

THE MARRIAGE FOUNDATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1150453

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [08002851](#)

Registered 2013-01-11

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

Contact

Address PO Box 3014
Romford
RM7 1TX

Phone 07790947349

Email info@marriagefoundation.org.uk

Website www.marriagefoundation.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 1. TO SAFEGUARD AND PROTECT THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OF ADULTS AND CHILDREN, AND TO PREVENT HARDSHIP POVERTY AND DISTRESS, BY RAISING AWARENESS OF THE MEANS BY WHICH SUCCESSFUL RELATIONSHIPS (INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO MARRIED RELATIONSHIPS) CAN BE DEVELOPED AND STRENGTHENED AND THE BREAKDOWN OF RELATIONSHIPS AVOIDED.2. TO PROMOTE RESEARCH INTO ALL ASPECTS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT, MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF SUCCESSFUL RELATIONSHIPS (INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO MARRIED RELATIONSHIPS) AND TO PUBLISH THE USEFUL RESULTS THEREOF 3. TO PROMOTE THE EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY OF CHARITIES CONCERNED WITH THE CREATION AND MAINTENANCE OF SUCCESSFUL RELATIONSHIPS (INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO MARRIED RELATIONSHIPS), FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC, IN PARTICULAR, BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY, BY ORGANISING CONFERENCES AND DISSEMINATING THE RESULTS OF RELEVANT RESEARCH.

Activities: Conducting and publishing research into couple relationships; raising awareness of the risks of unstable relationships; addressing myths and misperceptions which hinder the formation of more stable relationships; promoting improved access to relationships education; working with existing providers of couple relationship support to enable their work to have greater impact;

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£103,245	£86,911	-	-
2023-08-31	£98,294	£92,512	-	-
2022-08-31	£94,789	£100,982	-	-
2021-08-31	£100,936	£94,399	-	-
2020-08-31	£75,844	£71,047	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
SIR PAUL JAMES DUKE COLERIDGE KT.	Chair	2012-04-05
Alice Evelina Coleridge		2021-12-07
Dr Andrea Maria Taylor-Cummings		2021-12-07
Jonathan Edgar Taylor-Cummings		2021-12-07
Lady Elinor Kaitrin Bailey		2023-06-21
Pamela Caroline Neild Collis		2017-05-23
WILLIAM PAUL HUGH DUKE COLERIDGE		2012-04-05

THE MARRIAGE FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1150453

Accounts



THE MARRIAGE FOUNDATION
Annual Report and Financial Statements

31 AUGUST 2024

Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration Number 08002851 (England and Wales)

Charity Registration Number 1150453

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**THE MARRIAGE FOUNDATION
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

Registered charity name	The Marriage Foundation
Charity number	1150453
Company registration number	08002851
Registered office	Queen Elizabeth Building Temple London EC4Y 9BS
Business Address	PO Box 3014 Romford RM7 1TX Tel: 07916 697531 Email: info@marriagefoundation.org.uk Web: www.marriagefoundation.org.uk
Trustees	Sir Paul Coleridge William Coleridge Pamela Collis Alice Coleridge Dr Andrea Taylor-Cummings Jonathan Taylor-Cummings Lady Elionor Bailey
Executive Director	Michaela Hyde
Independent examiner	Siobhan Temple CA(SA), ACMA 277 Sheen Lane London SW14 8RN
Bankers	National Westminster Bank Plc 56 St. Andrews Street Cambridge CB2 3DA
Patrons	Baroness Butler-Sloss Baroness Deech Baroness Shackleton Lady Toulson Sir Mark Hedley

Summary of Vision, Aims and Activities

Our Vision

We want to see fewer relationships breaking down and more people forming healthy stable relationships. This would mean:

- More children growing up with both their birth parents, and fewer children whose wellbeing and life chances are diminished through experiencing broken relationships.
- Fewer adults experiencing the emotional pain and financial costs of broken relationships.
- And less cost to society – not the current £51 billion each year.

We believe that marriage is the key constituent to more stable relationships, and that marriages can be strengthened and supported to survive difficult times. That's why our mission is to be the national champion for marriage.

Our core aims and objectives

Our charitable objects and activities are set out in full in the Trustees' annual report. In summary our core aims, objectives and activities are

To be a powerful independent voice restoring confidence in marriage. Using the best and latest research, we:

- advocate the advantages of marriage
- challenge the social injustices of family breakdown
- demonstrate that marriage is both modern and the best arrangement for all couples

Our aims

1. To see the aspiration of a life-long, fulfilling marriage as an attainable goal for all, especially our young people
2. To see a society that thrives because stable marriage (or formal commitment) becomes the first choice for all couples
3. To halt the current declining marriage rate because marriage is the single most effective key to reducing family breakdown

What do we do?

1. Marriage Foundation confronts and challenges the status quo. By undertaking, publishing and broadcasting ground-breaking research we heighten public, media and government awareness and understanding of the scale of the national tragedy of family breakdown and its causes.
2. Through collaboration and partnering with a wide range of like-minded organisations we advocate effective remedies and signpost people to them.

Chairman's Statement

Chairman's Statement for the Year 2023/2024

The year was dominated by the political changes caused by the elections both here and in the USA. The media noise which builds up for a long period before both elections drowns out all other agendas making it virtually impossible to grab attention for our research and press releases. It is largely a waste of precious time trying to compete for space in this environment. Organisations like ours have to wait for the media blizzard to subside before releasing new research. We eagerly waited to see whether any of the UK political parties made any serious attempt to grapple with some of the familiar and chronic problems caused by family breakdown. We were predictably disappointed. With the exception of the Reform party (which had a section on the importance of supporting families) there was nothing to encourage us. We must wait to see whether the new government or the "new" conservative party show any signs of confronting any of these well known issues. I am not holding my breath. Evidence to date is not encouraging. We combat our occasional bouts of despondency caused by the politicians' refusal to get a grip on these issues by reminding ourselves that the abolitionists took seventeen years to achieve the banning of international slavery. So our pro marriage/anti family breakdown campaign has to ride the storm and keep going forwardand we will.

Despite the distractions we have, as usual, been busy. Within these accounts is a media report. It cannot cover everything but highlights the main events and subjects. It is very encouraging to see the continuing drop in the divorce rate. Next year the figures for the first full year of the new "no fault" divorce regime will be released. Early signs would seem to indicate that we were right to support the changes, and the continuing decline has not been affected by the change to the law.

We have also been invited by the government to engage in their scoping studies around post-divorce financial arrangements and the possible changes to the law relating to the financial rights of unmarried cohabitants. Both areas are long running thorny subjects which provoke heated debate from all sides and we have submitted detailed proposals.

Harry Benson, our tireless research director, has been fully employed on two fronts. He is now well into the final year of his PhD at Bristol Uni. He spends much time fielding challenges to his work by the appointed supervisors and examiners. It is clear that they have never had to grapple with the science behind marriage or his conclusions (all under wraps until completion). He has found it at times a serious uphill struggle but has the gritty determination of the former Falklands naval helicopter pilot which he was. He deserves our constant admiration. I can't wait to see the finished product which I am convinced will be not only invaluable in winning our big arguments but also provide new media attractive findings. On top of his PhD work he continues to produce a steady stream of research based, press focused reports which have to elbow their way into the media. He also finds himself on TV and radio whenever invited for comment. His appearance this year as one of the main witnesses on the BBC *Moral maze* was a tribute to the reputation that he and Marriage Foundation have established. Quite frankly there is no one in the country who has the breadth and depth of knowledge or reputation which he has.

In parallel with Harry's work our **TV documentary** continues to push ahead. Executive director Michaela Hyde (with producer Angie Mason) have spent days and days engaging with organisations which work in diverse ways in this field. It is a challenge to find real case studies i.e. individuals and couples who are prepared to discuss their own experiences on screen. This material is "the gold" which especially excites the production companies. We have real interest from both the BBC and the independent sector but solid live interview material is the key which unlocks the commissioning

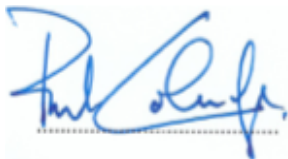
Chairman's Statement

editors' funding commitments. We have keen expert supporters helping us to get full attention for the project. It is our intention to finalise the commissioning of this project in the coming year.

Our "**marriage Book**" is now approaching completion and is going through a rigorous review/editorial process using an additional collaborator who not only has the enthusiasm and expertise to ensure we strike the right chord but also is the right generation to speak to our intended younger audience.

So this has, yet again, been, despite many interruptions and distractions, a full-on year. Our dedicated and highly focused team (supplemented by outside expert help) punch miles above their weight through relentless graft and, of course, the financial help of our supporters. I am as always continually and sincerely grateful for all the support we receive from so many quarters.

Sir Paul Coleridge

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Coleridge', is positioned above a horizontal dotted line.

Founder and Chairman of the trustees

**Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2024**

The Trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2024.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Reference and administrative details are shown in the schedule of members of the board and professional advisers on page 1 of the financial statements.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document and Constitution

The Marriage Foundation was incorporated under and is regulated by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 22 March 2012 and amended by special resolution registered at Companies House on 11 January 2013. The company limited by guarantee was registered as a charity by the Charity Commission on 11 January 2013.

Governance, Structure and Management

The charity is governed, on a day-to-day basis, by the Executive Director, who meets frequently with the chair of Trustees to discuss the issues affecting the charity. In establishing governance policies and procedures for the charity the Trustees have been guided by the Charity Commission's published advice and guidance. Marriage Foundation has a small collection of Honorary Advisors, a highly skilled, dedicated, and experienced group of individuals who act in a personal capacity to support the work of the charity. The following advisors make themselves available to the charity when their support or advice is sought. These small group of individuals are as follows:

Alex Le Vey is the Director of Philanthropy and Veteran's Health at King Edward VII's hospital.

Dr Eli Gardner is a Clinical Child Psychologist, and the Co-founder & Executive Director of the charity Kids Matter.

Frank Young is Editorial Director at the Civitas think tank.

Nola Leach was the Chief Executive of UK Charity CARE for 17 years. She stepped down from this role in 2021 and now concentrates her time serving on several boards and mentoring women leaders across Europe.

Philippa Taylor is Director of the Institute of Faith and Culture, a graduate leadership training scheme at CARE.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the Trustees to hold an amount in free reserves equivalent to 3 month's costs. The free reserves as at 31 August 2024 were £45,196.

Recruitment, Appointment and Induction of Trustees

Invitations will be extended from time to time by the existing body of Trustees to suitable qualified and experienced men and women to become new trustees. Newly appointed Trustees are provided with induction materials, including a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company and the Trust Deed.

Internal Controls and Risk Management

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute assurance

**Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2024**

against misstatement and loss. They include:

- a business plan and annual budget
- management accounts
- regular reporting by the Executive Director
- consideration by the Trustees of the financial results
- identification and management of risks.

An annual review of the risks facing the Foundation will be conducted and considered by Trustees. They agree the strategic risks facing the organisation and measures to be adopted to mitigate those risks.

Associated Bodies

Marriage Foundation was publicly launched in May 2012 and operated as a project of The Relationships Foundation (Registered charity number 1106460) until independent charity registration was achieved on 11 January 2013. The role of the Relationships Foundation in the management of the affairs of The Marriage Foundation ceased with effect from September 2018.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT

Objectives

The objects of Marriage Foundation, as stated in the Memorandum and Articles of Association, are:

1. To safeguard and protect the physical and mental health of adults and children, and to prevent hardship poverty and distress, by raising awareness of the means by which successful relationships (including but not limited to married relationships) can be developed and strengthened and the breakdown of relationships avoided.
2. To promote research into all aspects of the establishment, maintenance and development of successful relationships (including but not limited to married relationships) and to publish the useful results thereof.
3. To promote the effectiveness and efficiency of charities concerned with the creation and maintenance of successful relationships (including but not limited to married relationships), for the benefit of the public, in particular, but not exclusively, by organising conferences and disseminating the results of relevant research.

Having had regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, the Trustees believe that the activities of Marriage Foundation deliver public benefit through:

- Published research, conferences and media comment that highlight different aspects of the health and stability of couple relationships. These raise awareness of the risks of unstable relationships and address the myths and misperceptions that hinder the formation of more stable relationships.
- Working in partnership with existing providers of support for marriage and couple relationships to enable their work to have greater impact.

We believe that increasing the number of healthy marriages (as opposed to less stable cohabitation) and reducing the rate of breakdown is key to this. We seek to promote better understanding of marriage in public debate, tackling the myths that discourage marriage; improve access to relationships support and education, particularly in the early stages of relationships; and tackle the marriage gap, especially for disadvantaged young people who are more likely to opt for less stable cohabitation.

**Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2024**

Our work is intended to assist partner organisations and their effectiveness. We are not a direct provider of services but work closely with both local and national relationships educators, seeking to change the cultural environment within which they operate to enable far greater impact.

Activities

During the year, we continued our programme of research, media engagement and development of practical initiatives. Full details of all of these, papers and press releases, are on our constantly updated website (www.marriagefoundation.org.uk) . These are the headlines:

Research and media engagement

As well as commenting widely on the latest family statistics, we continued to produce a stream of low-cost and clearly defined pieces of research making the case for marriage. We also made use of the dataset that our research director (Harry Benson) has built for his PhD on the timing of marriage. More papers were expected to follow from this.

It has been a tough one for media coverage. Despite this, we have found ourselves mentioned in 45 national level media articles or interviews and numerous (about 5 a month) local news articles and interviews. Our standout appearances include a front-page quote in the Times, response to the news that fewer than half of all UK adults are married, and participation in BBC Radio 4's Moral Maze.. We have been quoted nationally and internationally in the Sunday Times, Mail on Sunday, Catholic Herald, Daily Mail, Financial Times, Independent, Irish Times, Paris Match, The Sun, Daily Telegraph, The Times, and Yahoo News. We have had articles published in Financial Remedies legal journal, Sorted magazine, and online blogs with the Institute for Family Studies, Mercator magazine and UK Parliament News. We have also appeared on BBC Radio 5 Live, Talk TV, Times Radio, Premier Radio, and local BBC and other radio stations.

Much of this coverage has stemmed from our active approach to promoting our research in the national media. Of our five research papers or briefing notes published during this fiscal year, four received coverage in the national press. In 'Family Unfriendly Britain', the Times covered our contrast of diverging marriage rates between Britain and Hungary. Two papers on falling divorce rates, based on our proprietary analysis of Office for National Statistics data, were covered by the Telegraph, Mail on Sunday and others. An analysis of date nights, using Harry Benson's PhD database of 3,300 families, also made the Mail on Sunday as well as BBC 5 live.

All papers are available for download on our website.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The financial outturn for the year was a profit of £16,334 (2023: profit of £5,782). Free reserves at 31 August 2024 were £42,696 (2023: £26,362).

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Marriage Foundation for the purposes of company law) 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).

**Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2024**

Company 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 charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company 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 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

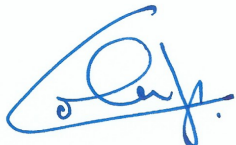

Siobhan Temple CA(SA), ACMA has been appointed as independent examiner for the ensuing year.

SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

Registered office:
Queen Elizabeth Building
Temple
London
EC4Y 9BS

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Paul Coleridge

Trustee

**Independent Examiner's Report
Year Ended 31 August 2024**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 August 2024.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the charity's trustees of the company (who are also the directors of The Marriage Foundation for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination I have followed the directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.



Siobhan Temple CA(SA)
Independent Examiner
277 Sheen Lane
London
SW14 8RN

Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)
Year Ended 31 August 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
INCOME					
Donations & Legacies	1	103,245	-	103,245	98,294
TOTAL INCOME		103,245	-	103,245	98,294
EXPENDITURE					
Charitable activity	2	86,911	-	86,911	92,512
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		86,911	-	86,911	92,512
NET EXPENDITURE/INCOME FOR THE YEAR		16,334	-	16,334	5,782
ACCUMULATED FUNDS B/F		26,362	-	26,362	20,580
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	4	42,696	-	42,696	26,362

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

Balance Sheet
Year Ended 31 August 2024

BALANCE SHEET
31 AUGUST 2024

CURRENT ASSETS	Note	2024	2023
		£	£
Cash at Bank		45,196	31,362
		45,196	31,362
CREDITORS amounts falling due within one year	3	2,500	5,000
NET CURRENT ASSETS		42,696	26,362
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		42,696	26,362
NET TOTAL ASSETS		42,696	26,362
FUNDS			
Unrestricted Income Funds	4	42,696	26,362
TOTAL FUNDS		42,696	26,362

For the financial year ended 31 August 2024 the charity was entitled to the exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on the 28 May 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:



SIR PAUL COLERIDGE



PAMELA COLLIS

Company Registration Number: 08002851

The notes on pages 12 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

**Notes to the Financial Activities Statements
Year Ended 31 August 2024**

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 are prepared in accordance with FRS 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as, after making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future at the time of approving the financial statements.

Income

- Voluntary income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable certainty.
- Grant income is included when the related conditions to the grant have been met.
- Donations are credited to the revenue account when received.
- All other income is accounted for on a receivable basis.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted general funds

The charity maintains a general unrestricted fund, which represents funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. Such funds may be held to finance both working capital and capital investment.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds have been provided to the charity for particular purposes and it is the policy of the board of Trustees to carefully monitor the application of those funds in accordance with the restrictions placed upon them.

Expenditure

- All resources are accounted for on an accrual basis.
- Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary and grant related income
- Direct charitable expenditure included the direct costs of the activities and depreciation on related assets
- Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements
- Support costs include central functions and where such costs relate to more than one functional cost category, they have been apportioned in line with direct salary costs of the relevant service

Notes to the Financial Activities Statements
Year Ended 31 August 2024

1. DONATIONS & LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Unrestricted Funds 2023 £
Donations	101,805	-	101,805	94,026
Tax Reclaimed	1,440	-	1,440	4,268
	103,245	-	103,245	98,294

2. COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Unrestricted Funds 2023 £
Office costs	2,659	-	2,659	1,509
Consultancy costs	83,252	-	83,252	90,643
Publicity	1,000	-	1,000	360
	86,911	-	86,911	92,512

All expenses directly incurred by The Marriage Foundation are paid by The Marriage Foundation. Consultancy costs cover The Marriage Foundation's research and media work.

Particulars of employees

There were no employees during the period.

3. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Accruals	2,500	5,000
	2,500	5,000

4. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

	Balance at 01-09-23 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Balance at 31-08-24 £
General Funds	26,362	103,245	86,911	42,696
Total unrestricted income funds	26,362	103,245	86,911	42,696

**Notes to the Financial Activities Statements
Year Ended 31 August 2024**

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION

None of the members of the Board of Trustees received any remuneration during this year.

During the year, no Trustees received reimbursements of personal travel and subsistence expenditure.

6. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year donations totalling £7,000 were received from Sir Paul Coleridge a Trustee of the charity. Donations of £1,200 were received from Pamela Collis also a Trustee of the charity.

7. COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

In the event of a winding-up of the company, the liability of the members is restricted to £1.

THE MARRIAGE FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1150453

Accounts



THE MARRIAGE FOUNDATION
Annual Report and Financial Statements

31 AUGUST 2023

Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration Number 08002851 (England and Wales)

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COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

Registered charity name	The Marriage Foundation
Charity number	1150453
Company registration number	08002851
Registered office	Queen Elizabeth Building Temple London EC4Y 9BS
Business Address	PO Box 3014 Romford RM7 1TX Tel: 07916 697531 Email: info@marriagefoundation.org.uk Web: www.marriagefoundation.org.uk
Trustees	Sir Paul Coleridge Sir Mark Hedley (stepped down June 2023) William Coleridge Pamela Collis Alice Coleridge Dr Andrea Taylor-Cummings Jonathan Taylor-Cummings Lady Elionor Bailey (appointed June 2023)
Executive Director	Michaela Hyde
Independent examiner	Siobhan Temple CA(SA), ACMA 277 Sheen Lane London SW14 8RN
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- Fewer adults experiencing the emotional pain and financial costs of broken relationships.
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Chairman's Statement

Chairman's Statement for the Year 2022/2023

As our faithful supporters know well, our research department is constantly on the look out for exciting new angles to promote our campaign championing marriage for the benefit of children, families and society. Harry Benson, our research director, spends hours, or even days, combing through the big government statistical surveys, like the Millenium Cohort study, on the hunt for trends in the data to elucidate and corroborate our campaign messages. And this process regularly throws up exciting new, often counter intuitive, insights which engage serious media interest.

However, important as this hunt for new angles is, we never neglect research into our original, core messages namely that marriage is the gold standard for couple relationships, that if you marry today you will probably stay together for life whilst if you don't you probably wont. And, of course, so far as children are concerned, the huge advantages marriage bestows in terms of protection from the fallout from family breakdown and enhanced child development.

This year has been no exception. These are just three 2023 research projects expanding on older research findings:

1. We have known since day 1 that married couples are three times more likely than unmarried couples to stay together. However that statistic was affirmed by our further research exploring the precise make up of family breakdown. We were able to show via data from 4,476 first born children in the Millennium Cohort Study, that, strikingly, by the age of 14, as many as 46% of UK children are not living with both natural parents. But of that 46%, less than one third are from broken marriages whilst the majority, more than 2/3rds, are from the break-up of unmarried couples. Put another way, where natural parents of teens are still together, the overwhelming majority of parents are married (84%) with only a small minority unmarried (16%).
2. Our new research into Marriage and GCSE results: We have been aware from earlier research that marriage, and family relationships, play a part in the educational outcomes of our teenagers. So when new data was released from the Millennium Cohort study on GCSEs, Harry Benson (with Professor Steve McKay from the University of Lincoln) determined to uncover the precise extent of this influence. We were able to show that for girls, marriage was a key indicator for predicting GCSE Maths and English results, and, for boys, quality of relationship with mother and mother's education were primary influencers of their GCSE grades .
3. Continuing research into the "Marriage Gap" showed that "Now among newborns in 2021, 71% of parents in high-earning families were married compared to 34% in low-earning families. However, among parents 'not classified', marriage rates were even more worryingly low; only 18% marry. In other words "The marriage gap" between high and low earners is 37%, but for the very poorest it is 53%." Going forward into an election year we suggest this clear social injustice has to be confronted and addressed by any political party aspiring to confront such issues.

These are just three of this years core research projects . As usual all our research reports are on our website (marriagefoundation.org.uk)

So looking forward, what in particular is in the pipeline?

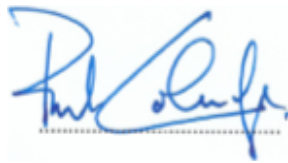
Chairman's Statement

Previous MF research has shown clearly that, whilst marriage rates are falling the majority of young people still aspire to marry. So why the gap between aspiration and achievement? We are exploring this vital issue with the production of a stand-alone publication (in hard copy and electronic) on marriage especially responding to the often identified barriers around the cost of weddings. We will be combining our existing research with practical solutions to promote marriage as being both affordable and good for your long term wellbeing. We intend this to be a very practical and user-friendly guide for young couples who are uncertain about the rationale for taking this vital step in their lives.

So once again a full on year with lots more to come . Despite our small permanent team (supplemented from time to time by outside expert help) we end another year during which we have "mined" some further fascinating, ground breaking findings entirely through the graft of the team and the financial help of our supporters. Meanwhile Harry Benson goes into his final PHD year at Bristol Uni. We are confident that this academic accolade will not only enhance MF's overall standing in this field but his own existing, huge reputation and prior research.

After a show stopping tenth anniversary in 2022 (NB. Sean Bailey is now Lord Bailey) we press forward into our second decade with renewed confidence and implacable dedication to the cause.

Sir Paul Coleridge



Founder and Chairman of the trustees

**Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2023**

The Trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2023.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Reference and administrative details are shown in the schedule of members of the board and professional advisers on page 1 of the financial statements.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document and Constitution

The Marriage Foundation was incorporated under and is regulated by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 22 March 2012 and amended by special resolution registered at Companies House on 11 January 2013. The company limited by guarantee was registered as a charity by the Charity Commission on 11 January 2013.

Governance, Structure and Management

The charity is governed, on a day-to-day basis, by the Executive Director, who meets frequently with the chair of Trustees to discuss the issues affecting the charity. In establishing governance policies and procedures for the charity the Trustees have been guided by the Charity Commission's published advice and guidance. In June 2022, the previous Marriage Foundation Advisory Board were officially replaced with a smaller collection of Honorary Advisors, a highly skilled, dedicated, and experienced group of individuals who act in a personal capacity to support the work of the charity. The following advisors make themselves available to the charity when their support or advice is sought. These small group of individuals are as follows:

Alex Le Vey is the Director of Philanthropy and Veteran's Health at King Edward VII's hospital.

Dr Eli Gardner is a Clinical Child Psychologist, and the Co-founder & Executive Director of the charity Kids Matter.

Frank Young is Editorial Director at the Civitas think tank.

Nola Leach was the Chief Executive of UK Charity CARE for 17 years. She stepped down from this role in 2021 and now concentrates her time serving on several boards and mentoring women leaders across Europe.

Philippa Taylor is Director of the Institute of Faith and Culture, a graduate leadership training scheme at CARE.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the Trustees to hold an amount in free reserves equivalent to 3 month's costs. The free reserves as at 31 August 2023 were £26,362.

Recruitment, Appointment and Induction of Trustees

Invitations will be extended from time to time by the existing body of Trustees to suitable qualified and experienced men and women to become new trustees. Newly appointed Trustees are provided with induction materials, including a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company and the Trust Deed.

**Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2023**

Internal Controls and Risk Management

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute assurance against misstatement and loss. They include:

- a business plan and annual budget
- management accounts
- regular reporting by the Executive Director
- consideration by the Trustees of the financial results
- identification and management of risks.

An annual review of the risks facing the Foundation will be conducted and considered by Trustees. They agree the strategic risks facing the organisation and measures to be adopted to mitigate those risks.

Associated Bodies

Marriage Foundation was publicly launched in May 2012 and operated as a project of The Relationships Foundation (Registered charity number 1106460) until independent charity registration was achieved on 11 January 2013. The role of the Relationships Foundation in the management of the affairs of The Marriage Foundation ceased with effect from September 2018.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT

Objectives

The objects of Marriage Foundation, as stated in the Memorandum and Articles of Association, are:

1. To safeguard and protect the physical and mental health of adults and children, and to prevent hardship poverty and distress, by raising awareness of the means by which successful relationships (including but not limited to married relationships) can be developed and strengthened and the breakdown of relationships avoided.
2. To promote research into all aspects of the establishment, maintenance and development of successful relationships (including but not limited to married relationships) and to publish the useful results thereof.
3. To promote the effectiveness and efficiency of charities concerned with the creation and maintenance of successful relationships (including but not limited to married relationships), for the benefit of the public, in particular, but not exclusively, by organising conferences and disseminating the results of relevant research.

Having had regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, the Trustees believe that the activities of Marriage Foundation deliver public benefit through:

- Published research, conferences and media comment that highlight different aspects of the health and stability of couple relationships. These raise awareness of the risks of unstable relationships and address the myths and misperceptions that hinder the formation of more stable relationships.
- Working in partnership with existing providers of support for marriage and couple relationships to enable their work to have greater impact.

We believe that increasing the number of healthy marriages (as opposed to less stable cohabitation) and reducing the rate of breakdown is key to this. We seek to promote better understanding of marriage in public debate, tackling the myths that discourage marriage; improve access to relationships support and education, particularly in the early stages of relationships; and tackle the marriage gap, especially for disadvantaged young people who are more likely to opt for less stable

**Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2023**

cohabitation.

Our work is intended to assist partner organisations and their effectiveness. We are not a direct provider of services but work closely with both local and national relationships educators, seeking to change the cultural environment within which they operate to enable far greater impact.

Activities

During the year, we continued our programme of research, media engagement and development of practical initiatives. Full details of all of these, papers and press releases, are on our constantly updated website (www.marriagefoundation.org.uk) . These are the headlines:

Research and media engagement

As well as commenting widely on the latest family statistics, we continued to produce a stream of low-cost and clearly defined pieces of research making the case for marriage. We also made use of the dataset that Harry Benson has built for his PhD on the timing of marriage. More papers will follow from this.

Responding to media often results in our biggest media successes. This year it was two quotes on the front page of the Times. The first was a response to the Children Commissioner's report that included the scale of family breakdown. The second was also a response to Office for National Statistics findings that the married share of the adult population has fallen below half.

We also continue to feed stories to the media proactively. The first of our five research papers for the year was the last of several findings from our survey of 2,000 ever married adults commissioned through Savanta ComRes. We showed that couples who 'slide into marriage' because of family pressure are more likely to divorce than those who marry for love. This was reported in the Telegraph and several Christian media outlets. We then ran again our updated analysis of celebrity marriages, who generally don't do very well. This was reported in the Mail on Sunday and Sunday Express. Highlighting the marriage gap between rich and poor is one of our biggest USPs. Our update on this made several national papers including our own article in the Sunday Express. Finally we ran two analyses based on Harry's PhD dataset showing the connection between family and GCSE results and also looking at the source of family breakdown. These were reported in respectively several national Sunday and several weekday papers.

Overall, during the course of the year, we achieved some 78 pieces of national level media coverage and numerous local news articles and interviews on top (i.e., more than six a month). This is slightly up on last year. This included our two front page quotes in the Times, as well as several other articles in the Times. We were featured in articles in the Telegraph, Sun, Mail, ipaper, and main Sunday papers. We were interviewed by BBC Radio 5 live, LBC several times, GB news, Talk TV, and other radio stations. Finally we featured in a range of publications as diverse as the Spectator, the Week, New Statesman, Breitbart news and Tatler, with Harry's regular articles in Sorted magazine.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The financial outturn for the year was a profit of £5,782 (2022: deficit of £6,193). Free reserves at 31 August 2023 were £26,362 (2022: £20,580).

**Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2023**

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Marriage Foundation for the purposes of company law) 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).

Company 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 charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company 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 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

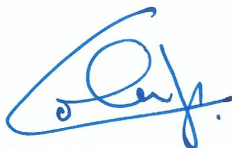

Siobhan Temple CA(SA), ACMA has been appointed as independent examiner for the ensuing year.

SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

Registered office:
Queen Elizabeth Building
Temple
London
EC4Y 9BS

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Paul Coleridge

Trustee

**Independent Examiner's Report
Year Ended 31 August 2023**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 August 2023.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the charity's trustees of the company (who are also the directors of The Marriage Foundation for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination I have followed the directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.



Siobhan Temple CA(SA)
Independent Examiner
277 Sheen Lane
London
SW14 8RN

Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)
Year Ended 31 August 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
INCOME					
Donations & Legacies	1	98,294	-	98,294	94,789
TOTAL INCOME		98,294	-	98,294	94,789
EXPENDITURE					
Charitable activity	2	92,512	-	92,512	100,982
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		92,512	-	92,512	100,982
NET EXPENDITURE/INCOME FOR THE YEAR		5,782	-	5,782	(6,193)
ACCUMULATED FUNDS B/F		20,580	-	20,580	26,773
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	4	26,362	-	26,362	20,580

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 12 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet
Year Ended 31 August 2023

BALANCE SHEET
31 AUGUST 2023

CURRENT ASSETS	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash at Bank		31,362	20,580
		31,362	20,580
CREDITORS amounts falling due within one year	3	5,000	-
NET CURRENT ASSETS		26,362	20,580
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		26,362	20,580
NET TOTAL ASSETS		26,362	20,580
FUNDS			
Unrestricted Income Funds	4	26,362	20,580
TOTAL FUNDS		26,362	20,580

For the financial year ended 31 August 2023 the charity was entitled to the exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on the 27 May 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:



SIR PAUL COLERIDGE



PAMELA COLLIS

Company Registration Number: 08002851

The notes on pages 12 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

**Notes to the Financial Activities Statements
Year Ended 31 August 2023**

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 are prepared in accordance with FRS 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as, after making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future at the time of approving the financial statements.

Income

- Voluntary income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable certainty.
- Grant income is included when the related conditions to the grant have been met.
- Donations are credited to the revenue account when received.
- All other income is accounted for on a receivable basis.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted general funds

The charity maintains a general unrestricted fund, which represents funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. Such funds may be held to finance both working capital and capital investment.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds have been provided to the charity for particular purposes and it is the policy of the board of Trustees to carefully monitor the application of those funds in accordance with the restrictions placed upon them.

Expenditure

- All resources are accounted for on an accrual basis.
- Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary and grant related income
- Direct charitable expenditure included the direct costs of the activities and depreciation on related assets
- Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements
- Support costs include central functions and where such costs relate to more than one functional cost category, they have been apportioned in line with direct salary costs of the relevant service

Notes to the Financial Activities Statements
Year Ended 31 August 2023

1. DONATIONS & LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Unrestricted Funds 2022 £
Donations	94,026	-	94,026	91,577
Tax Reclaimed	4,268	-	4,268	3,212
	98,294	-	98,294	94,789

2. COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Unrestricted Funds 2022 £
Office costs	1,509	-	1,509	3,723
Consultancy costs	90,643	-	90,643	90,591
Acquisition of original data for research	360	-	360	6,668
	92,512	-	92,512	100,982

All expenses directly incurred by The Marriage Foundation are paid by The Marriage Foundation. Consultancy costs cover The Marriage Foundation's research and media work.

Particulars of employees

There were no employees during the period.

3. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Accruals	5,000	-
	5,000	-

4. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

	Balance at 01-09-22 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Balance at 31-08-23 £
General Funds	20,580	98,294	92,512	26,362
Total unrestricted income funds	20,580	98,294	92,512	26,362

**Notes to the Financial Activities Statements
Year Ended 31 August 2022**

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION

None of the members of the Board of Trustees received any remuneration during this year.

During the year, no Trustees received reimbursements of personal travel and subsistence expenditure.

6. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year donations totalling £5,500 (2022 - £12,600) were received from Sir Paul Coleridge a Trustee of the charity.

Donations of £1,900 (2022 - £2,400) were received from Pamela Collis also a Trustee of the charity.

7. COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

In the event of a winding-up of the company, the liability of the members is restricted to £1.

THE MARRIAGE FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1150453

Accounts



THE MARRIAGE FOUNDATION
Annual Report and Financial Statements

31 AUGUST 2022

Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration Number 08002851 (England and Wales)

Charity Registration Number 1150453

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**THE MARRIAGE FOUNDATION
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

Registered charity name	The Marriage Foundation
Charity number	1150453
Company registration number	08002851
Registered office	Queen Elizabeth Building Temple London EC4Y 9BS
Business Address	PO Box 3014 Romford RM7 1TX Tel: 07916 697531 Email: info@marriagefoundation.org.uk Web: www.marriagefoundation.org.uk
Trustees	Sir Paul Coleridge Sir Mark Hedley William Coleridge Pamela Collis Alice Coleridge (appointed December 2021) Dr Andrea Taylor-Cummings (appointed December 2021) Jonathan Taylor-Cummings (appointed December 2021)
Executive Director	Michaela Hyde
Independent examiner	Siobhan Temple CA(SA), ACMA 277 Sheen Lane London SW14 8RN
Bankers	National Westminster Bank Plc 56 St. Andrews Street Cambridge CB2 3DA
Patrons	Baroness Butler-Sloss Baroness Deech Baroness Shackleton Lady Toulson

Summary of Vision, Aims and Activities

Our Vision

We want to see fewer relationships breaking down and more people forming healthy stable relationships. This would mean:

- More children growing up with both their birth parents, and fewer children whose wellbeing and life chances are diminished through experiencing broken relationships.
- Fewer adults experiencing the emotional pain and financial costs of broken relationships.
- And less cost to society – not the current £51 billion each year.

We believe that marriage is the key constituent to more stable relationships, and that marriages can be strengthened and supported to survive difficult times. That's why our mission is to be the national champion for marriage.

Our core aims and objectives

Our charitable objects and activities are set out in full in the Trustees' annual report. In summary our core aims, objectives and activities are

To be a powerful independent voice restoring confidence in marriage. Using the best and latest research, we:

- advocate the advantages of marriage
- challenge the social injustices of family breakdown
- demonstrate that marriage is both modern and the best arrangement for all couples

Our aims

1. To see the aspiration of a life-long, fulfilling marriage as an attainable goal for all, especially our young people
2. To see a society that thrives because stable marriage (or formal commitment) becomes the first choice for all couples
3. To halt the current declining marriage rate because marriage is the single most effective key to reducing family breakdown

What do we do?

1. Marriage Foundation confronts and challenges the status quo. By undertaking, publishing and broadcasting ground-breaking research we heighten public, media and government awareness and understanding of the scale of the national tragedy of family breakdown and its causes.
2. Through collaboration and partnering with a wide range of like-minded organisations we advocate effective remedies and signpost people to them.
3. We coordinate national projects such as UK Marriage Week.

Chairman's Statement

Chairman's Statement for the Year 2021/2022

Our 10th Anniversary, 2nd May 2022, and beyond.....

What an anniversary year 2021-2022 turned out to be...

For those of our supporters who attended the 10th birthday party at Middle Temple on 4th May, Shaun Bailey AM's keynote address was outstanding – not only for its passionate and unswerving support for our work, but for the extraordinary, nerve-wracking circumstances in which he delivered it.

The day before the reception, Shaun had been rushed to hospital with suspected appendicitis and we were all convinced he would have to cancel his attendance. Not so! Despite all our pleas for him to be careful and to put his health first, he was absolutely insistent that he would get there if he was physically able to do so. And he did. His appendix was removed late the night before and, true to his word, he arrived a little battered and bruised (with his hand still bandaged at the site where the operation IV had been removed), just before the scheduled start. And despite his warning that he might not be up to delivering the whole of his intended talk, Shaun spoke for the whole of the allotted time and then answered questions until, in his own interests, they had to be stopped.

It was a tour de force, not to be missed, and you can watch it via our website: www.marriagefoundation.org.uk. To describe him as the standout hero of the anniversary year is no exaggeration. He, like us, is driven by an unswerving belief, born both of his personal and professional experience, that stable family life engendered by marriage is, and must be, the primary campaign to tackle the social problems of our time, exemplified by the shameful "marriage gap" which has opened up between rich and poor. This social justice issue is now the main focus of all our work, and to have Shaun on board will be, we are sure, a game changer. He is truly a champion for the cause.

Following on from the reception we have been plotting out a series of TV documentaries with an experienced BBC producer (who attended the anniversary and heard Shaun) to drive this campaign forward with Shaun as a key participant. We are hoping for the assistance of a renowned documentary producing company.

In parallel with this TV project, we are renewing our determination to penetrate more effectively the political space. Given the upheavals of summer 2022, this presents, as they say, challenges! So, we are planning a special, one off "Marriage Summit" in the House of Commons, inviting supportive politicians of all parties with the simple aim of forcing this subject much further up the current national agenda. "*But we have been here before*", I hear you say. Indeed we have, but we cannot let up. To significantly move the hands on this particular dial, we have to keep the lawmakers' feet to the fire much as we might prefer to ignore them and go it alone.

So overall, ten years on, our strategic objective has not changed since the launch in 2012 (to champion marriage for the good of society, especially our children). And as well as these big events our day-to-day work goes on via our regular research and media work and with other organisations in the field. All this is driven by Harry Benson, our non-stop research director, now in year 2 of his PHD at the University of Bristol. The main trust accounts include a media summary Report for the past and coming year. As you see, life for Marriage Foundation remains at maximum stretch!

Chairman's Statement

As you know, our work is labour and time intensive but often constrained by our finances. Everyone involved gives their time selflessly, either for nothing or for too little financial reward. However, we badly need more boots on the ground. We are actively looking for assistants or interns to help us in specific areas. Be assured that every pound we raise is fully employed in our campaigns and projects.

I am truly and unceasingly grateful for all the support we get from so many loyal and committed friends.

THANK YOU ALL. With your help, we can win.

Sir Paul Coleridge

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Coleridge', written over a dotted horizontal line.

Founder and Chairman of the trustees

**Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2022**

The Trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2022.

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Reference and administrative details are shown in the schedule of members of the board and professional advisers on page 1 of the financial statements.

THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Sir Paul Coleridge
Sir Mark Hedley
William Coleridge
Pamela Collis
Alice Coleridge (appointed December 2021)
Dr Andrea Taylor-Cummings (appointed December 2021)
Jonathan Taylor-Cummings (appointed December 2021)

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

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**Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2022**

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Invitations will be extended from time to time by the existing body of Trustees to suitable qualified and experienced men and women to become new trustees. Newly appointed Trustees are provided with induction materials, including a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company and the Trust Deed.

Internal Controls and Risk Management

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute assurance against misstatement and loss. They include:

- a business plan and annual budget
- management accounts
- regular reporting by the Executive Director
- consideration by the Trustees of the financial results
- identification and management of risks.

An annual review of the risks facing the Foundation will be conducted and considered by Trustees. They agree the strategic risks facing the organisation and measures to be adopted to mitigate those risks.

Associated Bodies

Marriage Foundation was publicly launched in May 2012 and operated as a project of The Relationships Foundation (Registered charity number 1106460) until independent charity registration was achieved on 11 January 2013. The role of the Relationships Foundation in the management of the affairs of The Marriage Foundation ceased with effect from September 2018.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT

Objectives

The objects of Marriage Foundation, as stated in the Memorandum and Articles of Association, are:

1. To safeguard and protect the physical and mental health of adults and children, and to prevent hardship poverty and distress, by raising awareness of the means by which successful relationships (including but not limited to married relationships) can be developed and strengthened and the breakdown of relationships avoided.
2. To promote research into all aspects of the establishment, maintenance and development of successful relationships (including but not limited to married relationships) and to publish the useful results thereof.
3. To promote the effectiveness and efficiency of charities concerned with the creation and maintenance of successful relationships (including but not limited to married relationships), for the benefit of the public, in particular, but not exclusively, by organising conferences and disseminating the results of relevant research.

Having had regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, the Trustees believe that the activities of Marriage Foundation deliver public benefit through:

- Published research, conferences and media comment that highlight different aspects of the health and stability of couple relationships. These raise awareness of the risks of unstable

**Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2022**

relationships and address the myths and misperceptions that hinder the formation of more stable relationships.

- Working in partnership with existing providers of support for marriage and couple relationships to enable their work to have greater impact.

We believe that increasing the number of healthy marriages (as opposed to less stable cohabitation) and reducing the rate of breakdown is key to this. We seek to promote better understanding of marriage in public debate, tackling the myths that discourage marriage; improve access to relationships support and education, particularly in the early stages of relationships; and tackle the marriage gap, especially for disadvantaged young people who are more likely to opt for less stable cohabitation.

Our work is intended to assist partner organisations and their effectiveness. We are not a direct provider of services but work closely with both local and national relationships educators, seeking to change the cultural environment within which they operate to enable far greater impact.

Activities

During the year, we continued our programme of research, media engagement and development of practical initiatives. Full details of all of these, papers and press releases, are on our constantly updated website (www.marriagefoundation.org.uk) . These are the headlines:

Research and media engagement

As well as commenting widely on the latest family statistics, we continued to produce a stream of low-cost and clearly defined pieces of research making the case for marriage. For our 10th anniversary in May, we invited former London mayoral candidate Shaun Bailey to deliver a keynote speech on marriage. His barnstorming effort, in spite of illness, was covered by the Times and Express.

Several of our research papers during the year drew on the survey of 2,000 ever married adults that we commissioned through Savanta ComRes. Our findings that couples who meet online have higher divorce risk drew our biggest media success with 16 media pieces ranging from a feature in the Mail on Sunday to interviews with GB News and ITV News to an article in the New York Post. Our findings on couples who said they wouldn't be together had they not married achieved 5 pieces of media coverage, including Sunday Express, GB News again, and the Church Times. Our findings on the surprising widespread prevalence of 'prenups' were covered in the Daily Mail. Our findings on the real cost of weddings, far lower than is commonly thought, was covered in the Mail on Sunday, Sunday Times, and Guardian.

We also produced a special analysis of data from Understanding Society showing that poor married parents were as likely to stay together as the richest cohabiters, covered by the Sunday Times. We wrote a brief note on soaring marriage rates in Hungary that was covered by ITV's Good Morning Britain, Mail on Sunday, Sunday Telegraph and the Sun. And finally our research director Harry Benson's videoed submission to parliamentary committee on rights for cohabiting couples received over 20,000 views on twitter.

Overall, during the course of the year, we achieved some 65 pieces of national level media coverage and numerous local news articles and interviews on top (i.e., more than five a month). This included 7 prime-time interviews with GB News, Good Morning Britain and ITV news, 35 quotes or mentions in most of the UK national Sunday and daily papers as mentioned above, 12 radio interviews with LBC, Premier, UCB, Newstalk Ireland, Voice of Islam, and BBC radio Bristol, and 10 articles mostly penned

**Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2022**

by us in online blogs or magazines such as the Institute for Family Studies and Huffington Post.

Social media

We have continued to maintain a social media presence for Marriage Foundation.

Plans for future periods

The next year promises the last of six research papers drawing on our especially commissioned Savanta ComRes survey, as well as an update on our series on celebrity divorce, more on the 'marriage gap' between rich and poor, and an exploration of links between family background and GCSE results using the latest national data in the Millennium Cohort Study.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The financial outturn for the year was a deficit of £6,193 (2021: profit of £6,536). Free reserves at 31 August 2022 were £20,580 (2021: £26,773).

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Marriage Foundation for the purposes of company law) 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).

Company 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 charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company 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 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Siobhan Temple CA(SA), ACMA has been appointed as independent examiner for the ensuing year.

SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

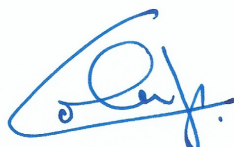
Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2022

Registered office:
Queen Elizabeth Building
Temple
London
EC4Y 9BS

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Paul Coleridge



Trustee

**Independent Examiner's Report
Year Ended 31 August 2022**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 August 2022.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the charity's trustees of the company (who are also the directors of The Marriage Foundation for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination I have followed the directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.



Siobhan Temple CA(SA)
Independent Examiner
277 Sheen Lane
London
SW14 8RN

Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)
Year Ended 31 August 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
INCOME					
Donations & Legacies	1	94,789	-	94,789	100,936
TOTAL INCOME		94,789	-	94,789	100,936
EXPENDITURE					
Charitable activity	2	100,982	-	100,982	94,399
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		100,982	-	100,982	94,399
NET EXPENDITURE/INCOME FOR THE YEAR		(6,193)	-	(6,193)	6,536
ACCUMULATED FUNDS B/F		26,773	-	26,773	20,237
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	4	20,580	-	20,580	26,773

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 13 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet
Year Ended 31 August 2021

BALANCE SHEET
31 AUGUST 2021

CURRENT ASSETS	Note	2022	2021
		£	£
Cash at Bank		20,580	31,773
		20,580	31,773
CREDITORS amounts falling due within one year	3	-	5,000
NET CURRENT ASSETS		20,580	26,773
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		20,580	26,773
NET TOTAL ASSETS		20,580	26,773
FUNDS			
Unrestricted Income Funds	4	20,580	26,773
TOTAL FUNDS		20,580	26,773

For the financial year ended 31 August 2022 the charity was entitled to the exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on the 27 May 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:



SIR PAUL COLERIDGE



PAMELA COLLIS

Company Registration Number: 08002851

The notes on pages 13 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

**Notes to the Financial Activities Statements
Year Ended 31 August 2021**

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022 are prepared in accordance with FRS 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as, after making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future at the time of approving the financial statements.

Income

- Voluntary income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable certainty.
- Grant income is included when the related conditions to the grant have been met.
- Donations are credited to the revenue account when received.
- All other income is accounted for on a receivable basis.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted general funds

The charity maintains a general unrestricted fund, which represents funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. Such funds may be held to finance both working capital and capital investment.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds have been provided to the charity for particular purposes and it is the policy of the board of Trustees to carefully monitor the application of those funds in accordance with the restrictions placed upon them.

Expenditure

- All resources are accounted for on an accrual basis.
- Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary and grant related income
- Direct charitable expenditure included the direct costs of the activities and depreciation on related assets
- Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements
- Support costs include central functions and where such costs relate to more than one functional cost category, they have been apportioned in line with direct salary costs of the relevant service

Notes to the Financial Activities Statements
Year Ended 31 August 2022

1. DONATIONS & LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Unrestricted Funds 2021 £
Donations	91,577	-	91,577	96,135
Tax Reclaimed	3,212	-	3,212	4,801
	94,789	-	94,789	100,936

2. COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Unrestricted Funds 2021 £
Office costs	3,723	-	3,723	4,543
Consultancy costs	90,591	-	90,591	80,856
Research	6,668	-	6,668	9,000
	100,982	-	100,982	94,399

All expenses directly incurred by The Marriage Foundation are paid by The Marriage Foundation. Consultancy costs cover The Marriage Foundation's research and media work.

Particulars of employees

There were no employees during the period.

3. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Accruals	-	5,000
		5,000

4. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

	Balance at 01-09-21 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Balance at 31-08-22 £
General Funds	26,773	94,789	100,982	20,580
Total unrestricted income funds	26,773	94,789	100,982	20,580

**Notes to the Financial Activities Statements
Year Ended 31 August 2022**

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION

None of the members of the Board of Trustees received any remuneration during this year.

During the year, no Trustees received reimbursements of personal travel and subsistence expenditure.

6. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year donations totalling £12,600 (2021 - £4,800) were received from Sir Paul Coleridge a Trustee of the charity.

Donations of £2,400 were received from Pamela Collis also a Trustee of the charity.

7. COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

In the event of a winding-up of the company, the liability of the members is restricted to £1.

THE MARRIAGE FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1150453

Accounts



THE MARRIAGE FOUNDATION
Annual Report and Financial Statements

31 AUGUST 2021

Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration Number 08002851 (England and Wales)

Charity Registration Number 1150453

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**THE MARRIAGE FOUNDATION
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

Registered charity name	The Marriage Foundation
Charity number	1150453
Company registration number	08002851
Registered office	Queen Elizabeth Building Temple London EC4Y 9BS
Business Address	PO Box 3014 Romford RM7 1TX Tel: 07916 697531 Email: info@marriagefoundation.org.uk Web: www.marriagefoundation.org.uk
Trustees	Sir Paul Coleridge Sir Mark Hedley Edward Coleridge (resigned November 2020) William Coleridge Pamela Collis
Executive Director	Michaela Hyde
Independent examiner	Siobhan Temple CA(SA), ACMA 277 Sheen Lane London SW14 8RN
Bankers	National Westminster Bank Plc 56 St. Andrews Street Cambridge CB2 3DA
Patrons	Baroness Butler-Sloss Baroness Deech Baroness Shackleton Lady Toulson

Summary of Vision, Aims and Activities

Our Vision

We want to see fewer relationships breaking down and more people forming healthy stable relationships. This would mean:

- More children growing up with both their birth parents, and fewer children whose wellbeing and life chances are diminished through experiencing broken relationships.
- Fewer adults experiencing the emotional pain and financial costs of broken relationships.
- And less cost to society – not the current £51 billion each year.

We believe that marriage is the key constituent to more stable relationships, and that marriages can be strengthened and supported to survive difficult times. That's why our mission is to be the national champion for marriage.

Our core aims and objectives

Our charitable objects and activities are set out in full in the Trustees' annual report. In summary our core aims, objectives and activities are

To be a powerful independent voice restoring confidence in marriage. Using the best and latest research, we:

- advocate the advantages of marriage
- challenge the social injustices of family breakdown
- demonstrate that marriage is both modern and the best arrangement for all couples

Our aims

1. To see the aspiration of a life-long, fulfilling marriage as an attainable goal for all, especially our young people
2. To see a society that thrives because stable marriage (or formal commitment) becomes the first choice for all couples
3. To halt the current declining marriage rate because marriage is the single most effective key to reducing family breakdown

What do we do?

1. Marriage Foundation confronts and challenges the status quo. By undertaking, publishing and broadcasting ground-breaking research we heighten public, media and government awareness and understanding of the scale of the national tragedy of family breakdown and its causes.
2. Through collaboration and partnering with a wide range of like-minded organisations we advocate effective remedies and signpost people to them.
3. We coordinate national projects such as UK Marriage Week.

Chairman's Statement

Chairman's Statement for the Year 2020/2021

Last year I bemoaned the fact that our work had been blighted by the restrictions imposed by government anti- covid measures. In a word the lockdown. Little did I realise that this year would be the same if not worse! By July/August 2020. The beginning of this accounting year, we all thought the storm had passed and we would return swiftly to reasonable normality. Not so, Lockdown No 2 began at the end of October 2020 and, although there was a brief respite over Christmas, January 2021 saw lockdown 3 implemented and carrying on in one form or another (national or local) until July 2021. As I write this, it all already seems a distant memory and I hope we are now back in calmer waters as we approach, with excitement, our 10th (sic) Anniversary year.

However, although, as with last year, our face to face meetings and activities have been severely curtailed our core research and media work has carried on as strongly as ever.

Original Polling

Perhaps our single most significant innovation this year has been our commissioning of original polling research as opposed to analysing existing government and other data sets, stats and surveys. I will mention the precise polling fields a little later, but the experiment overall has been very successful, yielding as it has, entirely new findings in a whole range of areas not covered by other data collections. The great advantage of commissioning our own polls is that we can target research areas we believe to be of special interest both to the public and especially to the media. But of course, this innovation comes at a significant cost to our finances. Although we design the shape of each survey and the actual questions (in collaboration with the polling companies) the questions are actually answered, and the figures provided by the companies via their standing inventories of members of the public divided up into differing cross sections of society. The more questions we ask and the more people who are interrogated the greater the expense. But unless these surveys are carefully designed and carried out by experienced companies and, the actual panels are of sufficient size, the raw data which we analyse can be weak and flawed and liable to attack from our eagle-eyed critics constantly on the lookout to undermine our findings and our work.

Let me now look at some of the year's highlights starting with the new surveys;

Surveys

In May 2021 we commissioned a new survey via OnePoll of 2,000 young unmarried UK adults for Marriage Week 2021. According to the survey almost one in three young unmarried UK adults aged 18-30 say they would be more likely to get married if the typical wedding was 'cheaper, smaller, and didn't have to include a big meal'. This has provided compelling evidence of an anti-marriage factor which we have always strongly suspected, namely that the cost of the wedding – and not lack of desire to marry – is a serious barrier to marriage for all except the most well off.

In July 2021 we instigated a poll via Savanta ComRes who surveyed 2,027 ever married UK adults over 30 leading to our report: *One in five weddings now start with a 'prenup'*. This entirely original research found that one in five UK weddings now involve prenups and that Prenups neither increase nor reduce the risk of divorce. There has been much anecdotal comment on this subject ever since the Supreme Court changed the law in this area in 2005. Now we know that prenups are far more common than was suspected but not necessarily detrimental to stability. Indeed, I strongly suspect that some now marry who would not otherwise have done so because they can now consider in advance of their wedding and provide for, the financial fall out if it all goes wrong.

Chairman's Statement

Other Research highlights from last year

November 2020 - Has lockdown strengthened marriages?

Contrary to claims in the media, lockdown has been good news for most married parents. Speculation about a coming 'divorce boom' is misplaced. Twice as many marriages improved (20%) during lockdown compared to those that worsened (9%).

December 2020 - Get married for the sake of the children

Marriage boosts stability for parents and acts as a buffer against problems for children. This is especially true now that divorce rates are at their lowest level in 50 years.

January 2021 - Will cheaper weddings bridge the marriage gap?

The 'marriage gap' between rich and poor has doubled in 30 years from 22% to 41%. This is an area of special interest to us as we think ahead.

February 2021 - No 'divorce boom' in sight

Our survey data showed that those seriously considering divorce were still well down on pre-COVID levels; the proportion of parents actively considering divorce was down by two thirds on pre-COVID levels (Benson & McKay 2020). Up to the end of the 20/21 year, despite media speculation, there was no sign of a pending 'divorce boom'.

February 2021 - Swipe Right for Love

Contrary to the image of Tinder and Grinder app users only looking for casual short term "hook ups", a new poll finds that 9 in 10, who say they are in a relationship, in fact want to marry.

May 2021 - TikTok generation say "I want to get married"

A further finding from our original OnePoll polling: more than 8 out of 10 young unmarried women and men want to get married, according to our survey of 2,000 adults aged 18-30, 941 of whom were in a relationship.

As always, I end with a heartfelt "thank you" to our wonderful and loyal supporters and our ever faithful and constantly enthusiastic team. And it really is a team of like-minded, passionate individuals who are determined to put marriage back at the heart and centre of UK family life. We all, supporters and team, remain convinced that the well-known social problems of our age will never be brought under proper control until everyone (and especially government and politicians) not only embrace marriage for themselves as the single best protective factor for the stability of their family and so their children's mental health (they do) but also broadcast its advantages unashamedly in the public arena (they don't) .

Next year, as I say is, our tenth birthday. Lots to look forward to. Watch this space!

Sir Paul Coleridge



Founder and Chairman

**Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2021**

The Trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2021.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Reference and administrative details are shown in the schedule of members of the board and professional advisers on page 1 of the financial statements.

THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Sir Paul Coleridge
Sir Mark Hedley
Edward Coleridge (resigned November 2020)
William Coleridge
Pamela Collis

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document and Constitution

The Marriage Foundation was incorporated under and is regulated by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 22 March 2012 and amended by special resolution registered at Companies House on 11 January 2013. The company limited by guarantee was registered as a charity by the Charity Commission on 11 January 2013.

Governance, Structure and Management

The charity is governed, on a day-to-day basis, by the Executive Director, who meets frequently with the chair of Trustees to discuss the issues affecting the charity. In establishing governance policies and procedures for the charity the Trustees have been guided by the Charity Commission's published advice and guidance. In the past an Advisory Board has also met up to twice a year. Unfortunately, one of the casualties of the covid pandemic has been the ability to hold our Advisory board meetings. The Board brought together people with significant professional experience of marriage and relationships, family law and the media to advice on strategy and the development of programmes. The members were:

Sarah Abell is a life and relationships coach and author.

Edmund P Adamus is Professional Adviser to the Episcopal Vicar for Education in the Diocese of Portsmouth.

Rehna Azim is a family law barrister specializing in childcare law.

Catherine Barker is a former Project Director for FASTN, The Family Stability Network.

Mark Daniel, along with his wife Christine, is a co-Director of FamilyLifeUK

Rachel Gardner is the founder of Romance Academy.

Katharine Hill is UK Director for the charity Care for the Family.

Deborah Jeff is head of the Family Department and a partner at the law firm Seddons.

Nola Leach is CEO of CARE.

Nicky and Sila Lee are the founders of Relationships Central

Mark Molden is Chief Executive of Marriage Care.

Dave Percival founded and runs 2-in-2-1

Philippa Taylor is Head of Public Policy at the Christian Medical Fellowship.

Frank Young is Head of the Family Policy Unit at the Centre for Social Justice.

**Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2021**

During the year we decided to disband the Board and replace it with a few special "consultants". The board has been informed and the identity of the new consultants is under consideration and will be put in place next year.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the Trustees to hold an amount in free reserves equivalent to 3 month's costs. The free reserves as at 31 August 2021 were £26,773.

Recruitment, Appointment and Induction of Trustees

Invitations will be extended from time to time by the existing body of Trustees to suitable qualified and experienced men and women to become new trustees. Newly appointed Trustees are provided with induction materials, including a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company and the Trust Deed.

Internal Controls and Risk Management

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute assurance against misstatement and loss. They include:

- a business plan and annual budget
- management accounts
- regular reporting by the Executive Director
- consideration by the Trustees of the financial results
- identification and management of risks.

An annual review of the risks facing the Foundation will be conducted and considered by Trustees. They agree the strategic risks facing the organisation and measures to be adopted to mitigate those risks.

Associated Bodies

Marriage Foundation was publicly launched in May 2012 and operated as a project of The Relationships Foundation (Registered charity number 1106460) until independent charity registration was achieved on 11 January 2013. The role of the Relationships Foundation in the management of the affairs of The Marriage Foundation ceased with effect from September 2018.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT

Objectives

The objects of Marriage Foundation, as stated in the Memorandum and Articles of Association, are:

1. To safeguard and protect the physical and mental health of adults and children, and to prevent hardship poverty and distress, by raising awareness of the means by which successful relationships (including but not limited to married relationships) can be developed and strengthened and the breakdown of relationships avoided.
2. To promote research into all aspects of the establishment, maintenance and development of successful relationships (including but not limited to married relationships) and to publish the useful results thereof.
3. To promote the effectiveness and efficiency of charities concerned with the creation and maintenance of successful relationships (including but not limited to married relationships), for the benefit of the public, in particular, but not exclusively, by organising conferences and disseminating the results of relevant research.

**Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2021**

Having had regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, the Trustees believe that the activities of Marriage Foundation deliver public benefit through:

- Published research, conferences and media comment that highlight different aspects of the health and stability of couple relationships. These raise awareness of the risks of unstable relationships and address the myths and misperceptions that hinder the formation of more stable relationships.
- Working in partnership with existing providers of support for marriage and couple relationships to enable their work to have greater impact.

We believe that increasing the number of healthy marriages (as opposed to less stable cohabitation) and reducing the rate of breakdown is key to this. We seek to promote better understanding of marriage in public debate, tackling the myths that discourage marriage; improve access to relationships support and education, particularly in the early stages of relationships; and tackle the marriage gap, especially for disadvantaged young people who are more likely to opt for less stable cohabitation.

Our work is intended to assist partner organisations and their effectiveness. We are not a direct provider of services but work closely with both local and national relationships educators, seeking to change the cultural environment within which they operate to enable far greater impact.

Activities

During the year, we continued our programme of research, media engagement and development of practical initiatives. Full details of all of these, papers and press releases, are on our constantly updated website (www.marriagefoundation.org.uk). These are the headlines:

Research and media engagement

We continued to produce a stream of low-cost and clearly defined pieces of research making the case for marriage. Our analysis has been supported by staff at both Lincoln and Brigham Young Universities. This year for the first time we commissioned original polling for research purposes which is set out in the Chairman's annual statement on pages 4 and 5.

Other media

Apart from the specific, nationally publicised items of research set out in the Chairman's statement (page 4), our media reach goes from strength to strength. We are, as always regularly consulted by media outlets of all types to comment on marriage-related matters often giving rise to appearances on TV and radio (local and national).

Over the past year we have had 66 pieces of national level media coverage and numerous local news articles and interviews on top (i.e., more than five a month). This includes 6 prime interviews with the new GB News TV channel, as well as 11 articles, interviews or mentions in the Daily Mail, 6 in the Sunday Express, 5 each in the Times and Telegraph, 5 in the Sunday Times, 4 in the Mail on Sunday, 2 in the Sun, 2 in the Evening Standard, and a single appearance in each of Vogue, Glamour Magazine, Daily Mirror, LBC radio, BBC Radio 4 You and Yours, Today USA, Huffington Post, Newstalk Ireland and Metro.

Social media

We have continued regularly to maintain a presence across the various social media platforms for both Marriage Foundation and Marriage Week.

**Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2021**

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

We will continue our programme of research with input from both the University of Lincoln and Brigham Young University where necessary. Key areas of focus include a major analysis of how lockdown has affected relationships and an update on our database of celebrity marriages and divorces.

We will continue to work with family lawyers, and marriage and relationships support organisations to promote reform of family law through parliament to strengthen marriage and promote intentional commitment. Also as "Meeting Online" is now the most popular route to marriage representing 28% of first weddings since 2017 we will conduct research next year to understand the effect on family stability of the increase in couples meeting in this way.

Marriage Week

UK National Marriage Week May 2021 – 'Naked Marriage'

This year's theme of 'Naked Marriage' emphasised the essentials of marriage and highlighted the simple, stripped-back, small, and highly personal weddings which couples had been forced to devise during the COVID lockdown. Building on the social media presence established the previous year, the creation of a well-populated website packed with resources and our Marriage Week focussed research, there was plenty of engagement despite the challenges of the pandemic.

After five years of being in charge of promoting Marriage Week we have decided that this campaign is too labour intensive and financially expensive for its publicity return. Accordingly, this will be our last full involvement with the annual festival and although we will continue to fully support its aims and purposes we will no longer be the principal promoters.

Family Stability Network

In accordance with our stated intention last year Sir Paul Coleridge has resigned from the board of FASTN. This is a voluntary and entirely mutual decision of both charities.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The financial outturn for the year was a surplus of £6,536 (2020: £4,797). Free reserves at 31 August 2021 were £26,773 (2020: £20,237).

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Marriage Foundation for the purposes of company law) 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).

Company 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 charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company 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;

**Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2021**

- 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Siobhan Temple CA(SA), ACMA has been appointed as independent examiner for the ensuing year.

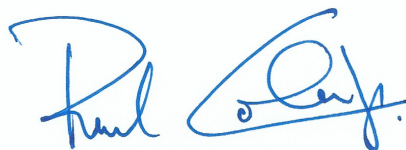
SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

Registered office:

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Queen Elizabeth Building
Temple
London
EC4Y 9BS

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Coleridge', is written over a faint, larger blue signature that also appears to be 'Paul Coleridge'.

Paul Coleridge
Trustee

**Independent Examiner's Report
Year Ended 31 August 2021**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 August 2021.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the charity's trustees of the company (who are also the directors of The Marriage Foundation for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination I have followed the directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.



Siobhan Temple CA(SA)
Independent Examiner
277 Sheen Lane
London
SW14 8RN

Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)
Year Ended 31 August 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
INCOME					
Donations & Legacies	1	100,936	-	100,936	75,844
TOTAL INCOME		100,936	-	100,936	75,844
EXPENDITURE					
Charitable activity	2	94,399	-	94,399	71,047
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		94,399	-	94,399	71,047
NET EXPENDITURE/INCOME FOR THE YEAR		6,536	-	6,536	4,797
ACCUMULATED FUNDS B/F		20,237	-	20,237	15,440
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	4	26,773	-	26,773	20,237

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 13 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet
Year Ended 31 August 2021

BALANCE SHEET
31 AUGUST 2021

CURRENT ASSETS	Note	2021	2020
		£	£
Cash at Bank		31,773	24,177
		31,773	24,177
CREDITORS amounts falling due within one year	3	5,000	3,940
NET CURRENT ASSETS		26,773	20,237
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		26,773	20,237
NET TOTAL ASSETS		26,773	20,237
FUNDS			
Unrestricted Income Funds	4	26,773	20,237
TOTAL FUNDS		26,773	20,237

For the financial year ended 31 August 2021 the charity was entitled to the exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on the 25 May 2022 and are signed on their behalf by:



SIR PAUL COLERIDGE



PAMELA COLLIS

Company Registration Number: 08002851

The notes on pages 13 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

**Notes to the Financial Activities Statements
Year Ended 31 August 2021**

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2021 are prepared in accordance with FRS 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as, after making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future at the time of approving the financial statements.

Income

- Voluntary income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable certainty.
- Grant income is included when the related conditions to the grant have been met.
- Donations are credited to the revenue account when received.
- All other income is accounted for on a receivable basis.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted general funds

The charity maintains a general unrestricted fund, which represents funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. Such funds may be held to finance both working capital and capital investment.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds have been provided to the charity for particular purposes and it is the policy of the board of Trustees to carefully monitor the application of those funds in accordance with the restrictions placed upon them.

Expenditure

- All resources are accounted for on an accrual basis.
- Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary and grant related income
- Direct charitable expenditure included the direct costs of the activities and depreciation on related assets
- Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements
- Support costs include central functions and where such costs relate to more than one functional cost category, they have been apportioned in line with direct salary costs of the relevant service

Notes to the Financial Activities Statements
Year Ended 31 August 2021

1. DONATIONS & LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Unrestricted Funds 2020 £
Donations	96,135	-	96,135	64,376
Tax Reclaimed	4,801	-	4,801	11,166
	100,936	-	100,936	75,844

**2. COSTS OF CHARITABLE
ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Unrestricted Funds 2020 £
Office costs	4,543	-	4,543	4,086
Consultancy costs	80,856	-	80,856	61,122
Research	9,000	-	9,000	5,839
	94,399	-	94,399	71,047

All expenses directly incurred by The Marriage Foundation are paid by The Marriage Foundation. Consultancy costs cover The Marriage Foundation's research and media work.

Particulars of employees

There were no employees during the period.

3. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Accruals	5,000	3,940
	5,000	7,496

4. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

	Balance at 01-09-20 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Balance at 31-08-20 £
General Funds	20,237	100,936	94,399	26,773
Total unrestricted income funds	20,237	100,936	94,399	26,773

**Notes to the Financial Activities Statements
Year Ended 31 August 2021**

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION

None of the members of the Board of Trustees received any remuneration during this year.

During the year, no Trustees received reimbursements of personal travel and subsistence expenditure.

6. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year donations totalling £4,800 (2020 - £4,500) were received from Sir Paul Coleridge a Trustee of the charity.

7. COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

In the event of a winding-up of the company, the liability of the members is restricted to £1.

THE MARRIAGE FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1150453

Accounts



THE MARRIAGE FOUNDATION
Annual Report and Financial Statements

31 AUGUST 2020

Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration Number 08002851 (England and Wales)

Charity Registration Number 1150453

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**THE MARRIAGE FOUNDATION
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

Registered charity name	The Marriage Foundation
Charity number	1150453
Company registration number	08002851
Registered office	Queen Elizabeth Building Temple London EC4Y 9BS
Business Address	PO Box 3014 Romford RM7 1TX Tel: 07916 697531 Email: info@marriagefoundation.org.uk Web: www.marriagefoundation.org.uk
Trustees	Sir Paul Coleridge Sir Mark Hedley Edward Coleridge William Coleridge Pamela Collis
Executive Director	Michaela Hyde
Independent examiner	Siobhan Temple CA(SA), ACMA 277 Sheen Lane London SW14 8RN
Bankers	National Westminster Bank Plc 56 St. Andrews Street Cambridge CB2 3DA
Patrons	Baroness Butler-Sloss Baroness Deech Baroness Shackleton Lady Toulson

Summary of Vision, Aims and Activities

Our Vision

We want to see fewer relationships breaking down and more people forming healthy stable relationships. This would mean:

- More children growing up with both their birth parents, and fewer children whose wellbeing and life chances are diminished through experiencing broken relationships.
- Fewer adults experiencing the emotional pain and financial costs of broken relationships.
- And less cost to society – not the current £51 billion each year.

We believe that marriage is the key constituent to more stable relationships, and that marriages can be strengthened and supported to survive difficult times. That's why our mission is to be the national champion for marriage.

Our core aims and objectives

Our charitable objects and activities are set out in full in the Trustees' annual report. In summary our core aims, objectives and activities are

To be a powerful independent voice restoring confidence in marriage. Using the best and latest research, we:

- advocate the advantages of marriage
- challenge the social injustices of family breakdown
- demonstrate that marriage is both modern and the best arrangement for all couples

Our aims

1. To see the aspiration of a life-long, fulfilling marriage as an attainable goal for all, especially our young people
2. To see a society that thrives because stable marriage (or formal commitment) becomes the first choice for all couples
3. To halt the current declining marriage rate because marriage is the single most effective key to reducing family breakdown

What do we do?

1. Marriage Foundation confronts and challenges the status quo. By undertaking, publishing and broadcasting ground-breaking research we heighten public, media and government awareness and understanding of the scale of the national tragedy of family breakdown and its causes.
2. Through collaboration and partnering with a wide range of like-minded organisations we advocate effective remedies and signpost people to them.
3. We coordinate national projects such as UK Marriage Week.

Chairman's Statement

Chairman's Statement for the Year 2019/2020

Like almost every other charity *Marriage Foundation* has found 2019 -2020 to be, to use an over-used epithet, "challenging". From early 2020 the COVID pandemic has dominated everything. Its main impacts for us were (still are!) that it ambushed almost all media attention which, at the end of the day, is our life blood. However, it also significantly restricted our ability to raise our necessary funding because of Government restrictions on face-to-face meetings of all sizes. Our regular weekly internal meetings have, since early 2020, been conducted by video; very much better than nothing but far from ideal. In my experience the creative juices sparked by lively face to face meetings are heavily staunched by lengthy Zoom sessions!

However, like so many other charities this episode has also had unintended and beneficial consequences as we have tried hard to use the time creatively. Overall, there has been much good and interesting news during the "new normal". I mention just five features :

1. As you know the constant flow of new findings from of our research director, Harry Benson, is and always has been the driver of our main media outreach work (1000 plus media hits since 2012). However, for a long-time I have been convinced that, as the vital core of our work, it is not fully or readily available and so understood. This year has provided the opportunity to correct that omission by the publication of our newly collated publication "***Marriage Works***". It speaks loudly for itself, telling the world via our historical research, who we are, what we do and what we have achieved. Both I and our supporters can feel justifiably proud of this body of work. It is also an attractive and enjoyable browse which is available in hard copy and on our website. We are always happy to send copies to anyone who is interested to find out more about our work. It has been widely distributed amongst politicians, influencers and the media (and of course to our faithful donors).
2. 2020 kicked off with our new research showing that within the first 15 years of marriage, divorce rates across Europe have **continued to fall** and that the UK is in gold medal position with **the biggest fall** in divorce rates over the last 25 years! The value of formal, committed relationships was once again underlined as the key to family stability.
3. Then Covid and lockdown struck and *Marriage Week* in May had to weather the worst of the disruption. Apart from a short piece in the Sunday Times the launch of Harry Bensons brilliant new book about the perils of cohabitation '*Commit or Quit: The Two-Year Rule and Other Rules for Romance*', timed to coincide with Marriage Week, drew almost no media interest. However, the Week itself was still a real success reaching a record number of people on social media and Harry's book has since then been generally well received. We plan to re-promote the book at a more opportune time.
4. The updating of our previous research into celebrity marriages was widely reported both in the Sunday and daily papers. This is much more important than just its superficial attraction to the media. Harry ensures that the message that glittering weddings do not translate into enduring marriages is put centre stage.
5. Going forward and in the pipeline we undertook new and highly topical research into the effects of lockdown on parental relationships. (Totally unexpectedly it discovered

Chairman's Statement

that cohabiting, mums as opposed to married mums, fared significantly worse). We also made further contributions to the Law Commission's important review of marriage law.

After a careful recruitment drive Alistair Thompson, a very experienced and dynamic PR and media consultant with whom we have worked in the past and who strongly supports our work and our agenda, joined the team as our media tsar to take us forward into the next phase. He joined in August 2020 and is already providing a whole new and fresh approach to our media activity.

We have decided, after much soul searching, that the shape and size of our advisory board needs re vamping as we approach our ten year anniversary. It has been a fantastic support for us in past but our thinking is that a smaller panel would now be more effective to guide our work. Accordingly, as an interim measure we have disbanded the board while we redesign the new model. I cannot be too fulsome in my gratitude for the help we have had from so many over the years since 2012.

In the autumn of 2020, we were looking forward to rebooting our work post Covid by inviting our many special friends and supporters to a reception, not only as a gesture of sincere gratitude for earlier support but also to set out our vision for the way ahead and receive your feedback. Instead, as we all know these activities have had to be shelved for the time being.

Happily our finances are in a healthy state with a decent reserve at the year end. This has been made possible by the solid loyalty of our supporters throughout the pandemic year and rigorous, ongoing control of our expenses.

So, as I say like other charities, 2020 was an unusually demanding time but we are determined to plough ahead with our work *"to champion marriage for the good of society, especially our children"*. We remain convinced that the need for such work has never been more urgent.

All our work is only possible because of the dedication of our ever-enthusiastic team. I never cease to thank them and do so again here.

Sir Paul Coleridge

Founder and Chairman



**Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2020**

The Trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2020.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Reference and administrative details are shown in the schedule of members of the board and professional advisers on page 1 of the financial statements.

THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Sir Paul Coleridge
Sir Mark Hedley
Edward Coleridge (resigned December 2020)
William Coleridge
Pamela Collis

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document and Constitution

The Marriage Foundation was incorporated under and is regulated by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 22 March 2012 and amended by special resolution registered at Companies House on 11 January 2013. The company limited by guarantee was registered as a charity by the Charity Commission on 11 January 2013.

Governance, Structure and Management

The charity is governed, on a day-to-day basis, by the Executive Director, who meets frequently with the chair of Trustees to discuss the issues affecting the charity. In establishing governance policies and procedures for the charity the Trustees have been guided by the Charity Commission's published advice and guidance. In the past an Advisory Board has also met up to twice a year. Unfortunately one of the casualties of the covid pandemic has been the ability to hold our Advisory board meetings. The Board brings together people with significant professional experience of marriage and relationships, family law and the media to advice on strategy and the development of programmes. The current members are:

Sarah Abell is a life and relationships coach and author.

Edmund P Adamus is Professional Adviser to the Episcopal Vicar for Education in the Diocese of Portsmouth.

Rehna Azim is a family law barrister specializing in childcare law.

Catherine Barker is a former Project Director for FASTN, The Family Stability Network.

Mark Daniel, along with his wife Christine, is a co-Director of FamilyLifeUK

Rachel Gardner is the founder of Romance Academy.

Katharine Hill is UK Director for the charity Care for the Family.

Deborah Jeff is head of the Family Department and a partner at the law firm Seddons.

Nola Leach is CEO of CARE.

Nicky and Sila Lee are the founders of Relationships Central

Mark Molden is Chief Executive of Marriage Care.

Dave Percival founded and runs 2-in-2-1

Philippa Taylor is Head of Public Policy at the Christian Medical Fellowship.

**Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2020**

Frank Young is Head of the Family Policy Unit at the Centre for Social Justice.

The long term future of the Advisory Board in its present form is under discussion. Several options are being considered to leverage the expertise of our partners and supporters.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the Trustees to hold an amount in free reserves equivalent to 3 month's costs. The free reserves as at 31 August 2020 were £20,237.

Recruitment, Appointment and Induction of Trustees

Invitations will be extended from time to time by the existing body of Trustees to suitable qualified and experienced men and women to become new trustees. Newly appointed Trustees are provided with a comprehensive pack of induction materials, including a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company and the Trust Deed. They will have an induction with fellow Trustees and the Executive Director.

Internal Controls and Risk Management

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute assurance against misstatement and loss. They include:

- a business plan and annual budget
- management accounts
- regular reporting by the Executive Director
- consideration by the Trustees of the financial results
- identification and management of risks.

An annual review of the risks facing the Foundation will be conducted and considered by Trustees. They agree the strategic risks facing the organisation and measures to be adopted to mitigate those risks.

Associated Bodies

Marriage Foundation was publicly launched in May 2012 and operated as a project of The Relationships Foundation (Registered charity number 1106460) until independent charity registration was achieved on 11 January 2013. The role of the Relationships Foundation in the management of the affairs of The Marriage Foundation ceased with effect from September 2018.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT

Objectives

The objects of Marriage Foundation, as stated in the Memorandum and Articles of Association, are:

1. To safeguard and protect the physical and mental health of adults and children, and to prevent hardship poverty and distress, by raising awareness of the means by which successful relationships (including but not limited to married relationships) can be developed and strengthened and the breakdown of relationships avoided.
2. To promote research into all aspects of the establishment, maintenance and development of successful relationships (including but not limited to married relationships) and to publish the useful results thereof.
3. To promote the effectiveness and efficiency of charities concerned with the creation and maintenance of successful relationships (including but not limited to married relationships),

**Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2020**

for the benefit of the public, in particular, but not exclusively, by organising conferences and disseminating the results of relevant research.

Having had regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, the Trustees believe that the activities of Marriage Foundation deliver public benefit through:

- Published research, conferences and media comment that highlight different aspects of the health and stability of couple relationships. These raise awareness of the risks of unstable relationships and address the myths and misperceptions that hinder the formation of more stable relationships.
- Working in partnership with existing providers of support for marriage and couple relationships to enable their work to have greater impact.

We believe that increasing the number of healthy marriages (as opposed to less stable cohabitation) and reducing the rate of breakdown is key to this. We seek to promote better understanding of marriage in public debate, tackling the myths that discourage marriage; improve access to relationships support and education, particularly in the early stages of relationships; and tackle the marriage gap, especially for disadvantaged young people who are more likely to opt for less stable cohabitation.

Our work is intended to assist partner organisations and their effectiveness. We are not a direct provider of services but work closely with both local and national relationships educators, seeking to change the cultural environment within which they operate to enable far greater impact. This should be seen in terms of additional activity and improved outcomes over and above that which they would have achieved alone.

Activities

During the year, we continued our programme of research, media engagement and development of practical initiatives. Full details of all of these, papers and press releases, are on our constantly updated website (www.marriagefoundation.org.uk) . These are the headlines.

Research and media engagement

Although our media coverage for Marriage Week and the launch of Harry Benson's book Commit or Quit was severely curtailed by the worldwide focus on Covid, we continued to produce a stream of low-cost and clearly defined pieces of research making the case for marriage. Our analysis has been supported by staff at both Lincoln and Brigham Young Universities. Reports produced during the year included:

Our own research on

- Happy Wife Happy Life
- One Earner Families
- The Average Length of Marriage
- Divorce Rates Falling across Europe
- Three articles for 'Commit or Quit' on Who Wants to Marry, the Two Year Rule, and Living Together Longer

Other popular themes on which we have been engaged

- New rules on no fault divorce
- Proposed new rules for weddings

**Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2020**

- Introduction of civil partnerships
- Release of new marriage and divorce statistics
- Infidelity
- Living together before marriage

National and local Media Coverage

- 116 pieces of media coverage, down 25% on the previous year
- Mostly national except for 32 local BBC radio interviews and some local newspaper coverage
- 4 TV interviews – with BBC news, BBC Sunday Morning Live and Sky News
- Newspaper coverage: Mail (12 appearances), Times (11), Telegraph (5), Sunday Times (5) and also Express, FT, Observer, Spectator, Sunday Mirror, Church Times and Church of England Newspaper.
- Radio coverage apart from BBC : 18 further interviews with Premier (4 appearances), TalkRadio (3), TWR (2), CrossRhythms (2), and also LBC, Talk Radio Europe, Spirit radio, UCB, Irish Examiner, Voice of Islam.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

We will continue our programme of research with input from both the University of Lincoln and Brigham Young University. Key areas of focus include a major analysis of how lockdown has affected relationships, an update on our database of celebrity marriages and divorces, and plans for a survey of young unmarried adults to provide material for Marriage Week in 2021.

We will continue to work with family lawyers, and marriage and relationships support organisations to promote reform of family law through parliament to strengthen marriage and promote intentional commitment.

Marriage Week

In 2019, Michaela Hyde concentrated on further building up the 'Marriage Week Development Team' consisting of representatives from influential charities and organisations supportive of marriage and family. The team continued their support for 2020 by editorial contributions for the website, engaging with the campaign online and through distribution on content within their own organisations.

The Theme for 2020 was inspired by Harry Benson's book, 'Commit or Quit'. The publication date for 'Commit or Quit' was timed to launch on the first day of Marriage Week (NMW) with a joint event to be held at Killik and Co. However, at the end of 2019 and into 2020, when plans were being made, a global pandemic and a national lockdown were not included in the planning! So in the end the launch event had to be cancelled and our plans had to adapt. Instead there was a new emphasis on social media at a time when we knew that a nation in lockdown would most certainly be dominating this online world.

In 2019, we saw a big increase in our reach on social media which in turn, drove many more people to the Marriage Week website to use the resources, blogs and news. In 2020 Michaela Hyde took charge of this task including the creation of original social media content and 'sharing' website resources on our platforms

Throughout the week Covid dominated the headlines and so it was near impossible to inject Marriage Week into the media. However, despite this, Michaela and Harry Benson were interviewed on several radio shows and a podcast. There was also coverage in the press, including the Sunday

**Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2020**

Times, an article for the Daily Mail's 'Female', a number of online magazine articles and blogs, including by our Marriage Week Ambassador, Emma Waring.

Finally Michaela recorded an 'online' launch and with her husband used their podcast, 'The M Word' to promote the campaign.

Family Stability Network

Marriage Foundation was a full partner in the development of the Family Stability Network (www.fastn.org) which was registered as a charity on 30th June 2017. Sir Paul Coleridge was one of the founding trustees. FASTN has been working with organisations across the U.K to develop new ways of promoting the benefits of long-term, stable, relationships, enabling more children to grow up safe, secure, and nurtured by both parents. Status (www.statusonline.org), FASTN's first project, went live in June 2016. Status aims to engage 18-25 year olds embarking on couple relationships in conversation, through social media, about how to experience fulfilling relationships.

Very Sadly Michael Oglesby, FASTN's founder, died in November 2019 and this led to a reevaluation by FASTN and the Marriage Foundation of Sir Paul's continuing involvement on their board. It is anticipated that, given their current altered direction of travel, it would be appropriate for FASTN to recruit new blood by way of replacement. This is an entirely mutual decision of both charities.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The financial outturn for the year was a surplus of £4,797 (2019: deficit of £2,986). Free reserves at 31 August 2020 were £20,237 (2019: £15,440).

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Marriage Foundation for the purposes of company law) 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).

Company 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 charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company 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 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

**Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 August 2020**

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Siobhan Temple CA(SA), ACMA has been appointed as independent examiner for the ensuing year.

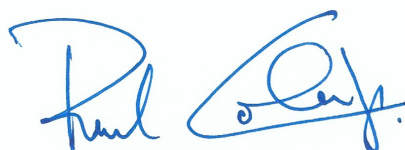
SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

Registered office:

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Queen Elizabeth Building
Temple
London
EC4Y 9BS

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Coleridge', is written over a faint, larger blue signature that is partially obscured.

Paul Coleridge
Trustee

**Independent Examiner's Report
Year Ended 31 August 2020**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 August 2020.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the charity's trustees of the company (who are also the directors of The Marriage Foundation for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination I have followed the directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.



Siobhan Temple CA(SA)
Independent Examiner
277 Sheen Lane
London
SW14 8RN

Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)
Year Ended 31 August 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
INCOME					
Donations & Legacies	1	75,844	-	75,844	87,181
TOTAL INCOME		75,844	-	75,844	87,181
EXPENDITURE					
Charitable activity	2	71,047	-	71,047	86,622
Fundraising costs	3	-	-	-	810
Other Costs	4	-	-	-	2,735
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		71,047	-	71,047	90,167
NET EXPENDITURE/INCOME FOR THE YEAR		4,797	-	4,797	(2,986)
ACCUMULATED FUNDS B/F		15,440	-	15,440	18,426
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	7	20,237	-	20,237	15,440

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 14 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet
Year Ended 31 August 2020

BALANCE SHEET
31 AUGUST 2019

CURRENT ASSETS	Note	2020	2019
		£	£
Debtors	5	-	6,521
Cash at Bank		24,177	16,415
		24,177	22,936
CREDITORS amounts falling due within one year	6	3,940	7,496
NET CURRENT ASSETS		20,237	15,440
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		20,237	15,440
NET TOTAL ASSETS		20,237	15,440
FUNDS			
Unrestricted Income Funds	7	20,237	15,440
TOTAL FUNDS		20,237	15,440

For the financial year ended 31 August 2019 the charity was entitled to the exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

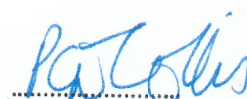
The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on the 26 May 2021 and are signed on their behalf by:



SIR PAUL COLERIDGE



PAMELA COLLIS

Company Registration Number: 08002851

The notes on pages 14 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Activities Statements
Year Ended 31 August 2020

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2019 are prepared in accordance with FRS 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as, after making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future at the time of approving the financial statements.

Income

- Voluntary income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable certainty.
- Grant income is included when the related conditions to the grant have been met.
- Donations are credited to the revenue account when received.
- All other income is accounted for on a receivable basis.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted general funds

The charity maintains a general unrestricted fund, which represents funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. Such funds may be held to finance both working capital and capital investment.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds have been provided to the charity for particular purposes and it is the policy of the board of Trustees to carefully monitor the application of those funds in accordance with the restrictions placed upon them.

Expenditure

- All resources are accounted for on an accrual basis.
- Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary and grant related income
- Direct charitable expenditure included the direct costs of the activities and depreciation on related assets
- Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements
- Support costs include central functions and where such costs relate to more than one functional cost category, they have been apportioned in line with direct salary costs of the relevant service

Notes to the Financial Activities Statements
Year Ended 31 August 2020

1. DONATIONS & LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Unrestricted Funds 2019 £
Donations	64,376	-	64,376	80,660
Tax Reclaimed	11,166	-	11,166	6,521
Other	302	-	302	-
	75,844	-	75,844	87,181

2. COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Unrestricted Funds 2019 £
Contribution towards staff costs		-		15,604
Office costs	4,086	-	4,086	1,470
Consultancy costs	61,122	-	61,122	55,619
Advertising and publicity	5,839	-	5,839	13,930
	71,047	-	71,047	86,622

Payments are no longer being made to The Relationships Foundation for secretariat and office base. All expenses directly incurred by The Marriage Foundation are paid by The Marriage Foundation. Consultancy costs cover The Marriage Foundation's research and media work. Included in publicity costs are expenses related to Marriage Week.

3. FUNDRAISING COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Unrestricted Funds 2019 £
Catering	-	-	-	810
	-	-	-	810

Notes to the Financial Activities Statements
Year Ended 31 August 2020

4. OTHER COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Unrestricted Funds 2019 £
Accountancy fees		-	-	2,460
Bank charges	-	-	-	88
Sundry expenses	-	-	-	187
	-	-	-	2,735

Particulars of employees

There were no employees during the period.

5. DEBTORS

	2020 £	2019 £
Gift Aid	-	6,521
	-	6,521

6. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade creditors	-	5,067
Accruals	3,940	2,429
	3,940	7,496

7. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

	Balance at 01-09-19 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Balance at 31-08-20 £
General Funds	15,440	75,844	71,047	20,237
Total unrestricted income funds	15,440	75,844	71,047	20,237

**Notes to the Financial Activities Statements
Year Ended 31 August 2020**

8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION

None of the members of the Board of Trustees received any remuneration during this year.

During the year, no Trustees received reimbursements of personal travel and subsistence expenditure.

9. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year a donation of £4,500 (2019 - £4,800) was received from Sir Paul Coleridge a Trustee of the charity.

10. COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

In the event of a winding-up of the company, the liability of the members is restricted to £1.