are designed to train Albanian believers to take over the leadership of the local churches.

Relief of sickness and financial hardship

The Trust has been able to support a young teenager in his education in the town of Levan. This young man has been sponsored by the "body and soul" meeting that Christchurch Baldock have organised. The Field Director serves on the board of an Albanian charity, Light for the Blind, which seeks to serve the spiritual, social and humanitarian needs of the blind and partially sighted community in Albania. We have been

able to purchase a number of canes due to a generous donation and have begun distributing them in Fier, Patos, Korçë, Ersekë and Tirana. A partnership with a local food bank has helped with food needs.

Projects

The business creation scheme finally began in June of 2023. A training event was organised with two businessmen from the United Kingdom and trainers from the United States and Albania. Over 30 people attended the first night and the teachers were able to visit a prospective candidate for a micro loan in Vlorë.

Since then one of the trainers has begun to help the owners of a business in preparing financial plan for the expansion of the business. He has given vital advice to the owners and it is anticipated that they will apply this year to the Trust for a loan.

This is in accord with paragraph (b) as set out in the Objectives of the Trust.

Co-operation with other bodies

The Trust continued to work with the Albanian Evangelical Mission and LinkAcross and on a field level. It also supports the work of the Faith Bible Church in Tirana and particular its pastor Fabjon Ivanaj as well as the "Way of Peace" churches in Fier and Patos.

These organisations have objectives which are in line with the Trust's and comply with the Statement of Faith.

Church Planting

It has not been possible to pursue new church plants this year. However the Field Director and Assistant Field Director have continued visits to Levan, Suk and Verri which have the potential for church plants in the future.

This is in accord with paragraph (a) as set out in the objectives of the Trust.

Leadership Training

There have been training sessions provided by Grace church, Yate, for those who are looking toward leadership in the Fier church throughout 2023 and visits are going to increase in number next year.

This continues under the mentorship of the Field Director ensuring that the work is in accordance with paragraph (c) of the objectives of the Trust.

Delegated Authority

A contract has been provided for the Field Director stating the limits of operational and financial responsibility delegated to him by the Board. These are detailed below.

Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the Field Director are as laid out in the Trust Deed of Illyrian Gospel Trust dated 10th March 2008. These are detailed in Paragraph 4 of the Trust Deed. In particular, the activities of the Field Director, acting on behalf of the Trustees must comply with the Statement of Beliefs contained in the Schedule on pages 12-14 of the Trust Deed.

In addition to these responsibilities the Field Director is required to submit a written report to the Trustees on the progress of the work of the Trust and any projects that it has undertaken every four months.

The levels of delegated responsibility are listed below.

1. Ministry Activities

- a) The Field Director is authorised to undertake any activity which can be shown to be compatible with the Aims and Objectives of the Trust.
- b) The Field Director is authorised to enter into collaboration with other Evangelical organisations whose aims and objectives are not in conflict with those of the Trust.
- c) The Field Director is authorised to invite any Evangelical organisation to cooperate with the Trust in its activities whose aims and objectives are in line with the Trust Deed subject to notification to the Trustees.

2. Financial

- a) The Field Director is authorised to commit to Ministry Expenses up to a single value of £250 without prior approval of the Trustees. The cumulative total of such expenses must not exceed £1,000 per month.
- b) The Field Director is allowed one air fare per annum for himself and family for the purposes of visiting the UK. Any other overseas travel must be authorised by the Trustees.

4. Financial Review

Fund Position as at 31 December 2023

The fund has £100,061 in hand at the end of the year, £62,847 being unrestricted and £37,214 being designated for specific needs and activities. This represents an increase of £14,530 compared to 31 December 2022. The principle reasons for this increase in funding are a donation of £9,000 to fund translation and publication of J C Ryle Holiness in Albania and a general donation from an individual donor of £10,000 received on the last day of 2023.

During 2023 gifts and donations totalled £81,808, £45,040 for unrestricted use, mainly from supporting churches across the UK and £36,768 for designated use, principally to support Will and Doreta Niven, James Goodman, Bledi Lamaj, the J C Ryle publication, and work with children and blind believers.

Reserves policy

Monthly costs to run the Field Directors office are:

Field Director's Pay	£1,400
Assistant Field Director's Pay	£1,300
Field Worker's Pay	£1,075
Pension and National Insurance Costs	£ 415
Insurance costs	£ 200
	<u>£4,390</u>

Other Monthly Costs:

Support for blind believers	£150
Support for the Bledar Lamaj	£250
Support for Fabjon	£ 40
	<u>£440</u>

Other commitments:

Repatriation costs for Niven family	£5,000
Repatriation of James Goodman	£2,000

The Trustees consider that in the event of the Trust being closed that it would be prudent to assume it would take six months to enable the Trust to be closed in an orderly manner. We consider that the minimum we need to hold in reserve to cover the costs of this period of orderly closure is £36,000 which we prudently assume will come from general funds and represents 57% of the current general fund.

During the year the Trustees decided to open a new bank account with Virgin Money to enable online banking facilities to be accessed. Given the additional risks of online banking access has been extended to include two other trustees as well as the Treasurer enabling appropriate checks and balances to be put in place. Specifically the Secretary has direct access to the bank statements whilst the Treasurer is required to circulate a list of payments from the new account to all trustees monthly.

5. Future Developments

The principal aim of the Trust is to develop godly church leaders and followers in Albania which is tackled through a variety of methods such as:

- Establishment of the business microloans project to assist with starting or developing businesses in and around Fier. Whilst this initiative is not exclusive to believers it is expected that guidance from believers will help develop businesses and business practices that are sustainable and in His honour
- Helping the blind community in Albania in spiritual and practical ways including purchase and delivery of white canes, food parcels and assistance to organize spiritual events
- James Goodman's ministry which was started in 2019 and is supported by a wide range of donors has provided additional stimulus to spreading the word particularly in Patos and James' influence for the Lord continues to develop new believers in the area
- With appropriate resources (financial and human) it would be possible to consider or support church plants and also widen our work with bible schools such as the one affiliated to a school in Kenya that Will Niven is already active with

From time to time these projects and initiatives need additional funding which the Trustees publicise as and when required.

6. Risk review

Consideration has been given to risks associated with the promotion of 'Team Albania'.

A review has been undertaken on proposed new legislation which it was thought may impact on 'Team Albania'. After careful consideration, it was determined that as 'Team Albania' is not offered as a Package type of activity this legislation did not apply.

An insurance policy is in place to cover the events highlighted in the risk review.

The trustees have insurance policies in place both to cover general liabilities including employee and public liability insurance.

Additionally the trustees have considered the issues and risks surrounding money overseas and have implemented policies to ensure adequate control and checking of payments sent to Albania.

7. Responsibilities of the Trustees

Charity law 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 its receipt and application of resources including income and expenditure for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statement of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in operational existence.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. 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.

Illyrian Gospel Trust

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of Illyrian Gospel Trust

I report on the financial statements of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 8 to 11. These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out therein.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of s144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) does not apply.

It is my responsibility to;

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act) and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 of disclosure in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all of the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether or not 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:

(1)

which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the
accounting requirements of the Charities Act
have not been met; or

(2)

to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding
of the accounts to be reached.



13 June 2024

Sue Matejtschuk FCA
SCM Accountancy Services Ltd
39 Silver Birch Avenue
Stotfold
Hitchin
Herts
SG5 4AS

Illyrian Gospel Trust

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Incoming resources					
Income resources from generated funds					
Donations and legacies		45,040	36,768	81,808	61,668
Investment income and interest					
Bank interest		521	-	521	64
Total incoming resources		<u>45,561</u>	<u>36,768</u>	<u>82,329</u>	<u>61,732</u>
Resources expended					
Charitable expenditure					
Staff costs	2	33,140	19,296	52,436	42,912
Other running costs	3	1,409	-	1,409	965
Grantmaking	4	6,341	7,463	13,804	16,466
Governance costs					
Independent examination		150	-	150	150
Trustee's expenses		-	-	-	-
Total resources expended	5	<u>41,040</u>	<u>26,759</u>	<u>67,799</u>	<u>60,493</u>
Net Movements in funds		4,521	10,009	14,530	1,239
Total funds at 1 January 2023		<u>58,326</u>	<u>27,205</u>	<u>85,531</u>	<u>84,292</u>
Total funds at 31 December 2023		<u>62,847</u>	<u>37,214</u>	<u>100,061</u>	<u>85,531</u>

Illyrian Gospel Trust

BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		2023	2022
<i>The assets and liabilities of the charity:</i>			
	Notes	£	£
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		100,061	85,531
Net current assets		<u>100,061</u>	<u>85,531</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>100,061</u>	<u>85,531</u>
Net assets including pension asset / liability		<u>100,061</u>	<u>85,531</u>
<i>The funds of the charity:</i>			
Unrestricted income funds		62,847	58,326
Restricted income funds	6	37,214	27,205
Total charity funds		<u>100,061</u>	<u>85,531</u>

Robert Ness
Trustee

Approved by the trustees on

R. Ness 28/7/24

The notes on pages 10-11 form an integral part of these accounts.

Illyrian Gospel Trust

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts are in accordance with the recommendations in Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued in March 2005 and comply with the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2005 issued under the Charities Act 1993.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with all applicable accounting standards, as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting issued by the Charity Commissioners for England & Wales, (revised June 2008). The accounts have been drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the Charities Acts, and include the results of the charity's operations which are described in the Trustees' Report, all of which are continuing.

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard No 1 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement.

The particular accounting policies adopted are set out below.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Incoming resources

Incoming resources are accounted for on a receivable basis.

Resources expended

All expenditure is recognised in the period in which incurred and accounted for on an accruals basis.

This has then been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Resources expended include attributable VAT that cannot be recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

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.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the accountancy fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

The Trustees have been reimbursed £nil expenses (2022: £nil)

2 STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

Staff costs were as follows:	2023	2022
	£	£
Pay & Pension	48,408	39,843
Expenses	4,028	3,069
	<u>52,436</u>	<u>42,912</u>

Of the above, £19,296 (2022 - £12,431) was sourced through restricted funds.

Staff: Field Director
Assistant Field Director
Field Evangelist

Illyrian Gospel Trust

**NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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OTHER RUNNING COSTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Insurance	632	588
Membership Fees	490	304
Other Costs	287	73
	<u>1,409</u>	<u>965</u>

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GRANT MAKING

	2023		2022	
	General Restricted			
	£	£	£	£
Children's Work	-	828	828	1,647
Project Rritja (Fier church)	-	770	770	-
Bledi	393	2,468	2,861	2,825
Brunna	959	-	959	859
Fabi	500	2,212	2,712	480
CEF	-	-	-	1,278
Grant to Mario	-	-	-	1,200
Blind	1,900	500	2,400	-
Books for Teaching	1,993	-	1,993	-
Food Parcels	300	-	300	-
AEP Conference	296	-	296	-
Professional Institute	-	-	-	700
Niko & Arla	-	25	25	1,600
Light for the Blind	-	-	-	4,013
Veis Family Support	-	-	-	1,000
Patos/Fier General Support	-	-	-	294
Agron Family Support	-	-	-	75
Dorisa	-	260	260	-
Anxhelo	-	400	400	495
	<u>6,341</u>	<u>7,463</u>	<u>13,804</u>	<u>16,466</u>

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Money spent in Albania was £59,652, which represents 91% of total expenditure.

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RESTRICTED FUND ANALYSIS

	2023				2023
	Opening			Expense	Closing
Funds	Balance	Income	Transfer	£	Balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Project Rritja (Fier church)	3,747	120	-	(770)	3,097
Bledi	23	2,445	-	(2,468)	-
Fabi	-	2,212	-	(2,212)	-
Children's Work	5,050	1,020	-	(828)	5,242
Blind	-	500	-	(500)	-
Niko & Arla	-	25	-	(25)	-
Business Loans	11,955	400	-	-	12,355
Light for the Blind	-	2,920	-	-	2,920
Pastor Training	-	140	-	-	140
Anxhelo	-	400	-	(400)	-
Dorisa	-	260	-	(260)	-
JC Ryle Holiness (Albanian)	-	9,000	-	-	9,000
	<u>20,775</u>	<u>19,442</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(7,463)</u>	<u>32,754</u>
Staff					
Will and Doreta	2,762	8,651	-	(7,199)	4,214
James Goodman	3,668	8,675	-	(12,097)	246
Total	<u>27,205</u>	<u>36,768</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(26,759)</u>	<u>37,214</u>