

**SOCIETY OF ST COLUMBA
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Society Of St Columba
Contents Of The Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 31 March 2023

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**Society Of St Columba
Charity Information
For The Year Ended 31 March 2023**

Registered Charity Number	1160486
Trustees	Rev. Beverley Thomas (Chair) Greg Valerio
Registered Office	1 Holloway Cottages Chactonbury Ring Road Chanctonbury West Sussex BN44 3DR
Bankers	Co-operative Bank Skelmsdale Yorkshire WN8 6WT

**Society Of St Columba
Report of the Trustees
For The Year Ended 31 March 2023**

Structure Governance and Management

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31st March 2023. The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comply with the Charity's governing document and applicable law.

The Society of St Columba is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with the Charity Commission with number 1160486.

The Society was established as a membership organisation, with the trustees and between two and 12 individuals as the only members. In 2022-2023 it made many significant steps forward and consolidated much of the progress made during 2021-2022.

During the year ended 31st March 2023 the trustees of the Charity were as follows:

- Rev. Caroline Armitage (Co-Chair).
- Rev. Beverley Thomas (Co-Chair).
- Greg Valerio.
- Simon Thomas (resigned 30 June).
- Jonathan Barnes (resigned 31 March).

Objects

The Society is established with objects to advance the Christian Religion. Its stated intent is to do this by the establishment of a new monastic community which will live in line with Christian principles of sustainability, environmental protection and stewardship.

Changes in Trustees

Simon Thomas stepped down as a trustee from 30 June. Simon was heavily involved in the establishment of the charity, bringing significant spiritual and much needed practical guidance and support in seeking to help fulfil the mission of the charity. He is very much missed.

Achievements and Performance

The Society works closely with its co-tenants of the site, Columba's Barn CBS Limited, to advance the objects of the Society. A Co-Operation Agreement between the Society and the CBS to clarify and record the respective areas of responsibility was signed during the financial year. The Society was fortunate in being joined by two particularly enthusiastic and professionally qualified volunteers to work on the land, to revise and refine the basis of operation, to improve productivity and to develop a long-term plan for its maintenance. Some members and volunteers left, and others joined, inevitable in voluntary organisations.

In terms of its activities:

- Community Days continued to take place on a regular basis.
- Other spiritual / social events were arranged occasionally.
- The main pond was restored following the award of a £5,000 grant from the Wilder Horsham District / Network Recovery programme run by Horsham District Council in conjunction with the Sussex Wildlife Trust.
- There were regular sessions to tidy up the site and remove old equipment and materials.
- Several policies were reviewed and updated, including those for Health & Safety, Safeguarding, Data Protection and Privacy, and Volunteer Complaints
- More support in the areas of finance and administration was identified as a need, with an external accountant appointed.

Society Of St Columba
Report of the Trustees (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 March 2023

Financial Summary

The Society ended the year with a cash balance of £14,567, about double the amount with which it started the year.

This was partly due to a significant reduction in costs incurred in organising activities, no doubt because there were a lot of 'set-up' costs in the previous year, so net receipts were almost double those of the previous year.

Reserves Policy

Most activities of the Society have been carried out by volunteers on an unpaid basis. While the Society has and continues to strengthen its financial position, the Society's current policy is not to hold committed reserves.

Public Benefit

The Trustees affirm that its activities are carried out for the public benefit and have had due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance.

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Rev. Beverley Thomas
Chair
24 June 2024

Society Of St Columba
Receipts and Payments Accounts
For The Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Last Year
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Voluntary receipts	10,347	10,280	20,627	29,115
Charitable activities	-	-	-	600
Total Receipts	10,347	10,280	20,627	29,715
Payments				
Costs of generating voluntary receipts	1,170	-	1,170	1,982
Governance and administrative costs	2,795	-	2,795	959
Costs of charitable activities	4,551	4,807	9,358	23,238
Total Payments	8,516	4,807	13,323	26,179
Net Receipts/(Payments)	1,831	5,473	7,304	3,536
Transfers Between Funds	-	-	-	-
Cash Funds - Last Year End	2,308	4,955	7,263	3,727
Cash Funds - This Year End	4,139	10,428	14,567	7,263

Society Of St Columba
Statement Of Financial Position
As At 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Last Year
	£	£	£	£
Cash Funds				
Cash at bank and in hand	4,139	10,428	14,567	7,263
Liabilities	-	-	-	-
Total Charity Funds	4,139	10,428	14,567	7,263

There are no guarantees given by the Society or debt outstanding at the date of this statement.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 24 June 2024

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 Rev. Beverley Thomas
 Chair